

TORCH LIGHT

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY
1869-2019



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF
LEARNING, FAITH, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

TORCH LIGHT

COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS

Torch Light

150th Commemorative Issue

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Photos, video, news stories and other resources regarding St. Mary's Academy's 150th year are found at smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday.

Pictured on front cover:

l-r: Ibukun Okunnu '20 (Head Girl), Speranza Albensi '20, Arabella Quezon '23 Alice Bird '25, Emilia Banmann '22, Arianna Quezon '23

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MRS. CONNIE YUNYK (SCERBO '77)

And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

When I embarked with a small group of staff members 24 months ago to envision a plan to celebrate our St. Mary's Academy (SMA) legacy of 150 years of learning, faith, service and leadership, the following words drove many of our decisions: simplicity, inclusivity, humility and joy!

I have been fortunate to have been educated by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), and I have worked and volunteered alongside

many of them over the past 22 years. Because of my experiences, I'm blessed to have a true and real sense of how they capture the essence of momentous occasions in a profoundly meaningful way. All of our 150th celebratory events, from the May 1st birthday party to the December 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass and High Tea, respect for our mission, charism and legacy was a constant focus of each celebration and event.

On behalf of the Academy, I extend deep gratitude to the founders, the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns", who in 1869 established Maison Ste. Marie on the west bank of the Red River (currently The Forks area). A few years later, in August 1874, at the request of Archbishop Taché four SNJM arrived by boat to the new city of Winnipeg to assume responsibility for SMA. From very humble beginnings, the Academy has nurtured and continues to nurture young women in spirit, mind and body and to challenge each student to reach her full

potential as an individual created in God's image. I also extend appreciation to all of the parents who entrusted their daughters' education and formation to St. Mary's Academy. To date, there are over 64,000* alumnae who have and continue to **Hold High The Torch** in their professional and personal lives and for the greater good of their communities. Much gratitude is also extended to lay faculty and staff, who over the years, have embraced the mission and charism personally and imbue the student experience with care and concern. Last but not least, I give thanks to the many men and women who have sat around the boardroom tables as stewards of our school, whether it be the School or Foundation Boards, Parents' Guild or Alumnae Association—their commitment to honoring and sustaining the Academy's legacy is truly remarkable and admirable.

Glory be to God for St. Mary's Academy—past, present and future!

**Correction: there are close to 20,000 alumnae.*

St. Mary's Academy Inc. Board of Directors

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IN 2019 ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CELEBRATED 150 YEARS AND REMAINS THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN THE PROVINCE.

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS



MR. JIM MCLANDRESS
CHAIR
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

150 years—not a lot of settler institutions in Manitoba can claim that kind of longevity.

The history we celebrate this year links us to a tradition of service and education as important today as it was in 1869 and as it will be in 2169. For 150 years St. Mary's Academy has been building leaders. Graduates are given the tools to shape their worlds and that's exactly what they do. They don't simply sit by and watch; whether in big ways or small, they're driven to act.

To produce the leaders of the future, particularly in a world where change is upon us, we can't forget where we've come from any more than we can ignore the world we live in today or the one we envision in the future.

The Academy's story goes back to the 1830's and '40's in Quebec when Mother Marie-Rose Durocher founded the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) as a teaching order in 1843. The history of the SNJM in Manitoba is incredibly rich. More importantly, the traditions and values the Sisters brought with them—the charism to use a more accurate term—infuse everything the School does to this day.

The legacy we've been gifted isn't just the 150 years of history we recognize this year but rather it's the living testament to the faith and hard work of all of those who've gone before us. It is, in a very real sense, a torch passed from hand to hand through the generations.

On behalf of the School Board of Directors, I honour the achievements of the past and look forward to the opportunity to do our part as stewards of the **Torch**.



MR. LARRY BIRD
CHAIR
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY FOUNDATION INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a community, we celebrate the significant 150 year anniversary of the Academy—with its long history of academic excellence in the education of young women, extensive campus ministry, religious education program and wide variety of extra-curricular activities. Remarkably, over 64,000* young women have graduated from the Academy—the oldest, continuously operating, independent school in Manitoba.

Established in 1989, the Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation in operation for the purpose of assisting the Academy to continue to serve as an independent Catholic school in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM). The Foundation's work includes the management of assets and the raising of funds for bursaries, designated school programs, ongoing capital repairs to the Academy's buildings and grounds and major capital projects.

Of special significance is the Foundation's bursary program which assists the school in carrying on the legacy of the SNJM to provide accessible Catholic education through tuition assistance to families that demonstrate financial need. In the current school year, \$375,000 in bursary assistance was provided to 85 students.

I extend profound gratitude to the SNJM for their faith, vision, courage and leadership in the development and operation of the Academy. Through their efforts and commitment, the Academy has been, and will continue to be, a preeminent educational institution for young women who go on to become leaders in the service of the community and of the church.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Academy on **Holding High The Torch** for 150 years.

**Correction: there are close to 20,000 young women who have graduated.*



**ST. MARY'S ACADEMY
150TH BIRTHDAY PRAYER**

GOD OF ALL GENERATIONS,

WE PRAISE AND THANK YOU FOR THE
COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.
ALL THAT WE HAVE AND ALL THAT WE ARE
HAS BEEN INSPIRED BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT
AND GUIDED BY MARY, OUR PATRONESS.

SINCE 1869, YOU HAVE BLESSED US WITH
PASSIONATE LEADERS AND VISIONARIES;
DEVOTED EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS;
LOYAL COMMUNITIES OF FAMILY, FAITH AND FRIENDS.

YOU CONTINUE TO CALL WOMEN TO "HOLD HIGH THE TORCH"
OF LEARNING, FAITH, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP,
WHILE REACHING THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL
AS CREATED IN YOUR IMAGE AND LIKENESS.

MAY WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION IN THE FAITH,
WITH SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED.

WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL BLESS US WITH A FUTURE THAT IS FULL OF HOPE,
ABUNDANT WITH POSSIBILITIES AND RICH IN DIVERSITY.

WE MAKE THIS PRAYER IN THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY.

AMEN.

Composed by members of the St. Mary's Academy Community

FOUNDATION AND LEGACY

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF MONTREAL (GREY NUNS)

On May 1, 1869, at the request of Bishop Joseph-Norbert Provencher, Sisters Ste Thérèse and Mary Jane McDougall, two Sisters of Charity of Montreal (Grey Nuns), opened Maison Ste Marie, the first Catholic school in the Red River settlement across the river from St. Boniface.

The school was located in the former home of the Drever family (Clova Cottage), purchased by Archbishop Taché. During 1870, a chapel was added to the building and Catholics in Winnipeg were able to attend mass, effectively marking the beginning of St. Mary's Church. Thirty-four students were enrolled in 1871-1872.



