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St. Mary's Professor and 1948 Olympian to Carry Olympic Torch

Dr. Ernie McCullough, 85, joins torch relay in Trail, B.C.

Calgary, AB (January 22, 2010) – Former Olympian, Dr. Ernie McCullough, will experience the thrill of the Olympic Games again when he carries the Olympic torch in Trail, B.C. on January 24 – sixty-two years after having competed in them.

Dr. McCullough, who teaches philosophy at St. Mary's University College, was chosen as one of 12,000 torch bearers to participate in a cross-country Olympic Torch Relay winding its way to Vancouver to mark the beginning of the Olympic Games in February.

Dr. McCullough competed for Canada in the 400- and 1600-metre track events in the 1948 Olympic Games in London, England. Although he lost in both heats, the experience inspired him to help establish the Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) in 1956. As CODA's first president and later honorary director, he worked tirelessly to bring the Olympics to Calgary, a dream which became a reality in 1988.

Though more than half a century has passed since his Olympic experience, memories of that special time still stir his soul.

"The Olympic flame and light has a spiritual meaning for me, in that its energy represents the idealism of the world's youth, which I believe can transform a fragile world," he said.

Carrying the torch with Dr. McCullough is Sue, his wife of 51 years. The couple is running with a group of 20 friends and former Olympians who competed in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Two of their 20 grandchildren will be cheering from the sidelines. The McCulloughs join the relay in Trail, B.C., where one of their daughters and her family live.

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution open to all faiths and traditions. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree and university courses in 33 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ab.ca

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