



the *Torch Light*

Magazine for Alumnae and Friends of St. Mary's Academy

Fall 2015



St. Mary's Academy Bursary Program
Lighting the way for deserving students

the Torch Light

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the Torch Light

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2015 HOMECOMING

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Commemorative Years Reception: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sheila Chipman Atrium (enter through Alumnae Hall doors). For alumnae from the Classes of 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Tickets are \$20 at the door. To reserve seating, please contact Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6031 by September 24th, 2015.

SMA Alive Open House: 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., free admission
Open to all alumnae, family and friends. Tea and dainties served.

Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 3:45 p.m., Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom

Mass: 4:00 p.m., Holy Names Chapel

President's Message

Transition, transition, transition—the mantra this year at SMA! It has indeed been a year brimming with transition, change and growth. I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to our community—The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), board members from both SMA Inc. and SMA Foundation Inc., students, administration, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae, my family and friends – you have been a source of abundant wisdom, support and strength.

Although the halls of the school are quiet during the summer, there is still activity all around the facility in preparation for the 2015-2016 school year. When our students return in September, the cafeteria will have had a makeover—new flooring, new blinds, charging stations for electronic devices and a new sink and hot water station. After 50+ years of heating our facility, the boilers were replaced with a new energy efficient boiler system which will better accommodate our increased footprint. The school has also been preparing to launch the system-wide use of Office 365, a promotional school video (fall of 2015) and begin work on an updated SMA website (summer 2016). Every year we say goodbye and thank

“we are now embarking on a new strategic plan to guide and shape the next stage of fulfilling our mission in the education of young women.”

Board members from both SMA Inc. and SMA Foundation Inc., men and women who have enriched our community with their wisdom, knowledge, professionalism and loyalty to the mission of our school. Many thanks to Mr. Mark Dufresne, Mr. Barry Jansen, Mr. Tom Frain and Mrs. Leslie Finch for their years of exceptional service. Our community is

blessed with many talented and committed alumnae and parents. We welcome the following individuals to the SMA Inc. Board: Mr. Bob Cox, Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton '89 and Mrs. Colleen McFadden, and to the SMA Foundation Inc. Board we welcome Mrs. Marcia McKenzie (Maia '92). I look forward to working with you over the next several years.

With this transition year successfully behind us, we are now embarking on a new strategic plan to guide and shape the next stage of fulfilling our mission in the education of young women. The Strategic Plan Committee started preliminary work in March, setting parameters for committee membership and a roadmap to navigate the committee and board over the next year. The committee has worked

diligently over the past couple of months inviting proposals for Statements of Work from several local consultants. We anticipate announcing the successful candidate by September 2015.

Every year, our school-wide programs and activities are influenced by a guiding principle, one that SNJM Foundress,



Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, lived by through her daily example in service to her community. For our upcoming school year our community is called to be a **People of Hospitality**. Hospitality is not limited to planning amazing social events! For Blessed Marie-Rose and the SNJM, hospitality is being a gracious, accepting and welcoming presence for each person (SNJM Core Value). Let us all be filled with this spirit of hospitality in everything we do and in every decision we make as we serve and learn in this grace-filled community.

Many blessings for a purposeful, successful and healthy school year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marie-Rose Durocher'.

St. Mary's Academy Inc. Board of Directors

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Mission

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic school for girls in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Our mission is to form young women, spirit, mind and body, so that each student reaches her full potential as an individual created in God's image.

Lighting The Way For Deserving Students



St. Mary's Academy's Bursary Program offers a beacon of hope

The mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) is education with "special concern for the poor and disadvantaged". St. Mary's Academy (SMA) is a school in the tradition of the SNJM and echoes this concern in its own mission statement which mandates the promotion of justice, education,

"special concern for the poor and disadvantaged"

social responsibility and financial accessibility. Integral to the SMA ethos is the commitment to building a school community which respects the dignity of the human person that reflects the diversity in our church, and one that welcomes students from varied socio-economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds. At SMA we continue to be deeply committed to growing the **Bursary Fund** for families who would not typically consider SMA as a potential school for their daughters. Many stories from alumnae have been shared over the past year by those who attended our school, thanks to the generosity of the SNJM who in the earlier days just "took students in", and since 1974 when the convent and the school finances were separated and the bursary program was formalized. According to archived records, 21 students received bursaries of \$100 each that year.

Reaching out a helping hand

The grandchildren of one of our alumnae visited the Academy in the spring of 2015 and shared this story with us: "In the early 1900s our grandmother was working at The Misericordia Hospital. One day, the Sisters from SMA visited the Misericordia Sisters and noticed a young girl greeting visitors at the reception desk. Over time they befriended her and discovered she could not attend school and was asked if she wished to come back with them to live and go to school at SMA. She jumped at the chance! They took her in and kept her warm and safe, and educated her until she graduated, expecting nothing in return."

The SMA Bursary Fund

The **SMA Bursary Fund** is a specific and segregated pool of capital which assists students attending SMA through the reduction of tuition fees. All bursary monies are held and invested by the SMA Foundation Inc. Since its establishment, the **Bursary Fund** has awarded 3,378

bursaries totalling \$5,227, 890. Our generous donors continue to faithfully contribute to the bursary fund. Thanks to this generosity, 61 bursaries totalling \$179,000 were disbursed in 2011, 61 bursaries totalling \$195,500 in 2012,

education the opportunity to experience our community of Learning, Faith and Service.

Looking back with gratitude

An alumna who feels blessed to be given the opportunity to be part of the sisterhood of SMA thanks to the generosity of bursary donors: "I graduated from SMA nearly 30 years ago. It's funny how it often takes time to recognize the impact your earlier experiences have in shaping who you are today. I now see the amazing education I received, the lifelong friendships I have enjoyed and the mentors I still look up to in people like Sister Marylyn Gibney and Sister Susan Wikeem. I would never have



64 bursaries totalling \$225,000 in 2013 and 70 bursaries totalling \$265,000 in 2014. For the 2015-2016 school year, 74 bursaries totalling \$277,000 will be disbursed. This gift enables many young women and their families who would not typically be able to afford an SMA

had the opportunity to realize my full potential at SMA without the assistance of the bursary program. Without it, and the generosity of those who donated to it, I would not have graduated from St. Mary's Academy. I may still have found my way, been successful enough to send my own

"Integral to the SMA ethos is the commitment to building a school community which respects the dignity of the human person that reflects the diversity in our church, and one that welcomes students from varied socio-economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds."

daughter to this school and lived the life I love, but the bursary and the benefits I gained from SMA allowed me to flourish in the school environment and ultimately gave me the skills and, most importantly, the confidence to be able to do whatever I dreamed in my life. Thank you to all those who donated, and those who continue to

“Thank you to all those who donated, and those who continue to donate to the bursary fund.”

donate, to the bursary fund. You are truly making a difference by helping young women succeed in life.”

SMA's commitment to the Bursary Fund

For many girls the **Bursary Fund** is a beacon of hope for an SMA education, and SMA is fully committed to continue to build and administer the **Bursary Fund** thus ensuring future generations of young women can Hold High The Torch.

How you can help

You can become part of the legacy of enriching, empowering and supporting our women leaders of tomorrow. Start a monthly contribution plan, make a onetime donation, consider the St. Mary's Academy Foundation Inc. in your planned giving wishes, or designate your United

Way or All Charities Campaign donations to be directed to the SMA **Bursary Fund**. Another way to help is to attend one of the many upcoming special events planned by our Advancement and Alumnae team. Please reach out to Ms. Georgine Gaudes, Director of Advancement and Alumnae Affairs at 204-478-6030 or via email at ggaudes@smamb.ca, with any questions you may have.

A Spark That Started A Fire

THEN

SMA's **Bursary Fund** was formalized in the 1974-1975 school year. At that time, 21 bursaries of \$100 each were disbursed from a bursary fund totalling \$20,900.

NOW

In the 2015-2016 school year, 74 bursaries are being disbursed totalling \$277,000.

Donate Online at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca
 Call the Advancement Office at 204-478-6030
 Email ggaudes@smamb.ca

Answering a Call

Michelle Garlinski advances her journey



Michelle Garlinski '88 officially began her Novitiate in Holy Names Chapel at St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg on July 31, 2015. Michelle has been a Candidate with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary since February 2014. The canonical year of her Novitiate will be in Berkeley, CA, and she will be away from her ministry at SMA from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016.

Michelle has been SMA's Director of Campus Ministry for 10 years and has served the school and the SMA community tirelessly. In Michelle's absence, Joanne Steeves (Weight '90) takes on a one year term with SMA as Director of Campus Ministry.



July 31, 2015 ceremony in Holy Names Chapel

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Established in Manitoba in 1874

Celebrating 140 Years

The Constitutions of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) invite each sister to strive to foster “the full development of the human person” (Constitution #11). When Sisters Jean-de-Dieu, Marie Florentine, Marie Elie and Electa-du-Sacre Coeur arrived in Winnipeg on August 22, 1874, they assumed responsibility for Maison Ste. Marie, a school founded by the Grey Nuns in 1869.

