

## **Media Release**

### **A Continuing Story of Educational Success in Southern Alberta**

For Immediate Release – September 20, 2004

Calgary, AB – On September 25, St. Mary's will be holding its first convocation where it will present degrees to its inaugural graduating class. Also at this event, the university college will be honouring Allan Markin, Chairman of Canadian National Resources, for his generous financial support of over \$10 million and his efforts in promoting St. Mary's since its inception. Mr. Markin will receive the title of Honourary Fellow of St. Mary's University College at the convocation ceremonies.

Since its beginnings in 1997, St. Mary's University College has developed from a modest liberal arts educational institution, with an enrollment of 25, into a thriving university college, with a student body numbering close to 500. "It's been a struggle, with many challenges, but now we can confidently say that St. Mary's has taken its place as a significant contributor in helping the city of Calgary and, indeed, southern Alberta to successfully confront their growing educational needs," said Dr. Terry Downey, President of St. Mary's.

A liberal arts and sciences university college, St. Mary's offers degrees in English and General Studies, together with a wide range of courses, which are transferable to universities throughout Alberta and beyond its borders. However, St. Mary's is about "...more than formal education." Downey added. He went on to emphasize that "... at St. Mary's we are concerned about our students in a comprehensive way. We are an institution of post-secondary education, so of course we provide our students with a strong liberal arts and sciences background that will assist them in preparing for their chosen professions. But we are also committed to assisting our students to become well-educated, responsible, and creative individuals, who will be good citizens, well-prepared to take an active role in confronting the challenges of our 21-century society."

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