

TORCH LIGHT

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

FALL 2020

The Tassle
was worth
the Hassle
#Grad 2020



TORCH LIGHT

Torch Light Fall 2020 Issue

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To describe the 2019-2020 school year as unprecedented, extraordinary or unparalleled would be an understatement! In early April, Pope Francis described the present moment as a "propitious time" to be open to the Spirit, who can inspire us with a new imagination of what is possible. He recalls that the Spirit does not allow itself to be closed in or manipulated by fixed or outmoded methods or decadent structures, but rather moves us to make new things; *un plan para resucitar* (a plan for rising up again). This message moved me deeply when I first read it; making new things happen helped guide all of our discussions and decisions.

Our year began with our community celebrating the Academy's 150-year legacy with a well-attended August 28th Picnic, a Gala Dinner patronized by 800 people on September 27th, a deeply faith-filled and celebratory Opening Mass at St. Boniface Cathedral, a highly interactive Come-and-See week in October with visiting students from our SNJM Network of Schools and our final Closing Mass and Steeped in Tradition High Tea on December 8th. The Academy's 150 year history will be forever commemorated through a permanent display in the alcove area of the Sheila Chipman Atrium. Thank you to the Academy community for the love, support and generosity of spirit you shared with us throughout our 150th birthday year!

Many believe that this has been a year of firsts at the Academy; however, school life has been interrupted twice in our 150-year history. During the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, the doors closed and all boarders were sent home, and during the 1950 flood the banks of the Assiniboine River overflowed and when river water reached the steps of our Wellington Crescent entrance the school closed for one month. While we did not entirely close our doors during the Covid-19 pandemic, students were not permitted in the Academy, and life shifted drastically and swiftly as we were forced to cocoon in our homes for months. The response was unprecedented as our

Administration Team and Faculty stepped up to re-imagine and implement a robust and successful remote-learning program for students, supported by staff who also pivoted to ensure a safe and clean workplace for many of us who showed up to the office every day.

Communication with our students and parents through the pandemic was essential! Along with direct electronic communication with our students and parents/guardians, updates were posted on our website and social media. The Academy continued the spirit, mind and body education which defines us through online Holy Names Chapel quiet time, Wednesday morning Zoom prayer services for faculty and staff, online restorative yoga sessions and a virtual walk across Canada among many other examples of engagement with our Academy community.

Pope Francis's inspiration guided us to re-imagine, be open, pivot, listen and collaborate while remaining anchored to who we are as a faith-based community. Honoring the Class of 2020 with dignity and grace presented a challenge given the Covid-19 restrictions regarding gathering in large groups. A school-based team, along with several parents, planned and implemented special events which were definitely outside the box in concept, yet aligned with the traditions of how we celebrate our graduates. A school team delivered 115 packages including personalized lawn signs, organized a drive-in Convocation at the James Richardson Airport, respected physical and social distancing by having two large tents pitched on our beautiful grounds to safely gather for the Alumnae Induction Service, signing of uniform shirts, gift presentation by the Parents' Guild and a final walk-through the school. We hope to gather one more time in December for a Cocktail Gala to create even more memories of what has been and still is an unprecedented year!

I wish to thank all Directors from both our School Board and Foundation Board whose dedication, guidance and wisdom have been invaluable. A special thank you to all Directors who have completed terms, especially Mr. Larry Bird, Chair of the Foundation Board, whose commitment to and fondness for the Academy are unmatched. I also would like to mention my appreciation for current School Board Chair Jim McLandress, Parents' Guild President Ramona Thomson and Alumnae Association President Michelle Saltel (Moore '95) for their support and positivity throughout this year.

The following passage from Micah 6:6,8 captures the essence of what I hold close to my heart in this year of celebrating our 150th birthday and living through a world-wide pandemic:

*What is good has been explained to you.
This is what the Lord asks of you:
To act justly
To love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Be well and God bless you all!
Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS



MR. JIM MCLANDRESS

CHAIR | ST. MARY'S ACADEMY INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Change. Over the past six months Covid-19 has forced all of us to change how we go about our lives. Here at the Academy, faculty, staff, students and parents had to pivot almost overnight to reimagine how they all do what they do. My hat is off to everyone for making what I know was a challenging process look seamless.

Change. Our President, Connie Yunyk is retiring at the end of July 2021. Since accepting the role in 2014 Connie has led us through many changes: the first, and likely toughest, transitioning from religious to lay leadership; the planning, implementation and execution of an ambitious strategic plan starting in 2016; and our pandemic response, to name just few of the highlights.

Change. With Connie's retirement the School Board is in the thick of the process of finding a new President. Consultations with stakeholders, defining the scope of the role and confirming a search committee are all underway.

Change. Our current strategic plan is set to end in 2020 but with a new President coming in, the Board has decided there's enough work left to be done on the current plan to extend it before a more thorough review and revision. A detailed update on the Strategic Plan is on page 4.

No change. Some things don't change. It's always an honour to be able to serve as Chair of the Board of SMA and I'm always humbled by the talents, efforts and generosity of all of those who make the SMA community what it is.



MR. LARRY BIRD

CHAIR | ST. MARY'S ACADEMY FOUNDATION INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This past school year the St. Mary's Academy community celebrated the 150th anniversary of the school. An integral part of the celebrations were expressions of gratitude to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for their faith, vision, courage and leadership which built, grew and nurtured our preeminent educational institution which has since shaped the hearts and minds of over 64,000 students. It was a remarkable year of celebrations! Little did we know what was ahead of us and how all aspects of our lives would change.

As the Covid-19 pandemic erupted and unfolded, we were fortunate to be able to draw upon the history and legacy of both the Academy and the SNJM to help meet current challenges in the school. Much gratitude is extended to the Academy's faculty and staff for the academic, spiritual and well-being programs that they delivered to students during these extraordinary circumstances. They made an important and real difference in the lives of students and their families. As a parent, it is comforting to know that students received, and will continue to receive, an unparalleled education and exceptional support.

As my term as Chair of the Foundation Board ends, I give thanks to Connie Yunyk and her staff for their dedication to the Academy's Mission and their support of

the Foundation Board—particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. I also thank the entire Academy community for their ongoing commitment to and support of the important work of the Foundation (raising funds for bursaries, designated school programs, ongoing capital repairs to the Academy's buildings and grounds and other major capital projects). Community support is an integral part of ensuring future success for the Academy and it is much appreciated, especially during these challenging times.

I extend best wishes to Cheryl Atchison, the incoming Chair of the Foundation Board. I wish Cheryl, the Board and staff continued success. It has been an honour for me to serve the Academy and the SNJM. My best wishes to all.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In January 2016 St. Mary's Academy's strategic plan **Leading, Learning and Legacy** was launched following extensive consultation and collaboration with students, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM). **Leading, Learning and Legacy** was intended to honour and celebrate the Academy's roots and guide students and the entire community into the future. With an unwavering faith in God anchored in gospel values, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher believed that an entire society can be

transformed if the hearts and minds of young women were formed and nurtured. Educating young women is at the core of all decisions and planning at the Academy. The five main pillars of the strategic plan complement the Academy's mission to educate young women spirit, mind and body.

Under the leadership of Board Chairs Scott Greenlay (2014-2017), Bob Cox (2017-2019) and Jim McLandress (2019-2021), the ongoing

implementation of the strategic plan has been a Board priority since 2016, with targeted completion in spring 2021. President Connie Yunyk, and board members serving as liaisons have collaboratively worked with management and staff to reach specific and realistic yearly targets and goals. Progress updates were shared with the community in the 2017 and 2018 Torch Light Magazines (available at smamb.ca/news/torch-light) and the April 2019 letter to the community from Board Chair Bob Cox (smamb.ca/about/strategic-plan-2016-to-2020/).

2020-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE ON GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

IDENTITY

- The Identity (Mission and Charism) pillar is connected to all Strategic Plan objectives and action plans. Representation from the Mission and Charism Office was always included in discussions.
- The Committee had intentional, ongoing and philosophical discussions about the Academy's identity. This included deepening our understanding of our Mission (who we are) and our Charism (how we express it), particularly in our contemporary culture.
- Intensive discussion of "top-down, bottom-up" approaches to mission and charism with leadership along with formation, integration and communication within the SMA community.
- The 150th Birthday preparations and celebrations afforded us the opportunity to highlight and deepen our focus on our identity.
- Research and literature review regarding ongoing measurement of outcomes, reporting progress and understanding and promoting the Mission and Charism.