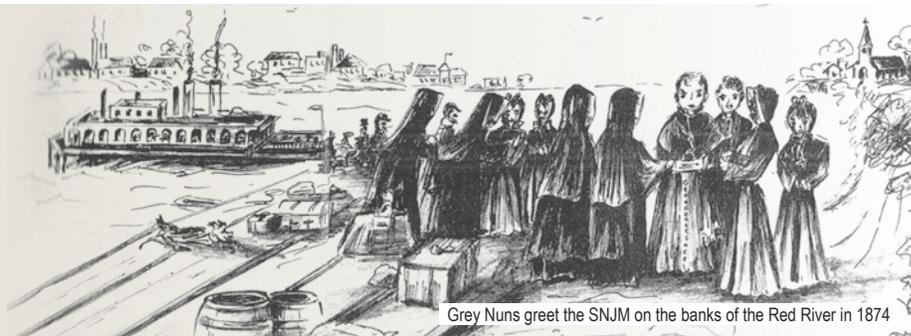
Sister Ste Thérèse



Sister Mary Jane McDougall



Maison Ste Marie



Grey Nuns greet the SNJM on the banks of the Red River in 1874



Sr. Jean-de-Dieu, Superior



Sr. Marie-Elie



Sr. Marie-Florentine

SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

The arrangement with the Grey Nuns was temporary, and by 1874, Archbishop Taché had recruited a Quebec-based teaching congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), to assume responsibility for the school. Sisters Jean-de-Dieu, Superior, Marie-Florentine, Electa-du-Sacré-Coeur and Marie-Elie, all between the ages of 19 and 27, arrived in the newly incorporated City of Winnipeg on August 22, 1874.

On September 1, 1874, the Sisters registered their first students at St. Mary's Academy – twelve girls and seven boys. In the weeks to come, enrollment increased to 126 students, and 50 of them were boys. The following year, when a school for boys was opened on Hargrave Street by the Christian Brothers, the Academy became an all-girls school. Elie Tasse, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Province of Manitoba, wrote in his 1874-75 inspection report, "the Sisters of the Holy Names and their predecessors have managed the institution in such a manner as to reflect great credit and honour on the school district." Three years later he reported that "the success of this school has been remarkable."

As the population of Winnipeg grew, the Academy's enrollment increased exponentially so that, by the turn of the century, the school had been expanded three times on its original site before being relocated to Crescentwood in 1903.

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

THE SEED GROWS



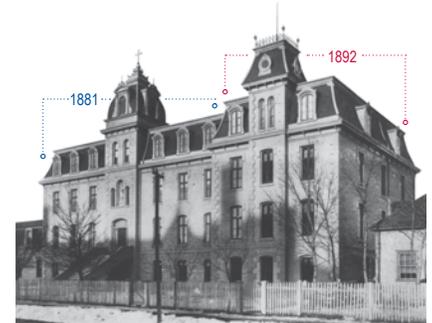
St. Mary's Academy in 1874 (right building), and new building called "The Annex" (left)

THE ANNEX - 1876

The student population grew so rapidly that by 1876 the foundation building, which housed the school and the Sisters, was already too small. Adjacent property was purchased and The Annex was constructed at a cost of \$3415. The Annex accommodated classrooms for 100 girls and dormitories for 31 boarders.

BRICK ACADEMY - 1881

By 1881 the number of students had risen to 226 and the number of boarders to 68. This continued growth necessitated the construction of a new, larger building, the Brick Academy, which was joined on its west side to the Annex. In time, this building too, became overcrowded and a new wing was added in 1892.



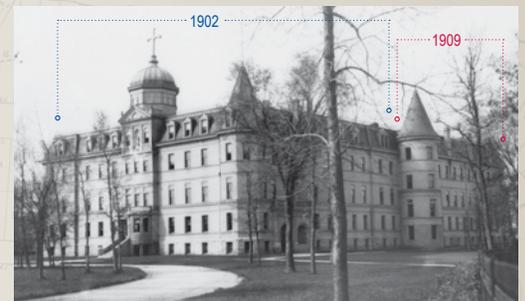
Brick Academy

WELLINGTON CRESCENT ACADEMY

As the population of Winnipeg grew to 40,000 in 1900, the Academy found itself in the industrial core of the city. In need of a quieter location, a fifteen-acre site was purchased in Crescentwood for a new Academy. The cornerstone was blessed by Archbishop Langevin on August 31, 1902.

ADDITION - 1909

With increasing enrollment, now at 355 students, an addition was necessary. A main attraction was the new music department with 22 individual studios.



Wellington Crescent Academy

FURTHER EXPANSIONS AND UPGRADES

1964: The Academy opened a large expansion. Inspired by the desire to enrich school programs, the expansion included a theatre, library, gymnasium, cafeteria and art studio.

1999: With the closing of the Sisters' residence in 1999 the school was poised to occupy the entire building. Three phases of a four-phase redevelopment project were completed over a 12-year period (2001-2013). These included a science wing, nutrition and textile studios, two new classrooms, library, visual arts studio, fitness room, multi-purpose room, uniform shop, theatre production wing, sacristy and atrium.



HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

FORMER TIMES

LANGUAGES

In the beginning instruction was given in both English and French. As anglophone students began to outnumber the francophones, English became the main working language. However, even after the French stream was phased out in the early 1900s, students were still able to study the French language.

ACADEMY BOYS

The school was coeducational until 1875 when the Christian Brothers opened a school for boys on Hargrave Street. Boys did not attend the Academy again until 1915, when by special request from the Archbishop, they were accepted into Grades 1 and 2. By the early 1950s overcrowding forced the Sisters once again to restrict enrollment to girls.



Class, 1952

FROM PUBLIC TO PRIVATE

Initially the Academy was considered a public school. With the passage of the Manitoba Schools Act in 1890 the denominational system of public education was abolished and a non-sectarian system established. The Academy became an independent school operating with revenue from music and art lessons, boarding fees and donations until the Sisters could no longer manage and instituted tuition fees in 1901. Partial provincial government funding was restored in 1990.

COMMERCIAL COURSE

The Academy started a Commercial Course in 1904, when many offices were opening in Winnipeg and there were few trained personnel available for the workforce. By mid-century the Commercial Course offered training in typing, shorthand, comptometer, bookkeeping, business practice and business English. Graduates were highly sought after by leading Winnipeg businesses. The Commercial Course closed in 1971 when the high school curriculum was revamped to place greater emphasis on preparation for post-secondary education.

BOARDING SCHOOL

In the early decades of the school, when urban population was sparse and transportation undeveloped, the Academy was a boarding school. For 90 years, boarders made a unique contribution to the character of the school and boarding school fees helped the school financially. By 1960 urban population growth, transportation advancements and school bussing meant there was no longer need for a boarding school. The boarding school closed in June 1960.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

The University Course was taught at the Academy beginning in 1908, but students had to register as an extra-mural to graduate from the University of Manitoba. In 1926 St. Mary's College became affiliated with the University of Manitoba, first through St. Boniface College, then in 1936 through St. Paul's College. At the time, St. Mary's College was the West's only Catholic institution where full college courses were offered to women. St. Mary's College closed in 1965 when St. Paul's College became co-educational.



Music teachers and students, 1896

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Music has been an important component of Academy life since the beginning. By 1910 the school boasted a music department with 22 private studios. The Music Department was an examination centre for both the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT Diploma) and the Western Board of Music. For a time, violin, viola, violoncello, pipe organ, vocal and orchestra were also offered at the Academy under the direction of the eminent musician John Waterhouse. The Academy's music students took part in annual recitals, the Winnipeg Music Festival and evenings of entertainment. The piano rooms were dismantled during the 1981 renovations to make room for more classrooms.

LEARNING AND LEADING

The Academy participates in the Church's mission of education which aims at the full development of the human person. Characteristically, the school's academic and religious studies programs and its variety of learning experiences enable students to develop their talents, social skills and leadership potential.