The Sisters faced numerous challenges over the years; one of the biggest was in 1890 when the Government of Manitoba passed the Manitoba Schools Act. This Act stopped all funding to Catholic schools and abolished French as an official language, hence abolishing the right to teach in French. Although the 1950 flood had a devastating impact on the lives of the Sisters and their students, they responded in each case by simply carrying on; interestingly, enrollment in the school rose steadily.

One hundred and forty years later it is clear the Sisters have been faithfully involved in “the Church’s mission of education in the faith” (Constitution #11). The Sisters have taught students from nursery school to university, in both English and French and cultivated the arts—musical, visual, dramatic, culinary and textile. They have worked in parishes, coached sports teams, led adult faith groups, welcomed refugees and collaborated with others in the promotion of justice.



SNJM greeted by the Grey Nuns on the banks of the Red River in 1874

Many of the Sisters’ endeavors have been avant-gardist and visionary in nature:

- The relocation of St. Mary’s Academy to Wellington Crescent from its original downtown site was seriously questioned by many—yet it happened in 1902.
- The Sisters believed it was important to keep in touch with alumnae and began the SMA Alumnae Association in 1909.
- The Sisters began teaching Domestic Science and Home Economics in 1913.
- Teaching Physics and Chemistry, courses not typically taught to women, made their debut as part of the academic course offering in 1916.
- A Computer Education program was offered to young women in 1980.

The SNJM’s mission “for the full development of the human person” has always been central to decisions regarding the formation and education of young women.

Celebrating 140 Years

This past year, four separate celebrations were held by the Sisters to commemorate 140 years in Manitoba:

August 24, 2014

Come and Go: a reception, welcome to all, held at Cathedral Manor in St. Boniface.

December 8, 2014

Invitation to pray with the Sisters: at St. Mary’s Cathedral as they celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

February 28, 2015

Solidarity in Service Day: the Sisters encouraged people to reach out and serve others on this day.

May 24, 2015

Honouring the Arts in Education: a collaborative effort with St. Mary’s Academy to highlight and celebrate the performing, visual and culinary arts.



Come and Go Reception



Come and Go Reception



Honouring the Arts in Education

Around the Academy

People of Service



Each year SMA identifies a theme which reflects an aspect of the SNJM charism or values. The theme for the 2014-2015 year was **People of Service**. This focus invited students and staff to look at the countless ways to reach out to others and share the gifts that God has given to each person. Throughout the year the theme was infused through curricular and extracurricular

opportunities. The theme also provides the community (students, staff, parents, alumnae and friends) with a way to renew an understanding of, and commitment to, the SNJM foundation.

The theme for the 2015-2016 school year is **People of Hospitality**.

Mother Marie-Rose Week & Annual Retrally

Mother Marie-Rose Durocher, the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, has a special place in the SMA school community. The week preceding or following her feast day (October 6) is known as **Mother Marie-Rose Week** (MMR week). This week is marked with gathered and non-gathered activities which are meant to help students learn more about Mother Marie-Rose, deepen a sense of community and grow in faith. Examples of activities that take place during the week are scavenger hunts, following Mother Marie-Rose on Instagram, prayers over announcements,

feast day Mass and brunch with SNJM, introduction of class prayer pals and a Retrally (elements of a retreat and rally). Retrally 2014-2015 speaker was ValLimar Jansen from California. Through music and drama ValLimar invited and challenged students to recognize the gifts they have and look at concrete ways to share them as **People of Service**. Our theme was **So You Think You Can SERVE**. Each day a grade level spent the

morning engaging with ValLimar on the topic. It's a privilege for SMA, as a faith based school, to integrate this experience into the learning environment.



l-r: Kelsey Copeland, Jacqueline Thomson, Morgan Steeves, ValLimar Jansen, Fiona Vowell, Nanki Saluja, Michelle Garlinski

Shrek the Musical

November 28-30, 2014

Shrek the Musical starred a talented cast of sixty-four grades seven to twelve SMA girls, four SMA staff and three boys (from the U of W Collegiate, Sisler High School and St. Paul's High School). Talent was also evident behind the scenes with a crew of 60 students and teachers involved in sets, costumes, lights, sound, hair, makeup, stage management and props. All three shows played to sold out audiences.



Japan Cultural Exchange Trip

From February 12-21, 2015 fourteen senior students, accompanied by Mrs. Marcia McKenzie and Mrs. Connie Yunyk, visited Sagami Women's University High School near Tokyo. Students who stayed with host families were treated to sessions in origami,

calligraphy, cooking, music, traditional tea ceremony and kimono dressing. Excursions to Kamakura, Enoshima, Yokohama and downtown Tokyo were also highlights of this travel exchange opportunity.



Official Closing Ceremony

Mission Club

The Mission Club educates students about community organizations and gives students the opportunity to help and support those in need, both locally and within the global community. The Club provides financial assistance through various fundraising projects to organizations that are either managed or supported by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. In the 2014/15 school year the Mission Club supported the following charities: Rossbrook House, Villa Rosa, Esther House, Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre, Holy Names House of Peace and Holy Names school and students in Lesotho, Africa.

Lesotho Project

A special project that Ms. Beauchamp's Grade 8-1 class took on for Lent was knitting premie and newborn baby caps for a clinic in Lesotho, Africa. In addition to the students learning how to knit, they learned much about Lesotho from Sr. Cathy Lavoilette.



Green Team

SMA's Green Team took on a specific campaign each month throughout the school year in an effort to promote environmental responsibility to the student body. Campaigns included collecting pop can tabs, Take Pride SMA, Recycle Everywhere Awareness, Pollution Awareness and Water Issues. The Water Issues' campaign was the largest and focussed on water issues in Manitoba with a special emphasis on problems surrounding bottled water. Students were informed of the issues and educated about the SNJM corporate stand. Students pledged not to drink bottled water.

Human Rights Team

Two matters which are at the heart of the SNJM corporate stand are human trafficking and water issues. This Spring, the SNJM Justice and Peace Committee and SMA's Human Rights team joined forces to bring awareness to Human Trafficking issues in Winnipeg. SMA's Human Rights Team presented a contest to the entire student body to create an advertisement that would be published in the Winnipeg Free Press. Pictured is the artwork that was chosen, created by Grade 12 student Belinda Guerra. This advertisement ran in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, May 30. Additionally, the message was posted on SMA's website and on social media.



Concours D'art Oratoire

Seven SMA girls competed in the Concours d'art oratoire at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface on Saturday, May 2, 2015. All seven girls Held High

The Torch. Emma Callbeck, Milèna Audino and Sélina Audino placed first in their respective categories. Anya Ingram and Bethany Kolisniak placed 2nd in

their respective categories. Linnéa Cox and Sophia Partyka placed 3rd in their respective categories.



Back row, l-r: Linnéa Cox (Gr 10), Sophia Partyka (Gr 9), Anya Ingram (Gr 11), Sélina Audino (Gr 10).
Front row, l-r: Bethany Kolisniak (Gr 8), Emma Callbeck (Gr 8), Milèna Audino (Gr 8)

Honouring the Arts in Education

On May 24, 2015 SMA's annual "Spring Concert" was combined with a 140th anniversary celebration for the SNJM. The afternoon held performances by Con Fuoco and the Violin Club, a creative collection by the Grade 11 Drama class on the arrival of the SNJM to Manitoba and their experience through the years, a visual arts display and a culinary arts sampling.



Marian Cup

SMA's 3rd annual Marian Cup debate tournament was held on May 14. Twenty-four teams from various schools debated three impromptu resolutions based on the topic of freedom. SMA debaters emerged as proud winners of the 2015 Marian Cup. Anaka Sandhu won gold as the tournament's Top Individual Debater, and the team of Su Hyun Lim and Fike Khan, won gold as the Top Team.



l-r: Su Hyun Lim, Fike Khan, Anaka Sandhu

El Salvador Mission Trip

On June 30, 2015, an SMA team of 18 students and three staff members journeyed to Huisisilapa, El Salvador to serve the local community. While in Huisisilapa the team worked on a variety of projects including construction of a sidewalk around a community building, sanding and repainting, construction of a small room to be used for a radio station and painting the walls and roof. In addition, the team provided a scholarship in the amount of \$800 to local girls attending school, purchased jerseys for the community soccer team and presented the community with sports equipment that was collected at SMA. Beyond the experiences in Huisisilapa, many friendships were created with the local people and this left an indelible mark on each member of SMA's team.



Athletics at the Academy

Volleyball



Junior Varsity

SMA's Junior Varsity Flames team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship and then went on to make SMA history by winning the 2014 Manitoba High School Athletic Association AAAA Junior Varsity Provincial Championship at the University of Winnipeg's Duckworth Center. Flames' players Taylor Boughton and Jenna Cross were chosen as Provincial

Tournament All-Stars and Julia Tays was named tournament MVP.