ACADEMICS, LEARNING AND WELL-BEING

- Development and support of the use of instructional practices and tools that enhance deep, relevant and lifelong learning.
- Development and implementation mechanisms for faculty performance management: Implemented a strength-based teacher growth and assessment process.
- Created guidelines and criteria for funding professional development, including non-teaching staff and generated an aggregate listing of faculty and staff professional development.
- Development of SNJM Teaching and Learning Framework. Created a process for the research and development of a Teaching and Learning Framework; research complete, writing and creation of the framework—first draft is completed.
- Review resources and structure for teaching and learning: Review of IT infrastructure resources and processes and implement modifications to support learning, teaching and innovation.

WELL-BEING

Surveys

- Baseline and follow-up surveys of well-being of students were designed, analyzed and distributed to students, parents, faculty and staff. Faculty and staff requested a survey be conducted of their personal and professional well-being. A baseline survey was conducted; results were summarized and presented to faculty and staff. A second survey will be implemented in fall 2020.

Student Well-Being

- Students have been given opportunities to engage in the process of developing and promoting a school-wide plan that develops and sustains their personal mental well-being.

St. Mary's Academy Well-Being Room

- A central hub which is a mental, emotional and physical well-being room for all students opened after Spring break 2020. This is a place to "de-stress", access ways to increase positive mental health, and to find key resources (online and in print) for emerging mental health issues and illnesses. The Student Well-Being Committee designed the room and usage guidelines, with support from faculty, staff and Well-Being Board Co-chairs.

There have been extensive discussions about preparing an inventory of current and existing practices, programs and services as well as assessing the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of students and staff. There will be a review and updating of the Academy's Mental Health Risk Management Plan. There will also be a review of, and recommendations on, how best to increase overall health literacy, a key contributor to positive mental health.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- Employment Manual for Faculty and Staff created and implemented.
- Codes of Conduct have been completed and shared with community.
- Update job and role descriptions for the Academy as an organization.
- Development and sharing of Employee Voice Group.
- Board orientation process updated and implemented.
- Board evaluation process updated and implemented.

STEWARDSHIP

- This committee was established to serve the Academy's community vis-à-vis careful and intentional planning and development of the physical (building and property), financial assets (bursary and investments), admissions and recruitment of students.
- The Fixed Assets & Facility sub-committee engaged WSP (local engineering firm) to replace windows in the 1902 and 1908 buildings, to begin summer of 2021.
- The Legacy Rose Garden which celebrates and honours the Academy's 150 history was installed in July 2020. Details at smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday/Legacy_Rose_Garden.

Leading, Learning and Legacy was an ambitious and inward-looking plan to review practices, structures and policy across the entire organization. A whole new level of engagement from the entire Academy community was necessary to update, refresh and create new relevant practices, while remaining faithful to our legacy of learning, faith, service and leadership. Thank you to everyone who participated along the way!

MESSAGE FROM MISSION AND CHARISM



Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88, SNJM
Director of Mission and Charism

We are in the world together.

"We are in the world together" is the theme of an article I was reading during the height of the onset of the pandemic in April. What an appropriate sentiment for this past year! All our 150th celebrations reflected this togetherness as we honoured and recognized

the many people who have contributed to our story and legacy. As 2020 began, we had hopes and dreams for an exciting ending to our special year. Who could have imagined that February 26 (Ash Wednesday) would mark the final group gathering our school community would have until, well, who knows! Covid-19 entered our story by mid-March and we quickly gained a new understanding of what it means to be in the world together.

As classroom learning quickly switched to Teams or Zoom, the need to focus on our Mission was also ignited. We swiftly brainstormed how to engage with our students, staff and parents in ways that reminded all of us we were not alone in this pandemic, and that God is right there with us. We posted prayers regularly, created options for Service Learning which could be done from home, heard encouraging words from faculty, staff and administration, provided virtual moments

of quiet in Holy Names Chapel, gathered for Wednesday Prayer via Zoom with staff, sent videos and cards to our SNJM prayer pals, honoured Earth Day and Laudato Si', and delivered signs, prayers and packages to our graduates. All the while, we stood united with our brothers and sisters around the world who were impacted by Covid-19 and systemic racism. **We are in the world together.**

Our school-wide theme for 2020-2021 is **Who AM I?** Throughout the year we will explore the meaning of this question in a variety of ways and contexts. Through faith, science, literature, human rights, history, arts and our day-to-day clubs, activities and events, we will be invited to embrace the person God created us to be.

As we embark on a new school year, may we go forward with eyes and ears attentive to all the signs and directions that point us to the path we are called to walk **together**.



AROUND THE ACADEMY

Celebrating 150 Years of Learning, Faith, Service and Leadership

The Academy's school theme for the 2019-2020 school year was Celebrating 150 Years of Learning, Faith, Service and Leadership.

The theme was infused throughout all facets of school life with a Bible verse from Luke as a guiding light.

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOUR. LUKE 1:47.

El Salvador Extended Service Experience

At the end of June 2019, a team of 16 students and two staff members, Mr. James Villa and Mrs. Jennifer O'Leary, spent 13 days in Huisilapa, El Salvador, serving the local community. This trip was our fourth to this area of El Salvador, and the work was a continuation of a project that was started in 2017—building a wall, main gate and safety railing around a school courtyard.

Our team's duties included moving a large hill of sand, mixing and pouring cement, digging a trench, moving cinder blocks and other related tasks. In addition to much work, the group also visited sites around El Salvador such as Archbishop Romero's home and the chapel where he was assassinated, the archaeological site Joya de Ceren and the nature preserve Cinquea, where the

team hiked a mountain. The group also had many opportunities to visit and play with local students and residents. Our students had their eyes opened to life in a developing country and were also uplifted by the hopes and dreams of the people and the beauty of the land.

Group photo below, top left, shows our students with local students.

Walk For Cancer

On September 19, 2019, grades 8 to 12 students participated in two separate annual Walks For Cancer. These Walks raise awareness and funds with proceeds going to the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Grade 8 students and teachers walked from the Academy to Assiniboine Park and back to our campus where they had lunch, played games and performed in air bands. Grades 9 to 12 students, along with Balmoral Hall and St. Paul's High School students, gathered at St. Paul's and took part in an 8 km walk through Assiniboine Forest, Assiniboine Park and then back to St. Paul's. The afternoon was devoted to community building where students and teachers enjoyed lunch, entertainment and games.



Grade 7 Camp

From September 18 to 20, 2019, grade 7 students participated in a "Welcome to SMA" experience at Camp Arnes. Students were introduced to SMA's spirit, mind and body education through prayer, teachings and activities. This camp is a foundational experience between students and teachers where community bonds are formed. Grade 11 students participated as group leaders, along with Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie, Junior School Principal, and teachers and staff, Mrs. Martino, Mrs. Rewniak, Mr. Mandrick, Mrs. Steeves and Mrs. Bohonos.



AROUND THE ACADEMY

I Love To Read Month

Each February the Academy's Durocher Library celebrates 'I Love to Read' month with reading challenges, activities, games and a book drive for literacy programs in Manitoba. In 2019 a group of students, along with Librarians Ms. Chongva and Ms. Jennings, applied for a Manitoba School Library Association 'I Love to Read' grant. The Academy, along with another



school, were selected as winners of the grant. The funds were used to enhance and expand 'I Love to Read' Month activities.



Black History Month

For the first time in the Academy's history, a group of students, led by Oluwadamilola (Dami) Ojo '21, formed a Black History Month committee and organized a showcase that took place over the entire month of February. Activities raised awareness and celebrated the diverse traditions and cultures of the Black community. The first three weeks of the showcase included highlighting activists that empowered Black culture, spoken word and slam poetry sessions as well as silence and prayer for the many Black lives lost over the years. In the final week of the showcase, a party

with displays of clothing, food, music, art and pop culture took place. Mayor Brian Bowman was an honoured guest at this event. Mayor Bowman gave a speech about the significance of Black culture in our city, and commended student organizers for their tremendous efforts. The Mayor stated, "We need to be proud of who we are and where we come from, and we need to build empathy and understanding throughout our community—that happens during events like this."

Torch Talks

On February 22, 2020, the Parents' Guild hosted Torch Talks, an annual information session for parents based on the TED Talk format. The topic of discussion was addiction. Two experts, Dr. Jeffrey Waldman, Forensic Psychiatrist, and Carey Lai, Pharmacist, provided much valuable information and insights. Additionally, a personal story of addiction and joyful recovery was shared by Jennith Guertin.



