



Torch Light

Magazine for Alumnae and Friends of St. Mary's Academy *Fall 2016*

*An Evening at the Academy shines bright
in support of SMA's Bursary Fund*



Torch Light

Published annually by
St. Mary's Academy

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Torch Light

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Editor's Note



Gina Borkofski

St. Mary's Academy's Torch Light magazine is our annual publication for alumnae and friends of the Academy. Within these pages you will read about the many events and activities that welcomed alumnae, students, parents and friends during the 2015-16 school year. We share with you the importance of our Bursary Fund and how your support changes lives. We also give you updates on the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary as well as Gonzaga Middle School, and provide you with a snapshot of present-day school life. In our Grapevine section you'll hear about what some of your classmates and friends are doing now. I hope that as you read the news and view the

photos within these pages, fond memories are recalled, and that you are inspired to continue to Hold High The Torch.

Should you have comments about this magazine, or ideas for what you would like to see in future publications, please reach out to me at gborkofski@smamb.ca.

God Bless.

President's Message

A heartfelt hello from the Academy!

In last year's Torch Light, I mentioned that the SMA School Board had embarked on the path of defining a new strategic plan: a roadmap that would guide and shape our decisions in fulfilling the mission of educating young women. I am pleased to report that the Strategic Planning Committee, comprised of members from both boards and with the professional guidance of Children and Youth Solutions (CYS), presented a report outlining the major Strategic Planning components of Mission, Vision, Values, Goals and Objectives and was unanimously accepted by the School Board at the May 2016 meeting. A system wide data-gathering effort was undertaken by CYS to ask the important and crucial questions of all major stakeholders: the SNJM, students across all grade levels, faculty and staff, members from both School and Foundation Boards, Alumnae Association and community, Parents' Guild and community, Archdiocese of Winnipeg, administrators from local, national and international independent and/or faith-based schools, just to name a few! We

“we now have data, reports and summaries to guide our decisions about the future of St. Mary's Academy.”

now have data, reports and summaries to guide our decisions about the future of St. Mary's Academy; this information was gathered via surveys, conversations,

individual and group interviews, a world café and a board retreat held in February. I am both humbled and energized by the ongoing care and commitment from all stakeholders. Our goal is to officially launch and roll out the Strategic Plan by January 2017.

Each year, we extend best wishes to board members who have served on either the SMA School or Foundation Board, men and women who have served with commitment and professionalism to preserve and advance the mission and vision of SMA. Our gratitude is extended to Wanda Daza, Mark Kulas and Dan Snidal for sharing their time, voice and expertise around the boardroom table.

We look forward to welcoming and working with Cynthia Campbell '90 and current parent Stephanie Gordon on the SMA School Board, and current parents

Mark Adamkowicz and Michael Choiselat on the SMA Foundation Board.

We have a tradition each year to choose



a core value, which Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher lived by daily in service to her community.

This year our community is called to be a **People of Hope** – a value that will inspire and influence our programs, activities, events and decisions.

Let us all be infused by the strength of the following prayer:

Blessed Marie-Rose, obtain for us today the audacity of Faith, the simplicity of Hope and the power of Love, that we may actualize the words of Jesus; I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Gordon'.

St. Mary's Academy Inc. Board of Directors

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Bob Cox: Vice Chair
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Kevin Klippenstein: Treasurer
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Michael Choiselat
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Susanne Parent '81
Mike Pyle

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

Bursary Fund

The Fund that ensures every deserving student has access to a St. Mary's Academy education

“I really never thought about it until long after graduation—how different my life would be if I had not had the SMA staff and particularly the SNJM community to guide me.”

SMA Alumna and Bursary Recipient

How would our lives be different if it were not for St. Mary's Academy?

It is a question that resonates with many alumnae. It is also likely that each SMA story is as unique as each person. Perhaps you are an alumna, a parent, a friend, an SNJM or a staff member. The common thread among everyone is the positive impact that SMA had on each individual life. It is this impact that gave energy and momentum to SMA's Bursary Fund focused activities. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all young women who were hopeful of an SMA education, regardless of economic circumstances, could experience the impact of a spirit, mind and body education?

To continue to grow the SMA Bursary Fund, the Advancement and Alumnae Relations Department organized a host of events and activities:

Bursary Barista

A monthly café selling delicious hot beverages to faculty, staff and parents.

Pass the Hat

The Drama department 'passed the hat' during their 2015 and 2016 productions of *Shrek: The Musical* and *Annie* respectively.

Yoga

Amy Houston, SMA's Alumnae, Advancement and Special Events Coordinator, and also a yoga instructor, taught classes for faculty and staff throughout the year, with a \$5 per class fee directed entirely to the Bursary Fund.

Art Auction

Mrs. Deb Nickel, SMA Art Teacher, hosted her annual week-long Art Auction in May, with art contributions from students, alumnae, faculty and staff.

All of the aforementioned events served to not only grow the Bursary Fund, but to engage people and contribute to the strong SMA community.

The flagship event that SMA launched in support of the Bursary Fund was the

first annual *An Evening at the Academy*, a progressive dining experience, that took place on January 30, 2016, with resounding success. The event sold out six weeks prior and exceeded expectations by raising over \$55,000 for the Bursary Fund. Contributing to the overall proceeds was our guests participating in the live auction and/or the "You had me at Merlot" wine wall. The event also saw the launch of our newly commissioned "Cornerstone Necklace," designed and individually hand-crafted by alumna Johanna Brierley '95. Johanna partnered with SMA to provide a beautiful representation of a piece of limestone from SMA's original cornerstone, combined with an inset sapphire and hand-stamped with the letters SMA.

We also reached out to you for support in our Torch Light magazine, by email at Homecoming and Christmas, and at various events such as the Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon and our new Burning Bright Speaker Series. You answered our call and we are pleased to announce that the 2015/2016 year, our Annual Giving Campaign exceeded \$258,000. Thank you for helping ensure every deserving student has access to an SMA education—your support truly changes lives.



Art pieces donated to the Art Auction by Lauren Gowler '15

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

“The summer after I started St. Mary's Academy, between Grades 9 and 10, my dad was laid off. My brother took the year off of university to work and contribute to the family. My mom took on extra work. There was the question of whether we could afford to have me continue at SMA. While my mother was a proud woman, faith based education mattered. She asked for and we received a bursary so that I could continue at St. Mary's.”

SMA Alumna and Bursary Recipient

An Evening at the Academy



The first annual An Evening at the Academy was a resounding success, raising over \$55,000 for the Bursary Fund. Thank You!

To see more photos from An Evening at the Academy go to: smaphotos.ca/eveningattheacademy2016

Gonzaga Middle School



After two and a half years of planning and preparation, Gonzaga Middle School (GMS) will open its doors

to its first Grade 6 class this September, becoming the second Jesuit Nativity-model school in Canada. GMS is a tuition-free Grades 6 to 8 school located at 174 Maple Street North in Winnipeg's Point Douglas neighborhood.

The first class of students participated in an inaugural two-week summer camp at Camp Manitou in Headingly run by the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation.

GMS represents an exciting opportunity for children from low income families in

the North End and North East Downtown. GMS will help them develop to their full potential, to break the cycle of poverty and to become leaders for the service of others through its delivery of a Jesuit Nativity-model middle school education. With the support and engagement of the local community, GMS Board and Committee members, alumni of St. Paul's High School and alumnae of St. Mary's Academy, the larger Winnipeg community and people of many faiths and backgrounds, GMS will thrive and serve its mission.

