

New projects planned to better connect with St. Mary's community

Development Office to launch alumni program, enhance web presence and offer Marian Update as e-newsletter

by Leanne McLean, Director of Development

I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to return to St. Mary's in the role of Director of Development. As Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation and instructor of Human Kinetics from 2000-2005, I was inspired daily by the level of student engagement in our community, the passion and commitment of our staff and faculty, and the myriad opportunities for the future development of St. Mary's.

We are now entering the second decade on the historic Father Lacombe Home property and it is through contributions by generous individuals like you that we have transformed this site into a vibrant campus community and laid the foundations for a premier university. As we look to the future, we are committed to a transformative liberal arts experience and to unparalleled student engagement within the St. Mary's campus community and beyond. We anticipate vigorous growth in all areas of our operations



Development Office (l to r): Marcelina Johanson, Leanne McLean, Belinda Knutson

and are actively seeking collaborative opportunities and partnerships provincially, nationally and internationally.

Specifically, in 2009/2010, the Development Office is working on:

- increasing community awareness of St. Mary's;
- initiation of an alumni program;
- establishment of an online community to connect with the entire St. Mary's community;
- the launch of the *Marian Update* as an e-newsletter.

St. Mary's University College has only begun the process of building unique centres of excellence in university education and we are grateful for the continued commitment of donors and supporters like you who enable the building of this legacy. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months and welcome you to contact me directly at (403) 254-3704 or leanne.mclean@stmu.ab.ca if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.



Join Us in community building

DECEMBER

- 9 **Patron Day Liturgy**
in Honour of Mary, Mother of Jesus
11:30 am in Midlands Building
- 14 **An Evening of Music and Theatre**
Performances by students in the Choral Music and Drama programs
7:30 pm in Midlands Building

FEBRUARY

- 4 **Speakers Series**
Preston Manning
Land Stewardship, Ethics and Faith
7:30 pm in Midlands Building
- 9 **15th Annual President's Dinner**
Keynote Speaker: Brian Keating
*"Cold Leadership:
Into the Last Great Wilderness"*
Heritage Park's Gasoline Alley Museum
Tickets \$250 or tables of 8 for \$2,000
Order online at www.stmu.ab.ca

It's not too late to give!

Make an early New Year's resolution by considering a gift to St. Mary's University College.



Donate by phone: Call (403) 254-3704.



Donate by mail: Donations must be *postmarked* on or before December 31, 2009 to qualify for a 2009 tax deduction. St. Mary's will accept post-dated cheques for December 31, 2009 if you prefer to send your donation in advance.

For more information on giving to St. Mary's, contact Leanne McLean, Director of Development at (403) 254-3704 or send an e-mail to leanne.mclean@stmu.ab.ca



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MARIAN UPDATE

YOUR ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009



Planned giving an easy choice for Clark Family

Gary and Marilyn Clark have chosen to leave a legacy to St. Mary's University College with a planned gift. You can too. And it's easier than you think.

"As a Knights of Columbus member, we were given the opportunity to purchase insurance as protection for our families," said Gary.

"We purchased the policy in Marilyn's name to ensure protection in life while enabling us to provide a larger gift to St. Mary's University College in the future. The gift of life insurance allows us to give a significant gift without impacting our cash flow today. We simply pay the premiums annually, St. Mary's issues us a tax receipt for the premium amount, and we fulfill our charitable intention to St. Mary's. It is easy!"



The Clark family chose a planned gift.

How to Get Started

• Do your homework.
Call St. Mary's University College at (403) 254-3704 so we can tell you more about what we do and what opportunities are available for giving.

• Consult an advisor.
Get the right financial advice to ensure the type and timing of your gift maximizes the advantages to you and St. Mary's University College.

• Talk to your family members.
Make them aware of your intentions so they can support the advancement of your charitable goals.

For more information or to arrange a meeting to discuss your gift intentions and interests, please contact Leanne McLean, Director of Development, at (403) 254-3704.

Choosing to leave a gift from the heart brings meaning, dignity and purpose to a life well lived. Your gift is your opportunity to participate in the causes most meaningful to you, in a way that allows them to be supported now and in the future.

The information contained herein, courtesy of the Leave a Legacy program, is general information and should not be construed as tax advice. Visit www.leavealegacy.ca to learn more about planned giving.

Your planned gift

In addition to the satisfaction that comes from contributing to the future of St. Mary's University College and its graduates, you can often achieve significant tax and estate planning benefits from planned giving.

There are a number of options available:

- Bequest
- Cash or securities
- Life insurance
- RRSPs or RRIFs
- Annuities
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Real estate
- Memorial gift to mark a wedding, Christmas, anniversary or birthday

Be sure to talk with your professional advisor to help decide which option(s) will work best for you and your family.

To discuss your options, contact Leanne McLean, Director of Development, at (403) 254-3704.



You're invited: 15th Annual President's Dinner

Your support is essential for St. Mary's to continue to offer students a premier university experience.

Explorer Ernest Shackleton's ambitious attempt to cross the Antarctic in 1914 will be the focus of keynote speaker, Brian Keating's talk. Using live-narrative video, Brian, head of the Conservation Outreach program at the Calgary Zoo, will bring to life the harrowing expedition and highlight how Shackleton's extraordinary leadership, courage and self-sacrifice led to his crew's miraculous escape to safety.

