



The Future is Bright!

2023 Report to Community

Vision

St. Mary's University will be a leader in post-secondary education, open to all, and focused on developing the whole person: mind, body and spirit. Founded on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, St. Mary's will prepare its students to live with integrity, compassion and confidence.

Mission

St. Mary's is an innovative teaching and research university that provides affordable, accredited and highly valued degrees in the Liberal Arts, Sciences and Education. Through the pursuit of knowledge and service to the community, we prepare our students to become lifelong learners, engaged citizens and compassionate members of society.

Land Acknowledgment

St. Mary's University campus sits on land that has a deep relational history and ongoing presence with the Indigenous Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial: the Siksikaisitapi (the Blackfoot Confederacy), the Siksika, the Kainai, the Piikani and the Umskappi Piikani. Mohkinstis is also home to the Tsuut'ina peoples, a Dene people who travelled from the North and were signatories to Treaty 7 alongside the Iyathe Nakoda Peoples, the Chiniki, Wesley and Bearspaw First Nations. This place is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3, a proud post-contact Nation formed from the union of First Nations families and European Settlers.

As an academic institution, we have a responsibility to honour these long-standing, and ongoing relationships to land, and to learn how we can become good relatives here.

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Message From the **President**



My first year as President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Mary's has been a year of listening, learning, collaborating, and growing as we move forward together towards an exciting and prosperous future for this amazing institution.

Over this past year I was able to witness the dedication and commitment of our faculty, staff, and students who all come together to create a vibrant campus, where ideas are shared, friendships and memories are made, and lives are enriched. I have been humbled by the outpouring of support for St. Mary's by a generous and devoted community of supporters whose belief in St. Mary's and the quality of education that we provide here has helped position our school as a leading Catholic liberal arts, sciences, and education institution.

As we look to the future and begin planning for what that looks like through our strategic planning process, one thing is certain: we will continue to embody a dedication to student thriving. We are unwavering in our dedication to preparing our students to live with integrity, compassion, and confidence and to provide them the skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing global economy.

I know that you'll enjoy reading about exciting new initiatives over this last year. I hope that you can join me in celebrating the amazing people, programs and initiatives that have highlighted our past year.

Thank you for the work that you have done to help St. Mary's and our students thrive. I look forward to growing St. Mary's with you.

Thank you and God Bless,

Sinda Vanderpool
President and Vice-Chancellor





Message from the **Chancellor**

St. Mary's University in Calgary has offered a strong Catholic educational experience to students for over 30 years. It has evolved as an institution of higher learning which has been guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition that has focused on the formation of the whole person - mind, body, and spirit. St. Mary's University combines the rich Catholic intellectual and spiritual vision of life and offers students, staff, faculty and the community at large, pathways to pursue the true, the good and the beautiful.

In 2018, Pope Francis when speaking to the Gravissimum Educationis Foundation said that Catholic universities "need to give a soul to the global world through an intellectual and moral formation that can support the good things that globalization brings and correct the harmful ones." He went on to say that there are three essential criteria for a Catholic university to be a formative institution for young people today and a prophetic voice for the future – the faithfulness of its Catholic identity, the quality of its teaching and learning, and the relentless pursuit to serve the common good.

As a Catholic institution, St. Mary's must be committed to this essential dialogue of faith and reason and thus prepare its students to respond generously with their gifts and talents to God's call. Whatever their path, St. Mary's University graduates will enter the global world as faithful, committed, and generous life-long learners who seek to serve others through personal and communal goals which further the common good of society.

The university is dedicated to the liberal arts, humanity and sciences, and the social teachings of the Church as lived out in service, social justice, and the open respectful dialogue which serves the common good. During their time of study at the university, students will pursue excellence in their area of academic study and seek to place the gifts entrusted to them at the service of God's Kingdom on earth.

It is an honour to support the academic community of St. Mary's University which continues to pursue justice, truth, beauty, goodness, and the inspiring qualities of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary
Chancellor

Message from the **Board Chair**

It has been a transformative year for St. Mary's University as we welcomed Dr. Sinda Vanderpool as our new President and Vice-Chancellor and began the steps to chart a new course for St. Mary's, one that will build upon the foundations of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the liberal arts, sciences, and education, and the pursuit to provide a wholistic education, mind, body, and spirit.

As Chair of the Board of Governors for St. Mary's University I have the unique privilege to witness the incredible spirit, resilience, determination, and commitment of the St. Mary's community, who contribute to St. Mary's University's positioning as a top premier destination for a Catholic liberal arts and sciences education that welcomes all through its doors.

This year we welcomed Dr. Sinda Vanderpool as our fourth President and Vice-Chancellor, marking a significant milestone in our institution's history with the first female Presidential appointment. Under Dr. Vanderpool's guidance we have started paving the way for a dynamic future that will see St. Mary's University reach new heights.

As we look ahead, we are mindful of the challenges that lie ahead. The world around us is evolving rapidly, and the landscape of higher education is continually changing. Rest assured, our board is diligently working alongside the university administration to address these challenges proactively. We are committed to enhancing academic programs, investing in modern facilities, and embracing innovative technologies to provide you with the best educational experience possible.

Being on the Board is a volunteer commitment that takes a significant amount of time and energy. I am grateful to work closely with such a dynamic group of dedicated individuals who contribute their time, wisdom, and resources to this amazing institution. Together, let us embrace the challenges with courage, celebrate our achievements with humility, and forge ahead with unity and purpose.



Gary Strother
Chair and Treasurer
Board of Governors



Board of Governors (as of July 1, 2023)

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan - Chancellor
Mr. Gary Strother - Chair and Treasurer
Mr. Paul Valentine - Vice-Chair
Dr. Sinda Vanderpool - President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico - Chancellor's Designate
Dr. Norman Knowles - Faculty Representative
Mr. Christian Myers - Student Representative
Mr. Devin Elkin - Community Advisory Council Representative
Mr. Nathan Ruff - Administrative Staff Representative
Mr. Cordell Minniffee - Alumni Representative
Most Reverend Gregory Kerr-Wilson - Ecumenical Representative

Members at Large

Mr. Lee Funke	Ms. Mary Comeau
Vince Behm	Mr. Roberto Geremia
Senator Scott Tannas	Mr. Matt Hill
Ms. Debra Mauro	Dr. Linda Dudar

Senior Officers

Ms. Kim Bourque, University Secretary
Mr. John Deausy, VP Finance
Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh, VP Academic
Vacant, VP Advancement
Ms. Athena Pulzoni, AVP Human Resources
Mr. Darcy Smereka, AVP Enrolment & Student Experience

Message from the **Vice-Presidents**

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the strength that unity brings to our mission. The collaborative spirit that resonates throughout St. Mary's has allowed us to navigate challenges and embrace opportunities, all while staying true to our core values. Our shared commitment to nurturing the mind, body, and the spirit continues to guide us towards a future filled with promise led by the vision of our President, Dr. Sinda Vanderpool.

Over the past year we have witnessed growth in philanthropic support. Our alumni, parents, friends, partners and community of supporters have shown remarkable generosity, enabling St. Mary's to enhance scholarship opportunities, expand initiatives and ensure our growing student population continues to have the places and spaces that support and enhance them on their journey with us. Together, we are not only securing a brighter future for our students, but also fostering a lasting impact on the broader community.

The prudent management of our financial resources remains a cornerstone of our institution. The steadfast dedication of our internal community has allowed us to maintain and improve the quality of education we provide. Despite a challenging economic landscape, we continue to make investments that directly benefit our students, faculty, and staff, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to responsible stewardship.

The collective efforts of many departments throughout the university have resulted in numerous achievements by our students and we are proud to be a nurturing ground for innovative thinkers and compassionate leaders as they carry forward the values instilled in them during their time at St. Mary's.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member of our community for your unwavering support. Together we have achieved remarkable progress, and with your continued dedication, the possibilities for the future are boundless.

May we continue to be a beacon of light for all who seek knowledge, inspiration, and spiritual growth.

John Deausy
Vice President of Finance and CFO

Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh
Vice President Academic

Thérèse Takacs
Vice President of Advancement



Message from the **Deans**

At St. Mary's we find strength and purpose in our commitment to excellence, compassion, and the pursuit of knowledge. Our university stands as a beacon of light, where the Catholic Intellectual Tradition is woven into every aspect of our academic and community life.

The liberal arts and sciences continue to be the anchor of intellectual exploration, providing a holistic education that nurtures both the mind and the soul. Our amazing faculty guides our students on a journey of discovery, encouraging them to seek truth, appreciate beauty and cultivate virtue in their endeavours.

Our Bachelor of Education students are entrusted with the sacred task of preparing future educators and leaders who will shape the minds and hearts of the next generation. Our commitment to Catholic values and social justice infuses our programs with purpose, emphasizing the importance of service, empathy, and inclusivity in education.

As we reflect on the past year and look to the future, we are filled with hope and determination. Together, we will continue to uphold our Catholic identity, foster a spirit of inquiry, and cultivate the values of empathy, justice, and integrity in our community.

Dr. Jocelyn Williams
Dean of Arts
and Sciences

Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh
Interim Dean of Education



farewell to

Thérèse Takacs

This year we will be saying a fond farewell to Thérèse Takacs as she resigns from her role as Vice President, Advancement after 10 years with St. Mary's University.

An integral part of St. Mary's leadership team, Thérèse has not only witnessed the evolution of St. Mary's but has played an integral part in guiding St. Mary's through periods of transition and substantial growth.

Thérèse's leadership not only strengthened our bonds within the community and with our community of support, she also helped fuel our mission to create lasting positive impacts. Her tireless efforts made an indelible mark on St. Mary's and her legacy will continue to inspire.

Under Thérèse, the profile of St. Mary's University events was elevated to new heights. Initiatives such as the annual Golf Tournament, Stampede Breakfast and the annual President's dinner served not only as major philanthropic endeavours but community building events as well.

Though Thérèse may be retiring from her position, she will always be a member of the St. Mary's University family.



Get to know St. Mary's

St. Mary's University is well positioned to thrive in this current climate of rapid global change and challenge. Unique and different, it brings together the very best of all aspects of learning — in mind, body and spirit — to enable students to develop their gifts, realize their potential and contribute to a better world.

St. Mary's is a *liberal arts* university

As a liberal arts university, St. Mary's focuses on cultivating the critical, creative and curious mind; it teaches students how to think rather than dictating what they ought to think. It seeks to provide a breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding across disciplines and methods, and is by its very nature collaborative and interdisciplinary. It cultivates clear thinking and effective communication while instilling a process of ongoing questioning and discernment that furthers the ability to solve problems. At its best, a liberal arts university produces graduates with a love of learning who are teachable and trainable, curious and creative, and from whom new ideas emerge. Graduates become active citizens, ready and eager to participate in the life of their community and the wider world.

St. Mary's is a Catholic university

St. Mary's is rooted in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, which holds that the search for truth is enriched by sensitivity to the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life, while also recognizing that faith itself must be informed by critical inquiry. The Catholic Intellectual Tradition resists the temptation to compartmentalize knowledge and experience, and is committed to the formation of the whole person. It seeks to create thoughtful and compassionate citizens committed to justice and able to respond sensitively and creatively to changing social needs and cultural realities.