Varsity

SMA's Varsity Flames team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship playing a tough match against Vincent Massey Winnipeg. Flames' players Darby Coughlin and Janelle Lawrence were named All-Stars and Brianna Patrick was

chosen as the Tournament MVP. The team then went on to participate in the AAAA Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championships and made it to the round of Final Four. The Flames played a terrific Semi-Final match versus #1 ranked team MBCI.

Grade 12 student Brett Whitla was chosen as Graduating All-Star by Volleyball Manitoba.

Cross Country

Junior

The Junior Flames team won all three of its conference meets, won its Conference Championship and was crowned Grade 8 Champions (with a team that also consisted of Grade 7s) at the Athletics Manitoba Milk School Challenge Championship.

Junior Varsity

The Flames Junior Varsity team completed the season winning its Conference Championship, the Athletics Manitoba Championship and completed the year as Provincial Finalists at the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Championships.

Varsity

The Flames Varsity team was conference finalist, took 3rd place at the Athletics Manitoba Championships and finished the year in 6th place.



Track & Field

Both the Junior and Senior Flames Track & Field teams had a successful season. The jewel in SMA's Track & Field crown this year was a Provincial Championship title in the Junior varsity 4x400 relay. The relay team consisted of Sierra Sutherland, Tristan Chambers, Ainsley Cameron, Amanda Ludlow and alternate Claire Healey.

Golf

For the second consecutive year SMA's Flames Golf Team won the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championship. The golf team consisted of returning players Kathlyn Santiano and Katie McGlenen, and new teammates Shea Pyle, Sydney Gobbelle, and Leanne Miele.



High School Hockey

After finishing the regular season in top spot in their division, the Flames High School Hockey team competed in the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey CTV Division League finals. In the three game final series against the Dakota Lancers, the Flames came up short with a shoot-out loss in game three. At the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey banquet the team was

presented with a finalist banner and Flames forward Ashley McFadden was recognized as Top Scorer, Top Rookie and Team MVP.

In addition to league play in Winnipeg, the Flames team travelled to Minneapolis, MN and competed in the 1st International U17 Bandy Competition in November 2014. The Flames won three straight games

against the USA. In doing so, the Flames have been invited to participate in the International Bandy World Cup in Vetlanda, Sweden this October 30 to November 5. The Flames will represent both SMA and Canada at this world cup event (the Flames are the first U18 team that Canada has ever sent to a Bandy World Cup).



Prep Hockey

The Flames Prep hockey team finished the season with a record of 27 wins, 15 losses and 7 ties.

Highlights from the team's season include the Stoney Creek University Showcase Tournament in September 2014 where the team came home as Yellow Division champions. In early October the Flames took part in the third annual Pembina Valley Thanksgiving Classic where the Flames finished with a 5-0 win in Sunday's final

game over the Lloydminster PWM Steelers. Mid-October the Flames were invited to play in the 2nd annual Female Hockey Fights Cancer game in Selkirk. The team finished 4-0 over the Avros, and \$18,000 was raised for the Cancer Care Manitoba Foundation. Later in October the Flames won the U19 Detroit Two Nations College Series Cup defeating Shattuck-St. Mary's. In November the team bused to Faribault, MN to participate in the Shattuck-St. Mary's Jamboree. The Flames enjoyed

three straight victories over Shattuck's U16 team, Minnesota Revolution and Thunder Bay Queens, after a tough 2-1 loss to Yellowhead Chiefs to begin the proceedings. At the end of January 2015 the team flew east to participate in the Tournoi Provincial Hockey Feminin De Quebec. The Flames enjoyed a solid weekend of play facing talented teams in the Open Division. The Prep team ended the season with a 7th place finish in the Female World Sport School Challenge held in Winnipeg.



Athletics at the Academy



Female World Sport School Challenge

SMA was pleased to once again host the Female World Sport School Challenge (FWSSC) with RBC as presenting sponsor. The FWSSC is in its third consecutive year; however, this was the first year that SMA had sole ownership of this Hockey Canada initiated event (ownership of the FWSSC will remain with SMA indefinitely).

The eight team tournament took place at the MTS Iceplex from March 13-16, 2015 featuring eight Canadian female hockey teams from seven Sport Schools along with one AAA Regional team. Sport School teams participating included two Winnipeg schools: St. Mary's Academy and Shaftesbury Hockey Academy. They were joined by the Banff Hockey Academy, St. Francis Xavier High School from Edmonton, AB, Warner Hockey School from Warner, AB and two teams from Pursuit of Excellence

Hockey Academy in Kelowna, BC. The Thunder Bay Queens were the AAA Regional team that joined the Challenge.

The tournament featured a Saturday night Banquet with Olympic Silver Medalist Janine Stephens (Hanson '01) as Keynote Speaker, and CBC Video Journalist Jill Coubrough '06 as Master of Ceremonies.

Final Standings:

Gold: Pursuit of Excellence Red

Silver: Shaftesbury Titans

Bronze: Pursuit of Excellence Black

2016 Female World Sport School Challenge

March 10-13, 2016 | MTS Iceplex

www.fwssc.ca | @FWSSChallenge

If you are interested in volunteering, contact cyunyk@smamb.ca.



SMA Annual Athletic Banquet

SMA's annual Athletic Banquet was an inspiring evening recognizing and saluting SMA athletes and coaches for the time and dedication given to their respective sports.

As is tradition at the Banquet, SMA hands out the Nikki Redekop Coach of the Year award. This year's recipient was volleyball coach Leanne Leskiw.

The Keynote speaker was alumna Madelyn Mandryk '12, setter for the University of Toronto Volleyball team. Entertainment was provided by local musicians *McKenzie and Tate* (McKenzie Kolton is a Grade 10 student at SMA and Tate is her younger brother).



l-r: Demetro Danyluk, Madelyn Mandryk, Anna Kulas, Jenna Cech-Manek, Jen O'Leary, Adriane McElrea



l-r: Leanne Leskiw, Christine Rewniak



Graduation

On June 23, 2015 SMA's annual Graduation Dinner and Dance was held at the Convention Centre and on June 26th, 109 students graduated from SMA in Alumnae Hall. Convocation was opened by Madeleine Chartrand '15. Mariam Guindi '15 gave the valedictory address and Jill Coubrough '06 gave the address to the graduates.



Staff News

Recognition

In June the following staff members were recognized for dedicated service:

30 years

Vivian Epp (Teacher)

10 years

Al Blahut (Maintenance)

Michelle Garlinski '88 (Director of Campus Ministry)

On Leave

SMA wishes the following staff God's blessing until they return:

Laura Davey '05 is away on maternity leave for the entire 2015-16 school year. Baby Cecily Elizabeth arrived August 24.

Catherine David '01 is away on maternity leave for the entire 2015-16 school year. Baby Quin Gabriel arrived June 27.

Michelle Garlinski '88 is away on Novitiate for one year.

Farewell

SMA says thank you and farewell to staff who moved on:

Gerard Bzdel resigned from teaching after 16 years at SMA serving our school community. Over the years many students were in awe of Mr. Bzdel for his rich life experiences and engaging travel stories.

Chris Duyck retired after 35+ years of loyal service as our Library Technician. She was a constant and tireless force in our Library program, and we celebrate her dedication to literacy.

Diane McGowan retired on December 31, 2014 after 10 years of dedicated service as Director of Advancement. She worked steadfastly and was instrumental raising the necessary funds for two capital campaigns.

Melanie Moroz leaves SMA after one year of teaching science to our students to join her husband in Calgary where he was transferred earlier this year.



In This Place

In this place
Find a sense of
Church
Community
Communion

Hear a call to
Loving Kindness
Compassion
Unity

Know a time for
Believing
Supporting
Upholding

Recognize a feeling of
Openness
Integrity
Truthfulness

Expect a movement to
Encourage
Include
Forgive

Experience a house for
Prayer
People
God

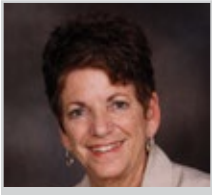
Inhabit a haven for
The Weak
The Peacemakers
The Spirit.

Maureen Farrell

MARIAN AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE
Hold High The Torch

2015 Marian Award Recipients



Gwen Buccini '67

Gwen Buccini retired from 33 years in education in 2011. As a single parent of three children, Gwen founded the "Tabs for Wheelchairs" program in 1998 and has acted as coordinator ever since. The Tabs Program has presented 15 wheelchairs in the past 16 years to young people with special needs. She also spearheaded fundraising efforts in 2003 to build a group home, "Open Arms Independent Living Inc." for her son, Anthony, who has Down Syndrome. Gwen was awarded the "Yes I Can" award and Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2003 and was nominated as a YMCA-YWCA Woman of Distinction in 2013. She has been an active alumna at SMA and currently works for Fairfax Community Resources Inc. as its Training Coordinator.