SMA is committed to taking qualified Gonzaga School graduates should they choose the Academy as their high school. Gonzaga students will attend SMA on full bursary.

Gonzaga Middle School Board of Directors:

Mark Chipman, Chair
Fr. Len Altilia, SJ
Steve Chipman
Robert Puchniak
Connie Yunyik
Tom Lussier, Executive Director & Principal



Tom Lussier (back, left) and GMS Grade 6 class at Camp Manitou

SNJM Provincial Leadership



I-r: Sr. Susan Wikeem '63, Sr. Alice Konefall '58, Sr. Marylyn Gibney, Sr. Cathy Laviolette
Sr. Carol Peloquin, Sr. Lorraine St-Hilaire

Tucked away on the third floor of the 1902 building, facing Wellington Crescent, is the head office of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM). Except for a brief period in the 1960s and 70s, SMA has housed the office since 1874. In the early days, the Provincial Superior was also the Principal of the school and the Provincial Treasurer served as the school's accountant. Today, SNJM are no longer involved in the day-to-day administration of the school but they are still a presence in the building and can frequently be seen at school events. Moreover, as Corporate Members for the School and Foundation, Sisters continue to be involved in some key governance matters, including electing Directors, appointing the President, approving the mission and changing by-laws. The Members are guided by the advice of the Board in carrying out their responsibilities.

At regular intervals the SNJM in Manitoba select a new leadership team. This is one such transition year. Starting in July 2016, the new Provincial administration includes

Provincial Superior Sr. Lorraine St. Hilaire, and Councillors Sr. Alice Konefall '58 and Sr. Susan Wikeem '63. All three are known within the Academy community, especially among staff and alumnae. Sr. Lorraine is a former SMA teacher and Vice Principal. After leaving SMA she worked in catechetics for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg before becoming Provincial Superior (the first time) and then General Superior. She returns to Manitoba after ten years in Montreal.

Sr. Alice is an SMA alumna and former teacher, renowned for her athletic prowess and leadership in the athletic club. She also taught at St. Boniface Diocesan High School, was Principal of Holy Cross School and served as Pastoral Assistant at St. Ann's Parish for many years. Sr. Alice resides at WestEnd Commons where she is a presence to other tenants and leads a children's musical group.

Sr. Susan is also an alumna of the Academy. Since leaving the school in 2014, she has worked on projects for the Congregation of the SNJM and

continued to serve on a variety of boards and committees in the community and Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

The outgoing leadership team is Sr. Cathy Laviolette, who has been Provincial Superior for the past eight years. She is looking forward to having time to walk, to pray and to visit many persons with whom she journeyed during the 20+ years she spent in parish and hospital ministry. She will also continue to be the Director of the Nathanael Faith Formation program in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

After three years as Provincial Councillor, Sr. Carol Peloquin plans to continue working with released offenders who are in the Next Step Program she established several years ago, and with parolees who live at Quixote House.

Sr. Marylyn Gibney, also finishing a second term on Provincial Council, will devote more time to working in the SMA Alumnae Office. She will continue on the Alumnae Board and SNJM Associate Team and Refugee Committee.

Charism and Mission Office

Charism is a distinct spirit that animates a religious congregation and gives it a particular character. It's a call to manifest the Gospel in a unique way.



For the first time in SMA history, the school has a Charism and Mission Office, with Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88 as Director. Although the office is new, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

(SNJM) Charism and Mission are not. The purpose of this office is to facilitate the continuation of the spirit (charism) and mission (how we express it), as an SNJM school.

The Charism and Mission office will assist our community; students, staff, boards,

parents, alumnae and friends, in deepening their knowledge and understanding of the SNJM charism and mission. The values and vision that make SMA unique as a school, influenced and guided by the SNJM, will be nurtured. This will occur in various ways (presentations, retreats, website, newsletter, prayers, social media, etc.). The office will support the many programs, activities and events that are offered within the school day and beyond. It will also collaborate in the task of evaluating what is being offered in the school to ensure that it reflects and honours the charism and mission.

The Congregational motto of the SNJM, *Jesus and Mary my strength and my glory*, will lead this office.



Sr. Michelle Garlinski's journey into the SNJM congregation is now in its second year. This summer she returned from Berkley, CA, where she spent her canonical year (official

formation year). This year is Sr. Michelle's 'mission year' where she will serve as Director of the Charism and Mission Office at SMA. Her formation continues throughout the year as she lives Religious Life more intentionally by living in community, prayer, ministry and service. Sr. Michelle would love to share more of her journey with you, or speak with you about the SNJM Charism and Mission—she can be reached at mgarlinski@smamb.ca.

Around the Academy



Each year SMA identifies a theme which reflects an aspect of the SNJM charism or values. The theme for the 2015-2016 year was *People of Hospitality*. This focus invited students and staff to be “a gracious, accepting and welcoming presence for each person” (SNJM Core Value). The theme was infused through curricular and extracurricular opportunities.

The theme for the 2016-2017 school year is:

People of Hope

Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.
-Pope Francis

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote

SMA celebrated the 100th anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in Manitoba by taking part in and hosting a variety of activities throughout the year, including:

- **Let Them Howl:** Connie Yunyk (Scerbo ’77), President, along with 30 students and 12 teachers attended the play *Let Them Howl* at the Prairie Theatre Exchange in October 2015. *Let Them Howl* is a play within a play about a young student and her professor who travel back in time to witness Nellie McClung and the Political Equality League’s famous mock parliament held at the Walker theatre in Winnipeg in 1914. *Let Them Howl* was created by playwright Sharon Bajer.
- **Nice Women Don’t Want the Vote:** A small contingency of Social Studies students, along with teacher Mr. Michael Saj, were invited to the Manitoba Museum for the opening of their exhibit about the suffragist movement in Canada entitled *Nice Women Don’t Want The Vote*.
- **The Nellie McClung Gala:** The Grade 11 students, under the direction of Art Teacher Mrs. Deb Nickel, created and donated pieces of artwork that were auctioned at The Nellie McClung Gala in January 2016. The artwork raised \$2400, with all proceeds benefiting the Nellie McClung scholarship program.
- **Let Them Howl:** The Grade 11 Drama Class presented *Let Them Howl*, with special permission from the Nellie McClung Foundation, as their performance exam in front of SMA’s student body (pictured below).



Around the Academy



Sr. Pauline Saurette, SNJM and Grade 9 student Alyssa Iskierski, dressed as Mother Marie-Rose Durocher

Mother Marie-Rose Week and 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**. Students take part in activities that are meant to help them

learn more about Mother Marie-Rose, deepen a sense of community and grow in faith. SMA's guest presenter for the week was Susan Searle, who lead faith-filled exercises throughout the week. The week was capped off with Mass presided over by Father Mark Tarrant, followed by brunch with SNJM prayer pals.

International Day

International Day, a time honoured tradition and signature fundraiser for the SMA Parents' Guild, took place on November 8, 2015. The 41st annual 'mini-Folklorama' was a resounding success with 1,200 people in attendance enjoying delicious ethnic food from 10 pavilions, top notch cultural entertainment, a cash raffle, a variety of artistry in the art auction, wonderful gifts in the rainbow auction and many treats to choose from at the bake table.

