

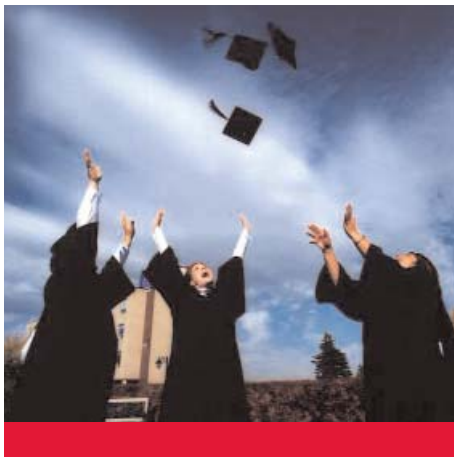


Marian Update

First Convocation Celebrated September 25, 2005

Terrence J. Downey, PhD

The first St. Mary's University College Convocation for the conferment of Bachelor of Arts Degrees on September 25, 2004 was an historic occasion. As the first Catholic university college in the history of Alberta, the BA degrees were the first liberal arts degrees ever awarded by an independent Catholic post-secondary institution in the history of the province and of western Canada.



For graduates, our first convocation marked an end and a beginning, an omega and an alpha, a conscious transformation from one phase of life and development into an eagerly anticipated future. For St. Mary's University College, the first Convocation also represented an omega and an alpha, the end of one era in its development and the commencement of another as a degree-granting university college.

In his address to the graduates, the Chancellor of St. Mary's University College, Bishop Frederick Henry, stated:

Before Christianity, Socrates had raised the question: **"What ought I to do?"** The liberal arts tradition, and Western education and humanism have always spotlighted this concern. Christian spirituality frames the question in terms of vocation: **"What am I called to become?"** Graduates faced with multiple career options often falter and allow other influences like family expectations, the opinion of peers, and the voices of the market place to dictate the shape of their lives.

Christianity offers a different take on vocation, and advises us to use our eyes of faith to determine our personal calling, to discover our gifts and aspirations and apply them to the important needs of our world. In the spirit of the Gospel an authentic calling reaches beyond personal fulfillment to a concern for justice and peace that addresses fulfilling the needs of others, even if they are strangers. God calls each to heal, serve and create.

President Downey's address to graduates acknowledged the selfless example of those who had gone before on the campus including Fr. Albert Lacombe OMI, the Sisters of Charity of Providence of Montreal who staffed the famous Lacombe Home, and the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus whose novitiate was located on site:

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As graduates of this campus, your roots extend deep into the history of western Canada, including the very rich tradition of public service that has characterized the modern history of this remarkable site.

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Upcoming Events

December 1

Last day to apply for winter term

December 8

Patron Day Community Mass in honour of Our Lady 11:30am in the Auditorium
Most Reverend Bishop Frederick Henry Presiding

December 13 - 20

Fall term final examinations

December 23 - January 4

St. Mary's University College closed for Christmas

January 7

New Student Orientation

January 10

Classes begin

January 27

Speakers Series
"A House Divided: The Canadian Catholic Experience" Raymond Huel, PhD
7:30pm, St. Mary's University College Auditorium

February 21

Alberta Family Day - St. Mary's University College closed

February 22

President's Dinner
Palomino Room, Calgary Roundup Centre

February 22 - 25

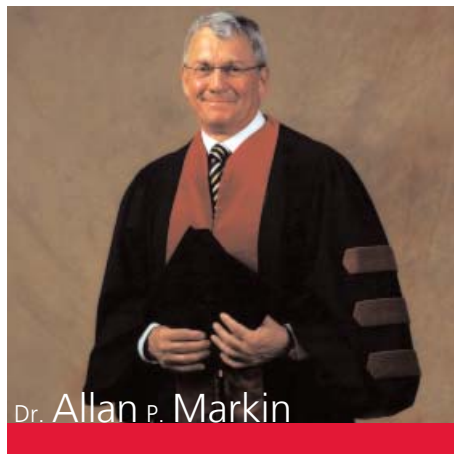
Reading Week - no classes

February 28 - March 4

Mid-term Examinations

Dr. Allan Paul Markin Named Honorary Fellow

At its first convocation, St. Mary's University College honoured one of its founders whose personal commitment substantially accounts for its genesis and growth. The University College recognizes Dr. Allan Markin, who has contributed some ten million dollars and enormous personal energy to sustain its development from the beginning. Without Dr. Markin's generous devotion of time and treasure there would not be a St. Mary's University College.



Dr. Allan P. Markin

Allan Markin's support for St. Mary's reflects, in part, his exemplary dedication as a business leader to people in Alberta. He is a native Calgarian, who, as chair of Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., is a leader in the petroleum industry on a global scale. Dr. Markin has achieved astonishing success in his career and now shares the benefits of that success with his community. He is a prime donor to the Markin/CNRL Natural Resources Engineering Facility (NREF), now under construction at the University of Alberta. In the past month, he

provided the largest donation in the history of the University of Calgary for the development of an Institute for Public Health. Taken together, Dr. Markin's contributions reflect a holistic view of education and its service to society insofar as they animate learning and research in the fields of technology, health and the liberal arts.

Allan Markin's dedication to St. Mary's University College is emblematic of his fundamental appreciation for the dignity of the human person and his concern for the emergence of a peaceful and just society. His interest in the uniqueness of St. Mary's, as an undergraduate institution devoted to the humanities, was originally evident in his enrolling as a student in the first class of The History of Western Thought. Evidently, he cares for sciences and the arts because he is a lifetime student. His manifest love for learning suggests that he invites business and industry to appropriate the wisdom of the humanities so that ethical and aesthetic concerns govern our use of technology. With his wife, Jackie Flanagan, Allan had endowed the Markin-Flanagan Writer-in-Residence Program at the University of Calgary. His sustaining donations to St. Mary's University College represent the blossoming of his appreciation for literature into its full extension in a University College devoted to the spectrum of liberal arts as well as the social and natural sciences.