Sr. Marylyn Gibney was delighted to introduce Gwen at the 2015 Marian Awards for Excellence. She spoke about how Gwen was a natural leader throughout high school possessing a love for life, infectious laughter and hard work ethic. Even the caption under Gwen's grade 12 picture was "Our Head Girl's infectious laugh is something we enjoy in room 23." Sr. Marylyn met Gwen when she had just made her first vows and was teaching at St. Mary's Cathedral School. She noted in her introduction, "We both taught Sunday school. The next year, six of us young nuns lived at the Academy while studying at the university. Gwen and her friends would visit us in our study room and invite us to their games. We happily obliged. No A plusses that year, but I certainly had fun!" Sr. Marylyn and Gwen have remained close throughout the years and Sr. Marylyn closed her introduction with, "Gwen, all who tread along the same path as you are truly blessed. Congratulations!"



Marianna Carol Hryniuk-Adamov '72

Marianna Carol Hryniuk-Adamov, B.A., Cert. Ed., M. Ed., is a Certified Reading Clinician with the Student Support Services of Winnipeg School Division. She has been a classroom and resource teacher, reading clinician, English Language Arts curriculum developer and provincial ELA consultant, as well as a sessional university instructor at the U of M and U of W. She has been a dedicated literacy volunteer, serving as the Provincial Coordinator of the International Literacy/Reading Association. Carol was the national winner of the 2009 Canadian Network of IRA Council's Canadian Service Award for her literacy leadership and service to Canadian reading councils. Carol is the only Canadian to ever win the prestigious International Reading Association's Nila Banton Smith Award. She received the award in 2007 for her efforts in translating current educational theory and research into practice in content areas across the curriculum. Carol received the Canada Post Award for Literacy Educators in 2006.

Sisters Katya Adamov Ferguson '03 and Stephanie Adamov '09 were delighted to deliver a Mother's Day weekend introduction for their mother, Carol. They shared how their "Mom has upheld St. Mary's Academy's values and commitment to learning, faith and service as an educator, a mother, a literacy advocate and visionary." They also spoke of their Mom's "Marian Mantra: to leave the world a better place than when you got here ... we know that you will continue to make a difference to your family and your professional and spiritual communities."



Marian Awards For Excellence Luncheon



Standing: Mary-Anne Lovallo (Master of Ceremonies), Connie Yunyk (President), Len Altilla, SJ, Larissa Yunyk, Concetta D'Amico-Scerbo. Seated: Marylyn Gibney, SNJM, Johanna Jonker, SNJM, Carol Peloquin, SNJM



Standing: Scott Greenlay (School Board Chairperson), Greg Lamothe, Bary Finch, Gregg Hanson, Robert Cox, Pam Greenlay. Seated: Leslie Finch (SMA Board Member), Janine Stephens (2013 Marian Award Recipient), Mary Hanson, Lena Cox



Standing: Candace Partyka, Leesa Sylvestre, Pam Knysch, Liz MacCharles, Tracey Labossiere, Sharon Godenir, Lorraine Koltek. Seated: Susan Yurkiw, Kristi Cumming (Parents' Guild President), Cindy Hasselmann



Standing: Josephine Chudzik, SNJM, Halle Bacinger, Elizabeth Bacinger, Clare MacKay (SMA Foundation Board member), Carol-Ann Swayzie (Vice Principal), Seated: Charlotte Leake, SNJM, Mary Gorman SNJM



Standing: Sarah Gaudes, Julie Kiernan, Laura Kiernan, Kathleen Kiernan, Mark Kulas (SMA Board Member). Seated: Georgine Gaudes, (Director of Advancement & Alumnae Affairs), Mardie Van de Mosselaer, Christine Kulas



Nicole Gautron (Alumnae Board Member), Anya Ingram, Tanis Dick, Barbro Dick, Lois Bosc (Alumnae Board Member), Diane Bosc, Seated: Carolyn Eva-Meadows (Alumnae Board Member), Margaret Brett (2006 Marian Award Recipient), Emily Meadows, Chantale Bosc

The 11th annual Marian Awards Luncheon took place on May 9, 2015 at the Manitoba Club. This sold-out luncheon is a flagship event where St. Mary's Academy has the honour of recognizing distinguished alumnae. If you would like to nominate a deserving recipient for a Marian Award, please download a nomination form from www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/alumnae/marianawards.

Thank You

St. Mary's Academy thanks the generous donors who supported the 2015 Marian Awards For Excellence Luncheon.

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Alumnae

Alumnae Association President's Message



Christina Tompkins (Woods '90)

Another year has come and gone for the Alumnae Board Association. This year we welcomed new faces to our board: Mrs. Connie Yunyk as the new President of SMA, Ms. Gerogine Gaudes as the Director of Advancement and Alumnae Affairs, and Ms. Amy Houston as the new Alumnae Relations, Advancement and Special Events Coordinator.

Homecoming 2015

As you know, for many years SMA has celebrated "Homecoming Weekend" in September. Over the past year the Alumnae Board was busy meeting and planning and we are excited to announce a new format for Homecoming! **Please join us on September 26, 2015 for our first Homecoming Day which includes SMA Alive.** We welcome and encourage all alumnae to come back to the school and celebrate with former classmates and teachers. Experience the school and see the new renovations while sharing your fond memories. The day will start at 1:00 p.m. in the Sheila Chipman Atrium with a lovely reception to celebrate the commemorative years for the classes of '05, '95, '90, '85, '75, '65, '55 and '45. At 2:00 p.m. all alumnae with their families and friends are invited to celebrate and see the school come to life at **SMA Alive**. Guided tours will be available. Dainties

and tea will be served during **SMA Alive** in our cozy corner area (2nd floor of the Administration Building). In following with tradition, the day will conclude at 3:45 p.m. with our Annual General Meeting and Mass in Holy Names Chapel. We look forward to seeing you there.

Getting Involved on the Alumnae Board

As alumnae of SMA, we take pride and strive to "Hold High The Torch". Many of us have gained lifelong friendships that only SMA alumnae would understand.

I encourage all alumnae of SMA to get involved with the Alumnae Association Board, or in other volunteer capacities. If you would like to put your name forward to be a member of the Alumnae Association Board, please send an email to: ahouston@smamb.ca, or download a nomination form from SMA's website. **Nominations close September 11, 2015.**

As my term as president comes to an end, I have been very blessed to have worked alongside such a wonderful group of women committed to keeping the sisterhood of St. Mary's Academy connected. Thank you!

Since we tread along the same way, let us lend a hand to one another to help surmount the difficulties that present themselves.
Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher

Drinks Under the Dome

Annual December event for new alumnae to reunite



Homecoming Weekend





Homecoming Weekend

September 26 & 28, 2014



Vancouver Chapter of SMA Alumnae

The Vancouver Chapter of St. Mary's Academy Alumnae (the Chapter) has been active for over fifty years. Reunions have evolved from being held in homes throughout the Lower Mainland, to halls, and to party rooms in condos in many different neighborhoods. What has lasted throughout the years are the memories of friendships made at SMA, and stories about the wonderful teachers and education young ladies received.

In addition to meeting and reminiscing, the Chapter is dedicated to contributing to the SMA Bursary Fund. Minutes from past meetings show that the Chapter once collected money to buy lottery tickets with the hope that the winnings would go to SMA. Today the Chapter holds very successful raffles for gift baskets with the proceeds going directly to SMA.

Chapter membership ranges in age from recent graduates to ladies who graduated in the early days of SMA. Special guests have visited from Winnipeg, most notably Sister Susan Wikeem, who attended the 50th Anniversary luncheon in 2008.

Reunion luncheons are usually held on the first Sunday in November unless it is on the same weekend as All Saints Day (as it is in 2015). The St. Mary's Song is always sung (younger members are learning it), the Marian processions at SMA are recalled and Bring Flowers of the Fairest is sung.

With all the traditions of the past, the hope is to pass the Torch to the next generation of alumnae living in western Canada. The Chapter encourages more SMA alumnae to join this annual event.

57th Annual Reunion Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, November 8, 2015

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Richmond Girl Guide House
4780 Blundell Road, Richmond, BC

All St. Mary's Academy Alumnae are invited! This is the perfect opportunity to renew high school acquaintances and forge new friendships with other former Winnipeggers. The organizers will be issuing an invitation via e-mail or telephone to all known alumnae in BC. If you are interested in attending, helping out or finding out more, please contact the Membership Coordinator, Darlene Burns (Woerlee '69) at darlene_burns@telus.net.

Message from the Alumnae Coordinator



Amy Houston '03

Greetings from the Alumnae Office! It has been a pleasure to get to know so many SMA alumnae over the past few months since I began my position of Alumnae Relations, Advancement and Special Events Coordinator in February 2015.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 26th at **Homecoming Day**. As you learned in Christina Tompkin's (Alumnae Association President) article we have combined Homecoming weekend events from past years into one day with hopes of seeing more people come out to attend. We encourage you to bring your

families, celebrate your memories from your alma mater and share stories with your fellow classmates and alumnae.