St. Mary's balances Catholic identity while embracing diversity and welcoming all

St. Mary's is an open and welcoming community to all, which is an extension of its identity as a Catholic university. It is conscious of God working in each person's life, recognizing the dignity of the individual as a unique creation and revelation of the Divine. Because all persons are created in the likeness and image of God, all persons are to be treated with dignity and respect. Discrimination on any grounds has no place in a Catholic university. St. Mary's welcomes all to enter into conversation, learn from experience and, in the process, more fully understand themselves. Such conversations are essential in an increasingly diverse, multicultural society and interconnected world.

The liberal arts and sciences advantage

Emphasis on the liberal arts and sciences prepares graduates to be knowledgeable, nimble, adaptable and ready to make a difference in a rapidly changing world.

 critical and strategic thinkers	 effective communicators
 collaborators	 compassionate citizens
 creative innovators	 consider moral and ethical implications

Snapshot 2022–23

870

Full-time students

176

Part-time students



St. Mary's University

Our Brand



Icon

The icon is a star, based on the letter M for the Virgin Mary. Four qualities of Mary (simplicity, clarity, purity and confidence) are represented by the four Ms that comprise the image. The Ms frame a source of light, representing the enlightenment within each student.

Logo



The emphasis of the logo is on the name Mary. The letter T is a pedestal raising the icon's profile. The light encircled by the Ms becomes a flame, with the T as the candle. The T forms a simple cross with Mary, with the star standing in witness above.



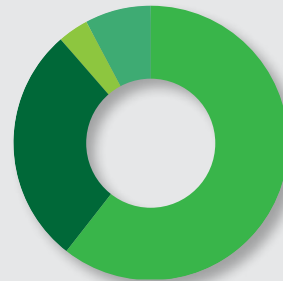
Mascot

Zeus

Colours

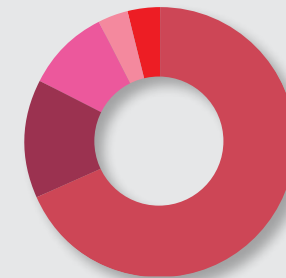


Operating Revenues



- Tuition & Fees: \$8,575,097
- Government Grants: \$4,023,976
- Fundraising & Donations: \$708,549
- Other: \$1,628,976

Operating Expenses



- Salaries & Benefits: \$10,098,022
- Supplies & Services: \$2,962,403
- Other: \$1,444,960
- Maintenance: \$567,866
- Student Awards: \$543,747

Highlights

Student success

232

Individual Student Awards



386

awards distributed totalling \$522,418 representing more than 25% of full-time student recipients

66

President's Circle Scholarships

were handed out in 2021-22, totalling \$79,325 awarded to new students entering from high school who achieve an average of 80% or higher on averages calculated on the five best Grade 11 or Grade 12 admission subjects



Involved



Vibrant student life



50%

of students volunteer on campus or in the community

Rigorous academic programs

Start at St. Mary's and succeed anywhere! St. Mary's offers high-quality, accredited undergraduate degrees valued by employers and recognized nationally and internationally for graduate-level study.

Bachelor of Arts 3 or 4 years

Degrees in English, General Studies (3-year only), History, Liberal Studies (4-year only), Psychology, Social Justice & Catholic Studies

Minors in Canadian Studies, Catholic Studies, Drama, English, Family Studies, Management, Philosophy, Political Studies, Psychology, Science Studies, Sociology

Bachelor of Education (Elementary) 2 years

After-Degree

Bachelor of Education (Secondary) 2 years

After-Degree

Bachelor of Science 4 years

Major in Biology

University Transfer up to 2 years

Business, Catholic Studies, Classics, Drama, Economics, Family Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and more

Pre-Professional

Prepare for professional programs including Law, Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Social Work, Veterinary

Certificate of Catholic Educational Leadership (CCEL) equips teachers and administrators in religious education

One Admission, Two Degrees

BA or BSc + BEd

A pathway for St. Mary's students into both a four-year BA or BSc AND the two-year BEd (Elementary) After-Degree

Entrepreneurship & Social Responsibility

This diploma program will prepare students with the entrepreneurial and management skills to help develop solutions to social, cultural, and environmental issues and effect positive change.

Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh

appointed as the next Vice-President, Academic at St. Mary's University



We are pleased to announce Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh's appointment to the position of Vice-President, Academic at St. Mary's University.

at Kwantlen Polytechnic University where he provided oversight for the academic portfolio – a responsibility that included eight Faculties and Schools, the Teaching and Learning Commons, Continuing and Professional Studies, Library Services, Research and Innovation, and Graduate Studies.

He is a strategic administrator who brings background in developing strategic academic plans, actively supporting Indigenization and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and managing operations. His strength as an academic developer and knowledge of Alberta higher education context has already added to the existing strengths of St. Mary's.

"The committee was impressed by Dr. Vanderburgh's background and the way he demonstrated a commitment to fostering positive campus culture, enhancing curriculum and sharing knowledge, and meeting collective challenges. He showed us a deep understanding of the distinctiveness of St. Mary's and its identity as a liberal arts institution in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. We are thrilled to welcome him to St. Mary's," said Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, President and Vice Chancellor of St. Mary's University.

Dr. Vanderburgh received his Ph.D. in Geography from Simon Fraser University, and has widely published on the geomorphology of coastal systems. In addition, he has presented at conferences on developing field-based

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I am so excited to join St. Mary's. I am a firm believer in collaborative leadership that empowers and motivates colleagues to excel.

undergraduate earth sciences programs and has led field schools throughout North America. His interdisciplinary background, combined with his skill as an academic administrator, community advocate, and creative mindset will be a terrific asset to St. Mary's.

"I am so excited to join St. Mary's. I am a firm believer in collaborative leadership that empowers and motivates colleagues to excel. I know that together, we will build an incredible future for the institution that builds on our unique best qualities. I can't wait to get home to Calgary and get to work," said Dr. Vanderburgh upon his appointment. St. Mary's thanks the search committee for its time spent working with KBRS Executive Search on this critical hire for our university.

Dr. Vanderburgh began his role as Vice-President, Academic starting on May 8, 2023.

St. Mary's University has welcomed a new member to its senior leadership team this year when Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh began his tenure as Vice President Academic.

An experienced educator and administrator, Dr. Vanderburgh received his Ph.D. in Physical Geography from Simon Fraser University and his research on the geomorphology of coastal systems has been widely published.

Prior to joining St. Mary's, Dr. Vanderburgh was the Vice President Academic and Learner Services at Northern Lakes College in Slave Lake, Alberta. There he had the overall responsibility for providing leadership, management, and strategic planning for a broad range of academic programming and student services. Prior to this, he was the Provost and Vice President Academic

Returning Home

Darcy Smereka returns to St. Mary's University



A familiar friendly face has returned to the St. Mary's University campus after five years when Darcy Smereka was named Assistant Vice President Enrolment and Student Services.

"This will be my 12th year being part of the St. Mary's campus community, and my first in this new role," said Darcy. "Our dedicated student services team is working hard to build a positive campus experience and identify opportunities for students to not only be successful in their studies, but to make friends and have some fun along the way."

Darcy's institutional knowledge of St. Mary's and the post-secondary education landscape will be a huge benefit as the institution continues to provide a top liberal arts and sciences education rooted in the Catholic Educational Tradition.

With Darcy in place, student services at St. Mary's have been reorganized to better serve the students diverse needs.

"We understand that a student's time at St. Mary's is about more than just academics; it's about personal growth, meaningful connections, and unforgettable experiences," said Darcy. "If I can play a role in helping the students achieve their educational goals while preparing them to be outstanding citizens in the community then I think that I've done my job correctly."



Steven Desautels

For St. Mary's University alumnus Stephen Desautels, mental and physical health has always been a top priority. In the past few years, this priority has grown into a career where he dedicates his time to helping others find the tools to build courage, determination, resiliency and inclusivity for their all-around mental and physical well-being. By launching his own small business, Stephen lives for these values and reminds his customers of their courage.

Steve came to St. Mary's University to earn both his Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Education after-degree. "Two of the most memorable days during my time at St. Mary's was walking that stage and seeing my family in the crowd supporting me, as I accepted those degrees I worked so hard for. It was a long journey and St. Mary's gave me that opportunity."

Graduating from our BEd program in 2017, Steve immediately found employment as a teacher and loved working with youth and motivating them to be the best possible version of themselves. This passion for teaching the next generation of learners is still going strong, and Steve currently teaches at Our Lady of Peace in Millrise.

In May of 2021, Steve's drive to motivate others led him to launching his own small business, called Courage Clothing. This company was launched due to his desire to help the greater community be the best possible version of themselves in wellness.

"I've always loved working out and prioritizing my mental and physical health. It's not always easy to get to the gym after a hard day's work, or getting out of bed to get it done before work. We do it because we value taking care of our health and well-being. That is why I decided to start Courage Clothing; to make a statement and remind us of our passion," says Steve.

The education he gained at St. Mary's helped to give Steve the confidence and skills to successfully launch Courage Clothing – with Steve crediting his time in the Bachelor of Education program for giving him the broad skillset necessary to start his business.

"The extensive practicum experiences I gained at St. Mary's has provided me with the skillset to be a teacher and an entrepreneur. Faculty were very accommodating to place me in the right school for me. Skills such as time management and flexibility were also an asset in helping me build my own business."

Of course, while Steve credits St. Mary's for helping to develop his skillset, he thanks his family for being his biggest support system and source of inspiration.

"I wanted to create a brand that helps to motivate and inspire people to become the best version of themselves possible. My fiancée Kaitlyn and our two young kids are also a daily inspiration and motivate me each day to become the best person and father I can be".



Celebrating French language learning & our Specialized Practicum program partners

This program is intended to support B.Ed. students at St. Mary's University who already speak French by placing them in a designated immersion school after having their language levels assessed.

Functioning the same as our Teacher Leader Project, this program was a direct response to witnessing school districts struggle to fill French-speaking positions. In this program, students receive extra practicum experience and mentorship opportunities, as well as participate in student-led research.

This Specialized Practicum program would not be possible without the support and dedication of our many program partners, and this gathering was intended to thank our partners for their time and effort.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to thank our small but mighty group of avid supporters of French as a second language teaching; HR personnel, Principals, French specialists, and Cooperating teachers from Calgary Catholic, Christ the Redeemer and Calgary Board of Education, Dr. Katherine Mueller from the University of Calgary, and some of our pre-service teachers were in attendance," explains Deanne Barrett, Sessional

Instructor and Practicum Advisor at StMU.

Planned by Deanne, this evening of celebration featured a nod to French culture with wine and cheese on the menu, and was an opportunity for our program partners to mingle and connect with each other. Interim Dean of Education, Dr. Paolina Seitz, took this opportunity to share with attendees just how much of an impact our French Pedagogy Program has on our students.

It's a unique opportunity, with students who are successfully placed in this program being given enrichment opportunities to develop their French Language skills and their understanding of the pedagogy of teaching French in an immersion setting. This is a valuable and in-demand skill that is worth developing.

"Alberta is such a unique context for French Immersion schooling, and the graduates from this program have greater insight into what it takes to be a successful French Immersion teacher. This program offers students support as they continue to build their French language fluency, as well as providing them with opportunities to understand the pedagogy specific to teaching in a French immersion setting," remarks Deanne.

An evening intended to celebrate French language learning and culture, portions of the program were delivered in French by Dr. Seitz and the featured speaker of the evening – StMU President, Dr. Sinda Vanderpool.