International Day

The 45th annual International Day took place on October 20, 2019. This celebration of cultural diversity is a time honoured tradition at the Academy. The day began with Mass followed by a number of culturally diverse pavilions serving ethnic cuisine and cultural entertainment on-stage in Alumnae Hall. Festivities also included a coffee bar, dessert table, rainbow auction and golden ticket prize draw (SMA-wrapped bar fridge filled with goodies). The event, hosted by the Parents' Guild, raised \$8,100. Money raised went to create and purchase a large stained glass mosaic that is installed outside of the Alumnae Hall doors. The mosaic honours the SNJM, educators and staff who have shaped the Academy's 150 year legacy.



The Sound of Music

A talented cast and crew of grades 7 to 12 students staged Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical *The Sound of Music* from November 27 to 30, 2019. Students made this iconic story of Maria Rainer and her journey from the abbey to the Von Trapp family singers come alive with extraordinary acting, singing, sets and costumes. This was a show to remember!





Cross Country

In the fall of 2019 the Flames Cross Country team won the Provincial Varsity Cross Country Championship for the fourth consecutive season. It was a superb win with the Flames finishing with 16 points (15 is a perfect score). Grade 10 student Cadence Christie came in first place, grade 9 student Adra Barnet came in second, and all of our athletes ran an excellent race. CTV named the team Sports Star of the Week. View the news story on our November 6, 2019, Facebook post, facebook.com/SMAWinnipeg.

Prep Hockey



The Academy hosted the 8th annual Female World Sport School Challenge at the Bell MTS Iceplex from January 30 to February 2, 2020. This Hockey Canada sanctioned tournament brought together 16 North American teams from Sport Schools and AAA Leagues. Four Canadian Provinces and one American State were represented, including: Host St. Mary's Academy Flames; Calgary Fire (AB); Eastman Selects (MB); Edmonton Pandas (AB); Lloydminster Steelers (AB); Minnesota Ice Cougars (MN); Northern Alberta X-treme (AB); Pilot Mound Buffaloes (MB); Red Deer Sutter Fund Chiefs (AB); Rocky Mountain Raiders (AB); Thompson Okanagan Lakers (BC); Thunder Bay Queens (ON); Vancouver Island Seals (BC); Westman Wildcats (MB); Winnipeg Avros (MB); and the Winnipeg Ice (MB). Additionally, there were numerous scouts in attendance from both U-Sport and NCAA schools. The Flames Prep team came away with a silver medal finish, losing a close game to the Edmonton Pandas. The Northern Alberta X-treme finished with the bronze medal. Following the tournament, CTV named the Flames Prep Team Sports Star of the Week.

The tournament hosted a Saturday night banquet with alumna Randi Marcon '15 as Master of Ceremonies and Dwayne Green, Executive Director of the True North Foundation, as keynote speaker. Mr. Green told a moving and personal story about his struggles with mental health, resiliency and the need for removing stigma.

Athletic Awards

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Athletic Department's annual Athletic Awards Banquet was not held. Award recipients were announced in late June. Recipients put in endless hours, extra effort and were committed to their team and their goals!



Indoor Soccer

The Flames Indoor Soccer team capped off a successful season with the capture of the championship title in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association League.

High School Hockey

The Flames High School Hockey team went undefeated in the regular season, winning all 26 of their games for a total of 52 points. The Flames were set to go into playoffs when Covid-19 restrictions forced the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey League (WWHSHL) to cancel the season. The WWHSHL formally recognized the Flames as the 1st place team in the CTV Division 1. The WWHSHL announced their Player Excellence and Leadership Awards online, recognizing the following Flames players:

Top Scorer: Sophia Buckberger '20

Top Rookie: Lexi Schimnowski '23

Graduating Player Scholarship: Katie Sierhuis '20



Sister Marylyn Gibney and Sister Vera Hoelscher Team of the Year
High School Hockey Team

Senior Athletes of the Year



Alyssa Moon '20



Faye Murray '21



Adra Barnet '23



Elle Wood '23

Junior Athletes of the Year

Nikki Redekop
Coach of the Year



Leanne Leskiw
Volleyball coach at the Academy for 20 years

Sister Mary Gorman Spirit Award



Linnea Kosokowsky '20



Ashley Smalley '20



Ibukunoluwa Okunnu '20



Jordan O'Leary '20

Sister Susan Wikeem Service Award

AROUND THE ACADEMY

Global Pandemic



On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic and within a week of that announcement, the Academy, along with schools around the world, changed the way education was delivered. The Academy's Administration team swiftly formulated a Remote Teaching Model that took into

account the dynamic shifts that families were experiencing. Fundamental to the model was consideration of the whole child (spirit, mind and body), balancing students' academic, spiritual, social, emotional and physical needs and the needs of families.



Remote Curriculum Delivery

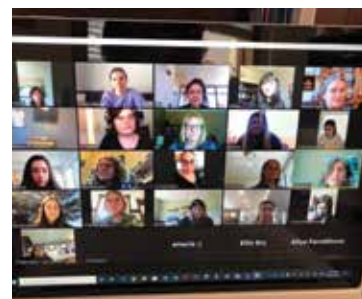
Utilizing technology and the internet, the Academy delivered our spirit, mind and body education remotely. The focus of curriculum delivery was on the overarching key general learning outcomes with opportunities for practice, extension and basic preparation for continued learning in the next school year. Students were encouraged and expected to engage in remote learning, assessment and evaluation until June 17. With the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions on June 1, students

who benefitted from in-person instruction and support attended the Academy on a scheduled basis. Recovery learning took place at the school from June 18 until the end of the month. Social distancing and all safety protocols were in place.

Amid all the nuances of remote learning, students and teachers did a remarkable job of embracing the new reality—they truly Held High The Torch!

In the early days of the pandemic, the Academy published a prayer which implored the intercession of our foundress, Blessed Mother Marie-Rose.

Blessed Mother Marie-Rose Durocher, See the panic, illness and isolation in our world. Intercede for us with Jesus and Mary that we may respond, as we are able, to our brothers and sisters in need. May peace rest in our hearts and in our world, as we remain united as one human family. In the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, we pray, Amen.



Spirit, Mind and Body

In addition to remote curriculum delivery, the Academy nurtured the spirit, mind, and body of our students and community members in a myriad of ways to help close the gap that kept us physically apart. Listed below is a sample of what was offered:

- On April 23, Mrs. Connie Yunyk, President, spoke to students via livestream. Mrs. Yunyk shared a powerful message of understanding, encouragement and hope with students. This is the first time in the Academy's history that the President addressed students remotely.
- On May 8, Principals Mrs. Michelle Klus and Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie presented a videostream to students and families clarifying the remote curriculum and expectations and answering student and parent questions.
- Pandemic news and updates were posted regularly on the homepage of smamb.ca.
- Wellness Resources page was created on smamb.ca with a section devoted to mental health resources.
- Spiritual Guidance was available to students and staff from Sr. Michelle Garlinski and Mrs. Joanne Steeves. Counselling was available from Guidance Counsellors Mrs. Dana Sigurdson and Mrs. Dawn Bohonos. Resource assistance was available from Mrs. Christine Dado. Academic Advising was available from Ms. Lindsey Fennell. All of these were available via Zoom, text, telephone or email.
- A listing of spiritual resources such as Sacred Space, Upper Room Prayer Ministry and a Bible App was posted to smamb.ca/news/WellnessResources.
- Head Girl, Ibukun Okunnu '20, recorded an inspiring video message to students which was shared on social media.
- Many faculty members recorded encouraging video messages to students which were shared on social media.
- Student-led clubs operated remotely using Instagram. Challenges, inspirational messages, information about world events and other forms of engagement were constant offerings from the clubs.
- Two videos of a serene scene in Holy Names Chapel, accompanied by soothing music, were posted to our YouTube channel. Community members were invited to 'sit' in the Chapel in quiet contemplation and prayer.
- A video tour of the school was posted to our YouTube channel. Students were invited to virtually come back-to-school.
- Mrs. Deb May shared favourite recipes from the Home Economics lab. Recipes were posted to smamb.ca/news/WellnessResources and shared on social media.
- Physical Education Teachers Mrs. Jennifer O'Leary and Ms. Nicole McGlenen spearheaded a remote community "Walk Across Canada". Students, families and staff were encouraged to walk, run or bike and submit their kilometers to the Academy. By the end of June, "Team SMA" navigated 12,513 KM's across Canada from Iqaluit to St. John's.
- Alumna and Certified Yoga Teacher, Larissa Yunyk '08, led two, 30-minute yoga sessions—a restorative class and a slow-flow class. These yoga sets were shared on our YouTube channel.