For most of its existence, the Academy has followed the program of studies approved for K-12 by Manitoba Education, placing emphasis on intellectually challenging core academic programs. Initially the Sisters also employed a distinctly SNJM approach by incorporating additional courses to complement the prescribed program such as instrumental and vocal music, drawing, behaviour, elocution, sewing and physical training. In time these courses became part of the public school curriculum.



Chemistry student, 1942

FOUNDATION YEARS

In the foundation years, there were only two classrooms, juniors (Grades 1 to 6) and seniors (Grades 7 to 10). The curriculum included religious instruction, spelling, reading, writing, object lessons, behaviour, grammar, composition, history, geography, arithmetic, drawing, vocal music, mythology, needlework, logic and natural philosophy. Despite being in existence for only a few years the school garnered praise from Superintendent Elie Tasse who reported in 1876: "Education in this so well-appreciated and largely patronized institution has reached a high degree." The school's reputation for providing high quality education would drive its growth in the years to come. By 1970 the Academy's high school program focused on preparation for post-secondary education. At the same time, the school placed more emphasis on involvement in clubs, activities, sports and enrichment opportunities which were designed to nurture spirit, mind and body. Student-led extra-curricular clubs and activities are now more than ever integral components of an Academy education.

ARTS

A 1930s brochure stated "lessons in Expression help to teach her self-control and assurance." Later public speaking activities would include diction classes, poetry and drama festivals and debate tournaments. The importance placed on composition, literature and journalism is evident in the number and variety of student publications including: The Monthly Gleaner, first published in March of 1894; The Angelos; The Academician; The Marian Torch, since October 1947; and The Spark.

"Nearly everyone at St. Mary's Academy took piano lessons," according to one student from the 1874 class. Through the years, many piano recitals, drama productions and Glee Club operettas were staged.

Visual arts including painting, drawing, pottery and art appreciation have been offered consistently in the curriculum, and for many years in private lessons.

ATHLETICS

The Academy has always placed importance on physical activity, athletics and sports. In the early days a Sister was responsible for calisthenics and by 1888 the Academy employed a physical training instructor. For decades, the Athletic Club was a prominent student organization, and was presided over for many years by Sr. Rita Maureen after whom the gym was named. Today, SMA proudly fields competitive teams in a variety of sports.



Glee Club Christmas Pageant, 1962



Basketball team, 1939

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

FAITH AND SERVICE

The Academy's young women are immersed in a community where God is part of everyday life and where emphasis is placed upon social responsibility and service, especially to the poor and disadvantaged. The school community is grounded in the belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God and worthy of respect and caring.

Since the foundation of the school, students have followed catechism or religious education classes. In addition, students have been given opportunities to deepen their faith life through participation in sacraments, rituals, prayer and reflection, service learning and charitable outreach.



First Communion

MARGARET STREET, BA 1928, RECALLS:

Through every day of our Academy life has run the golden thread of spiritual things, unifying all pursuits. Catechism lessons, quiet Retreat days, peaceful half-hours spent in chapel on First-Fridays - surely these have entered deep into the soul, furnishing strength for present and future. "Jesus et Marie, ma force et ma gloire."

CHAPEL AND CELEBRATIONS

The Academy has always had a chapel where mass has been celebrated regularly, and where there was benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in former times. The ornate chapel was renovated in 1969 after Vatican Council II. The chapel was named Holy Names Chapel in 2003 and was modernized again in 2014.

School masses have been celebrated in Alumnae Hall since 1964. Alumnae Hall is also the gathering place for school-wide prayer services such as Remembrance Day and retreats.

CHILDREN OF MARY

In 1879 the Academy established its first religious organization, a Sodality called the Children of Mary, which promoted devotion to Mary and offered her as a model for the Christian life and patroness for youth. The annual alumnae gathering on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and the Crowning of the Queen of May originated with the Children of Mary. The name Sodality ceased to be used in 1971 and was replaced by Christian Life Community.

ON A MISSION

The Canadian Catholic Students' Mission Crusade organized a Corpus Christi Day demonstration on the grounds of the Academy on May 21, 1932. This demonstration attracted nearly 2000 children from various Catholic schools and colleges. A choir was composed of 250 voices from the various Catholic schools.

The Mission Club has a long tradition of giving students an opportunity to help others and to support worthy causes such as the annual Christmas hamper drive. Everyone at the Academy belongs to the Mission Club.



Children of Mary in chapel, circa 1950



Corpus Christi Day Demonstration 1932



Mission Club putting together Christmas Hampers 1955

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

OUR COMMUNITY



International Day

OUR PARENTS

The first Home and School Association (HSA) was formed in January 1951. Activities included hosting an Open House, instituting the Powder Puff Prom and Miss Academy.

In 1971 the HSA was replaced by the Mothers' Guild which evolved into the Parents' Guild in 1992. The Guild provides hospitality, delivers services in the Tartan Shop and Corner Store, fosters a sense of community among parents and raises funds to enhance programs for students. The Guilds' biggest undertaking, International Day inaugurated November 9, 1975, is an annual event celebrating the diversity of families within the SMA community.

OUR ALUMNAE

Through the years, the Academy has graduated more than sixty thousand students.

The Alumnae Association was established on April 11, 1909. The stated purpose of the group was to *foster the spirit of good fellowship and cooperation, not only among themselves, but chiefly towards that splendid institution of learning proudly owned by them as their Alma Mater.* (See photo of founding members on back cover).

The present-day Alumnae Association is a community of women committed to preserving the heritage of the Academy. An active Alumnae Board and dedicated members organize events, raise funds for the school and promote the Academy to the broader community.

The Academy takes pride in its alumnae who Hold High the Torch, striving for excellence and service in their personal and professional lives. The annual Marian Awards were instituted in 2005 to recognize these exceptional women.



Two generations of alumnae, 1977 and 2006



Alumnae and Sisters, 1915



Alumna Rachel May McDonald returned for a visit



OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Since 1874 the Academy has been a school in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The Sisters served as administrators, teachers, housekeepers, cooks, infirmarians and laundresses. They also supervised boarders and taught private music and art lessons.

Administrators, faculty and staff are now mostly lay people who are committed to the Academy's vision and mission. Many are former SMA students themselves and several are SNJM Associates.

OUR BOARDS

The Academy was incorporated in Manitoba in December 1979 and is governed by a Board of Directors whose members may include parents, past parents, alumnae, friends of the Academy and Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

The St. Mary's Academy Foundation Inc. was established in July 1989 to support the Academy's mission by raising and stewarding financial resources. The Foundation Board of Directors collaborates with St. Mary's Academy Board of Directors to ensure the long-term sustainability of the school.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY 150TH BIRTHDAY

On May 1, 2019, St. Mary's Academy held a day-long birthday party for students and staff. Honoured guests included Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Grey Nuns, Board members and special friends of the Academy. The day began with Mass presided over by Archbishop Albert LeGatt of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. Concelebrants were Fr. Sam Argenziano, Fr. Eric Giddins, Fr. Michael Koryluk, Fr. Mark Tarrant and Fr. Gerry Ward. The ministry and music during Mass was a beautiful tribute to the grace of God and His work shaping the Academy's 150 years

of learning, faith, service and leadership. ValLimar Jansen shared her incredible voice and storytelling during Mass and in a keynote presentation late in the morning. Mid-morning the Royal Canadian Air Force conducted a flyby over our grounds—in commemoration of SMA's 150 years! A fun and delicious community lunch with pizza, chips and birthday cake was shared by all in attendance.