After falling in love with the French language while attending Davidson College as an undergraduate student, Dr. Vanderpool spent her junior year enrolled as a visiting student at the Faculty des Lettres in Montpellier, France. After earning her bachelor's degree in French from Davidson, she attended Princeton University where she focused on 16th Century French poetry through the lens of female identity.

Dr. Vanderpool's passion for the French language shone through as she addressed our Specialized Practicum program partners in fluent French and spoke of the value of second language learning while telling stories about her background with the French language, her time in France, her studies in French literature, and her first Post-secondary job as a French Instructor.

As this specialized program has continued to grow, we have spent this year connecting with new partners. StMU has now partnered with 11 schools from four different school districts, and we are consistently hearing about the increasing need for skilled Second Language teachers in Alberta.





History



The History and Development of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Military
 – *Tyson Foster*

Abstract: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is one of the most common illnesses a soldier can be diagnosed with while serving in the military, and the last 100 years has produced some of the most brutal and gruesome conflicts that have allowed for this illness to torment veterans on a scale never seen before. A large factor in the development of PTSD in soldiers, is the ethos that men should never speak about their own problems in order to avoid looking weak. This belief was present in the Trenches of World War 1, and throughout the conflicts of the 20th century, which has influenced men to allow their own trauma to devour them from the inside.

Bio: Tyson is a History Major finishing his degree this Spring. He is interested in European and Mediterranean History.



Chasing the Ghosts of the Second-Hand Trade in Early Modern Europe: How Ordinary People Engaged with Luxury Textiles – *Laura Gillis*

Abstract: My presentation explores how luxury could be and was accessed by non-elites during the early modern period in Europe. Specifically, how ribbon was created and used by ordinary people despite legislation restricting what was worn. The primary source that I used was bog bodies; people who died and were preserved in the peat in bogs across northern Europe. These bodies are a time capsule of clothing and people. My capstone deals with the second-hand trade and how it was an access point for ordinary people to buy items they otherwise would not have contact with.

Bio: Along with completing my degree in history, I minored in English. Another major component of my degree was learning languages. I studied both Latin and French in my first year, and I use French on a daily basis with my partner.



Vimy Ridge And The Formation of Canadian Identity
 – *Ojoe Malabug*

Abstract: I found these topics fascinating and wanted to know more so I challenge myself to learn about Canadian military history. In the course of my research, I stumbled across a book called Vimy: The Battle and the Legend written by Tim Cook. What fascinated me about Vimy was that it was seen by some as the birthplace of Canadians. Furthermore, my research gave me a greater appreciation of the Vimy Memorial and how many political leaders such as Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau, as well as the British monarchy all have made speeches at Vimy. My research has led me to the conclusion that the history of surrounding Vimy Ridge highlights Canadian Nationalism, which is forever symbolized in the Vimy Memorial.

Bio: Ojoe is a graduate with an undergrad in history and hopes to further his post-secondary career in education.

>> Scan this code to read more in-depth about these and other StMU student capstone projects.



Chasing Apes in The High Mountains of Portugal
– Noah Stretch

Noah's project, "Chasing Apes" charts the depiction of grief in Yann Martel's novel, *The High Mountains of Portugal*, discussing the importance of both community and nature for the process of healing.

Noah could rightfully be called a perpetual student. Having done a degree in Architectural Technologies and ultimately finding deskwork to be a poor fit for him, Noah returned to school only to get roped into doing another undergrad degree, this time in the highly employable field of English Literature. In the Fall, Noah will begin working on his third degree, this time in the St. Mary's Education Program; having spent much of his life working with kids part-time, he is eager to begin his career as a teacher.



Promoting Knowledge Versus Enforcing Ignorance: The Example of The Glass Castle
– Talia Sargent

Talia Sargent is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts in English. As a songwriter, many of her songs and performances support open discussions of mental health. Talia became interested in teaching trauma narratives in the classroom after discovering that her favourite book, Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle*, was banned in schools throughout the United States. Talia's goal after graduation is to continue teaching youth (she already coaches Figure Skating), aiming to become a High School English teacher. Her presentation, "Promoting Knowledge Versus Enforcing Ignorance," engages scholarly conversations about school curriculum censorship and conceptions of adolescence.



The Market and the Mermaid: How Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid Commodifies the Body – Laura Fraser

Laura's presentation is entitled, "The Market and the Mermaid: How Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* Commodifies the Body." Laura first became interested in Andersen's tale during English 397.4 (Folk and Fairytales), and in Althusserian-Marxist critiques of culture in English 469 (Contemporary Literary Theory and Criticism). At the nexus of these interests, she noticed that *The Little Mermaid* aligned closely with Marx's theory of commodification and researched the idea for a capstone project (one of two, as she is completing a double major in Liberal Studies and English). Laura's plans for the future involve a Master of Arts in English at the University of Saskatchewan, beginning in September. She has an unnecessary fascination with antique teacups, which she inherited from her grandmother; and she constantly drew mermaids during class.



English



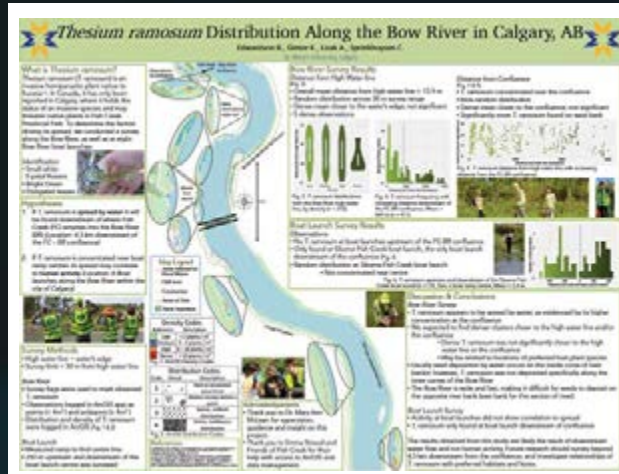
Scan this code to read more in-depth about these and other StMU student capstone projects. >>



Biology



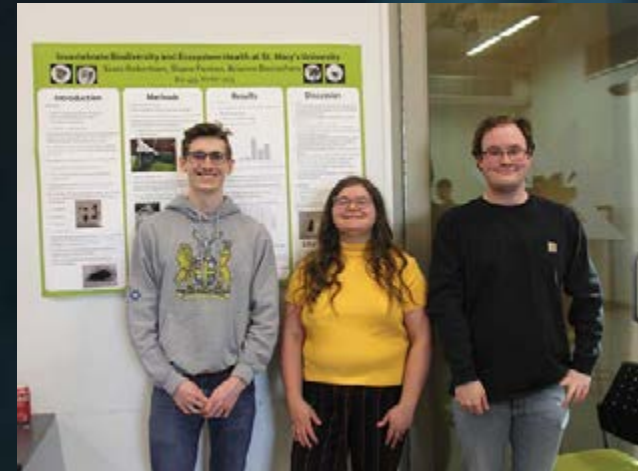
>> Scan this code to read more in-depth about these and other StMU student capstone projects.



Thesium ramosum distribution along the Bow River in Calgary

Abstract: *Thesium ramosum* (*T. ramosum*) is an invasive hemiparasitic plant native to Eurasia 1, 2. In Canada, it has only been reported in Calgary, where it holds the status of an invasive species and may threaten native plants in Fish Creek Provincial Park. To determine the factors driving its spread, we conducted a survey along the Bow River, as well as at eight Bow River boat launches

Students:
 Anna Lizak
 Ben Edwardson
 Carina Sprinkhuysen
 Kirrie Ginter



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health at St. Mary's University

Abstract: Invertebrates fill ecological niches at multiple different trophic levels making them an important part of a healthy ecosystem. To monitor this, students created an experiment with the intent to find a baseline for invertebrate biodiversity on campus.

Students:
 Brianna Desrochers
 Shane Fenton
 Scott Robertson



The Migratory Path of Resilience: Stories of Adversity Through Immigrant Perspectives
– Iliana Guevara

Abstract: This qualitative study explores immigrants' experiences of adversity and resilience resulting from their migration journey and subsequent integration into host country, Canada. The aim of my research is to contextualize culturally nuanced immigrant experiences that contribute to a broader framework and understanding of resilience.

Bio: Iliana Guevara is graduating with a BA in Psychology Honours and a minor in Sociology. Iliana participated in Dr. Turcotte's President's Volunteer Team, is a member of StMU's Psychology Association, and won placement on the Dean's list. Iliana aspires to counsel adolescents, women, and immigrants by helping them conquer traumatic experiences resulting from toxic family systems or migration.



The Effects of Haptic Feedback in Casual Video Games for Stress Reduction and Mood Improvement in Undergraduates
– Ashtyn Leblond

Abstract: Recent studies have found that casual video games (CVGs) can help reduce stress in an alternative way, especially for undergraduates as they are reported as to having high levels of video game usage. Other recent studies have found that the use of haptic stimulation and technology that uses it can help aid in stress reduction and mood improvement as well. Could CVGs that incorporate haptic feedback reduce stress and improve mood? These findings will help in the future development of video games, stress reduction techniques and further research in this area.

Bio: Ashtyn is in their fifth and final year of their psychology degree at St. Mary's. Ashtyn plans on getting their Bachelor's of Education to pursue their goal of becoming a Special Education teacher, as they have always had a passion for working with children with disabilities.



Metacognition and Measure of Cognition and Wellbeing
– Timothy Evans

Abstract: The present study sought to assess the association between metacognition and attention, verbal memory, GPA, and working memory in a healthy population of undergraduate students. The present study employed a sociodemographic questionnaire, a metacognition questionnaire, a digit span test, a trail making test, and the Hopkins verbal learning test. This study contradicts previous research indicating that attention and metacognition are closely linked, suggesting that attention may not be necessary for effective metacognition.

Bio: I am an honors student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology. I was drawn to psychology because I find the exploration of thoughts, behavior, and emotions fascinating



Psychology



Scan this code to read more in-depth about these and other StMU student capstone projects. >>


 Carmela DiMaio

St. Mary's University Alumni Carmela DiMaio may have graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2021, but she continues to feel like part of our campus community!

"I genuinely loved going to school here because the professors truly care about you and not just your ability to succeed in school but also in life," she says. "That's not something you get at many schools; at StMU, you are a person, not just a number in a system; everyone here wants to see the students succeed."

The welcoming environment fostered at St. Mary's is a huge reason Carmela looks back on her years spent on our historic campus with fondness. Carmela also enjoys reflecting on how much she has grown as a person in comparison to when she first enrolled at StMU. "I became a better person throughout my years in this community," she adds.

One of the biggest challenges Carmela faced throughout obtaining her degree was confusion and doubt; like many other university students, she was starting to ask herself several big questions about her goals and aspirations in life. However, she feels StMU was the perfect place to be while experiencing these confusing times, because her campus and faith community supported her.

While at St. Mary's, she also developed some critical life skills – such as learning how to manage life's ups, downs, responsibilities, and relationships. "Toward the end of high school, I became overwhelmed with school, classes, studying, work, relationships, my personal life, and mental health," she says.

"But at StMU, I learned how to manage so many areas of my life through learning and practicing time management, creativity, logical thinking, problem solving, relationship management, and self-confidence." Carmela adds that having friends, professors, and fellow classmates who were understanding, kind, and caring made all the difference.