- Every Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM Sr. Michelle Garlinski hosted a half-hour prayer service on Zoom for faculty and staff.
- On June 17, a virtual Closing Mass was video-streamed from Holy Names Chapel. Fr. Sam Argenziano presided and ValLimar Jansen made a special appearance via Zoom. *Photos on page 5.*



Instagram, Facebook, YouTube: @SMAWinnipeg
Twitter: @SMAwpq

AROUND THE ACADEMY

Class of 2020

First Remote Learning Graduates in the Academy's 150 Year History

The Class of 2020 began their last year at the Academy in typical fashion which included the Grade 12 Retreat at Camp Assiniboia in September 2019. This annual gathering is a special time of bonding where seniors reflect upon their school years and prepare their hearts and minds for the future. Due to the pandemic, the Retreat was the only traditional Class of 2020 activity in which the group participated. The much-loved Graduation Mass, Brunch and Alumnae Induction which would normally take place in May were cancelled. Instead, during this time, the Academy's President, Mrs. Connie Yunyk, personally delivered a special package to each graduate's home. The package included a commemorative gift and a Class of 2020 personalized lawn sign. Late in June

when restrictions softened, the Alumnae Induction was held in tents on the Academy's grounds. Students participated in small groups and were formally inducted into the Alumnae Association, signed shirts, received a graduation gift from the Parents' Guild and went on a walk-through around the school where teachers greeted them.

The Graduation Dinner and Dance which normally takes place mid-June was cancelled due to restrictions. A cocktail gala is planned for December 2020.



Convocation



On June 26, 115 members of the Class of 2020 convoked from the Academy at a drive-in ceremony at Richardson International Airport. Graduates and their immediate family members sat in their cars while watching convocation on jumbo screens and listening from their car radio. Homerooms were called one-by-one to the side of the stage, graduates stood socially distanced and took to the stage individually to receive their diploma. Clapping was replaced by honks from car horns and when the ceremony concluded each graduate stepped outside of her car and tossed her cap in the air. The ceremony was livestreamed for the community. This was a one-of-a-kind convocation ceremony for the Academy!

Taking part in the ceremony was Miss Ibukunoluwa Okunnu '20 singing O'Canada. The Salutatory Address was given by Miss Jenna Solomon '20 and the Class Valedictorian was Miss Katelyn Sierhuis '20. The Address to the Graduates was given by alumna Ms. Heidi Reimer-Epp '89.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Retirement, Farewell and Recognition



l-r: Laura Davey, Lindsey Fennell, Beverly Henry, Janet Zonneveld, Deb May
Alexandra Logan, Bernice Lucas, Emma Sherren, Sheryl Chongva



Mrs. Bernice Lucas with faculty and staff who are former students of hers.



Mrs. Deb May with faculty and staff who are former students of hers.

Photos were taken at the President's end-of-school-year luncheon which was held in tents on the Academy's grounds. Staff unable to attend were held in prayer.

Encountering Our Story

Early in October 2019, Mrs. Connie Yunk, Mrs. Sylvia Falconer, Ms. Martha MacKinnon, Mrs. Patti LeBlanc and Sr. Michelle Garlinski were in Longueuil, QC, with other representatives from our Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) Network of Schools to experience the roots of our SNJM Foundress, Blessed Mother Marie-Rose Durocher (MMR) and the SNJM community. This pilgrimage to the SNJM sacred sites helps staff better understand our charism and rich history. During the experience the group toured the SNJM Congregational House, Archives, Co-Cathedral where MMR's tomb is and the SNJM Foundation house. It also included a journey along the Richelieu River with stops at her ancestral home, the church of MMR's baptism, and the parish she served in before moving to Longueuil and starting the SNJM Congregation. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff to meet and mingle with other staff from SNJM schools.

Retirements

Dave Chell: Mr. Chell served the Academy for 9 years teaching Religion as well as being an integral part of the Flames Prep hockey team.

Bernice Lucas: Mrs. Lucas served the Academy for 44 years teaching Social Studies, History and Law as well as devoting much time to the school's debate program.

Deb May: Mrs. May served the Academy for 27 years teaching Foods and Nutrition as well as dedicating much time to coaching basketball.

Farewell

Sheryl Chongva
Shawn Coughlin
Vincent Ocampo
Emma Sherren '11

Leave of Absence

Christine Rewniak

Recognition

20 Years

Janet Zonneveld

Maternity Leave

Laura Davey '05
Catherine David (Marquez '01)
Sylvia Falconer (Bator '01)
Lindsey Fennell '07
Richelle Friesen (St. Croix '03)
Amy Houston '03
Cecilia Kolt

10 Years

Sylvia Falconer (Bator '01)
Beverly Henry
Alexandra Logan '06

New Faculty and Staff

Christina Janzen: Library Technician Assistant
Kendra Lê: ELA and Social Studies Teacher
Taylor Martin '14: Religion Teacher, Mission and Charism
Adriane McElrea: Academic Advisor
Gina Unger: Foods and Nutrition Teacher



MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



The St. Mary's Academy Alumnae Association (SMAAA) is a community of women committed to preserving the heritage of St. Mary's Academy through celebrating and enabling lifelong connections among Alumnae. The Association plans and organizes events throughout the year to keep former students connected with each other and

the Academy. Events have either a service or gathering focus.

Gathering events hosted by the SMAAA in 2019 included the afternoon reception at Homecoming, a Meet and Greet with a dessert bar for students and staff visiting from SNJM schools in October 2019, a Christmas Card Making Workshop, and Drinks Under the Dome for 2019 graduates. The SMAAA was also pleased to assist with the Steeped in Tradition High Tea which capped off the 150th celebrations. In February, the SMAAA served the community by providing a dinner for The Welcome Home.

We will be hosting a Christmas Card Making Workshop and hot chocolate bar on November 18 and Carmen Sichewski '86, Human Ecology teacher, will once again be

leading the creative portion. The December Celebration tea will be on December 6 and we are excited to host a new event at the tea—Blind Date With a Book. We will be collecting gently used, much loved books you would like to pass on—watch social media (@smaalumwpg) for announcements regarding book collections. We will be wrapping the books and selling them for \$5 at the tea with proceeds to benefit the SMA Alumnae Scholarship.

The SMAAA is always looking for new ideas for service and/or gathering events. If you have an idea or would like to volunteer please reach out to the Alumnae office. We look forward to seeing some new faces at events in 2020-21.

Warm Regards,
Michelle Saltel (Moore '95)

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNAE COORDINATOR



Greetings Alumnae,

I can't believe how quickly this year has flown by. I stepped into my role as Alumnae Relations and Events Coordinator the day before our school-wide 150th Birthday celebration on May 1, 2019—it was a great way to hit the ground running! It was so nice for me to be back at the Academy, and

I was immediately reminded of the feeling of home that the school brings me. As my term position at the Academy ended in June of 2020, I find myself reflecting on all the amazing events and connections with alumnae I was able to have over the past year.

I always knew the school was heavily involved with our alumnae but after working in this role I truly understand the importance they have in the tartan fabric that makes up the SMA community. Our alumnae are our volunteers, ambassadors and cheerleaders, and I'm so amazed by all the accomplishments our alumnae have made. We truly have an incredible network and community of women that I am proud to be a part of.

This year I have learned that every person has a different relationship with the

Academy, and it usually changes and develops over the years after graduation. Some people are now alumnae returning as parents, some are volunteering with our Career and Mentorship program, and others are returning for the first time at their ten year (or more) reunion. I encourage you to stay in touch and find your way back to the Academy in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. The school and the SMA community will always welcome you with open arms!

If you'd like to update your contact information with the school, volunteer or just say hello, please contact Amy Houston '03, Manager of Alumnae Relations, at ahouston@smamb.ca or at 204-478-6030.

Thank you for a wonderful year!
Emma Sherren '11

Alumnae Induction



Regional Reunions



For the past few years the Alumnae Office has had the pleasure of visiting alumnae in Eastern and Western Canada. These are treasured connections that broaden and deepen SMA's community. Unfortunately, our planned trip to Eastern Canada in May of 2020 had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Please keep your eyes open for future regional reunions, we'd love to see you there! If you'd like to connect with the Alumnae Office, please contact Amy Houston '03 at ahouston@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030.

Card Making Event



Drinks Under the Dome

In December 2019, the Class of 2019 returned to pick up their yearbooks and reminisce.