A record \$30,000 was raised and went to fund a new charging station in the cafeteria, new score clock in the gym, a SMART podium and interactive pen, and a **Torch Talks** session.

Mark your calendars for the next **International Day on Sunday, November 6, 2016.**



Annie

In November 2015, SMA's annual Theatre Arts production was **Annie**. The production starred a talented cast of 68 students and one canine, Desi. Talent was also evident behind the scenes with a large crew of students and teachers involved in sets, costumes, lights, sound, hair, makeup, stage management and props. All three performances received rave reviews.



Book Drive Supporting Gonzaga Middle School

One of the many activities hosted by SMA's Library during **I Love To Read** month in February was a book drive. The donated books went to help stock the new library at Gonzaga Middle School, as well as other local charities. A total of 1,364 books were collected, surpassing the goal of 1,000 books.



Library Technicians Sheryl Chongva and Kelsey Jennings

Marian Cup

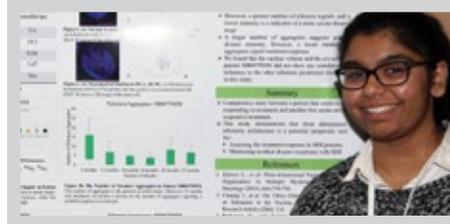
SMA's 4th annual *Marian Cup* debate tournament was held on April 27. Twenty-eight debaters from SMACKED verbally battled excellent debaters from five other schools. SMA's debate team of Linnéa Cox and Anaka Sandhu won Silver as the second place team, and in the Individual category Linnéa Cox won the Silver Medal, and Ellie Thorlakson brought home the Bronze.



l-r: Linnea Cox, Mr. Jordan Burg (Debate Coach), Ellie Thorlakson, Anaka Sandhu, Mr. Mike Saj (Debate Coach)

Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada

Grade 10 student Isha Khandelwal participated in the Sanofi Biogenius Canada competition. Her project was titled "Three Dimensional Telomere Profiling in Multiple Myeloma, Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance, and Relapsed MM." Isha won a Proposal Writing portion of the competition. Isha went on to compete in the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium where she was awarded gold.



Concours D'art Oratoire

Ten SMA girls competed in the Concours d'art oratoire at the Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface on May 7, 2016. All students placed in their respective categories. Grade 11 student Sélina Audino, who placed first in the Francophone category, went on to represent Manitoba at Nationals.



back row, l-r: Emma Reznichuk, Linnéa Cox, Alana Lesperance, Katarina Stipanovic. Front row, l-r: Gloria Nguyen, Sélina Audino, Milèna Audino, Bethany Kolisniak, Emma Callbeck, Hana Chyzzzy

Spark a Change Dinner

On May 9, 2016 the Human Rights Team hosted *Spark a Change Dinner* to raise awareness about the current status of refugees and new immigrants in Canada. Guest

speaker was renowned human rights lawyer, author and advocate David Matas. Entertainment was provided by the India School of Dance, Music and Theatre Inc. The event was a sold out success with net

proceeds benefiting the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba and Red Cross relief efforts in Fort McMurray.



SMA's Human Rights team with teacher advisor Mr. Roby Yeung (far left), David Matas (9th from right) and Connie Yunyuk (8th from right)

El Salvador Mission Trip

On June 30, 2016, a team of 18 students and 3 staff members journeyed to Huisisilapa, El Salvador to humbly walk in solidarity with the community on SMA's annual Mission Trip. Thanks to a variety of fundraising efforts throughout the school year, the team purchased all materials necessary to build a cinder block retaining wall to protect the village church from an adjacent river which floods the area during the rainy season, and added a sacristy to the back of the church. Ms. Zonneveld, Miss Mandrick, Mrs. Steeves and Mrs. Yunyuk were in awe of the group of young women who truly demonstrated the spirit of Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher.





Varsity

The Flames Varsity Team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championship and then went on to win the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championship. The Flames beat the Selkirk Royals in three straight sets to claim the AAAA Provincial Championship.

Flames' Josie Abbott, Darby Coughlin, and Julia Tays were named tournament All-Stars and Kearley Abbott was named tournament MVP. Darby Coughlin, Shea Pyle, Josie Abbott, Kearley Abbott and Brianna Patrick were also named to the Volleyball Manitoba Graduating All-Star team.

Junior Varsity

The Flames Junior Varsity Team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship, playing a spectacular match over undefeated Westwood Collegiate. They then participated in the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championship where they finished in the top four.

Cross Country

Junior Varsity

The Flames Junior Varsity team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference and Athletics Manitoba Championships. They completed the sweep in convincing style winning the Manitoba High School Provincial Championship.

Junior

The Flames Junior Cross Country team won the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship and then went on to capture the Athletics Manitoba Provincial Championship.



High School Hockey

After finishing a successful regular season, the Flames High School Hockey team competed in the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey CTV Division League playoffs.

In addition to league play in Winnipeg, the Flames team was invited to participate in the International Bandy World Cup in Vetlanda, Sweden from October 30 to

November 5, 2015. The Flames represented both SMA and Canada at this world cup event. The Flames were the first U18 team that Canada has ever sent to a Bandy World Cup.



Prep Hockey

The Flames Prep Hockey team recorded their most successful season in its five year existence with 37 wins, 11 losses and 3 ties—the team enjoys a 73% win average.

This fall the Prep team will play in a League for the first time, the inaugural Canadian Sport School Hockey League (CSSHL). The CSSHL is a Hockey Canada Sport School

league where each team will host a weekend tournament with playoffs in early March in Calgary. To see the Flame Prep schedule, go to smaflamesprep.ca.

Female World Sport School Challenge

For the fourth consecutive year SMA played host to the Female World Sport School Challenge with RBC as presenting sponsor.



The ten team tournament took place at the MTS Iceplex from March 10-13, 2016. Participating teams were host St. Mary's Academy Flames, Balmoral Hall Blazers, Shafetsbury Titans, Banff Hockey Academy Bruins (AB), Notre Dame Hounds (SK), Pursuit of Excellence (BC), Rothesay Netherwood Riverhawks (NB), Shattuck-St. Mary's Sabres U-19 (USA), St. Frances Xavier Northern Alberta Xtreme (AB), Vancouver Hockey Academy Greyhounds (BC).

The tournament featured a Saturday night banquet with keynote speaker Dwayne Gylywoyчук, Head Coach of Canada's National Women's Development Team, and CBC Video Journalist Jill Coubrough '06 was Master of Ceremonies.

Final Standings:

Gold: Shattuck-St. Mary's Sabres U-19 | **Silver:** Pursuit of Excellence | **Bronze:** SMA Flames

2017 Female World Sport School Challenge | March 16-19, 2017 | MTS Iceplex | www.fwssc.ca | @FWSSChallenge

SMA Annual Athletic Banquet

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

Nikki Redekop Coach of the Year award

was teacher and varsity volleyball coach, Christine Rewniak. Keynote speaker was alumna and NCAA Volleyball All American, Alicia Ogoms '12.



SMA Athletics Council with Alicia Ogoms '12 (4th from right) and teacher advisor Ms. Adriane McElrea (3rd from right)

Staff

Administration Team

With the support and endorsement of the SNJM and the SMA Board of Directors, the Academy restructured its Administration Team Model, effective July 1, 2016. SMA has implemented a Principal for Senior School and a Principal for Junior School. This restructuring aims to better support the needs and outcomes of our 5-Year Strategic Plan which will be launched in early 2017.