My hope for our alumnae community is to continue to celebrate and strengthen the connections you share with each other and your alma mater. As part of the Alumnae & Advancement team, our goal is to provide you with many opportunities this coming year to bond and connect with the inter-generational sisterhood that is the Alumnae Association.

Your feedback is a tremendous help in making our alumnae events better. At any time we welcome your suggestions and feedback on the events you attend. We are all busy in our own lives, but when we lend a hand, share our talents and come together, we can begin to accomplish even greater things. The Academy has supported each and every one of us in so many ways; we want to continue that tradition throughout the rest of your life.

One of the things I enjoy most about being back at the Academy is the chance to catch up with you, our alumnae. Big or small, it brings me great pleasure to share in the joys and accomplishments of your life...

but if you don't tell us, we can't celebrate it. I strongly encourage you to keep us updated! A phone call, email or note via social media* is appreciated. You probably don't know this but there is a bulletin board in the teachers' carrel area (you know, that hallway you were never allowed to walk through) that is specifically reserved for alumnae news. I can't tell you how many times I hear from teachers and staff about how excited they are to hear news about former students. More often than not, they are the ones that bring me newspaper clippings or articles about your accomplishments. Our doors are always open and we would love to give you a tour and catch up—please drop in anytime!

Connect with us on social media

*SMA has three social media sites specifically set up for Alumnae in addition to the alumnae section on the SMA website. Please engage with us on one or more of the following:

Facebook: [facebook.com/smaalumnaewpg](https://www.facebook.com/smaalumnaewpg)

Twitter: twitter.com/SMAAlumwpg

Instagram: [instagram.com/smaalumwpg](https://www.instagram.com/smaalumwpg)

Website: stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/alumnae

As I get to know more and more alumnae I am reminded of a quote I recall seeing back when I was at SMA: "*Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.*"

I look forward to connecting and sharing more stories with you this year.

The GRAPEVINE

1929

In the Fall of 2014 **Una Johnstone** (Gray) accepted a request from SMA students Oreofe Okunnu and Melissa Solomon to be interviewed for the student led newspaper—*The Spark*. The girls had an informative and inspiring visit with Mrs. Johnstone. Read their article at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/alumnae/torch_light. *Editor's note: Mrs. Johnstone passed away peacefully on December 21, 2014 at the age of 104.*



Oreofe Okunnu, Una Johnstone, Melissa Solomon

1940

In a recent note to SMA, **Marian Greenway** (Taylor) writes: "I may be the oldest grad. My picture was up in the Cozy Corner, if it is still there (*Editor's note: yes it is*). I graduated grade 11 in 1936 and went to St Mary's College and received my BA in 1940. I probably don't know any of your present staff, but I know Sisters Susan Wikeem and Lesley very well. They went to St. Mary's with my daughter, Maureen Greenway, who passed away 6 years ago. I will be 94 in April and am very healthy so far and very busy."



1945

Yvonne Van Walleggham would like to invite fellow classmates to join her at Homecoming Day this year. She knows there are many classmates out there that she would love to see! If you are a Grad of 1945 or thereabouts and plan to attend, please contact Amy in the Alumnae Office at 204-478-6031.

1955

Victoria Gretchen (Mihychuk) and **Margret Ritchie** (Lester) have a luncheon planned for their 60th class reunion at Homer's Restaurant on Friday, September 25 at 11 a.m. They look forward to seeing many of their classmates as well as many friends from the commercial class and other graduation years. Please RSVP to Victoria at 204-475-4535 if you wish to attend.

1956

Stella Hryniuk (Michalchyshyn) retired from The University of Manitoba as Associate Professor of History and International Liaison Officer in 2003. She is active in the multicultural community of Winnipeg, specifically in the Grandmothers to Grandmothers group. Stella encourages her SMA community to visit their website at www.grandsnmore.com and join her at upcoming events.



Stella Hryniuk

1958

Alice Konefall, SNJM is residing at the West End Commons, where she joins in worship and belongs to a community of Newcomers and Indigenous folk who call the newly renovated St. Matthew's Anglican Church their home.

1960

Merran Procter (Moreau) was visited in Victoria this past April by our very own Amy Houston, Alumnae Relations, Advancement and Special Events Coordinator. Amy was able to pass along photos and documents to Merran, relating to her years at SMA. Merran is hoping to join in on the festivities at the SMA Vancouver Chapter Reunion in November 2015.



Merran Procter and Amy Houston

1963

Congratulations to Sisters **Marylyn Gibney**, **Joanne Pundyk**, **Lesley Sacouman** and **Susan Wikeem** who celebrated their SNJM Jubilee this past May. To mark the occasion the Sisters and Associates gathered in the Holy Names Chapel to share in a Eucharistic Celebration, followed by a reception. Each of the Jubilarians remain active in their communities. Marylyn is an active volunteer with the SMA Alumnae Office and Association, as well as the SNJM Provincial Administration. Joanne resides in Brazil where she works with local women and children at The Mother Marie Rose Social Centre. At the centre, the women learn skills of craft making and business while the children are engaged in a learning environment. Lesley lives with Sr. Huguette and 18 newcomer women at the House of Peace. She reports that life and joy overflow in abundance at this life affirming refuge in the heart of Winnipeg. Lesley will be honored with the St. Paul's High School Ignation Award at their annual Tribute Dinner on November 3, 2015. Susan is enjoying retirement and remains involved with various boards and committees. She is also active in the life of SMA, the community and the church.



Susan Wikeem, Marylyn Gibney, Lesley Sacouman
inset: Joanne Pundyk

The GRAPEVINE

1965

Barbara Clubb, Lucy Beckta and Margret Brett are hard at work organizing events for this year's 50th class reunion. Contact Barbara Clubb at 613-728-6831 or 613-612-6831 or email barclubb@gmail.com to find out more.

1967

Sister **Charlotte Leake**, SNJM '67 will be retiring from St. Gerard School this year after 40 years of teaching in the Catholic parochial school system. Congratulations Sister Charlotte.

1972

Val McCartney, Gail Kushnier and Michelle Coutts, along with parents of alumnae and friends, are sharing their talents by sewing quilts as part of the Sew4Kids project at the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba.



Seated l-r: Gail Kushnier (Mycan '68), Val McCartney (Mycan '72), Betty McGarry. Middle l-r: Theresa Kraemer Meredith McArthur, Judy Ralph, Gisele Blair Back l-r: Pat Spangelo, Anna Sikora, Marlene Quesnel Michelle Coutts (Trotter '72), Cindy Green

1975

Joyce Dalmy, Carol-Ann Borody and Cathie Cronin are looking after plans for the 40th reunion this fall. Lots to join them for: Bowling and pizza on Friday, September 25; Dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory on Saturday, September 26 following the school activities for Homecoming Day, and a Tea hosted by Bev Horbay on Sunday, September 27. Please contact Joyce at Joyce.Dalmy@gov.mb.ca for more information or to confirm your attendance. Everyone is looking forward to celebrating with classmates this fall.

1977

Shona Connelly was recently elected the University of Manitoba Alumni Representative on the U of M Board of Governors. Shona is currently the Director of Major Gifts at the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation. Congratulations Shona.



Shona Connelly

1978

Crystal Kolt, 2012 Marian Award for Excellence, Order of Manitoba and Queen's Diamond Jubilee award winner brought mega-musical Les Misérables to Flin Flon, MB after 15 years of pitching the production to Music Theatre International. The play opened on May 1, 2015 for three sold out performances, with Crystal as both orchestra conductor and producer. Our own Ann Hodges '82 directed the production, which garnered many rave reviews.



1979

Heather Sarna, Interior Designer, and **Carol Fletcher**, Team Minister, are Holding High The Torch working together as part of an accessibility renovation project at Transcona Memorial United Church.

1981

Members of the Magnus-Walker family attended the Honouring the Arts celebration of the SNJM 140th Anniversary in Manitoba at SMA on May 24, 2015. Pictured is **Tara Magnus-Walker** pointing at a photo of her great-grandmother **Jane McKay** (sole graduate of 1881), who not only graduated 100 years before Tara, but was one of the first students to attend SMA in 1874 when the SNJMs arrived. The legacy continued with Tara's grandmother, **Camille Gagnon**, attending in the 1900s followed by her mother who graduated from The Holy Names Academy in Seattle. Tara's four daughters now complete five generations of SNJM educated women: **Jasmine Magnus-Osborne '10, Madison '13, Daria '15** and soon to be alumna, **Bailey '16**.



Bailey Magnus-Walker ('16), Madison Magnus-Walker ('13) and Tara Magnus-Walker ('81)

1984

Alisa Whisler (Althaus) lives in Sturgis, MI with her husband, Donald and son, Cori, who is 25 years old and has special needs. Her daughter, Jennifer is 26 years old and is married and living near Indianapolis. After Katimavik in 1985, she joined the US Army Military Police and was stationed in Siegelbach, Germany. She is a recent grad of Baker College, Jackson, MI with an Associate Degree in Veterinary Technology. Currently, she works at Eighth Street Veterinary Care in Kalamazoo, MI as a technician. As a supporter of animal rescue and rights, she has three dogs, two greyhounds and a sheltie as well as two cats and two ferrets. What she really misses most is living in Manitoba, especially St. Mary's Academy and Sr. Susan and Sr. Marylyn. "They taught me well!"