Allan Markin has demonstrated unrelenting care for the people of St. Mary's. He has extended encouragement and wise counsel to the President at decisive junctures. Nevertheless, he has always allowed the Board of Governors and the administrators of this University College to be independent of his personal preferences. His respect for the administrators, faculty, and staff is evident in all of his relationships with our

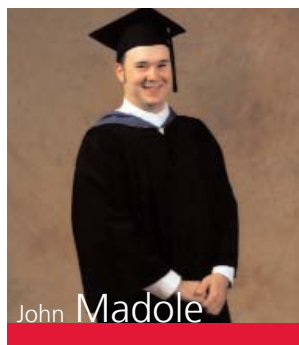




In your light we shall see light

personnel. Moreover, his concern for young people at the beginning of their post-secondary education is manifest in his provision of the unique opportunities that the students of St. Mary's experience as undergraduates.

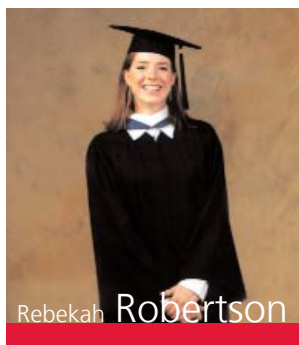
In view of his remarkable career and sustaining generosity, St. Mary's University College names Dr. Allan Paul Markin as the first Honourary Fellow of St. Mary's University College.



Celebrating the Accomplishments of the First Graduates of St. Mary's University College

John Madole and Christine Wegleitner are in the Master of Teaching Program at the University of Calgary. John and Christine are studying to become elementary school teachers.

Rebekah Robertson is currently continuing her studies in English Literature at St. Mary's and is pursuing the four-year English Degree. Rebekah presented her paper titled "Female Figures and Forms: Expressing the Essence Without Silencing the Skin" at a scholarly conference entitled "Beauty: Looking Through the Eyes of the Beholder" in New York City on November 5 and 6, 2004.

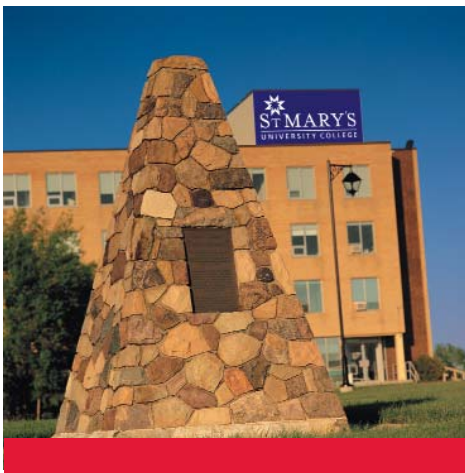


A RISING STAR

A Rising Star St. Mary's University College Commemorative Report (September 2004) is available. This historic document celebrates the unveiling of the new St. Mary's University College brand, but most importantly, pays tribute to everyone who has worked for, prayed for, and supported St. Mary's over the years. To receive your copy, please call Belinda Knutson, Development Coordinator at 254-3739.



14500 Bannister Road SE,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2X 1Z4
ph 403.531.9130 fx 403.531.9136
www.stmu.ab.ca



The visionary altruism of those who have gone before us provides a concrete example of putting beliefs into practice.

The history of this campus, and the holistic, student-centered educational environment you have experienced here, will constantly inspire you to do what generations of great graduates have always done: dramatically exceed even the fondest hopes of those who have served as your professors and mentors.

My colleagues and I witness your going forth from this place today in the hope that you will continue throughout your life to fearlessly seek truth: to seek truth is to seek God, and it is in seeking God that justice is achieved and compassion is practiced. John Henry Cardinal Newman in *The Idea of a University* reminds us,

"The world is content with setting right the surface of things." Those who seriously seek truth never settle for what contents the world.

Convocation acknowledged the exceptionally generous contributions of Dr. Allan P. Markin to the creation, development and rapid growth of St. Mary's by naming him the first **Honourary Fellow of St. Mary's University College.**


In his convocation address, Dr. Markin urged graduates to prevent hatred and fear, to live in moderation by keeping balance in their lives, to seek fairness and justice for all in our society, to care for the sick, to educate youth and to share talents, time and resources in the interests of creating and maintaining a thoughtful, compassionate society:

God doesn't leave the state of the world in the hands of any one of us. We are all expected to keep balance in our lives and in our societies. Our responsibility is to do our fair part according to the circumstances in which we find ourselves, by using our talents and sharing the blessings we each have been given. The rewards of course are great. True fulfilment for each of us is found by virtue of our service to others - to individuals, community and society.

I have participated in the creation, growth and rapid development of St. Mary's University College in the forceful manner

I have because I have an obligation to do all that I can to provide in this city and province a comprehensive post-secondary system. I believe that this system must include St. Mary's University College because it recognizes that individuals are not merely consumers or producers; we are also spiritual beings, and there are ethical and moral dimensions to all that we do.

There must be a St. Mary's University College because it teaches that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. There is indeed a need in this city and society for a St. Mary's University College that recognizes that each of us is unique - and that this uniqueness is respected.



*10th Annual
President's Dinner*

*Keynote speaker: The Honourable Mr. Justice
John C. Major, Supreme Court Justice*

*February 22, 2005
Palomino Room,
Calgary Roundup Centre*

To order tickets or for more information please call
Margaret Dawkins 403.254.3704.



I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WITH MY GIFT OF \$ _____

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