On December 4, 2019, a group of alumnae gathered in the textile lab for a Christmas card making event hosted by the Alumnae Association and led by Ms. Carmen Sichewski '86. Guests enjoyed hot chocolate and treats while making festive cards to take home and give to loved ones.

Keep an eye out for details about our 2020 Card Making Event being held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.



CAREER & MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Connecting the leaders of tomorrow with the leaders of today

The St. Mary's Academy Career and Mentorship Program aims to provide high school students with resources and guidance to help them navigate post-secondary planning and career exploration.

Drawing on our vast and diverse Academy alumnae network, the Career and Mentorship Program invites members of our community to participate in a variety of events to connect with students including career presentations, panel interviews and casual group conversations about the first few years outside of the Academy.

Since its establishment in 2017, the Career and Mentorship Program continues to grow as an important resource to provide students with information and guidance about taking their first steps outside the walls of the Academy.

If you are interested in volunteering with our Career & Mentorship program, please contact Amy Houston '03, Manager of Alumnae Relations, at ahouston@smamb.ca.



Ask an Alum, November 2019. Young alumnae with grades 11 and 12 students.



Students at Ask an Alum, 2019



Grade 10 Career Speakers, March 2020. Alumnae mentors l-r: Laura Blakesley '10, Julia Vossen '09, Francesca Rizzuto '07, Dr. Renee Phipps '01



Grade 9 Career Speakers, October 2019. Alumnae mentors l-r: Megan Bourns '13, Caroline Grimes '11, Dr. Annie Coughlin '07, Taylor Tataryn '11

GRAPEVINE

1939



Jean Cannon (Slattery), passed away on April 4, 2020 at the age of 99. Jean lived in Winnipeg all of her life and was blessed with three children and four grandchildren, including SMA alumna Theresa Cannon '05. Jean

graduated from SMA as head girl and was always a proud SMA alumna.

1948

SMA has started to collect sentiments from alumnae sharing memories about their time and experiences at the Academy. The sentiment from **Earla M. Ingram (Clark)** reads, "I always felt very proud and privileged to be a St. Mary's girl. I thanked my parents many times for giving me the opportunity to attend the beautiful school. I loved the Sisters. I am sure my relationship with them helped shape my life and who I became - a loving mother to four wonderful children in a happy marriage of 63 years."

1951

An alumnae sentiment we received was from **Vivienne Muller**, "Best school ever! I received an excellent education, formed life-long friendships...wonderful teachers who instilled in me a love of learning that permeates my life and inspired me to become a teacher too! Everyone should experience a St. Mary's Academy in their lives." Due to the great teachers at SMA, Vivienne developed a life long love of learning and went on to receive her honours B.A, a B. ED, a M.A, and a M.A.T.

If you'd like to add your St. Mary's Academy sentiments to our archives, please send them to Amy Houston '03 at ahouston@smamb.ca.

1955

Congratulations **Class of 1955** on graduating from the Academy 65 years ago!

1958



l-r: Sr. Alice Konefall '58 SNJM, Jean Van Walleghem (Geisinger), & Josie Dreger (Shelest '58)

Jean Van Walleghem (Giesinger) is an active member of the SNJM Associates, which keeps her lovingly connected to faith, hope and charity. Jean's family has many members who are part of the SMA community, with two daughters, Barb '85 and Nancy '92, a granddaughter, Sydney '19 and a second granddaughter, Claire, who will be attending SMA in the fall for grade seven.

1960

Pat Bozyk and the 60th Reunion planning team have an intimate gathering planned at SMA on September 25. For event details and to RSVP, contact Pat at 204-947-9866 or email pbozyk@mymts.net.

1969



Classmates from the class of 1969 at the Commemorative Years Brunch

The **Class of 1969** held a Dinner Under the Dome to celebrate their 50th reunion in September of 2019.

1970

Congratulations **Class of 1970** on graduating from the Academy 50 years ago!

1976

Justice Kimberly Probst was awarded the Magis Prize from St. Paul's College for Peace and Reconciliation for her dedication and break-through leadership in the field of law, peace, and justice. Justice Probst has worked in the legal system for over 30 years, with over half of her career being dedicated to the international criminal justice system. Fellow alumnae, **Dr. Nichole Riese '77** and **Dr. Tina Greenfield (Jongsma) '86** were also awarded the Magis Prize. See more about Dr. Riese and Dr. Greenfield under 1977 and 1986.

1977

Dr. Nichole Riese received the Magis Prize from St. Paul's College for Serving Others for her contributions to serving vulnerable individuals both locally and globally. Dr. Riese has worked as a Methadone physician for the Addiction Foundations of Manitoba, as well as in various inner-city community health centres.

1979

Ann Massel is the Director of Management Reporting for BMO Private Banking. She's worked for BMO for 36 years, and lives in Mississauga.

1980

Congratulations **Class of 1980** on graduating from the Academy 40 years ago!

1982



Ann Hodges has worked in theatre for many years and last year directed the Prairie Theatre Exchange production of *The Wedding Party*.

1986

Dr. Tina Greenfield (Jongsma) and her husband received the Magis Prize for Ingenuity and Innovation from St. Paul's College for their resilience and holistic approach in their field of research. Tina and her husband are both archeologists, with projects primarily focused on sites in Turkey and Iraq.

1989



Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton was named the General Secretary of the Manitoba Teacher's Society in 2020. Danielle's career has included being the vice principal at SMA, principal at St. Ignatius School, an education consultant, and a university instructor.



Irene (2nd from left) is pictured with daughters Katelyn '21, Lauryn '25 and best friend Iris Yudai '89

Irene Mestito-Dao received the Pinay Manitoba Trailblazer's Award for her volunteer work and outstanding achievements in the field of Optometry.

1990

Congratulations **Class of 1990** on graduating from the Academy 30 years ago!

1995



Jenna Edwards is a therapist who has worked with children and adults in the field of mental health for the last eight years. She's currently completing her Master of Social Work and is passionate about helping others achieve self-awareness and healing.

Maria Mitousis is the 2020 Mood Gala Award Recipient. Maria has been practicing law since 2006, and since a workplace accident in 2015 resulting in the loss of her hand, has continued to share her experience with grace, strength, and humility. Maria regularly volunteers with many non-profit groups including the SMA School Board, the Manitoba Opera and The Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre.



Teresa Cotroneo is the Executive Director of Folklorama. Her role primarily focuses on the overall leadership and management of daily operations, as well as overseeing Folklorama's three other business divisions, Teachings, Travel, and Talent, which allow the organization to fulfill its mission of celebrating diversity and promoting cultural understanding on a year-round basis. Teresa has worked with Folklorama since 2013 and played a major role in their 50th festival celebrations in 2019.



Tara Davis is the owner of The Tara Davis Studio Boutique. The boutique sells handmade clothing, gift items, stationery and art. Originally opening her first boutique in British Columbia back in 2012, The Tara Davis Studio Boutique is now located in the Exchange District in Winnipeg.

Congratulations **Class of 1995** on celebrating your 25th Reunion! Please check the SMA Class of 1995 Facebook group for up-to-date reunion information. www.facebook.com/groups/575291902608064.

1996

Lara Johnson graduated from the Faculty of Nursing in 2019 and is now working at the Misericordia Hospital in the Eye Center.

1997



In 2019 **Sandra Martin (Alwis)** decided to change careers, leaving behind her job as a Mediator to follow her passion for cooking and food. Sandra now owns and operates Academy Bistro, the SMA Cafeteria service. She provides delicious, healthy meals for the students and staff at the school. www.academybistro.ca

1998



Robynne Kazina was awarded the Manitoba Bar Association Section Activity Award for her role as Chair of the Family Section. Robynne is a partner at Taylor McCaffrey LLP and practices in the area of family law. Robynne has also received the Lexpert Rising Star: Leading Lawyers under 40 Award, given to the top 40 lawyers across Canada, and was recognized by her peers as one of the Best Lawyers in Canada in 2019 in the field of Family Law and Family Law Mediation in the Canadian Lexpert directory.

1999

Divya Mehra created a large-scale inflatable Taj Mahal art piece that was featured at the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Vision Exchange in 2019. After the exhibit at the WAG closed in September, her piece, 'Afterlife of Colonialism, a reimagining of Power', moved to the National Gallery of Canada where it became part of the gallery's permanent collection. Additionally, Divya was the recipient of the 2019 Wanda Koop Research Fund, a \$15,000 award that recognizes mid-career visual artists and is intended to fund research activities related to their artistic practice.

2000

Congratulations **Class of 2000** on graduating from the Academy 20 years ago! 20th Reunion celebrations scheduled for September 26 at SMA have been postponed. Please check the SMA Class of 2000 Facebook group for reunion updates. www.facebook.com/groups/3290281147654618.