Alisa Whisler

1985

Danielle Savage (Dryden) is coordinating plans for her 30th high school reunion. Plans are in place for a dinner event on Saturday, September 26 following Homecoming activities at the school. Contact Danielle at dsavage@mymts.net information or to confirm your attendance.

Chris Albi was a 2015 Women of Distinction Award winner for her work in Public Awareness and Communications. She was quite surprised to be a recipient but is since humbled by the honour, saying it is one of the greatest moments of her life. Chris is currently the Communications Coordinator for Winnipeg Harvest.



Chris Albi

1990

Christina Tompkins is planning a 25th reunion celebration for the Class of 1990 at DeLuca's Restaurant on Saturday, September 26 starting at 6:00 p.m. Please contact her for more information at cattompkins@shaw.ca.

1994

Lindy Ledohowski gave a TEDX talk in November 2014 which explores the challenge of building the creative spark within each and every student, in hopes of providing rigour without extinguishing the spark. Lindy has a B.A.(Hons.), B.Ed., M.A., and Ph.D and works in the field of English for Academic Purposes. Her TEDX talk can be found on YouTube and we encourage you to check it out.

1995

Diana Audino, Maria Mitousis and **Teresa Cotroneo** are putting their heads together to come up with a fun event for the Class of 1995's 20th reunion. Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Connect with the Class of 1995 in the Facebook group: SMA Class of 1995. For more information please contact diana_audino@hotmail.com.

1997

Lisa-Marie Buccini resides in Winnipeg and recently began working as Partnership and Marketing Manager for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the 103rd Grey Cup Festival. She is looking forward to celebrating the Grey Cup Festival with all of the diehard fans in Winnipeg this fall.



2nd from right, Lisa-Marie Buccini

2000

Niki Little was named Global TV's Coach of the Month in May 2015. Softball MB reports, "as a member of the 2015 Team Toba Coaching Staff she continues to make great contributions to our sport as a past high performance player and currently as the Western Canada Summer Games Provincial Softball Coach. Throughout the years she has shared her developmental skills with players and coaches of all skill levels throughout our province. Her range of work includes working with our most elite group of athletes (Provincial Team) at Manitoba's Sport for Life Center right on down to traveling to remote areas and introducing the game to the children of Winnipeg's inner city schools. For the past five years she has promoted the game within Indigenous communities and increasing the presence of indigenous players in the game of softball. Her current position as a Softball MB Clinician includes teaching and coaching aboriginal youth in the urban and first nations communities through development camps. This has created points of access for aboriginal youth to be able to play this sport and to promote healthy and active living within aboriginal communities."



Niki Little with Softball MB athletes

2001

Ashley Buechler (LaMonica), husband Chris and daughter Paige currently live in Kelowna, BC. Ashley is still an avid soccer player and teaches Montessori Preschool.

Brenna Mahoney recently relocated to Vancouver with her boyfriend and is working to finish her HR certificate.

Connie Lidster and husband Shawn married in the summer of 2014 and are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Violet Constanca Lidster born on March 22, 2015. Violet is very lucky to have many cousins to look up to: Ana '91 has two boys and a girl, residing in Saskatchewan. Cristina '93 lives in St. Louis with her three sons and daughter. Guida '95 has two daughters and resides in Winnipeg while Luisa '98 has a boy and a girl and call Ontario home.



Back l-r: Luisa Magalhaes '98, Connie Magalhaes, Guida Neufeld (Magalhaes '95), Cristina Patterson (Magalhaes '93), Ana Gray (Magalhaes '91). Front l-r: Luis Magalhaes and Connie Lidster (Magalhaes '01)

2002

Alanna deKorompay is living with her husband Seth Flanagan and two children Liam and Audriana in San Diego. Prior to having her children, she was a Forensic Scientist with the Scottish Police Services in the UK. She has hung up the scientist hat for now and enjoys being a mom to her wonderful family.



Alanna DeKorompay, Liam and Seth Flanagan

2002

Kat Zeweniuk recently returned from travel adventures in Spain. Kat is self employed with fellow alumna and classmate **Jackie Marchant (Kraemer)** with It Works! Marketing International.

2003

Trisha Dizor resides in Winnipeg and is working for the Province of Manitoba Conservation Office. She and her fiancé, Anton, are enjoying their engagement and are planning their upcoming wedding.

Christine Mendes graduated from University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (MD equivalent) this spring. She travelled back home to Winnipeg this summer to visit with family and friends and returned to practice medicine in Townsville, Queensland, Australia.



Christine Mendes

2004

Lindsey MacDonald and friends are still very close and have celebrated many marriages and births from their graduating class. Lindsay has recently finished her doctoral residency in Family Medicine and started a one year fellowship in Sports Medicine at the Pan Am clinic this summer.



l-r: Vanessa Scarola, Laura Clendenan '04, Jillian Kelsch '04, Carolyn Bulman '04, Lindsey MacDonald '04 and Lynsey Vokey '04

2004

This spring, **Tito Daodu** was the University of Manitoba's Distinguished Young Alumni Award recipient for her outstanding community service and health care improvements, both locally and abroad.

In an interview with the U of M Tito was asked, "What makes a good leader?" She replied that it's someone who is "willing to take in and adapt to the changes that are presented along the way, without giving up." That's exactly what Tito did while inching her way toward university from the inner-city neighbourhood she called home. She was successful because she had so many people in her corner, "I had a lot of people in my life who said I could achieve whatever I wanted." Tito followed her heart all the way to Nigeria where she joined the effort to curb the number of child deaths to pneumonia. Now a surgery resident, she'll head to Haiti to help in the aftermath of 2010's earthquake. Tito resides in Calgary working on her residency but ventures home as often as she can as she is still tightly connected and committed to the work supported by West Broadway Youth Outreach.



Tito Daodu

2005

Kaela Acheson and **Kelleigh Baty Bond** are leading the way for their ten year reunion. Plans are coming together for a Saturday evening dinner and drinks event on September 26. They would love to have your input to help make this event amazing, as so many classmates are coming in from out of town. Kaela can be reached at 204-297-5443 or kaela.acheson@gmail.com and Kelleigh at 204-999-1658 or kbatybond@gmail.com.

2006

Dr. Katie A. Cook received her B.Sc. and M.D. degrees from the University of Manitoba. Katie is in the 2nd year of her Residency Program, studying and practicing Psychiatry in Winnipeg.



Dr. Katie Cook

2007

Dr. Emilie J. Cook graduated from University of Manitoba this past May 2015, having obtained her B. Sc., and her D.M.D. Emilie is practicing Dentistry at The Redwood Dental Centre in Winnipeg.



Dr. Emilie Cook

2008

Stephanie George recently completed a BA (Hons.) and MA in English from the University of Manitoba. Her thesis focused on the representation of Indigenous people and immigrant populations in Western Canadian literature. She has spent the past year volunteering as the Communications and Logistics Director for the Envoi Poetry Festival which ran this past May at Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

2010

Natasha Beaudoin (Rossol) graduated from U of M with a Bachelor of Social Work in 2015 and is currently employed with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet as a Student Care Counsellor. She had a busy year, purchasing her first home and getting married to Chris Beaudoin (SPHS '09). She loves seeing SMA's Facebook and Instagram posts as she feels like it keeps her connected to the school.



Natasha Beaudoin and husband Chris Beaudoin

Heather Brown announces her engagement to her high school sweetheart Johann Kristjanson.

Jessica Malach announces her engagement to Riley Slater (SPHS '10).

Kendra Mahon graduated from the Faculty of Science at The University of Winnipeg in 2015. She is off to Optometry School in Chicago in August.

2010

Chelsea Caldwell finished her first year at Osgoode Hall at York University and is working for the summer of 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland as an intern with the United Nations. Chelsea says, "It is really a dream come true. I'll get to use both degrees (Human Rights & Law) in this internship. I found out in late November but honestly, getting the internship was as exciting as getting into law school. It's a dream I never thought I would achieve. I remember watching documentaries with Amnesty at lunch and after school, thinking "those people are so cool, I doubt I'll ever get to go where they are or do what they do" but here I am, and I'll get to work with some of them this summer. It's surreal and incredibly humbling. I'm so thankful. I'm very lucky that SMA encouraged such a passion of mine in social justice."



Chelsea Caldwell in Switzerland

In January, **Reanna Joseph** graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a degree in Theatre and Film with a focus on performance. Before graduation she ran her own dance company, Evolve, which gave artists from different genres the opportunity to develop work together. She produced two seasons with them before making the shift to musical theatre. Last year, she choreographed two Winnipeg studio theatre shows, "Godspell" and "Young Frankenstein". She also had the amazing opportunity to be a 'Shark Girl' in "West Side Story", her first major musical. She will be wrapping up the summer as apprentice choreographer for "Sister Act" at Rainbow Stage. She says she's livin' the dream!