The afternoon was filled with more birthday fun such as history storytelling sessions with Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, SNJM, and games in the gym. Next was

a surprise concert in Alumnae Hall—a musical band of teachers and staff wowed all in attendance with songs like Shallow and Sweet Caroline. During the concert Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister stopped in. His Honour brought a bouquet of flowers and enjoyed part of the concert. The day was capped off with the Leadership Council Carnival which was enjoyed by current students and students who would join the Academy in September 2019.

Praise be to God for 150 Years!



EXCERPT FROM SMA'S 'GENESIS' STORY AS TOLD BY NINA HUTSULAK '20 AND ELLE WOOD '23 AT MASS

...Then in 2009, still there was a need for further expansion and we saw the construction of the Durocher Library, fine arts studio, fitness room, dramatic arts wing, Sheila Chipman Atrium and the Tartan shop. God saw all that was created after 150 years—and indeed, it was very good!



l-r: Nina Hutsulak '20, Elle Wood '23



IN THE NEWS

SMA's 150th birthday garnered much media coverage. The significant milestone was covered by CTV, CBC, CBC Radio-Canada, Winnipeg Free Press, Sou'wester and Insights (published by the Archdiocese of Winnipeg).

In addition to media coverage, on May 9 the Honourable Jon Gerrard brought forth a Member Statement in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly recognizing SMA's 150th. A contingent of students and staff were present in the

gallery to witness the statement.

Media coverage can be viewed on SMA's website at smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday/resources.



l-r: Ibukun Okunnu '20, Nina Hutsulak '20, Malisa Thoudsanikone '19, Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es '80), Michelle Klus

EXCERPT FROM AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS ON APRIL 29, 2019

Headed toward journalism school after graduation, Grade 12 student Malisa Thoudsanikone knows she has gained more than a solid footing for university from her six years at Winnipeg's oldest private Roman Catholic school.

"I was exposed to an education with beautiful and gifted and powerful women who really guided me to be a better individual and better student," explains the editor of St. Mary's Academy student newspaper, who aspires to run the New York Times.

- Photo courtesy of the Winnipeg Free Press

MARIAN AWARDS



FOR EXCELLENCE

Hold High The Torch

The St. Mary's Academy Marian Awards For Excellence recognizes distinguished alumnae and friends who embrace and exemplify the Academy's mission and vision in the community and the world.

2019 MARIAN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF MONTREAL, "GREY NUNS"

Recipients of the 2019 **Marian Awards for Excellence** are The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns." In the mid-1800's, at the request of Bishop Joseph-Norbert Provencher, The Sisters of Charity of Montreal (more commonly known as the 'Grey Nuns') came to the Red River Settlement from Montreal. Although the Grey Nuns were

predominantly a nursing congregation, they served as teachers for a number of years in the settlement that became the City of Winnipeg in 1873. On May 1, 1869, Sisters Ste Thérèse and Mary Jane McDougall, opened "Maison Ste Marie" (St. Mary's Academy). This was the first Catholic school to serve the English-speaking Catholics on the west side of

the Red River. The Grey Nuns operated Maison Ste Marie until 1874 when the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary assumed responsibility for the school. St. Mary's Academy proudly honoured the Grey Nuns for their faith, service and leadership establishing St. Mary's Academy.

The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns" with Kellie O'Rourke '76, Master of Ceremonies (far left) and Verna Sylvestre (Mann '56), Marian Award Presenter (third from right)





Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

15TH ANNUAL MARIAN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE BRUNCH

MAY 11, 2019 AT THE GATES ON ROBLIN



Back row, l-r: Venus Denis, Joanie Smalley
Ramona Thomson, Shawn Morrison, Melanie Jones
Front row, l-r: Anita Auriti
Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), Devon Ostir



l-r: Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), SMA President
Sr. Yvette Bouchard representing the Grey
Nuns, Verna Sylvestre (Mann '56), Marian Award
presenter



l-r: Olivia Fulton '21, Tea Karlowsky '24
Emma Callbeck '19, Jordyn Allison '24
Alyssa Puchniak '23



l-r: Lily Mikijanec, Mary Stapleton, Linda Dart
Deb May, Maria Martino, Sr. Cathy Lavolette



Betty-Anne Gaynor (Flynn '52), Nina Mikolajewski '76, Emily
Mikolajewski, Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, Joanne Brock (Holden '54)
Gail Burns (Doody '51), Noreen Sanders (Farrell '53), Marlene
Coughlin (Cantwell '53), Christine Butterill (Keegan '61)



l-r: Brigitte Sandron (Van Ginkel '77)
Sr. Marylyn Gibney, Sally Taylor-Alexander '77

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Class of 2019

CONVOCATION 2019

On June 26 the Class of 2019 convoked from the Academy. The Salutatory Address was given by Miss Amy Adamkowicz '19 and the Class Valedictorian was Miss Bethany Kolisniak '19. Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, SNJM, former Director, Principal and teacher at the Academy gave the address to the graduates. Sr. Susan opened her speech by saying, "Thank you for the invitation to speak to you on this important occasion. Today is significant for me as well. This is the last group of current students with whom I have a connection—super sixers were in Grade 7 during my last year at the school. When I have walked the halls the last five years they are the only ones who recognize me and greet me by name. Next year I will be a stranger to all! This is also the last group of parents with whom I have had a connection. The last ones that I trained in parking lot survival strategies. The years go by quickly."

Sr. Susan then reminisced about what an Adacemy education means; academics, religious studies and participation in religious services, service work, music, arts, athletics, clubs and activities all being part of a spirit, mind and body education.

Sr. Susan concluded her speech with, "This year you have been immersed in the 150th anniversary of the school and its history. We know the story of the Grey Nuns who, in 1869, stretched their scarce resources and with two days notice answered the Bishop's request to open a school in the frontier settlement of Fort Garry. Five years later four SNJM made the long 12-day trip across half a continent to the new city of Winnipeg to assume responsibility for the school. They were French Canadians who would be working in their second language. These women were willing to sacrifice and endure hardships because they believed deeply in their mission.

My hope for you is that you will discover your passion—what will get you up each morning? For what will you sacrifice? What will give meaning to your life?

These Sisters were young and inexperienced. The oldest was 27 and the youngest had just turned 19—still a teenager. Their story reminds me of the apostle Paul's advice to his young helper Timothy, and this is the last word of advice that I would like to leave you with,"



Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, SNJM

DO NOT LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG, BUT BE AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS IN YOUR SPEECH, YOUR CONDUCT, YOUR LOVE, FAITH AND PURITY.

TIMOTHY 4:12

150TH BIRTHDAY COMMUNITY PICNIC

The 150th Birthday Community Picnic took place on St. Mary's Academy's grounds on August 28, 2019. Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary were in attendance along with over 400 alumnae, students, parents, current and former faculty and staff and friends. Guests enjoyed a variety of food vendors, outdoor games, face painting, a historical display and entertainment by the Red River Folk Ensemble. This family friendly event was enjoyed by young and old alike.

The official launch of the **Legacy Rose Garden** took place at the picnic. The Garden, opening in the summer of 2020, is a tribute to the Academy's 150 year legacy and honours the contributions of the entire community. Find out how you can be part of this Legacy Garden at smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday/Legacy_Rose_Garden.