Niki Little is the Artistic Director of imagineNATIVE. ImagineNATIVE is the world's largest International Indigenous Media Arts festival and last year was featured in the Vogue magazine article, "6 Must-See Works from This Month's imagineNATIVE Film Festival."

2001



Connie Lidster (Magalhaes) is an avid advocate for Dwarfism awareness and has been a member of the Little People of Manitoba support group since 1985. She acted as President of the group from 2005-2015 and continues to be an active Board member. Connie also created a school program called the Dwarfism Awareness Program partnering with organizations such as the Girl Guides, UNESCO and Manitoba Schools.



Lindsey Janneck '01 and Melissa Serbin '01

Lindsey Janneck (Reid) is one of the organizers behind VegFest. Launching in 2016, VegFest is a hub for all things vegan and plant based in Manitoba. Lindsey launched VegFest with fellow '01 alumna Melissa Serbin.

Melissa Serbin is a crown attorney and one of the organizers behind VegFest. In March of 2019, Melissa was one of two lawyers who developed a new first-of-its-kind program to teach lawyers and judges how Indigenous history and culture affect the criminal justice system and vice versa.

2002



Genevieve Bergman After working in Toronto for ten years, Genevieve moved back to Winnipeg and leads the Workplace Design Team at Number TEN Architectural Group. She has recently worked on projects such as the TDS Law Office, Scotiabank Wealth Management & Commercial Banking, both at True North Square, and many other exciting spaces across Canada.



Candace Jacobson (Maxwell) is the Stage Manager for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. In 2019, Candace staged multiple shows, including *The Nutcracker* in Winnipeg and Ottawa, and *Going Home Star* for the Cervantio Festival in Guanajuato, Mexico.

2003



Celia Fergusson (Sherbo) became a partner at Fillmore Riley at the beginning of 2020. Celia practises primarily in the areas of employment and labour law, and insurance litigation.



Megan McGhie opened a hair salon in the Exchange District called Hair Co. Her goal was to create a space to prioritize guest experience above all else and values sustainability and reducing their footprint by carrying the most sustainable brands.

2005

Stephanie Moroz starred alongside Full House actress Jodi Sweetin in the 2019 holiday Hallmark movie “Merry & Bright”. She’s also been featured in movies including “I Still See You” and the CBC television show “Burden of Truth”.

2006



Kajal Bansal is a Certified Resume Strategist, and earlier this year created Spark Career Co. Her mission is to help instill candidates with confidence through their job search journey by providing consultations on their resumes, helping them prepare for interviews and providing overall advice on their application.

2007

After finishing her pediatric residency in Edmonton, **Dr. Cielle Wachnian** moved to Vancouver to complete her fellowship in Pediatric Oncology. During her fellowship, she will continue to focus on solid pediatric tumors. In her free time, Cielle enjoys spending time with her friends from SMA and St. Paul’s.

Samantha Beiko launched the final book in her Realms of Ancient trilogy, *The Brilliant Dark*, in September of 2019.



Hannah Anderson is an actress living in Toronto. Hannah has been in many films, including “What Keeps You Alive” and “Jigsaw”. Last year, Hannah was also featured in the latest Marvel series film, “Dark Phoenix.”

2008



Mackenzie Dempsey (Carlson) has spent the last four years living in Kelowna, BC with her husband putting down roots. After working for Jillian Harris as her Photographer and Creative Strategist for a couple of years, Mackenzie gave birth to her son and is now relaunching her personal photography business.

2009



Julia Vossen is a Project Manager at Bockstael Construction. Julia has a Bachelor of Technology in Construction Management and has been working at Bockstael since 2014. Throughout her career, she’s had the opportunity to work on projects including the Glasshouse Skylofts, the Sage Creek School project, and the new Assiniboine Park Conservancy Greenhouse.

2010

Laura Blakesley has been working with Winnipeg Child and Family Services as a Social Worker for the past five years.



Anjali Sandu graduated with a law degree and is a part time actor and comedian. Last year, Anjali appeared on the CBC drama *Burden of Truth*.

Congratulations **Class of 2010** on graduating from the Academy 10 years ago!

2011

Rachel Dufresne co-founded the co-working and event space, TableSpace. The space allows local entrepreneurs and individuals who work from home to connect with other individuals in their field by providing them with a space to work and create together.

2012



Kristen Solmundson is a Trent University PhD candidate who is currently studying the high-risk caribou populations in the southern discontinuous range. Her goal is to create a sense of urgency surrounding the importance of protecting the caribou population in Canada.

2013

Kathryn Kuzyk graduated from the Asper School of Business with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree. Over the summer of 2019, Kathryn travelled to Ukraine and Israel to perform with her Ukrainian dance group, Rusalka, alongside the Israeli dance group Chai, in a joint collaboration. The trip consisted of performances in both Israel and Ukraine.



Emily Meadows graduated from the Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre program at Sheridan College in 2018 and has appeared in theatre, film, and television in both Winnipeg and Toronto. In 2019, she played Jane Bingley in the Royal MTC's production "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley", and at the start of 2020 toured schools in southern Ontario with Suitcase Theatre's new musical "Stronger Together: Opening Doors to Mental Health".



Rebecca Chess has been living in Israel for the last year, and recently began a five-year rabbinical program at the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. Rebecca continues to grow in her spiritual journey, in service to the Jewish community



Olia Katchanovski is a part of the first Doctor of Pharmacy class in Manitoba. Recently, she and a group of students founded the Interprofessional Student Panel. The goal of the group is to answer questions students may have about the panel's experiences in their respected faculties.

2014



Rachel Hill completed her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry while playing volleyball for the University of Winnipeg. After graduating with her science degree in 2017, Rachel transferred to the University of Manitoba to study Accounting and Finance at the Asper School of Business. In the fall of 2020, she will be going to law school.

2015



Rachel Beazley presented at WE Day Manitoba in October 2019. She spoke about struggling with the way her mental illness was described and defined by her doctors and peers growing up, and decided to take back her power to become an advocate for those who are also affected by mental illness.

2016

Christiane Malone, is a junior defender playing Center Backfield on the University of Montevallo's NCAA women's soccer team in Alabama. Christiane played a major role in leading her team to the 2019 Gulf South Coast Championship and an automatic berth in the National Championships. Christiane is studying Education and looking forward to further success in her final year.



Katie McGlenen plays for the Minot State University Women's Golf Team. Her team won its final two tournaments of the year, and she had two individual top ten finishes prior to the season being cancelled due to Covid-19. Katie graduated from early education in May of 2020.

2017



Hannah Blatt is a student at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA studying General Business and minoring in Entrepreneurship, Sport Coaching Leadership, and Finance. Hannah has played on the University of Drexel squash team for the past three years, and acts as the Events chair on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

2019

Kate Gregoire won the 2019 Manitoba Women's Junior Golf Championship. Kate currently plays for the University of Manitoba Hockey and Golf teams.



Jessica Tsai was named the University of Manitoba's Female Soccer Rookie of the Year. Jessica plays midfield for the University of Manitoba Bisons and is studying science.

2020



Congratulations to the **Class of 2020** on completing your education at the Academy and becoming alumnae! We look forward to hearing from you in the future.

2018



Sophie George is attending the University of Manitoba to complete her advanced degree in Theatre and this year received the 2020 RMTTC Jean Murray-Moray Sinclair Theatre Scholarship. When she's not in school, Sophie works in the preschool room at a daycare and as a children's princess performer for Heather's Pretty Parties.