Throughout her studies, Carmela was involved in the Catholic Students Association (CSA) and helped grow a grassroots environment of catholic and spiritual life on campus. While in the CSA, the group organized a variety of events and activities for students to attend and explore their faith.

After taking a Catholic Social Justice course at St. Mary's, Carmela was connected to another community that would change her future – L'Arche Calgary.

"L'Arche Calgary is a community of people with and without intellectual disabilities sharing life together, and as soon as I became part of it, I fell in love with the community, the people, and the feeling of belonging, love, and connection I got to experience being a part of L'Arche," Carmela says.

As a recent grad, StMU is proud to see Carmela thriving as a fundraising coordinator at L'Arche.



President's
VOLUNTEER TEAM



Field of Crosses

St. Mary's was honoured to once again accept sole responsibility to set up and light 3,600 candles at the crosses of our fallen soldiers from Southern Calgary, and then remove the candles and repack them the following day. This is a major event in the university calendar, and an important opportunity for the us to give back to our community and pay our respects to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Over 40 members of the St. Mary's University community supported the initiative and were present at ceremonies on November 11th to honour those who sacrificed everything for our freedom.

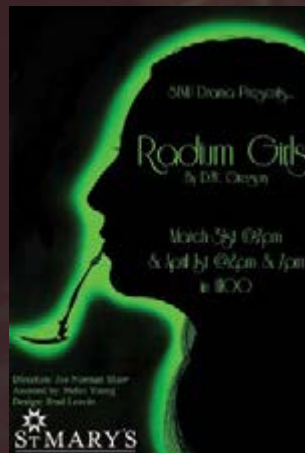


The Stage is Set!

The talented St. Mary's University Drama students took to the stage this year with new productions: *Below the Surface* & *Friday the 13th* as well as *Radium Girls*.

Our talented drama 203 ensemble wrote and performed *Below the Surface*, an entertaining look at the social life of university students. *Friday the 13th* was presented by the Drama 405 ensemble and was highlighted by some amazing performances.

For our Mainstage production this year, the StMU Drama students brought DW Gregory's *Radium Girls* to life with powerful and engrossing performances that were a huge hit with our audiences!



Voices from a Sixteenth-Century Manuscript

StMU Sessional Instructors Make Incredible Discovery



St. Mary's University Sessional Instructors, Dr. Maria Oss-Cech and PhD Candidate Monica Di Rosa, have been working on unearthing the content of a rare sixteenth-century manuscript. After being hidden for centuries, Maria and Monica are sharing their experiences and learnings from the voices of this long hidden piece of history.

Discovered in the Biblioteca Nazionale of Florence (Italy), it is believed that the manuscript made its way to Florence due to Eleonore de Toledo, an arts patron. She moved to Florence when she married Francesco De Medici I. Eleonore herself may have brought the manuscript from Naples or had a copyist write the performances at a court in Florence.

This manuscript was discovered thanks to the support of many scholars, across the world, during Maria Oss-Cech Chiacchia's Phd research. Thanks to Dr. Ralph Maier and SSHRC funding, further investigation was made possible. Monica joined the team bringing extensive paleographic and research experience.

Presently, Maria and Monica continue to research into the content and the context from which the manuscript dances, poetry and music arise.

Upon this discovery, Maria travelled to Italy to study at the Medici Institute to research further the historical context of

the manuscript while Monica dove into transcribing all the poetry in the manuscript.

This authentic sixteenth-century manuscript is remarkable because of the new perspectives this finding offers. It presents a unique opportunity to learn about Renaissance literary and musical contexts by teaching us fresh ways of thinking – including new modes of inquiry, interpretation, and understandings of poetry and music.

We also gain a historically accurate glimpse through this manuscript into what the performances at a sixteenth-century renaissance court may have been like; through revelations that highlighted the scopes of music and language.

Maria and Monica felt involving as many students as possible in their research was crucial to the academic community. They both continue to share their findings with the community and students because they believe "research is only worthwhile when it has the power to inspire students and enhance the human experience."

Through Maria's research and discoveries, she developed a deeper appreciation for the Renaissance world of music and poetry. She is grateful that this manuscript could connect her with scholars of poetry and music worldwide—she recalls the fantastic research journeys she experienced in libraries in Spain and Italy.

Monica describes this research journey as feeling like she was "putting the puzzle pieces together" while working on the manuscript. She explains how the manuscript reveals the intricate relationships between the Renaissance period. The great artists and individuals who shared ideas, poetry, and music— "the classical world is coming back into the current light and influencing the new poetic practices," says Monica.

Maria and Monica further explain that while this discovery and their subsequent research has been an incredible journey, they are only at the beginning of their understanding of the Renaissance intellectual and literary world. By sharing their content with the community, scholars, and students, we learn the value of looking at these poems and music through an interdisciplinary lens.



Volunteer

SPOTLIGHT



Gary
Strother

At St. Mary's University, the support of our community volunteers plays an essential role in our continued growth as an institution. Gary Strother, Chair of the St. Mary's Board of Governors, is a dedicated StMU volunteer who recently received The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) in recognition of service to his province in the field of adult education.

Although Gary began his formal volunteering journey with St. Mary's in 2019, he has been actively involved in our campus community for much longer. Both of his sons attended StMU and loved their experience on our historic campus, and Gary attended many events in support of St. Mary's over the years.

After working in K-12 Catholic education for his entire career, Gary felt that giving his time to StMU would be an excellent opportunity to give back to something significant to him. He also felt compelled to use this opportunity to view education from a post-secondary perspective while bringing his past experience in governance roles.

"I worked with some very experienced trustees for many years and felt I'd learned a lot and would be able to use that experience to benefit StMU," he explains.

Aside from primarily volunteering on the Board, Gary has been actively involved with many other Presidential initiatives – including the Field of Crosses, Feed the Hungry, and our Annual Stampede Breakfast.

Serving as our Board Chair for the past three years, Gary's many responsibilities include working closely with the President in governance matters, planning and running Board meetings, working on a variety of essential committees, and representing the Board and St. Mary's at various events.



Kim & Rob Geremia

At St. Mary's University, our continued growth as an institution would not be possible without the ongoing support and commitment of our community of dedicated volunteers and donors. Rob Geremia, Director and

Co-Founder of RKG Consulting, is not only long-time donor, but also one of our longest-serving board members and volunteers.

Rob first became involved with St. Mary's after being asked by former Board Chair James T. (Terry) McCoy to consider joining our board as a member.

"At that time, I was sitting on several other boards and didn't think I could provide enough of my time to make a large commitment. I didn't feel I would contribute appropriately. But one of my colleagues was really raving about the great work being done at St. Mary's and I grew even more curious, so I agreed to sit on the audit committee for a year," says Rob.

After that, Rob became a board member in 2013 – and all these years later, he is still giving his time and experience to St. Mary's by serving on our board. "I was quickly impressed the university and as time wore on, my experience with StMU kept drawing me in further and soon I joined the finance and executive committee," Rob explains.

As a member of the St. Mary's Board of Governors and Chair of our Audit & Risk Committee, Rob enjoys the experience of working with the executive team at St. Mary's and making a difference in the lives of our students.

"Working during this period of so much growth between the board and the executive committee has been an eye-opening experience," he says. "The board is productive and efficient, which makes a genuine impact and difference; and with the executive committee, we have differing but respectful opinions, so we get lots of different viewpoints, which are essential to our growth as an institution."



Lori Iovinelli

At St. Mary's University, the support of our community volunteers plays an important role in our continued growth as an institution. Lori Iovinelli, Calgary Catholic School District Trustee representative, is a dedicated community volunteer who started volunteering with St. Mary's in 2018.

Lory explains that volunteering with StMU is important to her because she admires the university's dedication and commitment to student success. She values how all students are equally supported and celebrated no matter what stage they are in. Additionally, Lory notes that each fundraiser, initiative, and event that she has been involved with as a volunteer was intentionally crafted to offer students a wide variety of learning opportunities.

"In addition to the strong faith-based liberal arts and science education, St. Mary's commitment to social justice initiatives and ethical leadership stand out and make the university a learning institution that I am proud and humbled to represent," says Lory.

"It is evident that St. Mary's is not simply a learning institution, but a community of learners and a family," she adds. As one of our dedicated volunteers, Lory has had the opportunity to take part in many initiatives that raise funds to help support StMU students and their continued success.





Josh Eberley

After already graduating from two post-secondary institutions in the past, St. Mary's University alumnus Josh Eberley was left searching for more—and StMU offered him just that!

"St. Mary's is unlike any other institution because it provides such an intimate learning experience which I think is so rare to find," says Josh.

Josh graduated in 2019 with his Bachelor of Education Degree. He loved the environment at StMU and valued the way classes were designed for discourse. "I had the opportunity to have open dialogue with professors when I disagreed and those discussions felt relevant, real, and professional," says Josh.

"I knew exactly why I was there every single day. I knew my professors well, and I made real connections with peers who shared the same ambitions as I did."

One of Josh's highlights from his time on campus was watching and discussing films with his cohort. He also valued the educational simulations that his class did to highlight common hurdles in the classroom.

Throughout his studies, Josh faced obstacles when it came to balancing work, relationships, and finances. "Every practicum was challenging but incredibly rewarding—they were all so hard to leave," he says. "Teaching never ends or feels finished and I always ended up wanting to stay longer."

Josh is currently finishing up his fourth year of teaching with Calgary Catholic, but in his free time, he is a huge basketball fan. Coincidentally, his passion for basketball has led to Josh amassing a large following on social media and becoming a respected voice in the NBA twitter-sphere.

"I had been emailing Sports Illustrated and SLAM editor's questions, hoping to write for them since I was 14 years old," he explains. After high school, Josh got into journalism and found his footing. "I never feared to knock on a door and I leveraged my love of basketball, my journalism diploma, and social media following have given me access to a ton of cool opportunities that I'll be forever thankful for."

"Most days it's very cool and humbling to have a platform where I can share my views and talk to so many different people," he says. "But the internet is not always the friendliest place – it can be tough on your mental health at times"

But between Josh's teaching, sports writing, and time at the Alberta Legislature writing speeches and doing community correspondence, he's gained a broad outlook on how people engage and communicate. "Those essential skills serve me every single day at work."

Josh credits his curious spirit, hard work, and willingness to be wrong as the main reasons he got to where he is today. "I've always been confident in my own ability to make decisions and form opinions and I really only do things that I'm insanely passionate about," he adds.

The Power of Mentorship



After graduating with a liberal arts degree in 2019, esteemed St. Mary's University alumnus Cordell Minnifee reached out to the St. Mary's University Alumni Association to ask about being set up with a mentor. As a current alumni ambassador and a retired Lightning athlete, Cordell has always been actively involved in the StMU campus community and was looking for further guidance as he launched his career.

Cordell believed it was crucial to seek a mentor, because, as he explains "the most successful people I know or have read about all speak at length about the benefits of having a mentor." Cordell felt it would be a beneficial opportunity to find someone who has already achieved his career goals and personal ambitions.

Another reason that Cordell sought a mentor was that he knew the person would be removed from his innermost circle. Therefore, the mentor could offer a new perspective and unbiased advice as he entered this next phase of his life as a young grad.

Ultimately, Cordell was paired with Paul Valentine, a treasured StMU donor and owner of several Calgary car dealerships, including Valentine Volvo, as a mentor. They have now been working together for over a year and have each benefited from this mentorship.