150TH Gala

HONOURING THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

On September 27, 2019, St. Mary's Academy hosted a 150th Birthday Gala in honour of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Twenty-five Manitoba SNJM and four out-of-Province SNJM were in attendance.

Over 700 guests from near and far were in attendance including parents, students, alumnae, current and former parents, staff and board members as well as many friends of SMA.

Masters of Ceremonies for the evening

were alumnae Lucy Beckta (Stepien '65) and Emily Meadows '13. O'Canada was sung by Giovanna Mazza '20, grace was said by SMA's Head Girl, Ibukun Okunnu '20 and SMA's Genesis story was told by Ainslee Tolentino '20 and Elle Wood '23.

Guests dined on a lovely meal prepared by the Victoria Inn as well as birthday cakes provided by Food Fare. Guests then enjoyed music and danced to the Big City All-Star Band.

A special presentation was made by the Parents' Guild to the SNJM. Ramona Thomson, Parents' Guild President, and Pattie Moore (Delabbio '69), former Parents' Guild President, unveiled a stained glass mosaic that is installed outside of SMA's Alumnae Hall doors. An inscription beside the mosaic states, "In gratitude to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and all SMA educators and staff for the 150 years dedicated to the education of our daughters in spirit, mind and body."





Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Back row, l-r: Johanna Jonker, Carmen Catellier, Carol Peloquin, Maria Ciccarelli, Edith Grenier, Jeannine Vermette, Pat Atkins, Louise Van Bellenghem, Corrine Chartier, Lesley Sacouman, Laura Gosselin, Alice Konefall, Leonne Dumesnil, Josephine Chudzik, Susan Wikeem, Rolande Joyal, Michelle Garlinski.
 Front row, l-r: Huguette Fleurant, Mary Gorman, Marina Rose Parisi, Lorraine St-Hilaire, Marguerite Mulaire, Yolande Marion, Cathy Laviolette, Yvonne Massicotte, Marylyn Gibney, Claudette Bastien, Kathleen Ross, Pauline Saurette

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HOMECOMING WEEKEND

COMMEMORATIVE YEARS BRUNCH

COME REMINISCE

MASS AT ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL

COMMEMORATIVE YEARS BRUNCH



Class of 1959



Class of 1969



Class of 1979



Class of 1984



Class of 1989



Class of 1994



Class of 1999



Class of 2009

HOMECOMING 2020

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Commemorative Years Brunch: 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM | SMA Cafeteria | \$30 per person

For the Classes of 2010, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955, and alumnae from the Class of 1960 and earlier.

Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 11:45 AM to 12:00 PM | Alumnae Hall

Mass: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM | Alumnae Hall

Afternoon Activities: 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM | Tour the school and enjoy tea in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom. Everyone welcome!

Details at smamb.ca/events/homecoming or contact Emma Sherren '11 at esherren@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

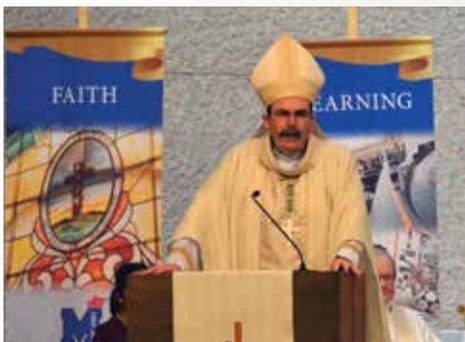
SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2019



Alumnae Association Board of Directors

150TH BIRTHDAY MASS

SMA's 150th Birthday Mass was celebrated on Sunday, September 29, 2019 at St. Boniface Cathedral-Basilica. Archbishop Albert LeGatt presided and concelebrants were Fr. Michael Koryluk and Fr. Albert Evrard SJ. The music ministry was led by SMA's 150th Community Choir, directed by Mary Morton (Evans '78).



COME AND SEE WEEK

OCTOBER 5 - 11, 2019

During Mother Marie-Rose Week, St. Mary's Academy hosted 19 students and 7 staff from our SNJM Network of Schools, including:

- Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa, FL
- Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, NY
- St. Mary's Academy in Portland, OR
- Holy Names Academy in Seattle, WA
- Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA
- Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra, CA

Joining the Network group was a team from SMA represented by

Mrs. Christine Dado (Aaron '00), Chloe Catalla '22, Ashlynn Lavoie '22 and Colleen McConnell '22.

The group had a week of activities and community building experiences including:

- Joining classes at SMA.
- Taking part in a prayer service for the Feast of Blessed Marie-Rose.
- Attending the SNJM and Associates renewal commitment ceremony.
- Cooking dinner in SMA's Foods and Nutrition Studio.
- Meeting and socializing with alumnae during a "Meet and Treat" evening.
- Excursions to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Assiniboine Park Zoo,

Manitoba Legislative Building (Hermetic Code Tour), Exchange District and the Centennial Concert Hall.

- Taking in a Flames High School Hockey Team game.
- Thanksgiving Dinner with host families and SMA staff.

During the closing prayer ritual students were challenged to continue to cast fire upon the earth in their respective schools.

While in Winnipeg, guests stayed with host families (families of students and staff). All of these new friends are keeping in touch on social media.

REFLECTION FROM A STUDENT PARTICIPANT

"I loved having the opportunity to meet new people! Everyone was so friendly and I feel like I made some truly amazing friends. This was my first time connecting with other SNJM sisters and it was nice to see all of us come together and get to know one another. I also enjoyed being able to see the beautiful city of Winnipeg."



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS HIGH TEA

On December 8, 2019, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's Academy closed its 150th anniversary year with Mass and High Tea. Mass was celebrated in Alumnae Hall with Archbishop Albert LeGatt from the Archdiocese of St. Boniface presiding and Fr. Richard Arsenault, Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch SJ, Fr. Mark Tarrant and Fr. Eric Zadgi from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg concelebrating. Mass was a poignant tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as a celebration of St. Mary's Academy's 150 year legacy. A special moment took place at the conclusion of Mass when Sr. Lorraine St-Hilaire, SNJM, and Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, SNJM, presented Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), SMA President, with an Apostolic Blessing from the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Following Mass, guests enjoyed high tea and dainties. Tea was served in cups and saucers that were generously donated by members of the community.



APOSTOLIC BLESSING

The Holy Father Pope Francis graciously bestows the Apostolic Blessing upon Teachers, Students and Staff of St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as they celebrate on May 1, 2019 their 150th Anniversary of founding. The Holy Father prays that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Academy may be a place of encounter with the person and message of Jesus Christ and thereby assist the young women who pass through its doors to go forward and make a most valuable contribution to the life of the Church and the wellbeing of society, especially the least.



SENTIMENTS FROM ALUMNAE

Rita Mae Race (Holden '57, College '61)

I've been involved with St. Mary's Academy for so long, forming life-long friendships here, as a student in high school and college, teacher and parent. As a student I thrived in the challenging, all-girls environment where my values were affirmed and we were expected to do our best. Sister Judith Ann was remarkable to me, so much so we named our daughter after her. Her influence at SMA College was phenomenal. I had the added gift of teaching at my alma mater for sixteen years. Though times had changed, the experience was still so positive and life giving. I continue to enjoy the company of my former SMA colleagues at regular coffee visits.