Acting Senior School Principal

Mrs. Michelle Klus has been a member of SMA's faculty since 1998. She commenced her journey at the Academy as a science teacher specializing in biology and chemistry, moving on to Vice-Principal in 2012.

Michelle is the proud mother of four children. Daughters Olivia and Victoria attend SMA and are in Grade 11 and 9 respectively. Her son Caleb is in Grade 7 and youngest daughter Eliana is in Grade 5.

Michelle has numerous volunteer involvements in the community including the Heart and Stroke Foundation and CancerCare Manitoba. Additionally, she is active in the soccer community with all four of her children playing for the Winnipeg Phoenix Football Club. Michelle is an active member of Holy Cross Parish.



Acting Junior School Principal

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es '80) joined the SMA administrative team in January 2008. Prior to that she spent 24.5 years teaching, learning and leading within the Winnipeg School Division. Carol-Ann has loved the return home to her alma mater and continues to "pay it forward" in her new role as principal of Junior School.

Carol-Ann is married to Greg and is a proud mom of two adult children, Jenna '10 and Ryan. Carol-Ann is an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

Recognition

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

40 years

Bernice Lucas (Teacher)

30 years

Joy Beauchamp '80 (Teacher)
Marie Desaulniers (Teacher)

20 Years

Jordan Burg (Teacher)
Erminia Canosa (Maintenance)
Chris O'Donoghue (Teacher)

10 years

Maria Martino (Teacher)
Jennifer O'Leary (Heywood '85)
(Teacher)

Retirement

Joy Beauchamp '80 retired after 30 years of dedicated teaching service with SMA. Joy influenced a generation of women with her compassionate, generous and student-centered spirit. SMA thanks Joy for her many years of service and wishes her God's blessings for the next chapter of her life.

Farewell

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

Michelle Allard leaves SMA after two years of service as Con Fuoco Choir Director.

Josie Audino leaves SMA after two years of service as Principal.

Barbara Batulla leaves SMA after seven years of service as an Educational Assistant on our Student Support Team.

Mary Morton leaves SMA after seven years of service as Con Spiritu Choir Director.

Roby Yeung leaves SMA after one year of service in our Science Department.



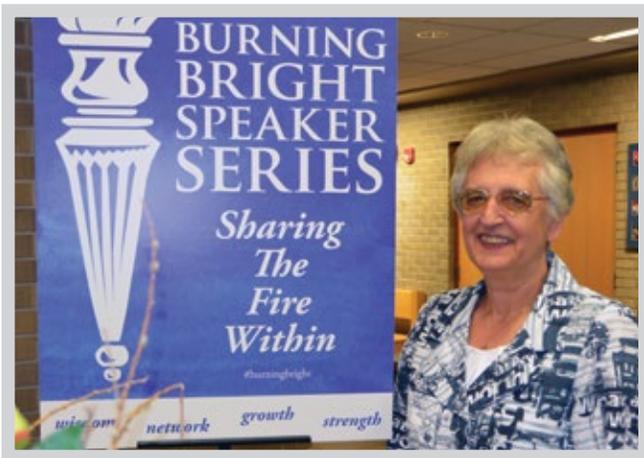
l-r: Roby Yeung, Josie Audino, Joy Beauchamp '80, Barbara Batulla
Missing: Michelle Allard and Mary Morton

wisdom network growth strength

BURNING BRIGHT SPEAKER SERIES

Sharing the Fire Within

In the Fall of 2015 St. Mary's Academy introduced the *Burning Bright Speaker Series*. The purpose of this event is to gather, engage and inspire members of our community by listening to, and sharing in the life experiences of the presenters. Three evening sessions hosted over 200 attendees from October 1, 2015 to May 12, 2016.



50 years of Religious Life and Ministry—Reflections Sr. Susan Wikeem, SNJM

In October, 2015, Susan Wikeem, SNJM, spoke to a sold-out audience sharing her reflections of 50 Years of Religious Life and Ministry. Sr. Susan recounted the story of her childhood, school days at St. Mary's Academy, her journey into Religious Life, working at the Academy as a principal and then as Director. The evening was inspirational for all.



Beyond the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: What Can We Do to Advance Reconciliation?

Panel Discussion with Christine Cyr '90, Gramma Shingoose, Tom Novak, Florence Paynter, Mary LeMaître '80
Moderated by SMA teacher Michael Saj

Panelists discussed the personal impact the legacy of Indian Residential Schools had on them, what could be done to move forward in a positive manner, and what reconciliation meant to them. It was a powerful and thought provoking evening of sharing.



Nice Women Don't Want the Vote Mock Debate

SMA celebrated the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote with a spirited, historical debate set in 1916. The debate teams were stacked with alumnae debaters along with a distinguished panel of "judges." Debate teacher Jordan Burg crafted the debate entitled "Nice Women Don't Want the Vote." It was a memorable evening for all.

Video footage for all Burning Bright Speaker Series Events are found at:
www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/events/burning_bright_speaker_series

MARIAN AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE

Hold High The Torch

2016 Marian Award Recipients

Marylyn Gibney, SNJM

Marylyn Gibney, SNJM, entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) and made her first vows in 1965. She was named to SMA in 1972, served as Director for four years and then as teacher until her retirement in 2011. Currently she is on the Provincial Leadership Team for the SNJM and SNJM and Associates. Sr. Marylyn remains active with the SMA Alumnae Association and Board. She continues to live with gratitude and encourages everyone to seek justice for those in need.

Kellie O'Rourke '76 introduced Sr. Marylyn Gibney at the Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon. Kellie was in Sr. Marylyn's first Grade 9 homeroom class in 1972 and together, they have forged a wonderful friendship spanning many decades. In her introduction, she noted that Sr. Marylyn's "commitment to education, her religious values and her generous loving spirit have shaped an amazing life that has positively impacted so many." In Sr. Marylyn's acceptance speech, she spoke of her calling to a life of service and the reasons why she continues to serve. In Sr. Marylyn's own words: "To manifest God's love to a world grown weary is no small task.

To seek to bring about the reign of God in a world, satiated and bored, deadened by an unimaginative view, is next to impossible. Loving one another is what it is all about. It is this that gets me up in the morning."

Susanne Parent '81

Susanne Parent '81 holds a BSc. in Civil Engineering and works as the Director of Operations in the Accommodation Services Division with the Government of Manitoba. Her career has been a challenging and rich one. Susanne has dedicated over 25 years to causes such as encouraging young women to consider engineering as a career, chairing a pre-school board, reading one on one with struggling students and serving on a team to expand the Linden Meadows School playground. Susanne takes great joy from her 13 years on the SMA Foundation Inc. Board (Chair since 2013) and the completion of the recent Capital Campaign. She credits her commitment to volunteering and being involved in community life to the richness she experiences in her life.

Susanne was introduced by her daughter, Katherine Pulak '12.

Katherine's speech was a heartfelt tribute to her mother, noting that "her mother's diverse interests and dedication have created a world of opportunity for my brothers and me." After the introduction and award presentation, Susanne spoke passionately about her life of service as a volunteer, which was nurtured by her experiences at SMA. "It is as simple as a kind word, or bringing a meal to someone who needs support, and as complicated as agreeing to put on a fundraising event, launch a capital campaign, or volunteering on a guild or board".