Cordell explains the mentorship under Paul has been insightful and transformative. "This amazing opportunity presented itself at a time when I had some challenging and pressing career choices to make. Paul was able to provide me with advice that gave me confidence in my decisions," he says.

A major takeaway from this mentorship for Cordell is to be always curious. From their interactions so far, Cordell has learned to ask himself reflective questions when faced with important decisions. In addition, these insights showed him the importance of aligning himself with others who share his similar core values.

Cordell says that his experience being mentored by Paul has been an incredible opportunity. "Paul is extremely easy to talk to and open with his thoughts. I look forward to continuing to learn from someone who can help to guide me in my future endeavours," he says.

"The mentorship program is an important component to growth," says Cordell. He believes it's essential to align yourself with individuals with similar values; as this presents an opportunity to learn from someone successful in living the very same values you hold close as significant.

Academic Invitational

Students who attended the St. Mary's Academic Invitational participated in breakout sessions aligned with their academic interests with members of the faculty who have a passion for creating dynamic, engaging learning experiences for students.

During the academic session, students had the opportunity to meet other high-achieving current and future St. Mary's students. Following the event, participating students were eligible to apply for a full-tuition scholarship to St. Mary's for one year!



On Saturday, March 11 we welcomed 27 high-achieving students to campus for the first St. Mary's University Academic Invitational and it was a huge success! This wouldn't have been possible without the hard work from so many in various departments across the institution, whose collaboration and dedication to St. Mary's helped make this event a success. Amazing classroom/lab sessions and academic discussions were supplemented with a tremendous overall experience, from event set up, registration, personalized details, thematic music, a breaking news video, and so much more.





Dr. Cory Wright-Maley Receives Prestigious ATA Educational Research Award

Congratulations to Dr. Cory Wright-Maley, Associate Professor in our Faculty of Education and Education Area Chair, for recently receiving the 2021/22 Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Educational Research Award!

This award is valued at \$5,000 and is presented annually to a faculty of education member, or sessional lecturer, at an Alberta university or university college that the ATA recognizes who has undertaken high quality research on classroom teaching and learning.

Dr. Wright-Maley received this award earlier this year for his work on his research paper "Glossed over and missing": Preservice teachers learn about slavery in Canada. The ATA selection committee deemed this research paper the winning submission, stating that it "exemplifies the practical research that benefits both students and teachers."

This research paper is available for download online, and centers on how Canadians do not, for the most part, learn about Black histories in school, much less the troubling history of Canada's entanglement in over 200 years of chattel slavery. And in Alberta, this history is simply not part of the provincial curriculum.

Dr. Wright-Maley's work explores why this is, how this lack of knowledge can be remedied, and what the lingering impact has been of this history of anti-Black racism in Canada.

Interestingly, this winning inquiry didn't begin as a research focus. Instead, it started as a simple in-class exercise in which his students were asked to respond to a reading on the history of slavery in Canada — but the results were so intriguing that these responses soon became the basis of this research project, which took over a year to publish.

After joining a Black Lives Matter (BLM) at School Higher Education working group in 2020, Dr. Wright-Maley became even more motivated to further incorporate Black histories into his courses. This group, which concentrates on how Black history and contemporary challenges are incorporated in Canada and the United States, inspires educators to reflect on how they can teach about the impact of racism and racial inequity in their classrooms.

With this concept in mind, Dr. Wright-Maley planned a reading response exercise for StMU students enrolled in his Elementary Social Studies Methods courses. Elementary preservice teachers (B.Ed. students) were given a reading from a chapter in Natasha L. Henry's 2010 book, *Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada*, titled "From Enslavement to Freedom" and asked to craft a reflection about an insight that this reading sparked for them.

This selected chapter reading was a brief introduction to the history of enslavement of Black peoples in Canada from the early 1600's, and after reading the reflection responses, Dr. Wright-Maley was intrigued by the results.

The elementary preservice teachers in his course were, with few exceptions, unaware of this chapter in Canadian history that has been, and continues to be, hidden from mainstream — meaning White or Eurocentric — Canadian historical consciousness.

Once the results revealed that most of the preservice teachers in the course were unaware of this significant chapter in Canadian history, Dr. Wright-Maley knew he had to dive deeper into this research and he began formulating questions about how teachers make sense of and respond to the often hidden histories of Black Canadians.

Two Prominent Members of StMU receive the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal



We're excited to share that Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, president and vice-chancellor of St. Mary's University, recently received The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) in recognition of service to her province in the field of adult education.

This is an incredible honour given to residents of Alberta who have made a significant contribution to Canada, Alberta, their communities, or fellow citizens. In total, 7,000 Albertans will receive this medal, which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second to the Throne as Queen of Canada. This medal is intended to honour citizens who, like the late Queen, have dedicated themselves to family, community, and country.

Congratulations Sinda, thank you for all you do to help continue to expand upon St. Mary's student-centred vision of growth and success.

We're excited to share that Gary Strother, Chair of the St. Mary's Board of Governors, has just received The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) in recognition of service to his province in the field of adult education.

This is an incredible honour given to residents of Alberta who have made a significant contribution to Canada, Alberta, their communities, or fellow citizens. In total, 7,000 Albertans will receive this medal, which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second to the Throne as Queen of Canada. This medal is intended to honour citizens who, like the late Queen, have dedicated themselves to family, community, and country.

Congratulations Gary, thank you for all you do in support of St. Mary's University and the ongoing success of our students!





Josh Weaver

As a student at StMU, Josh has enjoyed learning about other cultures, languages and religions. Outside of History courses, Josh emphasizes that he has appreciated the ability to learn about different cultures and faiths in StMU's Religious Studies courses. "In high school, we never learned about different religions, so it has been really interesting to study," explains Josh.

As part of his studies, Josh works with Zulema Sanchez, an instructor with IPSE, for additional support with coursework through a customized learning model that the duo designed together that is tailored to Josh's preferences, abilities and interests.

At StMU, Zulema works to provide personalized supports to all of our IPSE students and helps promote both independence and resilience. She works one-on-one with several students on campus to assist them where necessary in their active participation in university life.

"Working with Josh has been so joyful as he has continued to develop his independence and thrive on campus," says Zulema. "He's grown so much as a person in our years working together and has been such a positive force. I'll miss working with him and I'm sure his instructors and classmates will miss his presence as well. He's very popular here with everyone!"

"I really do feel like my life changed overnight since starting at St. Mary's. It wasn't just that my learning and skills improved, everyone here is so nice. It feels good to be here, I feel well known and I know I belong," Josh adds.

Since enrolling at St. Mary's, Josh has been actively involved in campus life – engaging in a variety of events, volunteer initiatives and student life activities. He was involved in the establishment of our Medicine Garden through his volunteer hours with the campus gardening club and also regular works with our Campus Ministry team.

And of course, Josh is a dedicated fan of our Lightning Athletics teams and particularly enjoys cheering on our men's and women's basketball teams at home games!

Outside of his time spent in the classroom learning and studying, Josh is a dedicated athlete and has found his passion for sport in swimming. Although he has been swimming regularly for the past 16 years, Josh only began swimming competitively eight years ago.

"I enjoy swimming because I am competing against myself, and I have been working hard to achieve personal bests in every competition I participate in," says Josh.

In 2022, his hard work paid off and he made Team Canada for the 2022 Down Syndrome International Swimming Organisation (DSISO) Games in Portugal. The DSISO Games were created to provide swimmers with Down syndrome the opportunity to swim at a world class level through its competitive World Championships held every two years.



Inclusivity takes center stage at StMU through unique program partnership



Through a partnership with The Integrated Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) Society of Alberta, St. Mary's and IPSE are working together to bring inclusion to higher learning and university life.

As a non-profit organization, IPSE works with academic institutions to support adults with developmental disabilities in their post-secondary education and employment journeys. IPSE works together with individuals and their families to plan learning goals, practice employment skills, and develop community to build successful and more independent lives.

This important program provides opportunities for diverse learners to cultivate their academic and social aspirations through unique partnerships at both St. Mary's University and the University of Calgary.

Students enrolled in this program have a distinct voice in their learning outcomes and actively participate in designing their own learning model tailored to their

preferences, abilities and interests. Instruction is strategically paced to match a student's unique needs.

"This program is here to give everyone a university experience with the support necessary to succeed," explains Zulema Sanchez, IPSE instructor at St. Mary's. "We are here to celebrate personal gifts and passions, while addressing barriers from both a societal and an individual perspective."

At StMU, Zulema works to provide personalized supports to IPSE students and helps promote both independence and resilience. She works one-on-one with several students on campus to assist them where necessary in their active participation in university life.

"We are very grateful to St. Mary's and its faculty members for playing a role in the success of this program and the support of our students," says Zulema. "Participation in regular classes and campus activities helps our students in developing the practical skills

necessary to live, work and thrive in their community."

One of the students that Zulema has worked closely with at StMU is Matthew 'Matt' Madge, a student enrolled in our Bachelor of Arts – General Studies program who started his academic journey at St. Mary's in 2020 and will be graduating next year.

Matt enjoys the close-knit campus and small class sizes offered at StMU and is actively involved in many of our events and programs. In fact, he will be taking center stage in one of our upcoming mainstage productions at the end of the month. On the autism spectrum, Matt is a dedicated student and talented artist who has quickly found a community at St. Mary's.

"I like going to university here because I feel like I belong and have more of a sense of family here than I have in any other program," explains Matt. "I'm happy to be part of the community on campus and to have so many faculty members and classmates that care about me."

2022-23 National Scholar Award Recipients



StMU Athletics Awards

Maitlynn Wilde, Women's Basketball

Danya Osterling, Women's Basketball

Coal Clark, Men's Basketball

Riley Follensbee, Men's Basketball

Rowan Seerup, Cross Country

Dan Quibell, Cross Country

Elizabeth Krueger, Cross Country

Sarah Foscarini, Cross Country

Maria Leonard, Cross Country

Sydney Lockhart, Cross Country

Brianne Dangerfield, Cross Country

Our athletes had quite a season to celebrate! Cross Country running won their first medal in school history – a Silver for the Women's Team. We were the only ACAC school with both basketball teams in the ACAC Final Four. Women's Basketball finished the regular season in first place in the ACAC. Men's Basketball played in their first ACAC Championship Game (earning a Silver Medal) and went to the Nationals Championships for the first time in Lightning History. Indoor Track won their first medals in school history – two Bronze Medals in Women's Relay. To top it off, our athletic teams had a combined GPA over 3.00!

Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Mary's University, started off the evening with a motivating address and recap of her first year as The Lightning's new biggest fan. Followed by an entertaining game of 'Simon Says' lead by the night's MC, Tim Olynik, our Fitness and Recreation Coordinator.

Three awards were given out for each team. The Most Outstanding Female and Most Outstanding Male for the Cross Country and Indoor Track teams, or MVP for both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams. Also, Most Improved, and the Lightning Award – given to the person who embodies what it most means to be a Lightning Student Athlete.