The GRAPEVINE

2011

Tejal Kristjanson and Brady Friesen met on a mission trip in 2012 and were engaged in 2015. Tejal is in the Faculty of Education at The University of Winnipeg and has spent some time student teaching at SMA. Brady grew up in Saskatchewan and is working as an engineer in Winnipeg.



Brady Friesen and Tejal Kristjanson

Elysa Sandron recently transferred to the University of Calgary and is studying Biological Sciences while playing for the Varsity Rugby Team. This year she excelled in her first year as a Dino and was named CanWest Rookie of the year and rostered on the CanWest Allstar Team. She passes on her passion for rugby to youth by coaching a high school team in Calgary. Elysa has also helped start a new chapter of a volunteer program, Making Waves, that teaches disabled children how to swim. As a summer job she is teaching Medi-Camp at Mini University, where she is excited to work with kids, teaching them about healthy living and the human body. In her first year out of high school Elysa went on a volunteer exchange program in which she got the travel bug and hopes to be able to enjoy future cultural exchanges after she finishes at the University of Calgary.

2012

This summer **Alana Robert** was busy travelling to Ecuador on a service-learning trip and participating in the United Nations Summer Study Program at the UN Headquarters in New York. In 2014, Alana received the Manitoba Human Rights Commission's Sybil Shack Award in recognition of her impact on the advancement of rights and freedoms in Manitoba. She also received the 2014 Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award for Community Volunteerism. This fall, Alana is entering her final year of Political Studies and Economics at the U of M where she has been elected Women's Representative with the U of M Students' Union.



Alana Robert

2013

Emily Meadows continues to follow her performing arts passion as a second year student in the Bachelor's Degree Program of Music Theatre Performance at Sheridan College in Toronto. She has received Manitoba Theatre Centre's Jean Murray-Moray Sinclair Scholarship three years in a row and appeared in Grant MacEwan University's productions of "The Trojan Women" and "Nine" last year.



Emily Meadows

The GRAPEVINE

2014

Emily Anderson is attending the University of Winnipeg and has completed her first year in the Faculty of Economics and Finance. Her plans are to major in Accounting and to one day become an Intellectual Property lawyer. After finishing her final year of Italian language classes, she travelled to Italy over the past summer to practice the language and to see the beautiful country. She plans to spend the summer working, relaxing at her cabin in Ontario and volunteering at the River View Health Centre.



Emily Anderson

2014

Jeniece Charles and **Taylor Martin** are volunteering at The Welcome Home, a Mission of St. Alphonsus. They both share their time and talents with the Kids are Creative program on Tuesday nights. The experience has given them many opportunities to deepen their faith and meet new people.

2015

100 years after her great grandmother **Leticia Prefontaine** graduated in 1915, **Sydney Franzmann** proudly walked across the stage at Convocation in Alumnae Hall in June 2015.



Sydney Franzmann

expanding
the *vision*

As a permanent tribute to generous donors, a new "expanding the vision" donor wall will be unveiled on October 29, 2015. The donor wall will hang prominently in the Sheila Chipman Atrium, in recognition of the many individuals committed to the mission and vision of St. Mary's Academy.

Births

With joy St. Mary's Academy acknowledges the birth of children to alumnae.

Ryan DiNicola Tichon born April 25, 2014 to **Joanne DiNicola '91** and Glenn Tichon
Paige May Buechler born on June 3, 2014 to **Ashley (LaMonica '01)** and Chris Buechler
Clover Elizabeth Corbett born July 29, 2014 to **Lynsey Vokey '04** and Brendon Corbett
Norah Rose Willer was born on August 10, 2014 to **Mary-Alex Puchniak Willer '03** and Lance Willer
Valentina Isabel Almeida Papantonis born on September 9, 2014 to **Catherine Almeida Papantonis '01** and Peter Papantonis
Autumn Laurine Friesen born on November 7, 2014 to **Alysa (Beeston '02)** and Andrew Friesen.
Nathaniel Glen Steinsvik born December 14, 2014 to **Caitlin Holtmann Steinsvik '03** and Randy Steinsvik
Dalton Arthur McGregor born December 27, 2014 to **Macara (Markewich '03)** and Ryan McGregor
Gianna Vivian Borges born January 11, 2015 to **Daniella (Lorusso '03)** and Matthew Borges
Carter Lance Osmond born February 2, 2015 to **Kori (Wachniak '03)** and Tyler Osmond
Emily Rachel Matlashewski born March 9, 2015 to **Laura (Hunter '03)** and Bryce Matlashewski
Ella Rose Nolette was born March 12, 2015 to **Kelsey (Jasysyn '04)** and Gene Nolette
Audriana May de Korompay Flanagan born March 22, 2015 to **Alanna de Korompay '02** and Seth Flanagan
Violet Constanca Lidster born on March 22, 2015 born to **Connie (Magalhaes '01)** and Shawn Lidster
Tarryn Elise Booth born on May 11, 2015 to **Hilary (Morrice '98)** and Michael Booth
Grayson Shea Walstra born on May 27, 2015 to **Livi (Billson '02)** and Chris Walstra
Liam Charles Christopher Daoust born June 6, 2015 to **Diana Czarnecki '01** and Rob Daoust
Quin Gabriel Marquez David born June 27, 2015 to **Catherine (Marquez '01)** and Francis David
Cecily Elizabeth Baniias born August 24, 2015 to **Laura Davey '05** and Mike Baniias

In Memoriam

With sorrow St. Mary's Academy acknowledges the passing of alumnae and former teachers. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Una Johnstone (Gray '29)
Helen Margaret MacKenzie (Rollo '30)
Ruth Mary Elders (Varley '38)
Margaret Mace (O'Connor '40)
Thelma Elizabeth Campbell (Brown '41)
Hazel Conway '41
Olive Ann MacPhail (Pitts '41)
Patricia Cecilia Taylor (McGroarty '41)
Iona Dymont (Routley '42)
Elizabeth Fox '43

Elizabeth Jean McRae (Persichini '45)
Kathleen Grace Pachal (McAuley '45)
Barbara Ann Couture (Benson '49)
Rosalie Eliza Lavasseur (Dickenson '51)
Audrey Mary Kerr '53
Margaret Clancy (Moore '55)
Mary Eileen Doig '61
Dale Kathleen Klassen (Gall '65)
Margaret Eileen Witty (Mitchell '65)
Diana Halter (MacDonald '69)

Kathleen Maria Kirk (Knight '69)
Gloe Elizabeth Cormie '72
Shaune Elizabeth Sutherland '75
Kathleen MacKay '77
Michelle Masserey '81
Mary Ann Power '93
Maureen O'Sullivan
Marilyn Joan Still (Rivers)
Olga Kruk (teacher 1975 - 1999)
Patricia Martens (teacher 1973 - 1979)



l-r: Navpreet Brar, Myron Kruk, Lesia Krawchenko-Kruk

Olga Kruk Memorial Award

The Academy celebrates the life of longtime SMA teacher Olga Kruk, who passed away on October 9, 2014. The **Olga Kruk Memorial Award** was created by her husband, Myron Kruk, and family to honour her memory. Olga was a master teacher of English and an exemplary model of a kind, passionate and devoted Christian woman. She touched the lives of hundreds of students, urging them to think critically, read profusely and delight in the power of the written word. This award will be given annually to a Grade 12 ELA student, who is the most improved and passionate about the study of English Language Arts, particularly Canadian Literature.

Congratulations to Navpreet Brar, the 2015 recipient of the Olga Kruk Memorial Award.

From the Advancement Office



Georgine Gaudes (Van de Mosselaer '83)

Coming Home

It has been an exciting first year of activity in Advancement and Alumnae Affairs! I can only imagine the excitement that the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) must have felt 140 years ago when they arrived in Manitoba to take on the adventure and challenge of operating St. Mary's Academy. We can still feel the fire they sparked within these walls. As a graduate of the class of 1983 and former bursary recipient I am here to spread that fire and with this challenge in mind, I stumbled upon a quote from Mother Marie-Rose Durocher:

“Since we tread along the same way, let us lend a hand to one another to help surmount the difficulties that present themselves.”

“Since we tread along the same way, let us lend a hand to one another to help surmount the difficulties that present themselves.”

Thank you for lending a hand

Mother Marie-Rose challenged us to “lend a hand” and wow, our school community stepped up to the plate with contributions to our various bursary funds in the past year. Parents generously responded to our Annual Giving Campaign, alumnae and friends reached out by completing the donation envelope in our Torch Light magazine, the community attended a sold out *Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon* in May 2015, and you opened your hearts when we passed the basket at *Shrek* in November 2014.