Valerie Duma '65

SMA has been an important part of my life for almost 60 years. I belong to the Vancouver SMA Alumnae Chapter where we faithfully gather to share memories of our time at SMA. There is a common thread that connects women of all ages with the values instilled in them during their time at SMA: friendships, traditions, stories about our teachers, call to service and the wonderful education we received. I am proud to be part of the diverse community that is St. Mary's Academy. Once an SMA girl, always an SMA girl!

Kim Prost '76

I look back at my time at SMA and think how fortunate I was to have spent five years there. I benefitted from the fine educational standards of the school in its curriculum, education philosophy and dedicated teachers. I was not just instructed in subjects but in the very art of learning. Some of the most important tools I would use later in my studies were introduced at St. Mary's—study habits, patience, curiosity and a quest for knowledge. At university, I relied heavily on these principles and I believe they assisted me to succeed. But St. Mary's was much more than what I learnt in the classroom. I am grateful for many other attributes of the school which surrounded that core education. In the way we were taught, the expectations, our interactions and treatment of others, and extra-curricular programs, we were exposed to the fundamental values of faith, humanity and the importance of service. These have remained with me in my personal and professional life. St. Mary's is where I found my voice and the confidence to use it. I was empowered as a woman and have carried that confidence throughout a long and varied career. Most importantly St. Mary's gave me the gift of friendships—strong, enduring, supportive friendships that I have had to date and will have for the rest of my life. I would be lost without my SMA friends!

Irene Mestito-Dao '89

What I love about St. Mary's Academy is the instant connection that appears when meeting a fellow alumna. Only an SMA sister would know what went on behind our walls: exam time, uniform checks, colour days, school assemblies and everything in between until that final day that we wore our white caps and gowns and walked across the stage for the last time. SMA encouraged me to be independent and confident, and now I see those qualities in my daughters. I have enjoyed watching them grow from shy grade seven students to independent young ladies. They are creating lasting friendships just like I did and hope they will treasure these SMA friends as I do thirty years later!

Leisha Strachan '92

The people I met during my time at SMA encouraged me to learn about myself and were instrumental in my growth by showing love, patience and compassion. The interweaving of faith within the school context allowed me to grow in faith with more confidence, and I was always reminded that I was a strong woman. The example displayed by the Sisters was powerful; they showed me firsthand that I could indeed be who I was created to be and that I should use the gifts given to me by God to be an example to others. This is a value that I still hold in my heart. I continue to be a proud alumna and am so thankful for the education that I received from SMA.

SENTIMENTS FROM ALUMNAE

Katherine Pulak '12

SMA made me feel like a woman can do anything. So many of my classmates have gone on to do whatever they've put their mind to. It's not just about what you do, but about who you are. Regardless of your story, whatever you were involved in, big or small, you still are a part of this community. We have all built something incredibly significant with all of our 150 years of stories, accomplishments and moments at this school. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of this legacy.



Susanne Parent '81

SMA creates an environment for young women to learn how to excel and have confidence in themselves no matter where their talents or interests will take them. The Sisters of the Holy Names and the lay women who lead Mother Marie-Rose's mission today build on a remarkable history and continue to demonstrate leadership within the school and in the community at large. Their contributions for generations have been transformative and are an inspiration. I feel blessed to be part of a community that values friendship, giving back to the community, commitment to social justice and servant leadership.



Janine Stephens (Hanson '01)

I have always loved being able to call St. Mary's Academy my home. Being an SMA girl came with a great sense of responsibility and expectation. These high expectations and the skills I developed at the Academy prepared me for University and managing my time to train on the rowing team. I am prepared for whatever comes my way because of the solid foundation SMA gave me. Thank you SMA!



Alicia Ogoms '12

My time at St. Mary's was instrumental in my development as a strong, confident woman who is ready and willing to take on life's challenges without hesitation. Thanks to the community of young women who grew up along with me, I became comfortable and confident in my abilities both in the classroom and in the sports arena. I truly believed I could accomplish anything that was important to me with focus, a plan and determination. Although my athletic career has taken me to different parts of the world, I have kept in touch with a special group of friends from my days at SMA and I continue to feel their support.



Danielle Krzyszczyk '14

As an alumna, it is apparent how special each moment was at SMA and why collaboration, discipline and respect were reinforced every day. Transitioning from St. Mary's to college and then into the workforce has been exciting for me. That is not to say that everything has been easy, but rather it was the strength and knowledge of imperfections, faith, leadership and personal integrity that St. Mary's imprinted on me that allowed me to attack each new experience and failure with confidence. I knew how to hold myself to a high standard and how to handle the pressure thanks to SMA. St. Mary's graduates are able to make a difference because we are taught to be leaders and to pursue our own passions.



GRAPEVINE

1936



Marian Greenway (Taylor) passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 24th, 2019, at the age of 97. Marian was able to visit the Academy in the fall of 2016 for her 80th reunion, and also attended Vancouver Chapter Alumnae reunions in 2016 and 2017.

1948

The **Class of 1948** celebrated their **70th reunion** in the fall of 2018.



Violet Knight (Blain) travelled from England to Winnipeg in the fall of 2018 to attend her 70 year reunion. She often travels back to Winnipeg, and likes to visit SMA when she does.

1955



The class of 1955 gathered together for lunch at the Captain's Table in May of 2019.

1956



I-r: SMA President Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77),
Verna Sylvestre

Verna Sylvestre (Mann) has been a notable member of the nursing community for over 40 years. Her career is decorated with awards and accolades, including receiving the Order of the Buffalo Hunt. This past year, Verna proudly presented the Grey Nuns with a Marian Award for Excellence. Verna worked closely with the Grey Nuns throughout her career.

1958



The **Class of 1958** celebrated their **60th reunion** in the fall of 2018.

1967



In May 2019 **Bernadette Gabriel (Zahorodna)** staged a concert at her church, Holy Ghost, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bernadette had been dreaming of putting on this show since she was a young girl and finally got the opportunity. Joined by The Sokol Polish Folk Ensemble, which she is a member of, she put on her show to a full house. In addition to being a member of this choir, she's also been the Decorator at Holy Ghost Church for the last 25 years.

1968

The **Class of 1968** celebrated their **50th reunion** in the fall of 2018.

1971

Ann Sutton recently retired and is living in North Vancouver. Before her retirement, she and her husband ran a backcountry ski and hiking lodge in Golden, B.C. for 30 years. Now, they are enjoying spending plenty of time outdoors kayaking, hiking and even skiing.

1977

Dr. Nichole Riese received the Gary Beazley Patients Medical Home Award for Outstanding Service in the Area of Addictions. Dr. Riese has worked in a variety of settings providing care to patients struggling with addiction and mental health issues over the past 10 years. Her current clinical practice with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba includes the Women's Rehabilitation Program as well as the Methadone clinic.

1978



Great turn out for the **Class of 1978's 40th reunion** in the fall of 2018.

1979



l-r: Fiona Vowell '16, with mother Kate Kiernan

Kate Kiernan is a family therapist and author of the book, *Big Feelings Come and Go*. The storybook teaches kids about freeze, flight and fight, as well as some basic self-regulation skills. Kate and her colleague Billy Brodovsky, in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, launched the book in November of 2018, selling out all 15,000 copies within the first few weeks.

Bridget Kimak has been designing for theatre and opera for the last 40 years. Recently, Bridget worked on the National Theatre of Iceland's production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* for the Icelandic Opera.