Cross Country Winners:

Most Outstanding Male – Dan Quibell
 Most Outstanding Female – Maria Fox
 Most Improved – Cadence Laplante
 Lightning Award – Sarah Foscarini

Women's Basketball Winners:

MVP – Maitlynn Wilde
 Most Improved – Jazmyn Kellog
 Lightning Award – Andria Stitt

Men's Basketball Winners:

MVP – Averie Armbrister
 Most Improved – Johnpaul Okodua
 Lightning Award – Kevin Hammer

Indoor Track Winners:

Most Outstanding Female – Cherise Carter
 Most Outstanding Male – Dan Quibell
 Most Improved – Nathan Kelba
 Lightning Award – Brianne Dangerfield



Historic Bronze Medals won at the 2023 ACAC Championships

The St Mary's history books didn't get a moment to close before they were being rewritten again as Lightning Indoor Track stormed into Edmonton at the ACAC Championships on March 18-19. The Lightning had never won a medal in Track until Sydney Lockhart, Maria Fox, Philine Schmidt, and Cherise Carter won historic Bronze Medals in both Women's 4 x 200m relay (with a time of 1:56.97) and 4 x 400m relay (with a time of 4:27.72). Two new St Mary's individual records were also set: Cherise Carter in the 300m, with a time of 45.00, and Maria Fox in the 1000m, with a time of 3:24.09. The Men's Team just missed the school record in the 4 x 400 relay, running 4:03.74.



Lightning Women's and Men's Basketball Teams Make StMU History

On February 19, 2022, the Lightning Indoor Track team competed in their second meet of the season in Red Deer and three new school records were made in three different races!

The women's 4x200m relay runners Cherise Carter, Brianne Dangerfield, Casey Field and Sydney Lockhart broke a new Lightning record with a time of 2:05.24. Our men's 4x200m relay team runners Justin Cancio, Kevin Robinson, Tanner Nordstrom-Young and Tim Evans beat the previous record holders with a time of 1:47.51!

Women's 600m runner Cherise Carter beat the previous record holders time by 2.82 seconds! A big shout out to women's runner Maria Fox who placed third in the 1500m with a time of 5:36.38.

2022
St. Mary's University
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

On Thursday, August 24, 2023, members of the St. Mary's community gathered at the beautiful Silvertip Resort for the 12th Annual St. Mary's University Golf Tournament. Golfers enjoyed beautiful weather for a day of community and celebration while raising proceeds that impact the student experience at St. Mary's.





Sabrina McKenzie

Although Sabrina McKenzie graduated from St. Mary's University with Bachelor of Arts Degree in General Studies in 2019, she still lives the values of the university every day. Working in the non-profit sector, Sabrina is actively engaged in service to her community and helping families overcome the obstacles that can lead to a cycle of homelessness.

As a General Studies major, Sabrina found that the broad range of subjects she learned helped prepare her for her future. By studying everything from math to psychology, she was able to gain a solid foundation of skills that prepared her for a number of career pathways.

However, although she felt poised to pursue a variety of different careers, she felt drawn to finding a profession where she would be able to help others.

"I spent many years volunteering in the social service sector, and doing this allowed me to gain valuable work experience," explains Sabrina. "It also provided me with clarity in regards to what career path to take. I developed a passion for helping people and supporting vulnerable families find stability in times of crisis."

Sabrina now works full time for Inn from the Cold as the Coordinator, Events and Donor Relations in the Philanthropy and Campaigns department. In this role, she utilizes the skills she developed both at StMU and during her extensive volunteer experience.

"Many of the courses I took in my program prepared me for my career because I was able to learn about family dynamics, psychology, different cultural groups, religion, and more. This has allowed me to be more culturally aware and observe cultural differences with a non-judgmental mindset," says Sabrina.

"I also learned to work with others through group assignments and being on the student council. Being on StMU Student Council also taught me how to manage my time properly and sparked an interest in event planning."

While at St. Mary's, Sabrina volunteered her time on our Student Legislative Council (SLC) as the Vice-President of Events. In this role, she worked with StMU staff and members of the Student Council team to plan events that helped create an inclusive and memorable university experience for students. Providing a positive experience for fellow students was important to Sabrina, as she feels her time on campus helped her grow as a person and she wanted everyone to have the same opportunity.

"The StMU community played an important role in my life. I had the opportunity to meet new people, and try and experience new things. I also challenged myself to do things outside of my comfort zone. I was actually very quiet and reserved when I first started at StMU. But then I became a drama student and was involved in all the drama productions, and I later joined the Student Council," says Sabrina.

"From my experience at StMU, I learned to take risks and do things that were challenging and allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone."



Heartfelt Christmas Designs

For the fourth year in a row, St. Mary's University's annual Christmas cards celebrated local artwork created by children in the University's community. Following up on amazing contests over the past two years, students from Monsignor J.J. O'Brien school and Father Whelihan school submitted designs to help spread some Christmas cheer in 2022.

ROME: a living history





Earlier this summer, a group of both our students and community members traveled to Rome to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime travel study course. As the only Catholic University in Western Canada to offer a travel study course in Rome, History 381/Religious Studies 305: Rome and Christian Spirituality explores the development of Christian spirituality from its origins to the present day through the lens of Rome.

On this trip, students had 15 days to explore Rome and learn first-hand about Roman culture and history. During their time abroad, students also focused on learning about the unique history and practices surrounding different Christian spiritualities.

Offered every three years, StMU's History 381/Religious Studies 305 travel study course immerses our students in the capital of Italy and presents a living history of the Roman Catholic Church like no other post-secondary institution.

With all our travel study participants unanimously describing their journey as an “unforgettable” experience, this course takes students throughout Rome as they actively engage with new cultures, languages and gain a spiritual education.

“This trip is truly about enriching the whole student, mind, body, and spirit,” said Dr. Peter Baltutis, the instructor for this

travel study course. “This isn't a typical tourist's hop-on, hop-off bus tour of Rome. Working with local religious communities, we have guided tours and private access to some of the most iconic locations in the history of Christianity.”

“

*“This trip is truly about enriching the whole student, mind, body, and spirit”
Dr. Peter Baltutis.*

“Through one-of-a-kind immerse experiences – such as joining evening prayer with the Benedictine monks at Subiaco, meeting with Franciscan Friars in Assisi, and being led through St. Ignatius of Loyola's examen prayer by Jesuit scholastics in St. Ignatius' private chapel in Rome – students fully engage with the different spiritualities within the Christian tradition. There is a power of place that impacts our students in profound ways that not many people are lucky enough to experience.”

This year, students kicked off their travel study by diving into early Christian Spirituality. During the first few days students explored landmarks including the Pantheon, the Papal Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and the Papal Basilica of St. John Lateran. An important stop was also made at the Scala Sancta or Holy Stairs, a set of 28 white marble steps which many believe Jesus Christ stepped on his way to trial during his Passion in Jerusalem and was transported to Rome. This popular pilgrimage destination can only be ascended on one's knees as a demonstration of devotion.





PRESIDENT'S
DINNER

2023

**Annual President's
Dinner raises
\$115,000
in support of
St. Mary's students**





Since its inauguration, the President's Dinner has engaged our community by bringing together over 3,000 current and future business leaders to support our students and celebrate the spirit of philanthropy and the success of our community partnerships.

The President's Dinner is one of our premier fundraising efforts and enables St. Mary's to continue to provide scholarships, bursaries, and other forms of support to our students – allowing them to realize their academic and career aspirations.

On behalf of the staff, faculty and students at StMU, we would like to thank everyone who attended this annual fundraising gala and showed their unwavering support for the ongoing success of our students. It is through the generous support of our donors, sponsors and community partners that the spirit of St. Mary's continues to thrive!

Over the course of the evening, guests enjoyed three unique virtual giving opportunities: a silent auction, 50/50 draw and wine tower raffle – making this year easier than ever to support our students and make a lasting impact. We're thrilled to announce that at the end of the night, we collectively raised over \$115,000!

This generosity will make a big impact in the lives of our students, as the proceeds raised will be used to support our students as they

pursue their academic goals. Inspired by the values of social justice, compassion, and community, St. Mary's students often go on to make a positive impact on the lives of others and this is made possible by the ongoing support of our community.

Outside of speeches, guests were serenaded by Divas Opera, a local all-female Italian Opera duo, in an exciting live performance. Felipe Urrea, a third-year student in the Social Justice and Catholic Studies program, also spoke during the dinner about his experience studying at St. Mary's and involvement in our community-oriented Campus Ministry program.

Of course, this important evening of fundraising and community would not have been possible without our sponsors. Thank you to the following sponsors for making this fundraiser happen: Valentine Volvo, CIBC Messing Ross Advisory Group, Richardson Wealth Mackie Wealth Group, and Mountain View printing.

As well, thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising by donating to our auctions and raffle items. And lastly, a big thank you to our amazing volunteers who gave their time to help ensure this was a night to remember!

Scholarly Activity



Scholarly Activity



StMU Faculty Publications in 22-23:

Davis, T. (2023). "The World Well Found": Critical Thinking in the Contact Zone." Conference proceedings, Philosophy of Education 2022, volume 78, no.3.

Hill, S. L. [in press]. Authoring professional identity: Pre-service teachers and ways of knowing. McGill Journal of Education.

Danyluk, P., Burns, A., Poitras Pratt, Y., Kendrick, A., Plante, M., Wessel, S., Crawford, K.L., Lemaire, E., Hill, J., Bright, R., Burleigh, D., Weir, C., **Hill, S.L.**, Boschman, L. (2022). Examining the Integration of Indigenous Perspectives in Alberta Teacher Education. [in press]. Alberta Journal for Educational Research.

Hill, S. L. (2023) Academic texts: Gender, writing, and the academy [in press]. In P. Habibie, K. Hultgren, & G. Rezai-Rashti (Eds.), Women in scholarly publishing. Routledge.

Hill, S. L., & Seitz, P. (2023). Leadership for culturally responsive education: A district assessment policy for informed practice. Journal of Educational Leadership: Policy and Practice, 37, 2-19.

Knowles, N. (2023). "The Kootenay Campaign and Working Class Religious Revival in the Crowsnest Pass," British Columbia History.

Salomons, C. (2023). Thresholds of Tolerance: Religious and Social Change in Fifteenth Century Avila - submitted to Routledge.

Seitz, P. & Hill, S. L. (2023). Assessment of Online Learners: Foundations and Applications for Teacher Education - submitted to Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Syrnyk, C., McArthur, A., Zwack, A., & Handelsman, A. (2022). Supporting young readers: A mixed-methods study of their literacy, behaviour, and perceptions when reading aloud to dogs or adults. Early Childhood Education Journal. doi: 10.1007/s10643-022-01392-5

Syrnyk, C., McArthur, A., Zwack, A., & Makowsky, M. (2023). Reading to dogs at home: A pilot study. Early Childhood Education Journal. doi:10.1007/s10643-023-01482-y

Wright-Maley, C. (2022). "Glossed Over and Missing" Preservice Teachers Learn about Slavery in Canada. Theory & Research in Social Education, 50(4), 581-606. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00933104.2022.2130121>

Wright-Maley, C. (2022). Time, Temporality, and Entanglement in the Face of Parallel Realities. Journal of Folklore and Education, 9, 8-24. <https://jfepublications.org/article/time-temporality-and-entanglement-in-the-face-of-parallel-realities/>

Wright-Maley, C., Hall, D., & Finley, S. Y. (in Press). Evaporative Economics: A Truth-Telling Metaphor to Displace the Trickle-Down Lie that Just Won't Die. Journal of Social Studies Education Research.

StMU Faculty Conference Presentations in 22-23:

Baltutis, P. "From Donor to Partner: International Development as Peacebuilding". Justice Sown in Peace: Celebrating 60 years Since Pacem in Terris (Center of Social Concerns, University of Notre Dame: March 23-25, 2023).