Bursaries

Dale K. Klassen (Gall '65) Memorial Bursary

A number of families and friends honoured their loved ones with contributions to new named bursaries in the past year. The *Dale K. Klassen Memorial Bursary Fund* was established by Bill Klassen in March 2015, to provide bursary funding annually to deserving students. Dale passed away in January 2015 and the family graciously honoured her by creating this memorial bursary fund. She was a SMA graduate of 1965, completing 11 years of education at SMA. In addition, her two daughters, Elisabeth and Emily, were super sixers at SMA.

Maureen Crowley Memorial Bursary

The *Maureen Crowley Memorial Bursary Fund* was established in April 2015 by the family to honour Maureen, who passed away in 2008, to give young women a chance to have the unique experience the Academy provides: the advantage of a single-gender environment which encourages young women to excel, to explore personal talents and to exercise leadership. Maureen was a super sixer at SMA and came from a long line of family members who attended SMA before her, as well as a number of members who followed.

The SNJM as well as members of our

community, continue to fund the *Mother Marie-Rose Durocher Bursary Fund* and the *Sister Susan Wikeem Bursary Fund*. We are grateful for their support in helping to continue the ministry of education in the faith among our young women of today.

Receive your perpetual ovation on the Brava Wall

If you are an alumna, please consider receiving a perpetual ovation on the *Brava Wall* in the Sheila Chipman Atrium as a donor to the 1000 for \$1000 campaign, which helps fund the expansion of the Theatre Arts Wing. You may also wish to remember a loved one with a donation in her/his honour.

Looking Forward

What events can you look forward to in the year to come? We are excited to announce our new quarterly event entitled The *Burning Bright Speaker Series*, which debuts on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at SMA with **Susan Wikeem, SNJM** speaking on “50 years of Religious Life and Ministry – Reflections”.

Mark Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. on your calendar to join us for the second installment of the *Burning Bright Speaker Series* which will be a panel discussion, moderated by SMA teacher Mr. Michael Saj, on the topic “**Beyond the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: What can we do to Advance Reconciliation?**”

Cue the drumroll ... The first annual *An Evening at the Academy* will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at SMA. We invite you to join us at this unique fundraising dinner which will take you on a walk through history. Journey through the school with appetizers in the 1902 building, dinner in the 1963 wing and dessert in the 2013 expansion. Stay tuned for ticket information.

The *Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon*, which had sold out attendance in 2015, is moving to a larger venue at **The Gates on Roblin** and will be taking place on **April 30, 2016**. Get your tickets early!

We have much to look forward to and much to be thankful for. We wish you a brilliant fall and hope to see you at one of our many events, or at the school. Drop by the office to visit Amy Houston or me anytime – we would love to see you!



Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
Oct 6, 1811—Oct 6, 1849

Annual Giving

We are thankful to the many donors who support the Academy and its mission through SMA Foundation's Annual Giving program.

The following donors made gifts between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

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\$25,000+

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The 1000 for \$1000 Brava Wall is an opportunity for all alumnae to participate in SMA's "expanding the vision" campaign by contributing to the Theatre Arts wing. We are looking for alumnae like you, your mother, your grandmother or perhaps your daughter, to share in the vision of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Your name will join the distinguished list of donors for a perpetual ovation.

The Academy thanks the following alumnae who are being recognized for the 1000 for \$1000 appeal. Their names will be added to the already 175 alumna, who have generously donated, on the next installation on the Brava Wall in the Sheila Chipman Atrium.

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 Stephanie Knysh '17
 Christabel Leung '14
 Susie Logan (Macmillan '84)
 Dr Lindy Ledohowski '94
 Kathy Hearn McKinnon (Hearn '82)
 Irene Mestito-Dao (Mestito '89)
 Gillian Moore (Snidal '06)
 Kellie O'Rourke '76

Elisabeth Ostrop '85
 In Memory of Maryann Power from the Class of '93
 Elysa Sandron '11
 Judith Scott '60
 Estate of Jessie Sim '53
 Hope Suh (de Leon '87)
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor reports. If any errors or omissions have been made, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Advancement Office at 204-478-6030.

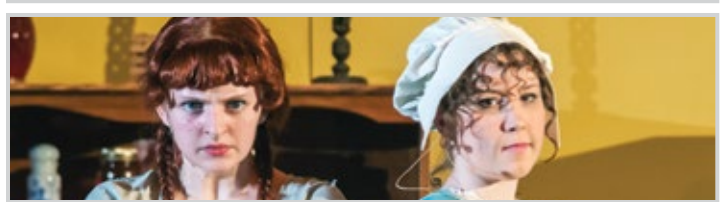
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Shrek, performed in 2014



Grease, performed in 2013



Anne of Green Gables, performed in 2012

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- One Year Pledge _____ \$83.33 per month for every \$1,000.00 gift
- Two Year Pledge _____ \$41.66 per month for every \$1,000.00 gift
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Names will appear in standard form of: first to last (maiden name) (year)



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**BURNING BRIGHT
SPEAKER SERIES**

Sharing the Fire Within

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk in another person's shoes?

How and why someone has achieved, learned or experienced unique and inspirational heights in his or her life?

Personally, professionally and spiritually, the SMA community is diverse and rich in experience.

The *Burning Bright Speaker Series* is an opportunity to gather and engage in a presentation by a member or members of our community. We hope by gathering and sharing stories, these events will enrich your life.

Join us to experience "The Fire Within" each of our speakers.

October 1, 2015 | November 19, 2015 | February 4, 2016 | April 14, 2016

5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium. Tickets: \$20 each by reservation from ggaudes@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030.

*St. Mary's Academy
proudly presents*



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Thursday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. | Friday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m. | Saturday, November 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15 each, available on October 20, 2015 from www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca

Coming Events

2015 Homecoming: Saturday, September 26, 2015

Commemorative Years Reception: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Sheila Chipman Atrium (enter through Alumnae Hall doors). For alumnae from the Classes of 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Tickets are \$20 at the door. To reserve seating, contact Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6031 by September 24th, 2015.

SMA Alive Open House: 2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Open to all alumnae, family and friends. Tea and dainties served. Free admission.

Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 3.45 p.m., Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom

Mass: 4:00 p.m., Holy Names Chapel

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium

Guest Speaker: Susan Wikeem, SNJM

Topic: 50 years of Religious Life and Ministry – Reflections

Tickets: \$20 by reservation at ggaudes@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030

International Day

Sunday, November 8, 2015. Mass at 10:30 a.m. | Pavilions open at 11:30 a.m.

Celebrate the diversity and culture of the SMA community while enjoying a variety of ethnic food, live entertainment, a bake sale, a rainbow auction and an art auction.

Vancouver Chapter of SMA Alumnae: 57th Annual Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, November 8, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Richmond Girl Guide House, 4780 Blundell Road, Richmond, BC. For information contact Darlene Burns at darlene_burns@telus.net.

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium

Panel Discussion with Michael Saj (SMA Teacher), Moderator.

Topic: Beyond the Truth & Reconciliation Commission: What can we do to advance Reconciliation?

Tickets: \$20 by reservation at ggaudes@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030

Annie – High School Drama Production

Thursday, November 26, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. | Friday, November 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. | Saturday November 28, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets available on October 20, 2015 from www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Sunday, December 6, 2015. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Names Chapel | Light lunch after Mass in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom

Donations of non-perishable food items, new hats, mitts and scarves, or monetary donations will be gratefully accepted and donated to Rossbrook House in celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Drinks Under the Dome

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The Grads of the Class of 2015 gather in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom to share a Christmas drink and snacks, pick up their yearbooks and take the opportunity to get their classmates' autographs. Please use the 550 Wellington Crescent entrance. RSVP to Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6031.

An Evening at the Academy

Saturday, January 30, 2016 | Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., Dinner and Live Auction at 7:00 p.m. | 550 Wellington Crescent

An Evening at the Academy is a progressive dining experience that will take you through time and space within SMA's historic walls.

Cocktails and appetizers in the 1902 facility, dinner in the 1963 wing and dessert and music in the 2013 Sheila Chipman Atrium.

More information & tickets available in October 2015.

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium

Tickets: \$20 by reservation from ggaudes@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030

Cocktails on the Crescent

Saturday April 9, 2016

All alumnae and friends are invited for a fun social evening. More information will be available late in 2015.

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium

Tickets: \$20 by reservation from ggaudes@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030

Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon

Saturday, April 30, 2016 | Reception at 10:30 a.m. | Brunch to follow at 11:00 a.m.

The Gates on Roblin, 6945 Roblin Blvd. Following a sold out event in 2015, the 2016 Marian Awards for Excellence will move to a larger venue at The Gates on Roblin. Tickets are \$75 each and will be available from www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca.



An Evening at the Academy

An Evening at the Academy
is a progressive dining experience that will take you
through time and space within St. Mary's Academy's historic walls.
Cocktails and appetizers in the 1902 facility
Dinner in the 1963 wing
Dessert and music in the 2013 Sheila Chipman Atrium

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent

Proceeds benefit St. Mary's Academy's bursary fund

Tickets: \$175 each

Black Tie Optional

For tickets call Georgine Gaudes at 204-478-6030