Join us for the 15th Annual
President's Dinner

Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Heritage Park
Gasoline Alley Museum

To order tickets, visit
www.stmu.ab.ca



Envisioning 2010 with your generous support

by Dr. Terry Downey, President

Christmas 2009 and the dawn of 2010 provide for St. Mary's University College a distinctive perspective from which to appreciate the past and envision the future. During 2009, we marked the anniversary of St. Mary's tenth year on the site that was originally donated to Fr. Albert Lacombe for the establishment of a home for widows and orphans. In 2010 we celebrate the centenary of the founding of the famous Fr. Lacombe Home itself. Ever conscious of the rich tradition of exemplary devotion to the growth and development of others that defines our historic campus, this is an opportune time to give thanks for the developments that comprised our own evolution in 2009.

We give thanks for and celebrate the major milestones of 2009 including:

- a 13% increase in student enrolment in September 2009;
- the granting of 54 BA degrees at the June 2009 convocation - up from only three at our first convocation in 2004;
- the introduction of the second year of our unique BEd degree program that is particularly focused on preparing teachers for Catholic schools;
- the appointment of two new full-time faculty members in Education and English, and the hiring of additional staff in enrolment services;
- the continuing development of new courses and programs, and increased scholarship and bursary support for students;

- the completion of major renovations and campus improvements that enhance the quality of student facilities;
- the provision of opportunities for non-traditional adult learners to access post-secondary education.

As we enter 2010, we anticipate the opportunities and challenges presented by several initiatives including:

- the completion of a comprehensive academic planning process;
- the completion and submission for approval of new courses and academic degree programs;
- the long-planned establishment of a Chair in Catholic Studies;
- the handling of financial pressures in a demanding economic period while completing required infrastructure improvements.

At Christmas, all members of the St. Mary's University College community pause to thank you, our supporters, for your commitment and generosity that have made possible remarkable accomplishments in 2009 and throughout our first decade on this campus. Your ongoing generous support is essential to enable us to continue to offer high quality, Catholic post-secondary education in Alberta. Please join us again in the noble objectives of preparing and inspiring our students to be leaders of integrity, capable of providing the informed, intelligent and ethical leadership so urgently required in the 21st century.



University College offers ideal student experience

by Dr. Mark Charlton, Vice-President Academic and Dean

With the recent government announcement that Mount Royal College and Grant McEwan College have been renamed universities, I have been asked a number of times whether St. Mary's University College will be seeking to drop "college" from its name. Implicit in this question is the assumption that somehow St. Mary's will not have arrived at full maturity until it is known simply as St. Mary's University. In the Canadian context, "college" has often been used to refer to institutions that are either not fully degree granting institutions or that offer programs in areas such as the technical trades. A college, in other words, is something less than a "real" university. The label "university college" seems to be acknowledged at best as a transitional phase, a short period of adolescence, that one wants to shed as quickly as possible when one achieves "real university" status.

However, to think this way misses a fundamental point about the true nature and contribution of St. Mary's University College. In Cardinal John Henry Newman's opinion, the "ideal" university must always keep two principles in balance. These he called the "university principle" and the "collegiate principle." The "university principle" represented what he called the "bare and necessary idea" of the university. This was the notion that the university is for the pure cultivation and perfection of the human intellect, without any utilitarian justification. Here the student is encouraged to explore new and exciting ideas, push back the frontiers of knowledge and test innovative ideas. But, Newman also insisted that this essence of the university did not in itself ensure the completeness and integrity of the university.

Thus Newman argued that the "university principle" needed to be balanced by the "collegiate system." The college refers to a small community of scholars, tutors and students working and living together. The college is the second home of the students, a place where deep and lasting relationships and friendships are built. It is a place where habits and practices which last a lifetime are nurtured. It is a place where students are formed, not only intellectually, but morally and spiritually to such an extent that the college does indeed become their alma mater.



As Newman puts it pictorially, the university principle is the sail while the collegiate principle is the ballast.

At St. Mary's we embrace Newman's vision of what an ideal university should be like. Indeed, the term university college best summarizes an ideal which all institutions, especially within the Catholic tradition, should be striving to achieve.



An emerging leader

As the eldest of five children, Siarra Weisensel knows she has at least one essential skill that will be useful as the new Students' Association president.

"I'm a very empathetic person," she says. "I see all sides."

The third-year science student initially chose to attend St. Mary's because it is close to home, but she quickly discovered it had even more to offer her.

"I found everyone so welcoming and that made me want to stay. I love the people and the professors. It's such an awesome community."

As she weighs her options for a future career path - dentistry and business both interest her - Siarra is enjoying her new role on the Student Legislative Council. Her goal is to get students even more involved in campus life and to show their pride in St. Mary's.

"This experience will help me become a better leader."

Membership to help StMU promote Catholic higher education

Dr. Terry Downey has been elected by the presidents of Canada's Catholic Universities and Colleges to be the Canadian representative on the Board of the **Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU)** in Washington, DC. The ACCU represents over 200 Catholic post-secondary institutions in the US and exists to promote Catholic higher education. Membership provides direct contact for St. Mary's with the presidents and senior administration of all major Catholic universities in the US including Loyola University Chicago, Fordham, Catholic University of America, University of San Diego, Georgetown and Notre Dame, among others.

St. Mary's welcomes Preston Manning to Speakers Series

With a gift to the Speakers Series program, you can help bring outstanding speakers, like Preston Manning, to St. Mary's University College and the community of Calgary.

Mr. Manning brings a Christian perspective to establishing healthy, sustainable relationships between human beings and the environment in his address "**Land Stewardship, Ethics and Faith.**" Join us on **Thursday, February 4, 2010**, in the Midlands Building at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

See who else is presenting at St. Mary's Speakers Series by visiting www.stmu.ab.ca