1980

Caroline Hunter was inducted into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame along with the rest of her teammates in 2019. Although Caroline is no longer active in the curling community, she was excited to reconnect with former teammates and members of the community.

1983

In June of 2019, **Amanda Sansregret** was appointed as Queen's Counsel for her outstanding contribution to the practice of law. For the last 27 years, Amanda has practiced as a criminal defence attorney, appearing before the Manitoba Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

1986



Clare MacKay (Duffy) is the Vice-President of Corporate and Community Initiatives for The Forks. She was featured in the *Winnipeg Free Press* in 2019 to discuss The Forks' zero waste initiative to switch to reusable plates, cutlery and cups.

1988



The **Class of 1988** celebrated their **30th reunion** in the fall of 2018.



Tara Torchia-Wells has overcome many challenges in the last few years. In 2015, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and went through multiple rounds of radiation and chemotherapy. Once she defeated the cancer, she realized she wanted to do something to help those who go through a similar experience. Tara opened *The Unexpected Gift*, a retail store that sells specialty products for individuals going through cancer treatment, including a wig and prosthetic fitter, safe non-toxic skin care, surgical wear and more.

1989



l-r: Heidi Reimer-Epp, Lisa-Marie Buccini '97, Giovanna Minenna '08

Heidi Reimer-Epp is the CEO and co-founder of *Botanical PaperWorks*, an award winning Winnipeg business that produces eco-friendly seed paper products. Heidi is also the co-author of three books and is part of three generations of St. Mary's Academy women starting with her mom Mary Reimer '67 and now daughter Ella '20. In November 2018 Heidi, along with Lisa-Marie Buccini and Giovanna Minenna, served as panelists at SMA's 2nd annual alumnae networking event, *Celebrating Alumnae in Business*. Heidi, Lisa-Marie and Giovanna shared insights into their careers, business strategies and work/life balance (see 1997 and 2008 for more about Lisa-Marie and Giovanna).

GRAPEVINE

1991

Parusia Purohit, a clinic owner and nurse practitioner, hosted a Celebration of Women's Literacy event in February of 2019. She was inspired by her grandmother's drive to foster education to create an event to celebrate the importance of women and literacy. Fellow alumna Mia Sally Correia '84 was one of the speakers at the event.

1993



The **Class of 1993** celebrated their **25th reunion** in the fall of 2018.

1995

In 2019, **Kathleen Moore** was cast in the Australian company tour of the hit musical, *Come from Away*. The musical is based on a true story of the September 11, 2001 attack in New York City when planes were diverted to Newfoundland.

1997

Lisa-Marie Buccini works as the Manager of Marketing Partnerships and Sales at the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport. She is an expert in the strategic development of comprehensive marketing strategies for the private sector, and has a passion for active living, family and giving back to the community.

1998



The **Class of 1998** celebrated their **20th reunion** in the fall of 2018.

1999



Michelle O'Brien (Czarnecki) is a medical fitness professional with over 17 years' experience specializing in cardiac rehabilitation and chronic disease management. In addition, she is an accredited and practicing Kinesiologist, Certified Personal Trainer, Fitness Nutrition Coach and Owner of O'Brien Fitness. Michelle can be seen regularly featured on CTV's Morning Show, Living Well. In the summer of 2019 she released her second recipe e-book, *The Undomestic Chef*.

In the spring of 2019, **Heather Kissick** graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a BA in Conflict Resolution with a minor in Sociology. Heather's degree specialized in sexuality and racism, and she is now working with a local not-for-profit.

2001



Dr. Renee Phipps is an optometrist and entrepreneur who owns three Prairie Eye Care locations with her husband. She's also an author, eyewear designer and mother of three. In the fall of 2019 Renee published a book, *Harry the Bear and the Perfect Pair*, aimed to teach children about glasses and eye exams.

2002

Brittany Barkwell lives in Toronto with her husband and 2-year-old daughter. For the last decade, Brittany has worked extensively in the fashion industry, including Club Monaco's HQ in New York and as the Head of Editorial for Holt Renfrew in Toronto. Recently, she launched her own business, Trouvaille, a bespoke shopping site that offers styling services that help on-the-go women discover and define their personal style.

2003



Tina Cable (Abbi) is the owner and sole proprietor of Myuz Artistry and Esthetics. Tina's business has grown significantly since its birth in 2014, which started in the spare bedroom of her parents' home to now being located in her own private space in River Heights. Tina specializes in facials and creating individualized skin care regimens for her clients.

2004

Dr. Tito Daodu finished her training in General Surgery in 2018, and is currently completing her fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. She was accepted and received a scholarship to attend Harvard University for a Masters of Public Health that started during the summer of 2019. Tito also completed a graduate certificate in Global Surgery through the University of British Columbia and is moving forward with some projects in Nigeria.

2005



Jessica Salgueiro has appeared on multiple shows including *Workin' Moms*, *Letterkenny* and *Mary Kills People*. Jessica was named the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival Rising Star, had multiple feature films come out in 2019 and is now on two new Amazon series, *The Boys* and *The Expanse*.

Christine Medrano's short film, *I Think She Likes You*, premiered at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. Christine co-wrote the screenplay and is the Executive Producer of the short film.

2007



l-r: Marcella Rizzuto '10 & Francesca Rizzuto '07

Sisters **Francesca Rizzuto '07** and **Marcella Rizzuto '10** opened a luxury hair and lifestyle shop, *Lineage House*, in early 2019. In the summer of **2019** *Lineage House* welcomed alumna, **Dr. Annie Coughlin '07** to join their staff to offer naturopathic services.

2008



The **Class of 2008** celebrated their **10th reunion** in the fall of 2018. Their class had one of the best turnouts the Academy has seen for a 10-year reunion, with over 40 attendees at the Homecoming reunion brunch.

Giovanna Minenna is the founder of *Brows by G* and *Browluxe*. In 2019, Giovanna and her husband were featured on season 13 of *Dragons Den*, and were made an offer by *Dragon Arlene Dickinson*. Although they did not go through with the offer, Giovanna went through *Arlene's* accelerator program with *district ventures*. Giovanna plans to continue to grow her business by further developing the company training and product line, as well coaching, mentoring and assisting other businesses in growing their companies with her personal brand *Giovanna Minenna Co.*



Dr. Annie Coughlin

2009

Stephanie Adamov has been involved with the *Rainbow Resource Centre's* annual Gala since 2011 as the *Operations Coordinator*. In 2019 she served her first term on the *Board of Directors* for the Centre and was given the opportunity to *Co-Chair* the event which raised over \$120,000 for the Centre's operations and programming. During the summer, Stephanie can be seen stage managing or directing numerous *Winnipeg Fringe* productions.

Katie Dubiensi works as a *Partnership Development Manager* at *United Way Winnipeg*. She manages the development and promotion of *United Way's* Annual Workplace Fundraising Campaign within two workplace divisions. In addition, Katie provides support to the *Major Donor Women's Initiative*, which works with a group of dedicated donors and volunteers looking to give back to their community. Collectively, *United Way Winnipeg* raised 21.3 million dollars in 2018.

Juliet Daet recently completed her articles, and was called to the *Ontario Bar* in June of 2019. She will be launching her legal career in *Ottawa* with *OLLIP Intellectual Property and Technology Law*.