Hill, S. L. (2022, May 14–20). Gender, writing, and the academy [Conference session]. Canadian Association for the Study of Women in Education Conference.

Risling, M. "Slaves of the Lamp: Magic as Bio Power in The Story of Aladdin", Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Ottawa ON (October 2022)

Grothman, G. Poster presentation to 15th International Symposium on Tardigrada: Marley NJ, Bertolani R, Degma P, Fontoura P, Grothman G, Guidetti R, G[?]siorek P, Hansen JG, Kaczmarek [?], McInnes SJ, Michalczyk [?], Miller WR, Perry ES, Tumanov D, Nelson DR, Zawierucha K. Update on the list of available names (LAN), Tardigrada Project.

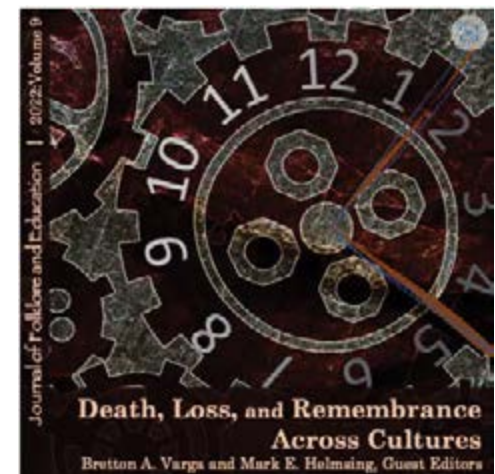
Harvie, T. Land and Words: Critical Assessment of the Papal Apology, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, York University (May 31, 2023).

Wright-Maley, C. (2022). Quantum entanglement, Indigenous temporalities, and the teaching of once and future histories. Presented at the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA) of the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), Philadelphia, PA.

Wright-Maley, C. & Hall, D. (2022). Evaporative economics: Metaphor and the restoring of trickle-down economics. Presented at the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA) of the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), Philadelphia, PA.



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Reckonings & Re-imaginings | Confronter le passé, réimaginer l'avenir





In Memoriam

Over the past year, St. Mary's University lost members of the community who were committed to a liberal arts and sciences education rooted in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and who helped establish St. Mary's as a leader in post-secondary education:

Gloria Zielinski

1934-2022

Gloria was an annual supporter of St. Mary's for more than 15 years. She learned about St. Mary's from her sister, Louise Hughes, and contributed to bursaries in support of students.

Bill Patterson

1927-2023

Bill and his wife Helen (1930-2022) supported St. Mary's through Knights of Columbus events and their contributions to bursaries and the university's highest priority needs. Bill worked with the Knights of Columbus, achieving his Fourth Degree, and was chapter president for two years.

Martha (Meg) Giesinger

1930-2023

Meg was a long-time, passionate supporter of St. Mary's university. Since 2002 students with financial need have received benefit from bursaries she established to honour the memories of her parents, Regina and Peter Fridgen, her sister Violet Risling, and her husband Paul. Meg's generous contributions have positively impacted the lives and hearts of many St. Mary's students. She leaves behind an incredible legacy through the endowments she established for bursaries, as well as for future Catholic education initiatives.

Louise Hughes

1939-2022

Louise was an enthusiastic champion of St. Mary's. She could always be counted on to provide her beautiful quilts to assist with fundraising efforts, sponsored numerous students to attend events, attended the annual President's Dinner, and promoted the university to all her friends and family. Louise established two endowments to fund bursaries that will continue to be awarded in perpetuity. Her passion for our students and their education was evident in all the work she did to support the university.





TAILGATE

On October 22, 2022, St. Mary's held its' first ever tailgate event to help kick off the start of the Lightning basketball season. This tailgate offered the ultimate Lightning Athletics fan experience and marked the Lightning basketball teams home opener, for both our women's and men's teams.

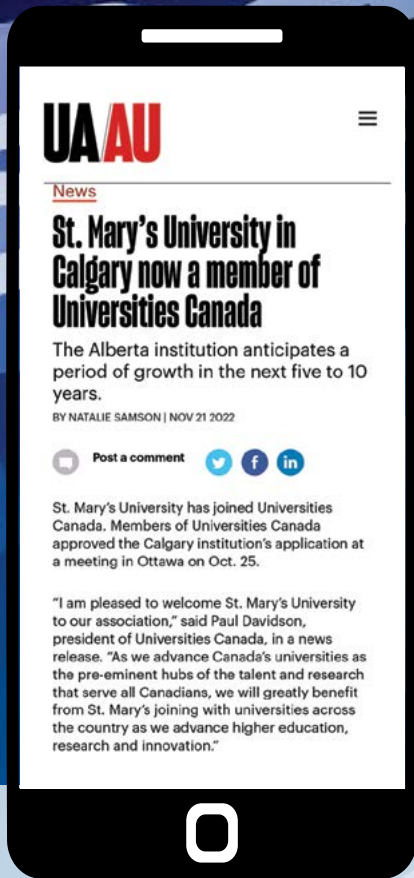
Alumni, current students, staff members and donors were in attendance as members of our community came together on our historic campus for fresh pizza and drinks from the alumni-owned and operated Born Colorado Brewing, before boarding shuttle transportation to and from the games at Glenmore Christian Academy.

The games were action packed as the Lightning Men's and Women's teams stormed the court and won both of their opening games. Their performance was so impressive that both teams wrapped the week up at the top of the Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference (ACAC) standings.

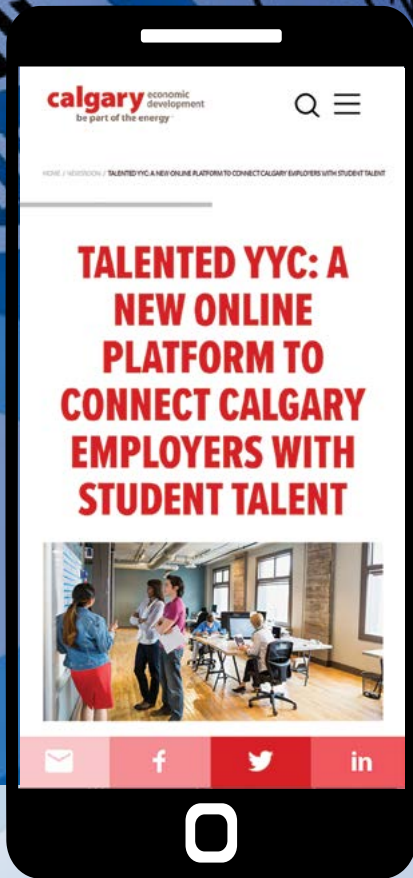
"It was a fantastic evening and both teams truly did not disappoint as we packed the bleachers to cheer on the Lightning," said Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, StMU President and Vice-Chancellor. "I wish our student-athletes the warmest congratulations for their success in the classroom and on the courts. It is always fun to come out and support these wonderful ambassadors of our institution."



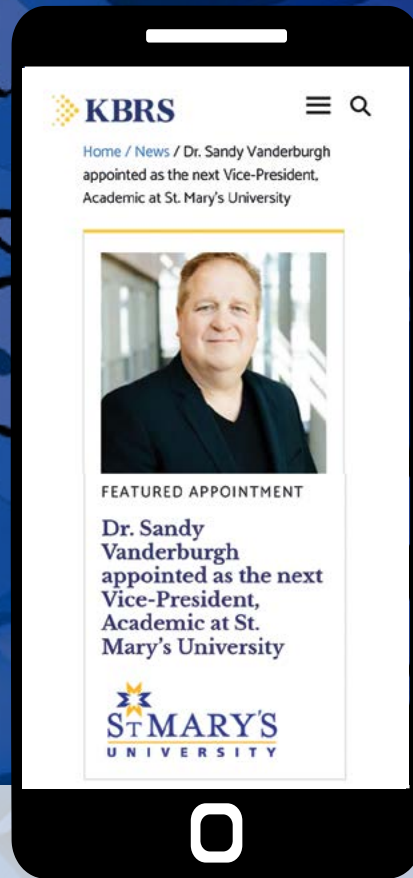
Media Highlights



Read the full story here



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Our Education Students' Association engages the community in discussion surrounding the future of education

Earlier this semester, our Education Students' Association (ESA) took the initiative to host their own community roundtable discussion about the future of education in Alberta.

The St. Mary's University Education Students' Association works in partnership with the Alberta Teachers' Association to bring students of the St. Mary's University Bachelor of Education Program opportunities for further professional development, invitations to social events, and support.

Our ESA is centered around the belief that fostering opportunities for growth contributes to excellent teaching, and their goal is to help promote the development of excellent teacher candidates at StMU.

After attending an Alberta Teachers Association roundtable event to gather feedback on what is important to Albertans about the education system this winter, the ESA was inspired to host their own community night.

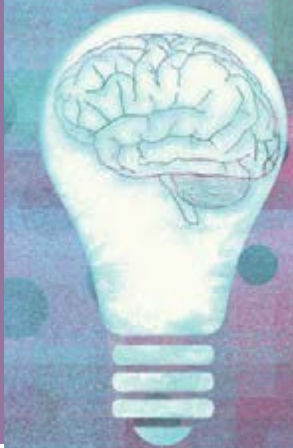
"I attended this roundtable on behalf of the ESA and thought this was a really neat idea and a great way to involve the community in gathering input into how we can make a positive impact on education," said Sarah Foscarini, ESA Secretary. "This felt like a way to include

everyone in discussing the changes that need to happen to create a lasting impact on public education."

After attending the ATA roundtable, our ESA members quickly got to work to host their own community night on campus. Faculty members, students, people from the broader community, and representatives from the University of Calgary were all in attendance for this evening of discussion surrounding public education in Alberta.

"Our ESA organized an engaging evening allowing Bachelor of Education students and community members to come together to discuss a shared vision for public education in Alberta," said Dr. Laurie Hill, Associate Professor, Education. "They did an amazing job facilitating questions about the important issues that are currently part of conversations about education in our province."

The goal set by the ESA for the event was to engage our campus community in sharing their ideas, as everyone has unique perspectives and insights. Attendees collaborated to come up with new ways to engage in discussion around public education.



Taking the Lead

Two unique pre-service teacher development programs are shaping the future of learning at StMU

“The French Pedagogy program offers an opportunity that isn’t available to everyone; if you are passionate about both learning and teaching, this is a program we highly recommend that our students consider participating in.”

Dr. Paolina Seitz,
Former Interim
Dean of Education

At St. Mary’s, we aspire to the highest standards in teaching and research and are always looking for ways to further enhance the learning experience of our students. In our Education faculty, we already offer longer practicum placements and more time teaching in the classroom than any other Alberta institution. But recently, our education faculty have launched an initiative that take this learning and practicum experience to another level.

The result? A unique and rapidly growing program that allows our students to specialize their work in the education field at the very beginning of their journey at StMU – while empowering these students to see themselves as leaders in the classroom from the very beginning and develop strong partnerships with the school districts we serve.

Launched as a pilot project in 2019, our Teacher Leader Project is unique to Alberta and was the result of an innovative vision from our former Dean of Education, Dr. Sarah Twomey.

Taking two years to complete, the Teacher Leader Project provides additional practicum experience (meaning time spent teaching hands-on in the

classroom) at the same school placement for the entirety of the program. This means that participating students get additional experience teaching and are able to forge strong relationships to forge strong relationships at their school placement for their two years spent in the program.