Marian Awards For Excellence Luncheon



Marian Awards For Excellence Organizing Committee with Award Recipients and Master of Ceremonies

l-r: Georgine Van de Mosselaer '83, Susanne Parent '81, Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), Marylyn Gibney, SNJM, Carol Falkenberg, Amy Houston '03
Rebecca Sisler '07, Stella Mazza (Cianflone '81), Laura Davey '05



The 12th annual Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon took place on April 30, 2016 at The Gates on Roblin. This 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 for Excellence*, download a nomination form from stmarysacademy.mb.ca/alumnae/marianawards.

Thank You

St. Mary's Academy thanks the generous donors and sponsors who supported the 2016 *Marian Awards For Excellence* Luncheon.

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Joannie Smalley

Monica Giesbrecht '93

Rachelle Nadeau

Rita-Mae Race (Holden '61)

Sheryl Chongva

Susanne Parent '81

Yunyk Family

Alumnae

Alumnae Association President's Message



Irene Mestito-Dao '89

Seven years ago I was asked to co-coordinate Homecoming Weekend as a graduate of the class of 1989. I continued to volunteer for alumnae events and had so much fun running into other alumnae that I joined the Alumnae Board in 2012.

Blessed Mother Marie-Rose Durocher believed that an entire society could be transformed if the minds and hearts of young women are properly formed. It is the mission of the SMA Alumnae Association that alumnae treasure their connectedness to the school and to other alumnae. With that in mind, we have been working over the past few years to come up with ways to reinvent our alumnae events and keep up with the changing times.

Last year we changed our traditional alumnae homecoming weekend to **Homecoming Day**, which will be **Saturday, October 1, 2016**. We have combined the elements of what people loved about our homecoming weekend into a one-day event. Commemorative years reunion classes will get to celebrate with their classmates at a breakfast reception prior to the AGM & Alumnae Mass at 11:45 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. alumnae will be able to roam the school, meet with past teachers and visit with other alumnae. We are also hosting **Cocktails on the Crescent**

on **November 19, 2016**. You can purchase fabulous pieces of art (Christmas presents anyone?) created by our very talented SMA alumnae and enjoy cocktails and appetizers in the 1902 wing. As the Christmas season approaches we will have the **December Celebration and Christmas Tea on December 4, 2016**. Join us to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with mass in our beautiful chapel followed by tea and fancy sandwiches in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom.

Working on the Alumnae Board with an amazing group of women so willing to give back to our school has been very rewarding and has given me the opportunity to reconnect with many fellow alumnae. However, nothing has given me more pride than watching my eldest daughter attend her first day of school in her SMA uniform. She is now building her own long-lasting friendships and has enjoyed her first year at the school. Someone once commented that "you can tell a St. Mary's girl by the way she speaks and her mannerisms—she is confident and well spoken." If that is how we are perceived then I am proud to be a SMA alumna and I hope you are too! If you are looking for a way to give back to our school, please visit stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/alumnae/ where you can volunteer to assist on alumnae committees, events, or join us on the Alumnae Board. I hope to see and meet all of you at our Homecoming Day on Saturday, October 1, 2016.



2015-2016 SMA Alumnae Association Board of Directors

Back row l-r: Lois Bosc (Dusessoy '83), Mary Shariff '83, Cathie Cronin- Licharson '75, Sandra Martin (Alwis '97), Athena Dinos '83, Nicole Gautron '83, Kristine Beriault (James '97), Marcia McKenzie (Maia '92), Cheryl Dixon (Memka '89), Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), Leanne Boyd '69, Genevieve Boken '10, Amy Houston '03, Marylyn Gibney SNJM. Front row l-r: Stephanie Grabau '07, Irene Mestito-Dao '89, Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)
Missing: Christina Tompkins (Woods '90), Christina Kenny (Shelest '96), Carolyn Eva Meadows '83, Darlene Lamont (Beucaert '87), Rebecca Sisler '07

Homecoming Day

Commemorative Years



1955



1965



1975



1985



1990



1995



2005

Homecoming

Homecoming Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015



On April 9, 2016 the SMA Alumnae Association hosted the first ever *Paint Nite*. Over 80 people were in attendance exploring their creative side while mingling with fellow alumnae and friends.

Paint Nite





Amy Houston '03

You blink and another school year has come and gone! It is hard to believe, but a quick look back on this year proves that it was a busy and successful one. We were grateful to have many alumnae return to the Academy to share their time and talents with us. Alumnae helped to make events such as Homecoming Day, the Burning Bright Speaker Series, art auctions, debate tournaments and the Heritage Fair a huge success. When I encounter people in passing, many will remark that they sometimes don't think about volunteering at SMA because they are never asked.

So I ask you now—will you share your time and talents with us this year? If you are interested, please contact me at ahouston@smamb.ca. We will have many opportunities for you to get involved. The community of alumnae reminds me of a quote by John Heywood “Many hands make light work.”

As we forge ahead into the 2016/2017 school year as *People of Hope*, it is our goal to further strengthen and develop our connections with fellow alumnae. This past year, we launched the Alumnae Business Directory which can be found on the SMA website. Gradually we have begun to list various businesses and organizations that have SMA alumnae employees and business owners. We hope you will consider listing yourself or your business in the directory so that others may seek your services and be greeted by a friendly face.

This year I've had the absolute pleasure of speaking to many alumnae. Some of my favourite interactions are when the phone rings at the end of the day and on the other end of the line is an alumna inquiring

from the Alumnae Office

“We Are Everywhere, Doing Everything”

about one particular thing, and 20 minutes (or more) later we've covered a range of memories from their time at SMA. I hope to fill this upcoming school year with more of those phone calls.

Lastly, I am reminded of Sr. Susan's words when I began in this role: “We are everywhere, doing everything.” We hope that you will continue to prove us right, doing good things in your lives and when the time is right, come back to the school and share your stories with us.

Until then, wishing you all the best, and hoping to see many of you over the coming months.



Vancouver Chapter Reunion

Last fall Amy Houston attended the 57th annual Vancouver Chapter luncheon in Richmond, BC. Over 30 women gathered to reminisce about their SMA days and forge new friendships. A tradition at this reunion is to sing the ‘SMA School Song’ (lyrics posted at stmariesacademy.mb.ca/home/alumnae).

The ladies in Vancouver welcome new and old alumnae in the area to join them this year on Sunday, November 6. For information contact Darlene Burns (Woerlee '69) at darlene_burns@telus.net.

Drinks Under The Dome

Each December recent graduates are invited back to SMA to reunite, share in refreshments and pick up their yearbooks.



Class of 2015

58th annual Reunion takes place on Sunday, November 6, 2016

the Grapevine

1932

Joan Harland passed away peacefully this summer at the age of 101. She was a well-known professor at University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Interior Design and Architecture for 42 years. In a letter to the Academy after her 100th birthday she recalled arriving at SMA in 1920 for Grade 1. She credits her SMA education with helping her find things in life that she enjoyed.

1946

The Class of 1946 is encouraged to visit SMA this year for Homecoming Day on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Anyone wishing to attend may contact the Alumnae Office, 204-478-6031 for more information.

1948

Violet Knight (Blain) journeyed from England to SMA in the fall of 2015. She was joined by great-granddaughter, Lucy. She has many 'sweet memories' of SMA and hopes to keep up her connections with fellow classmates.