2010



l-r: Jessica and Meghan Slater

Meghan Slater (Reid) and Jessica Slater (Malach) were recently highlighted on the cover of *MBiz Magazine* which featured their family owned business, *K9 Storm*. *K9 Storm* manufactures and sells custom-fit tactical body armor and gear for working dogs.

2011



In May of 2019 **Dr. Kendra Mahon** graduated with honours from the Illinois College of Optometry. She received specialized training in glaucoma care and corneal refraction surgery through an internship at Vance Thompson Vision in Sioux Falls, SD. Kendra is now living in Winnipeg working as an optometrist at Aqua i Laser.

Kaitlyn Kriss has been avidly involved with leading Pride Winnipeg stage management since 2012. She enjoys being able to produce a show that reflects many groups within Manitoba and serves the LGBT2SQ+ community. Kaitlyn works as a teacher during the school year, and also works for Winnipeg Folk Fest as the Daytime Stages Coordinator.

2012



l-r: Alana with Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada

In 2018 **Alana Robert** received the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case for her work to combat gender-based violence. Alana graduated with her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School, where she won the Price Media Law Moot in New York and ranked 3rd at the international round at Oxford University. She began articling at McCarthy Tétrault in Toronto in the fall of 2019.

2013



Casey Dame graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Social Work in June of 2019. She's worked with Main Street Project

the last couple of years, and recently started working at St. Boniface Hospital. She plans to further her education in addictions, mental health and community development.

2014



Midori Matthew graduated from the University of Waterloo with a BSc in Health Studies and a Minor in Law. In the fall of 2019, she began working

on her Master's degree in Socio-Legal Studies at York University in Toronto.

2015



Meike Meilleur graduated from Pennsylvania State University in August of 2019 with a 4-year Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation and Human Services.

Throughout all four years at Penn State, she played NCAA Division 1 hockey. During the summer of 2019, Meike completed her degree by interning at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital's Child Life Program.

2017



Mackenzie Kolton is the Get REAL Movement Manitoba Program Coordinator. Get REAL is a national non-

profit organization that's dedicated to creating safe spaces for LGBT2SQ+ youth across Canada. Mackenzie is also an actor, and in November of 2019 she was part of Royal MTC's production of Fun Home.

2018



Sarah Watson attends the University of Akron in Ohio where she swims on the Varsity Swimming and Diving team and is studying Civil Engineering. During her first year at University, Sarah won seven events at their conference meet and was the school's second all-time swimmer to score All-American honours at the NCAA Championships. During the summer of 2019, she represented Canada and her University at the World University Games in Naples, Italy and brought home a bronze medal.

2019



Congratulations to the **Class of 2019** on completing their education at SMA and becoming alumnae! We look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Career and Mentorship Program

Share your career experience with students

The aim of the **Career and Mentorship Program** is for alumnae to share their time and experience with students by participating in mentorship and networking opportunities. Alumnae share their insight and experience regarding their post-secondary journey and their career, giving our students the opportunity to ask questions and benefit from their advice and knowledge. Alumnae and friends interested in participating in future events are asked to contact Emma Sherren '11, Alumnae Relations and Special Events Coordinator, at esherren@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030.

BIRTHS

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

Babies born between August 1, 2018 and October 31, 2019

Aurora born June 21, 2018 to **Krista (Ledohowski '06)** and Matt Boychuk
Caleb born August 2, 2018 to **Angela Timmermann (Fernando '06)** and Nathan Timmermann
Avery Marie born September 8, 2018 to **Alana (Duffy '01)** and Dave Staerk
Logan Llywelyn born September 18, 2018 to **Katie Cibinel '01** and Andrew Hunt
Matteo Vance born September 10, 2018 to **Kristin Macaraeg '93** and Jason Donen
Oliver Brayden born September 20, 2018 to **Jill Coubrough '06** and Shea Robinson
Naevi Joelle born September 29, 2018 to **Jessie Augustus '13**
Aspen Louise born October 7, 2018 to **Lindsey (MacDonald '04)** and Andrew Parkes
Sienna Lana born October 27, 2018 to **Samantha (Pierce '07)** and Jordan Harvey
Amelia Susie born November 15, 2018 to **Carolyn Bulman '04** and Nick Gilbert
Remi born December 22, 2018 to **Jessica (Armstrong '10)** and Jordon Foley
Troy Christian born December 27, 2018 to **Andrea (Smith '06)** and Daniel Wessels
Aevan born January 25, 2019 to **Janelle Nadeau '04** and Toby Hodgson
Evie Slater born on October 8, 2018 to **Melanie Athayde '03** and Kelly Olson
Dana Riel born December 8, 2018 to **Desmond Ballance '97** and Chris Bileski
June Elly Lynn born January 1, 2019 to **Jenna (Tymchak '95)** and JD Edwards
Miles born January 4, 2019 to **Melodie (Tomas '03)** and Brian Ho
Roman born January 2, 2019 to **Joanna (Krzyzelewski '05)** and Robert Langtry
Sullivan Hayes born January 12, 2019 to **Christina (Caligiuri '03)** and Mark Stuart
Nash Hunter born January 18, 2019 to **Jillian (Kelsh '04)** and Sean Robertson
Taylor Lily born January 19, 2019 to **Alex (Maitland '05)** and James Marquis
Rashida born February 7 to **Rachael McLaren '03** and Brian Chipman
Archer Andrew born February 8, 2019 to **Alysa (Beeston '02)** and Andrew Friesen
Anders Michael and Bowen "Bo" William born March 7, 2019 to **Sheana (Pylypovich '02)** and Drew Kennedy
Hugh Livingstone born March 12, 2019 to **Mackenzie (Carlson '08)** and Luke Dempsey

Cooper Allan born March 26, 2019 to **Nicole (Loewen '04)** and John Klassen
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St. Charles School
St. Ignatius Parish
St. Paul's College
St. Paul's High School
Ron & Bev Struch
SWOB Group Benefits Inc
Verna Sylvestre (Mann '56)
The Gates on Roblin
Todd & Ramona Thomson
Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP
Top Marks
Tri-Star Technical Ltd.
True North Floors
Connie Van Rosmalen '94
Robert Vandewater
James Vis & Meghan O'Laughlin
Nina Vrsnik '89
W.R. Van Wallegghem & Family
Jo-Anne Wade (Sergeant '69)
Wellington-Altus Private Wealth
Winnipeg Free Press
Paul & Margaret Wright
Lionel Zelicz
Zeid Family



“WITH WHAT GIFT SHALL I COME
INTO THE LORD’S PRESENCE AND
BOW DOWN BEFORE GOD ON HIGH?”
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 HUMBLLY
WITH YOUR GOD.

- MICAH 6:6,8





Founding members of the Alumnae Association in 1909



Sr. Celine-de-Jésus with ARCT music students, circa 1959



l-r: Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), SMA President; Meagan Boles (Henke '96), SMA Foundation Board Member; Delaney Vun '03, SMA Foundation Board Member; Deanne Magnus '01, SMA School Board Vice Chair; Michelle Sattel (Moore '95), SMA Alumnae Association President

ALUMNAE ARE TREASURED MEMBERS OF THE ST. MARY'S ACADEMY COMMUNITY.
 AN ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED IN 1909 WITH THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THE
 HERITAGE OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY THROUGH CELEBRATING AND ENABLING LIFE-LONG CONNECTIONS.