BIRTHS

WITH JOY ST. MARY'S ACADEMY ACKNOWLEDGES THE BIRTH OF CHILDREN TO ALUMNAE

Babies born between September 2019 and July 2020

Xavier Joseph Jamison Degen born September 8, 2019 to Alexandra Degen '17 and Ryan McGregor
Abbigale Joan born October 17, 2019 to Krystle (Giesbrecht '03) and Jared Balance
Sophie Catherine born November 6, 2019 to Pamela (Richot '02) and Bryan Sand
Sophie Anne born November 7, 2019 to Kayla (Ketcheson '09) and Jim McDonald
William Robert born November 9, 2019 to Johanna Chipman '06 and Kipp Workman
Joanna Evelyn born December 1, 2019 to Erin McIntyre '05 and Nik Kyriakopoulos
Erik Joseph born December 18, 2019 to Annette (Kiazyk '02) and Edward Bohncke
Stella Noelle born December 18, 2019 to Richelle (St. Croix '03) and Nate Friesen
Hudson James born January 11, 2020 to Sarah (Zubrecki '11) and Duncan Henderson
Annie born January 31, 2020 to Amy Nason '09 and McKenzie Acheson
Parker born January 31, 2020 to Maria Nason '06 and Pravin Sukumar
Nikola Philippe born February 26, 2020 to Andrea de Rocquigny '97 and Milan Milenovic
Barrett Gray born February 28, 2020 to Lisa (Stevens '07) and Michael Krebs
Noah Romeo born March 3, 2020 to Grace (Marquez '06) and Carlo Lozano
Jackson born March 3, 2020 to Jodie Au '04 and Richard Le Sage
Amelia Marta born March 16, 2020 to Patricia (Trojnar '01) and Neil Babaluk
Quinn born March 24, 2020 to Leigh Mackenzie '09 and Jesse Vreeken
Oscar Ari born April 11, 2020 to Brittany Barkwell '02 and Aaron Kreaden
Ronan born April 24, 2020 to Marie (Carey '07) and Blaise Lachiver
Michael Anthony born April 28, 2020 to Lisa-Marie Buccini '97 and Andrew Ward
Annika Everly born May 11, 2020 to Jaime (Prystenski '07) and Emeric Duha
Beatrice Kennedy born May 20, 2020 to Martha Holmen '05 and Andrew MacDonald
Jack Michael born June 13, 2020 to Laura (Nichol '08) and Curtis Patterson
William George born June 28, 2020 to Sylvia (Bator '01) and Graeme Falconer

IN MEMORIAM

WITH SORROW ST. MARY'S ACADEMY ACKNOWLEDGES THE PASSING OF ALUMNAE AND STAFF

Passed away between August 1, 2019 and August 8, 2020

Kae Burns (McPhee '36)
Jean Cannon (Slattery '38)
Marjorie Gillies (McGillivray '40)
Rosemarie Le Bane (Roncato '41, College '43)
Mildred Zarowski (Yuskewich '45)
Lucille Mahon (Skelly '49)
Margaret Heinen (McKinnon '50)
Irene Bullen (Aird '52)
Sheila Dumore (McNish '55)
Louise Jobin (Bangs '64)
Sue Ann Hicks (Leigh-Spencer '65)
Ruth Wright (Anthony '67)
Suzanne West (Boiselle '68)
Ruth Cowan (Badger '69)
Eleanor Young (Taillieu '69)
Daphne Woods '72
Brenda Prosken '78
Rupal Purohit '88
Sr. Alma Fontaine (Staff)
Dr. Matthew Paschak (Teacher 2013-2014)



Rev. Father Michael Koryluk
August 9, 1944—August 8, 2020

One day prior to his 76th birthday, Fr. Michael Koryluk was called to his eternal home with God. Fr. Mike presided at many Masses, Wednesday Morning Prayers, Alumnae celebrations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and special events at the Academy. Fr. Mike's warm smile and wise counsel was cherished by many in our community—we were blessed to have had our lives touched by him. May he Rest in Peace.

Sister Mary Gorman

1945 BECAME A STUDENT AT THE ACADEMY

1949 GRADUATED FROM THE ACADEMY

1952 TOOK VOWS WITH THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

1974 SERVED AS PRINCIPAL OF THE ACADEMY FOR THE 1973-74 ACADEMIC YEAR

1995 RETIRED AS DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY AFTER SERVING IN THIS CAPACITY FOR 6 YEARS

2020 SERVING AS THE ACADEMY'S ARCHIVIST SINCE 1995

Sr. Mary Gorman '49, SNJM, has been a part of St. Mary's Academy's history for over 70 years. She began her education at the Academy in 1945 and graduated from Grade 12 in 1949—celebrating her 70-year reunion in 2019! In 1952 she joined the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and taught at many different schools including the Academy, St. Ignatius and St. John Brebeuf. Sr. Mary became Director of the Academy in 1989 and stayed in that role until her retirement in 1995. Like most religious people, 'retirement' simply means moving on to other roles and since her retirement as Director, Sr. Mary has served as the Academy's Archivist. She has a wealth of knowledge about the school's history and keeps highly organized and well-preserved files and photographs of important events that have happened for the school, for students and for alumnae.

"I have known Sister Mary Gorman for many years in a variety of situations. She has been a favorite teacher, a respected administrator and a generous friend to many. I was delighted when she accepted my invitation to become the first archivist for the school, a position she has held since 1995. The job is a perfect fit for the former history teacher who has a long association with the Academy. Sister Mary's optimism, joy and delight in life spill over into her work. She tackles tasks with competence, enthusiasm, curiosity and good humour. For those of us who have had the pleasure of working with her, she has been a life-affirming, genial force in our midst."

- Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, SNJM

Sr. Mary Answers Questions

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST INTERESTING REQUEST YOU'VE RECEIVED?

"You're going to hate me for this, because it's a fairly general answer, but I find the searching for family history and the pictures to be the most interesting. The Pound Family for example, we have five generations and pictures of all five. I mean that's so unusual and so neat! There are so many families like that with such long histories here."

"I once had an alumna daughter write from Ontario and together, we discovered her mother had been a student at SMA from Kindergarten all the way through to completing her Bachelor of Arts. Because of the archives I've been able to reconnect an aunt with a lost nephew, it's so interesting!"





Front row, l-r: Joan Millen, Sr. Mary Gorman, Pam Bozyk
Back row, l-r: Pat Fortin, Sheila Herriot, Phyllis Dwyer



SNJM at the Marian Awards Brunch in 2019



Sr. Mary Gorman and Sr. Josephine Chudzik



l-r: Connie Yunyk, Sr. Mary Gorman, Kerri Moore



l-r: Sr. Mary Gorman, Sr. Susan Wikeem,
Sr. Cathy Laviolette, Sr. Marylyn Gibney

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING ARTIFACT YOU'VE FOUND OR RECEIVED?

"I think it's a scrapbook we received from a girl who was a boarder—I'm unsure of the dates but it was from around 1920. It was a professionally produced scrapbook, but this gal had written in each section with pictures from the view of a boarder in the 1920s. We still have it at the school today."

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

"Well I think it's just hearing what our alumnae are doing. When we hear from alumnae, we're really hearing another telling of the St. Mary's story. It's the alumnae that make the SMA story. When I hear from them it's interesting, the things that they tell you, and you know, we'll get a letter and pictures of a wedding and I look and see that the wedding party is usually 90% SMA kids and it really points out the friendships that are formed. I've heard stories about gals who have been friends from SMA for 70 years. It kind of gives us bragging rights! To see all the wonderful things our alumnae are doing."

FAVOURITE MOMENTS IN SMA HISTORY

"I had a hard time with this one. I think it's the move from the Forks to the Crescent. When SMA moved there was one house on Wellington Crescent and there was no road to speak of. The Sister that orchestrated the move, Sr. Angelica, was AMAZING. She received all kinds of criticism, even the Bishop didn't approve, but she did it anyway."

"Another one was the Spanish Influenza in 1918. Again, the school was closed, like now, and the girls were sent home early. Three Sisters lost their lives because of the influenza. One of the main problems related to it was getting the boarders home safely. It's a bit of an interesting parallel to look at that time and now."

"And another moment I remember fondly is about Sr. Mary Richard. She was the first girl from SMA that joined the SNJM. She did housekeeping at the school, cleaning, took care of the boarders, etc. She'd take care of the hard wood floors, and one time she had just cleaned the floors in the reception area and the fire alarm went off. The firemen came running in and Sr. Mary Richard stood there and directed them to another door because she refused to let them walk on her freshly cleaned floors!"

FAVOURITE MEMORY

"One is absolutely the celebration of 100 years on Wellington Crescent. It was a wonderful celebration. Alumnae of all ages came out to tell their stories about SMA."

"I also loved the opening Mass at the 150th birthday celebration on May 1, 2019. It was fabulous!"

"We have wonderful records we can go back to for documentation about the school. Things at SMA have changed and evolved, but really, they stay the same—the girls, their stories and memories, some things never change in this place. It's quite amazing really."



1947-1948 Athletic Council
l-r: Sheila Herriot, Sr. Mary Gorman, Ann Hudson

MESSAGE FROM ADVANCEMENT & ADMISSIONS



Kerri Moore (McIvor '94)
Director, Advancement and Admissions

When I look back at our event-filled and eventful school year, I am filled with gratitude for the support of the St. Mary's Academy community! On the heels of a most celebratory and historic year, our school community has risen to support one another as we face the challenges in the uncertain times of Covid-19. As a community, we have been inspired by our Foundress to give what we can to help those in need.