Participating pre-service teachers (also known as student teachers) will also receive sustained mentorship for over two years from both their practicum site community and a dedicated Practicum Advisor. They will also get the opportunity to take on the role of researchers, by researching strategies to enhance and support the school experience – both in their current school placement and in future teaching situations.

“
If you have the gift of speaking a second language, this program is an opportunity to develop that skillset in a school that promotes French language learning.
”

For this research, pre-service and their mentors will pay careful attention to their school environments to better understand how fostering an intentional community of learners might inspire “bright spots” in teaching and learning. This approach to research cultivates a simultaneous model of renewal between St Mary’s University’s Teacher Education program and partner schools.

“This program sets students apart as leaders from the very beginning. Students walk away with the confidence and skills they need to thrive as a teacher through sustained mentorship in a school and additional practicum time,” explains Deanne Barrett, Sessional Instructor and Practicum Advisor at StMU. “This program gives students an advanced ability to collaborate with other teachers and to learn about their chosen area of teaching in more depth than is possible in a traditional practicum.”

To enroll, students apply and are interviewed to be considered for this program, and they must commit additional time in their practicum, as well as the time and cost of two spring semester courses where they complete their research and write a scholarly paper.



“Being part of the TLPP program was a great experience. The program provided me with an opportunity to evaluate the pedagogy of a French Immersion school and examine the factors that reinforced this pedagogy. I did not realize the impact of doing all my practicums in a French Immersion school would have on my career. I was hired immediately upon graduating and am currently teaching my favourite subjects, science and math, at a French Immersion Junior High School. The lessons and experience that I learned through this program allowed me to flow seamlessly into my first year of teaching.

Sylvia King, French Pedagogy Specialization, Grad 2021



The results have been incredible, with graduates from this program having gone on to win teaching awards, present their work at conferences, apply to graduate school, and feel confident that they are a valuable member of their community. Additionally, the employment rate for graduates of this program is currently 100%, with graduates being employed in the district of their choice within a few weeks of applying for jobs.

It was after developing the Teacher Leader Project that a new gap was identified and quickly addressed. French Immersion schools in Alberta are always looking for bright new teachers, but this in-demand skill can often be hard to find. In fact, the Federal Government estimates that only 7% of Albertans are fluent in French. This means that students in our B.Ed program who have the gift of a second language possess a niche and critical skill that needs unique support – and now, this can be found in our new French Pedagogy Program.

As of 2021, our Teacher Leader Pilot Project has an official designation in our Academic Calendar as Specialization Practicum 339.1 Teacher Leadership and Specialization Practicum 339.2 French Pedagogy. The French Pedagogy section of the program was a direct response to witnessing school districts struggle to fill French-speaking positions.

Our French Pedagogy Program is intended to support students who already speak French by placing them in a designated immersion school after having their language levels assessed. This program functions the same as our Teacher Leader Project, with students receiving extra practicum experience and mentorship opportunities, as well as participating in student-led research.



“My first year in the Bachelor of Education program here at St. Mary’s has been greatly enhanced by my participation in the Teacher Leadership Specialized Practicum Program.”

Joseph Boissonneault, second year student in teacher leader component of B.Ed program



This program sets students apart as leaders from the very beginning. Students walk away with the confidence and skills they need to thrive as a teacher through sustained mentorship in a school and additional practicum time.



On behalf of the StMU community, congratulations to our 2023 First Nations and Métis graduates:

- Averi Armstrong: Bachelor of Education, Elementary
- Moriah Chaisson: Bachelor of Education, Secondary
- Laura Fraser: Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies
- Erika Pederson: Bachelor of Arts, English
- Macyn Morning Bull: Bachelor of Arts, General Studies

Our 2023 Indigenous Graduation Ceremony finished with the St. Mary's Honour Song – which was composed by the Sorrel Rider Singers. After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed fresh bannock tacos from local Indigenous catering company, Bakers Bannock.





Honouring and Celebrating our First Nations and Métis Graduates

On Tuesday, June 6th we celebrated the accomplishments and milestones of our Indigenous graduates at our Annual Indigenous Graduation Ceremony. This was an opportunity to honour Indigenous cultures, traditions, identities, and spirituality in a good way – while recognizing the hard work of our Indigenous grads as they've walked in two worlds throughout their degree.

During this ceremony, our Indigenous graduands were honoured in the presence of their loved ones and joined by staff, faculty, community members and Elder Doreen Bergum, a proud member of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3, and StMU alumni and current BEd student, Angela Bear Chief.

Gathering together in ceremony to celebrate and recognize our Indigenous graduates for reaching their academic goals, the celebrations started with smudging and welcome to the ceremony by Angela Bear Chief and included prayers and a blessing from Métis Elder, Doreen Bergum.

During the ceremony, First Nations students were gifted with a beaded Eagle Feather from Angela Bear Chief, and Métis students were gifted a sash by Elder Doreen. The eagle and its feathers are a symbol of strength and bravery, and are given with respect and worn with pride. The Métis sash represents the storied history of people who fought not to be invisible, and the presentation of this sash is considered a great honor and it is worn with distinct esteem.

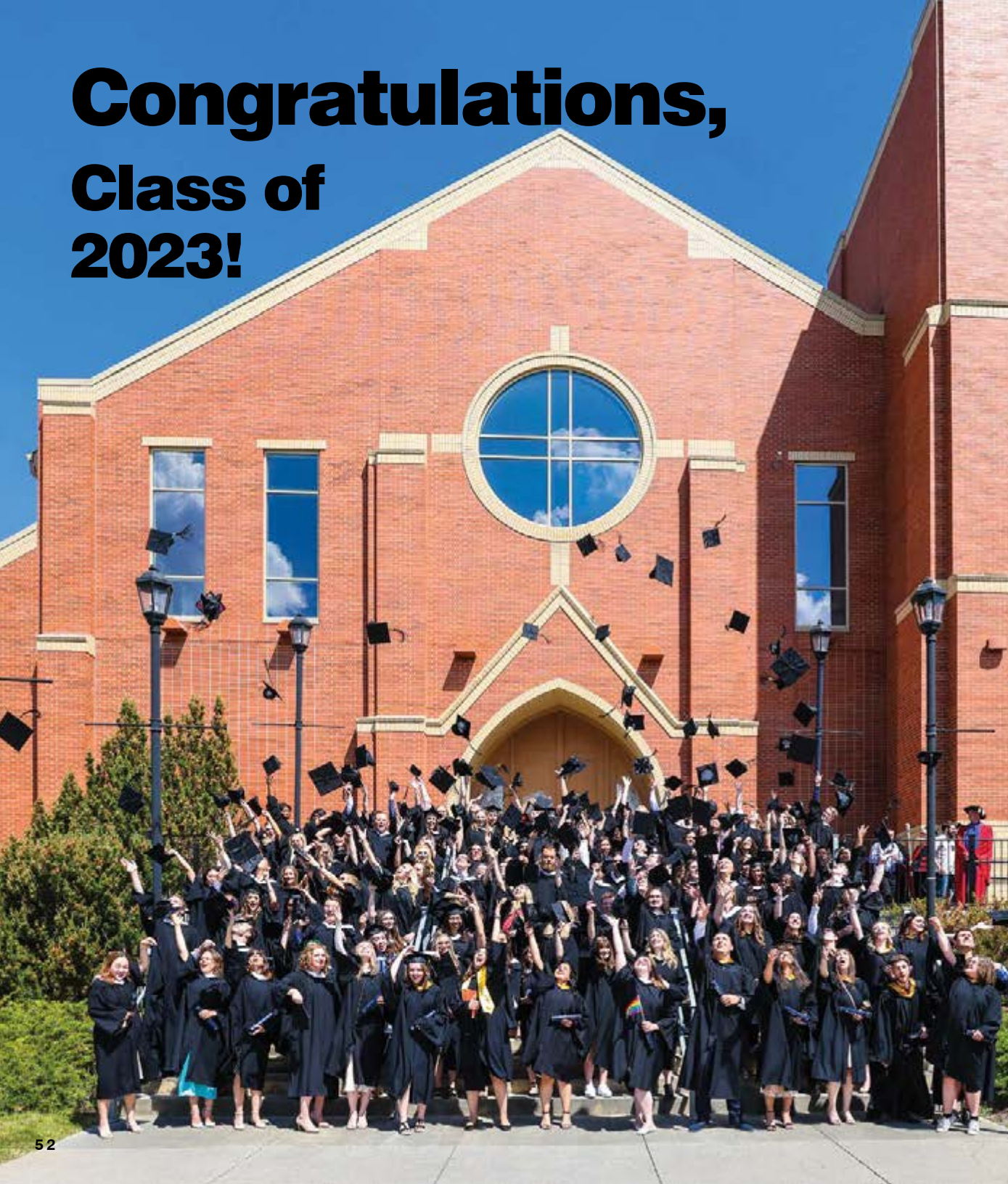
"This sash represents your pride in your people, your history, and your culture," said Elder Doreen as she addressed our Métis graduates. "It's colours tell our history. Red is for the blood of the Métis that was shed through the years while fighting for our rights. Blue is for the depth of our spirits. Green is for the fertility of a great nation. White is for our connection to the earth and our creator."

"Your sash is an important gift, and I hope to see you continue to wear it with pride for years to come," she remarked.

After the graduands received their ceremonial beaded feather or sash, each was draped in a ceremonial blanket by Angela Bear Chief and fellow BEd student, Ricci Welch. This blanket ceremony recognizes the accomplishments of our graduates and shows respect for those who have made an important contribution to their community.



Congratulations, Class of 2023!



St. Mary's University held our 2023 convocation ceremonies at St. Albert The Great Parish. There was a strong sense of celebration and pride throughout these ceremonies, as faculty, staff, family and loved ones celebrated the incredible achievements and significant milestones of St. Mary's University's newest graduates.

Over the course of two ceremonies that celebrated our graduating Bachelor of Arts and Sciences and Bachelor of Education and DRE/CCEL classes, almost 300 students crossed the stage to receive their parchments.

Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, St. Mary's President and Vice-Chancellor, spoke at her first convocation ceremony as our fourth President. Taking the stage, Dr. Vanderpool welcomed our 2023 graduating class with an address that congratulated them on their significant achievements despite the many challenges and uncertainty our graduates faced over the past few years.

"As you begin the next phase of your personal journeys, remember that true wisdom lies not only in the accumulation of facts, but also in the cultivation of empathy, compassion, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others," said Dr. Vanderpool.

Honouring Excellence

2023 Awards:

Honorary Fellow

Recipient: Frank Vetsch (posthumously)

Professor Emeritus

Dr. Mary Ann McLean

Gold Medal Award

Recipient: Scott McKenzie

Valedictorian

Laura Fraser - Bachelor of Arts

Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement

Recipient: Dr. Mary Ann McLean

St. Mary's University Star Award

Recipient: Cheryl Scott

Dr. Terrance Downey Award for Teaching Excellence

Recipient: Dr. Cory Wright-Maley

Honourable Lois E. Mitchell Graduating Social Studies Teacher Award

Recipients: Rory O'Dwyer, Emma Warman, and Owen Wishart



Dr. Mary Ann McLean accepting the Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement



Laura Fraser, Valedictorian



Rory O'Dwyer, Emma Warman, and Owen Wishart with Dr. Sinda Vanderpool



Scott McKenzie


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