1954

Joan Harris (Blundell) currently resides in Rockford, Illinois. She was a student at SMA until Grade 10 and went on to study typing at Angus Commercial College. Joan would love to reconnect with former classmates. She asked, in a recent phone conversation, if the SMA students still have to use steel wool to rub ink off the floors... oh my! If anyone wishes to connect you may reach her at 815-229-3291.

1956

Vicky Gretchen (Mihychuk) is organizing a luncheon for the Grade 12 and Commercial Classes of '56 on Friday, September 30, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at Rae and Jerry's. To attend, please call Vicky at 204-475-4535.

Susan Sinclair (Greene) is planning to attend her 1956 class reunion this year. She remarked in an email, "Back then we graduated from Grade XI. The Grade XII class was considered 1st yr U. I went on to attend the Commercial Course (Business) at SMA, which started me on my office career. I have many happy memories of my 12 years attending SMA and look forward to meeting you and, hopefully, some classmates, although recognition will probably be quite difficult going from 16-17 years old to mid 70's. Should be a hoot!"

1963

Sister Lesley Sacouman was honored this past November as the 2015 Ignatian Challenge Award Recipient at the St. Paul's High School Tribute Dinner. Sr. Lesley is the Executive Director of Holy Names House of Peace.



1964

Marilyn Morrissette (Dubray) recently moved back to Winnipeg after being in Swan River for many years. Although she missed her reunion in 2014, she is looking forward to rounding up a few classmates to join her at Homecoming Day on October 1, 2016. If you wish to connect with her you may reach her at 204-888-1069.

1965

Classmates gathered in May for a lunch at the Qualico Centre at Assinboine Park.



l-r: Janice Frykas (Hnybida), Regina Porth (Cottingham) Valerie Duma, Maria Anderson (Lannoo), Dell Braun (Cruse), Mary Kirkpatrick (Rockett), Lucy Beckta (Stepien), Lee Downey (Coughlin), Jocelyn Preston (Martens) Linda Cook, Margaret Brett (Hetke), Joy Lussier (Casey)

1966

Sylvia Rothney (Furch) is ready to connect with classmates at Homecoming Day. For more information please contact the Alumnae Office, 204-478-6031.

1967

Judy Burstow (Cameron) and her husband, Robert, enjoyed travelling from their home in England to Canada this spring. They toured SMA and emailed the school with thanks saying, "It was lovely to see the school and how much the new alterations have improved the building. The school gave out a very positive atmosphere-calm and studious; all the staff and pupils were very welcoming. If I had a daughter I would want to send her there; but I had two boys!" Their trip continued to Western Canada and Judy was able to meet up with fellow classmates, **Darcy McMillan (Budworth)** (pictured below, right) as well as **Judy Swanson (Webster)** on Vancouver Island.





Shelley Harynuk (Keele) was thrilled to reunite with classmates **Judy Swanson (Webster)** and **Judy Burstow (Cameron)** this year. Shelley is retired and enjoys photography and travelling.

Gwen Buccini (Pucci), Coordinator of Tabs for Wheelchairs, had the most successful year in Tabs history. In its 18th year, a record 10 million tabs were gathered to provide an elevated chair to Jessica.



1970

Over the years, **Aleda Marshall** has written ten books on various stages of her life's journey as an encouragement to others. She is retired and enjoys ministry and writing in Fort Myers, Florida. She is very thankful to the many doors God has opened for her, SMA being one of them. Aleda recalls, "There was a Sister at the time who took me aside in ninth grade in preparation as to whether I would be accepted into the University entrance program that we had for high school at SMA. Her extra attention granted me access to university. Thanks for the connection that Sister Alice Konefall provided and blessings to you and all that you do."

1971

In April, **Rev. Mary Holmen (Whytehead)**, won the Award for Excellence in Pastoral Practice in Institutional Ministry presented by the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. Mary, the 2007 Marian Awards recipient, was most recently Chaplain at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre from 1999 until retirement in 2014. She continues to Hold High The Torch by serving on boards in her field and giving back to CASC.

1973

In June, **Dr. Joan Flood** completed the Ride to Conquer Cancer in Toronto. It was a 240 km bicycle ride raising awareness and funds for childhood cancers in honor of her patient Meagan, who died of brain cancer at the age of 12. She successfully raised \$7,000 and is already 'gearing' up for her upcoming fifth ride next year.



1976

Plans for the 40th reunion are: Saturday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Andrea's house. BYOB and a finger food appetizer to share. To RSVP contact **Andrea Cibinel (Fricke)**, andreacibinel@yahoo.ca

1977

Marcie Mycan and her husband Anthony, a Colonel in the Canadian Air Force, are being posted to Tel Aviv. Anthony will assume the role of the Canadian Military Attache to Israel for three years. They plan to retire in Vancouver Island upon their return to Canada.



1978

Crystal Kolt (Klapecki) continues to grow the flourishing Flin Flon Arts scene. Crystal is the Director of the Flin Flon Community Choir which performed, for the third time, at Carnegie Hall in New York City this past June.

1979

Rev. Carol Fletcher will soon have a street named after her in the Regent Avenue vicinity, 'Carol Fletcher Way'. Carol has been the minister at Transcona Memorial United Church for 28 years and is eager to see the completion of an upcoming 1.75 million dollar renovation to the church. In a recent article in the Winnipeg Free Press, Carol remarked, "Everything that is recreation is also re-creation, in that it is life-giving and community building."



1981

Kelly Cenek (Laing) has been living in New Zealand for 14 years, after marrying a kiwi she now resides with her family in Brisbane. She works for a training organization in the HR field. Kelly transferred from SMA in 1979 and graduated from Concordia College in Edmonton in 1981.



1984

Kim Boughton (Semchyshyn), **Sally Correia**, **Kathy Roberts (Kopczewski)** and **Susan Belmonte** gathered classmates together this summer to celebrate their 50th birthdays at The Forks in Winnipeg. Happy Birthday Class of 1984! If you have not yet connected with your classmates from 1984, you can find their group on Facebook: St. Mary's Academy for Girls - Class of '84 or call the Alumnae Office for more information, 204-478-6031.

1985

Barb Van Wallegem was Winnipeg's 2016 MS Walk Ambassador. She was diagnosed with MS in 2011 and has brought awareness of the disease to her students and colleagues at St. Maurice School. In April, 400 students from St. Maurice walked 2.5 km in support of her efforts!



Chris Salstrom was honoured to have her verse chosen for the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care book, 'Thriving on the Edge: Integrating Spiritual Practice, Theory and Research.' All proceeds go to assist those in chaplaincy training. Chris made the mid-life career change to become a spiritual care professional four years ago and now works at Health Sciences Centre. She is in the final stages to complete her Masters in Sacred Theology. Most of all she is thrilled to have married Gary Potter on July 15, 2016.

1986

The 30th reunion get together is planned for Friday, September 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Dinner and drinks in the dome at SMA. RSVP to **Clare MacKay (Duffy)** at Clare.MacKay@tf-np.ca

Priscilla Pinga has been a Case Coordinator for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Home Care Program for the past four years. She enjoys helping people and believes that health care is vital to people in our communities. Priscilla is a Registered Social Worker in Manitoba.

1990

Sisters **Nia '90** and **Tina '92 Cravariotis** retired from the hospitality industry after 32 years with their family business, Loona Roosa Restaurant.

1991

25th reunion plans are being organized by **Michelle Thorsteinson (McIsaac)** and **Tamara Gillam (Walsh)**. More details to follow.