"As we tread the same path, let us extend a hand to one another to surmount the difficulties that present themselves."

-Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Foundress

I am grateful for our generations of faithful supporters whose generous donations enabled us to distribute **over \$419,000 in tuition funding through our Bursary Fund to 89 qualified applicants for the 2020-2021 school year.** This generosity allows us to offer a St. Mary's Academy education to all qualified applicants, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds.

The **Deo Gratias Fund** provides for students in immediate need of support to cover the costs of meals, school supplies, uniforms, bus tickets, and field trips, etc. We anticipate an increase in demand for support this school year as some of our families are struggling with the financial challenges during this pandemic. Donors to the Deo Gratias Fund help to ensure an equitable experience for all SMA students, and "extend a hand" to those in need.

I am thankful for the over 200 Legacy Rose Garden donors who have contributed to this historic project to commemorate the 150-year legacy of St. Mary's Academy. The Legacy Rose Garden celebrates this incredible milestone and will be enjoyed for generations to come. Your support of this project is truly appreciated and we look forward to gathering for the official launch when guidelines permit! If you are still interested in being a part of this project, inscribed bricks, flagstones and boulders will be for sale during Phase II of the project beginning in September 2020, with installation scheduled for the Summer of 2021.

This Fall, the Academy welcomed 120 new families to our community! It is a blessing to have these new students and families join us. I hope they feel the support of our community on a mission to nurture them in spirit, mind and body in order to reach their full potential. I can't wait to see how they *Hold High The Torch!*

Deo gratias!



DEO GRATIAS FUND

thanks be to God

To ensure all SMA students can participate fully in an Academy education.

The **Deo Gratias Fund**, meaning Thanks be to God, was created in the Fall of 2017 to support economically disadvantaged students to ensure they can participate fully in an Academy education. By donating to the Deo Gratias Fund, you are helping St. Mary's Academy ensure an equitable experience for all SMA students and

supporting our mission to "nurture young women in spirit, mind and body, so that each student reaches her full potential as an individual created in God's image."

The Deo Gratias Fund is available to students who need assistance covering the costs of their basic educational needs, such

as breakfast, lunch, bus tickets, school supplies, uniforms, field trips, etc.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Kerri Moore (McIvor '94) at kmoore@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031.

SINCE ITS CREATION IN 2017, THE DEO GRATIAS FUND HAS SUPPORTED STUDENTS IN NEED OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES, UNIFORMS, BUS TICKETS, FIELD TRIP FEES AND BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MONEY.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Legacy Rose Garden

The Legacy Rose Garden commemorating St. Mary's Academy's 150-year legacy has bloomed! The Rose Garden features a fountain, benches to accommodate an entire class, 150 red roses and inscribed boulders, flagstones and bricks—all donated by our community. Surrounding the 1902 wing porch, the Marian Grotto has been incorporated into the garden. We are grateful for the over 200 donors who supported this commemorative project and look forward to seeing students and the SMA community enjoy the serenity of the space.

There is still an opportunity to be involved in this project! Phase II is underway with the release of a limited number of inscribed boulders, flagstones and bricks for sale. Installation of Phase II features is scheduled for Summer of 2021. Contact Kerri Moore (McIvor '94) at kmoore@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031 for more information.

Stay tuned for details of the official Legacy Rose Garden Launch, when guidelines allow us to gather!

In Progress August 2020



LEGACY ROSE GARDEN

SINCERE THANKS TO LEGACY ROSE GARDEN DONORS

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John and Mabel Garcea

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Jean Van Walleghem (Geisinger '58)

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We extend our sincerest gratitude to the following supporters who contributed between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

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 Chantal Tkachuk (Oster '90)
 Sherri and Russell Toporoski
 True North Floors, Ltd.
 Shawna Turner
 Giselle Valdez Soc (Valdez '93) and Meni Valdez
 Cara-Lynn Van de Mosselaer (Harris '89) and Richard Van de Mosselaer
 Josephine Van Ginkel (Mayda '52)
 Connie Van Rosmalen '94
 Rosemary Van Rosmalen (Trudeau '64) and Tony Van Rosmalen
 Jean Van Wallegheem (Giesinger '58) and Walter Van Wallegheem
 Vancouver Chapter Alumnae Association
 Laurane Vanstone
 Derrick and Karen Vergara
 Nina Vrsnik '89
 Delaney Vun '03
 David and Mary-Anne Welham
 Westland Construction Ltd.
 Will's Sargent Foodmart
 Laura Wittebolle '69
 Anne Wolkenstein '75
 Laura Wong (Stones '85)
 Michelyn and Steven Wood
 Bruce and Cindy Dornn
 Jacqueline Yost (Green '67)
 Iris Yudai '89
 Elsa Zarow
 Lionel Zelicz
 Malca Zettler (MacBride '64)
 71 anonymous donors

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of donor reports. If any errors or omissions have been made, please accept our sincere apology and notify the Advancement Office at 204-478-6031.

St. Mary's Academy Foundation Inc. is a registered charity. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20.00 or more. If you would like to make a donation, you may do so online at smamb.ca/support-us or contact Kerri Moore (McIvor '94), Director of Advancement & Admissions, at kmoore@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031.

COMING EVENTS

Events will take place following Covid-19 precautions and guidelines. Some events may be significantly altered or cancelled, in which case we endeavour to provide the community with as much notice as possible.

Homecoming

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and in an effort to limit visitor access to the school as much as possible, SMA hosted Homecoming events are cancelled or postponed:

- Commemorative Years Brunch, Mass and School Tours and Tea are cancelled.
- Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting is postponed to December 6, 2020.
- Class reunion information is found at smamb.ca/events/reunions/manitoba. Or contact Amy Houston '03 at ahouston@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030.

**Reunions are organized by individual class members.*

Vancouver Alumnae Chapter Reunion: 62nd Annual Potluck Luncheon is cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions

For information on joining the Vancouver Chapter, contact Darlene Burns (Woerlee '69), at darlene_burns@telus.net or Amy Houston '03 at ahouston@smamb.ca.

Christmas Card Making Workshop

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Human Ecology Labs

Space is limited. Tickets available in October 2020 at smamb.ca.

December Celebration and Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 6, 2020

- Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM.
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 11:00 AM in Holy Names Chapel
- Christmas Tea following Mass in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom
- Blind Date with a Book (sales of gently used books)
- Donations of non-perishable food items, new hats, mitts and scarves or monetary donations accepted for Rossbrook House.

Drinks Under The Dome—Class of 2020 Graduation Event

Monday, December 21, 2020 in the evening

Open House

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, starting in Alumnae Hall.

Information session and campus tours for prospective students.

Female World Sport School Challenge | Hosted by the Flames Prep Hockey Team

January 31—February 3, 2021 at the Bell MTS Iceplex

Watch elite female hockey at the 9th annual FWSSC. Visit fwssc.ca for more information.

An Evening at the Academy

Saturday, February 6, 2021 | Cocktails at 5:30 PM | Dinner and Auction at 7:00 PM | St. Mary's Academy

An Evening at the Academy is a progressive dining experience that will take you through time and space within SMA's historic walls. Tickets on sale in October 2020 from smamb.ca. For information on sponsorship opportunities and table purchases, contact Kerri Moore (McIvor '94) at kmoore@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031.

Torch Talks | Informative sessions for parents on current topics.

Saturday, February 20, 2021 from 10:00 AM to Noon | Topic to be announced

Parents' Guild Cash Lottery | Fundraiser to enhance the educational experience at St. Mary's Academy.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, March 18, 2021

International Day | Celebrate the diversity and culture of the SMA community while enjoying a variety of ethnic food, live entertainment and a bake sale.

Sunday, April 18, 2021 | Mass at 10:30 AM | Pavilions open at 11:30 AM

Generations Day | Generational mentors of grades 7 and 8 students gather to share, connect and tour the Academy's campus.

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

16th Annual Marian Awards for Excellence Brunch

Saturday, May 8, 2021 | Reception at 10:00 AM | Brunch at 10:30 AM

Cafeteria at St. Mary's Academy (New Location). Tickets are \$75 each, available in March 2021 from smamb.ca/events/marian-awards-for-excellence.

First Annual Golf Tournament hosted by the Parents' Guild

Early in June 2021 | Details to be announced.

Table for One Hundred Father–Daughter Dinner

Friday, June 4, 2021

Details and tickets available in April 2021 from smamb.ca/events/tablefor100.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