1992

Dr. Leisha Strachan has had an accomplished year. In July 2015, she was granted tenure at the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management and was promoted to Associate Professor. Just a month later she travelled to Abbotsford, BC with six athletes competing from her baton club in the 2015 International Cup. More recently, Leisha completed a trip to Bahrain where she was invited to do a research talk and teach a 5-day workshop to high performance coaches. One focus was a research project she is working on called Project SCORE! which is an online resource helping coaches to deliberately deliver positive sport experience to youth.



1993

Anita Bains (Gadhok) and family have recently relocated back to Winnipeg after 11 years in Toronto, where she worked as a Senior Pharmacist for the Ontario Ministry of Health. Anita and her family are enjoying their new life in Winnipeg, close to family and friends.



1994

Lindy Ledohowski celebrated the successful book launch of 'Unbound' in Winnipeg this year. The Ukrainian Canadian writers in 'Unbound' challenge the conventions of genre – memoir, fiction, poetry, biography, essay – and the boundaries that separate ethnic and authorial identities and fictional and non-fictional narratives.

After three years of hard work and much sacrifice, **Mara Le Clair**, is very proud to have completed her second Post-Bach. Mara has been a teacher for 18 years and was placed at a high risk school in 2011 where she quickly found that her students' needs were great. She is a Certified Play Therapist and is completing clinic hours working with children with trauma in foster care. Mara creates a sense of belonging for indigenous students in her classroom by incorporating land based education and culture into their daily routines.



1995

One year after a tragic event in **Maria Mitousis'** life, Maria wrote the following excerpt in a letter to SMA:

To my SMA friends,

The event that changed my life on July 3, 2015, also affected the lives of others. I know it affected you, the St. Mary's community, because you reached out to me. I was cheered by messages of encouragement from you - my former teachers, staff, and alumnae. Many and heartfelt were the prayers and positive thoughts sent my way as I recovered at home. My heart was full knowing that I was still part of this community despite the fact that so many years had passed. I took courage knowing, too, that my community was there with me. That it had never left me.

Maria addressed the Class of 2016 at Convocation on June 28, 2016.



Giselle Trinidad (Yutuc) and husband Arnold have their hands full with their family of three boys. Giselle is working as a financial analyst at Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

1996

20th reunion dinner at Cibo is planned for October 1, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. To RSVP please contact Meagan.Boles@gov.mb.ca or smnforest@yahoo.ca

1997

Lisa-Marie Buccini was a 2016 Nominee in Public Awareness & Communications for the Women of Distinction Awards YMCA - YWCA of Winnipeg.

2000s

An impressive seven SMA alumnae graduated together from the College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, Class of 2016. **Priya Sharma '08** remarked, "It was a very exciting time and big day for us. It was really nice that we were all able to share the bond of being SMA graduates."



Back row, l-r: Kamalpreet Gill '07 (Winnipeg, Family Medicine), Pooja Kaushik (Sharma '02)(Ottawa, Family Medicine), Alexandra Prior '08 (Edmonton, Obs Gyn) Priya Sharma '08 (Toronto, Paediatrics)
Front row, l-r: Elise Crocker '08 (Winnipeg, Internal Medicine), Jenna Gim '09 (Toronto, Internal Medicine) Jessica Enns '09 (Winnipeg, Psychiatry)

2001

Catherine David (Marquez) is currently pursuing her MBA with concentrations in Leadership and Change as well as Entrepreneurship and Innovation. She will be completing her Master's degree in 2017. She was the 2016 recipient of the prestigious "Future Fund Scholarship" which is awarded by "Canada's Outstanding CEO's of the Year" for her exemplary academic and leadership skills. Catherine is looking forward to returning to SMA in September, 2016 to continue teaching and integrating her new knowledge in innovation and change into her teaching curriculum. Her and her husband Francis are overjoyed with their first born son, Quinn.

Megan Burda is please to announce her upcoming nuptials to her fiancée, Mr. Yambao.

Megan McCartney is back in Winnipeg after living in Ontario for 8 years. She returned in January to join her fiancé Jason Fortin, and his two girls Dannika and Taylor. Megan works at PepsiCo as a Senior National Account Manager. Megan and Jason were married at the Wynn in Las Vegas in April, and are expecting their first child in December.

Lindsay McCaughan lives in Calgary where she launched her clothing accessory line called Lost in Layers. Her company features handmade kimonos for women of every age, style and size. Lost In Layers also offers a bridal collection and mini monos for little misses.



2002

Candace Maxwell's motto is: "All the world's a stage, and Candace loves it all!" Her 2015-2016 season of stage management included Theatre, Ballet, Musical Theatre, a Grey Cup Festival concert and an Opera School Tour. She worked on shows including: Les Miserables, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance and Nutcracker. Candace is looking forward to her tour with RWB next season to the United States and the BC Coast with Nutcracker... hopefully bowing as Filbert again!

Pamela Sand (Ritchot) was married in October and stopped by SMA for some beautiful wedding photos. Pam and her husband Bryan are currently living in New York.



l-r: Kathryn Blaze Baum (Carlson), Pamela Sand (Ritchot), Lauren Poon and Brittany Barkwell

Courtney Andrysiak was honoured with the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association Master's Thesis Award for her dissertation on cyber-bullying this year. Courtney says her passion for the topic emerged early in her academic career. Courtney continues to pursue her PhD in psychology and she hopes to follow up with her findings, implement an intervention plan, and see the effects on affected children – such as lower rates of depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety. "My goal is to see intervention plans in schools, to see that there is something in place for students, which wasn't previously the case."

Megan Brett married Garrett Sutton in July 2015. She was surrounded by fellow SMA classmates on her special day!



l-r: Natalia Chaturvedi (Zielinski), Cassandra MacLeod (McGill), Megan Brett, Jeanette Mantolino (Podlesiecki)

2003

Terri Jarema and husband Spence were married on June 11, 2016.



l-r: Dr. Rebecca Renkas, Krissy Jarema '02, Terri Jarema, Christina Stuart (Caligiuri), Renee El-Gabalawy, Lisa Jarema '00

The Grapevine

2003

Tamara McColl completed her MD at the University of Manitoba in 2011 and a medical simulation fellowship at Harvard University in 2014. After five grueling years, she recently completed her Royal College Emergency Medicine specialty training at the University of Ottawa. In parallel with her residency she has been working on a Masters of Medical Education from the University of Dundee. She accepted an ER attending position at St. Boniface Hospital this year and an academic faculty position with the University of Manitoba Department of Emergency Medicine as a clinician educator.

2004

Janelle Nadeau currently resides in Vancouver. This year she spent some time back in Winnipeg playing her harp at many care homes in the city as part of the Manitoba Chapter launch of 'Concerts in Care' series.

2005

Kathryn Patrick enjoyed a wonderful bridal shower at SMA this April hosted by bridesmaids, **Megan Mendez (Patrick '94)** and **Erin McIntyre '05**. She is getting married this September to her fiancé Joel Deeley and looking forward to an exciting year ahead, continuing her marketing career at Pollard Banknote, traveling and home buying.



Seated: Great Aunt, Antoinette Jachetta '48 Standing, l-r: Megan Mendez (Patrick '94), Marilyn Patrick (Jachetta '67), Kathryn Patrick '05

Chelsea Arns (Duszak) is Director of Education and owner/operator of TutorBright Winnipeg. She found her calling in university as a first year student needing academic support. She resides in Bridgewater Lakes in Winnipeg with her husband Jeremy and their two children.

Nadine Lam graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science Degree and in 2011 with a Master of Occupational Therapy degree. Nadine has been an occupational therapist for the last 5 years and is currently working on a neurorehabilitation unit in Winnipeg. Nadine is engaged to Dr. Jason Zhang and will be officially tying the knot this September.



2006

10th reunion plans are for Saturday, October 1, 2016. Drinks in the Dome from 5:00-7:00 p.m. followed by dinner at Mona Lisa Ristorante. To RSVP contact Grace_Marquez@g3.ca or kyladfraser@gmail.com

2008

Heather Stephen graduated in May as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse from the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

2009

Congratulations to **Eden Jamieson** who completed her Bachelor of Education this year.

Brittany Conway registered for her Reiki (energy healing) Level 1 class and received her first attunement in August 2015. She has continued her studies and completed her Reiki Master/Teacher certification this year. She is deeply honoured and grateful to be able to share this fabulous gift.

2010

Bri-ann Tokariwski was the Women's Golf Amateur Champion in Manitoba this summer. Fellow alumna, **Hannah Diamond '15** was the 2nd Flight Runner Up and **Katherine McGlenen '15** finished in a tie for 10th place.

Anna Solmundson graduated from Robson Hall Law School at the University of Manitoba in 2015. She spent the past year articling at D'arcy & Deacon LLP, and recently purchased her first home. She was Called to the Bar in June 2016, making her one of the youngest lawyers in Canada. Anna says she is grateful for her experiences with the SMA debate team where she learned to examine all sides of an issue. "My thanks to Mr. Burg for his tireless support of the debate program."



l-r: Kirsten Solmundson '12 with sister Anna

Katelyn Friesen graduated from the University of Winnipeg with her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and received the Dr. D. A Chekki Prize for Excellence in Sociology. She is continuing her studies this fall at the University of Manitoba, pursuing a Masters of Arts in Sociology.



Katelyn Friesen (left) with Mother and current SMA teacher, Mrs. Bonita Friesen

Genevieve Boken graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a 3-year degree in Psychology, with plans to pursue a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy. In her spare time, she enjoys working on abstract acrylic paintings which have been showcased at the salon of **Giovanna Minenna '08** and at the University of Winnipeg. She is a current SMA Alumnae Association Board member.



2011

Erika Sandor graduated this year with a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba. She is finishing her senior practicum on the cardiac surgery ward at St. Boniface Hospital.

She was in the company of many fellow SMA alumnae in her nursing class including: **Maria Cortes-Toro, Nicole Wilson, Dilpreet Bhathal** and **Ala Jekielek**. Fellow 2011 classmates, **Courtney Paquette** and **Andrea Boyd** graduated from Nursing last year.

In November, **Kelsey Stevens** was awarded The Associates Student Enterprise Award at the Asper School Annual Business Banquet. Kelsey was chosen for the award based on merit with particular references to enterprising accomplishments, academic achievement, and student leadership. She is grateful for the recommendation she received from SMA teacher, **Mrs. Jen O'Leary (Heywood '85)**.



Kelsey Stevens (right)

Dominique Chell graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutritional Sciences in 2016. This fall she will begin a 10 month internship to complete her Registered Dietitian designation.



Dominique Chell (centre) with Father and current SMA teacher, Mr. Dave Chell (right)

2012

Michelle Cea-Flores is currently working on her undergrad in Science with a major in Microbiology. She looks forward to visiting the school in the future.

Hana McVicar was awarded the Diane Dowling Memorial Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement in second year Mathematics from the University of Manitoba Department of Mathematics. A \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to her in September 2015 at St. Paul's College. Hana graduated this year with a B.A. (Math Major) (Dean's List) and she plans to continue her education at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Education.

Alicia Ogoms graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science in Commercial Real Estate. During her time at USC she received many accolades including: First Canadian at USC to earn NCAA All American honours and named Marks Scholar-Athlete all four years. This fall, she will journey to Poland to play professional volleyball.



Alicia Ogoms (Back row #8)

Erin Teschuk was the 2016 Canadian National Champion in the 3000m Steeplechase and went on to represent Canada at the Rio 2016 Olympics this summer. The competition in Rio was fierce and she gave her best posting, a time of 9:53:70s in her qualifying heat.

2013

Since SMA graduation, **Emily Palmer** has been studying Psychology at the University of Manitoba. She looks forward to reconnecting with the sisterhood by volunteering at SMA this year.

Lauren Gowler finished her third year at the University of Manitoba. She continues to pursue her passions whenever she can and spent the summer at Clear Lake working at her parent's restaurant, teaching tennis at the local courts and exhibiting some of her paintings at the local gallery in town. This year she will be set designing the second Mainstage show for the U of M's Black Hole Theatre Company and working on her own graphic novel.

Anjali Chahal was the Event Director on the Executive Team for the Telfer Business Law Association, a student group at the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa. The not-for-profit student committee aims to help students prepare for law school while connecting members with professors and law school students. Anjali is focusing on finishing her Bachelor of Commerce and applying to law school.

2015

Anna Kulas (pictured left) and **Sydney Maurice** (pictured right) travelled to Roseville, Minnesota in February as part of the Canadian National Women's Team for the Women's Bandy World Championships. Bandy is an ice sport similar to hockey, with a rink approximately the size of a football field. Players use bowed sticks and a small ball.



Births

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

Branden Jules Philippe born May 2, 2015 to **Lise-Anne (de Rocquigny '00)** and Ian Legge.

Violet born June 2015 to **Sarah (Downs '02)** and Ian Carpick

Raman Jessie born June 24, 2015 to **Anita (Gadhok '93)** and Jay Bains

Henry Otto Frederick born September 15, 2015 to **Megan (Roberts '00)** and Cory Lask

Benjamin Riley born September 24, 2015 to **Katie (Jensen '04)** and Graham Sereda

Parker James born September 26, 2015 to **Alex (Maitland '05)** and James Marquis

Eloise Marie born February 29, 2016 to **Celine (Marks '04)** and Scott Boston

Norah Carolyn born March 22, 2016 to **Melanie (Twerdun '00)** and Colin Potter

Samuel Michael born April 15, 2016 to **Leah (Cranston '00)** and Michael Puchniak

Eric David born May 8, 2016 to **Heather (Campbell '03)** and Alex Till

Aiden James born May 28, 2016 to **Alysa (Beeston '02)** and Andrew Friesen

Margot Susan and Nellie Tess born June 2, 2016 to **Jill Kasian '97** and Jonathan Dorthe

Leo Corduroy Brooker born June 19, 2016 to **Emily (Krawchuk '03)** and Daniel Brooker

Max Leo born June 28, 2016 to **Vanessa Mulhern '00** and Avi Walker

Ava Taylor born July 10, 2016 to **Lindsay (Taylor '04)** and Maciek Hunek

Eli Ernest born July 28, 2016 to **Chelsea (Duszak '05)** and Jeremy Arns

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.

Prof. Joan Mary Harland '32

Virginia Forsyth (Baroni '35)

Ruth Costello '37

Frances Cecilia Ward (Delaney '37)

Agnes Regina Scott (Lohr '38)

Alice Farrell (Lear '40)

Margaret Parrish (Kennedy '40)

Mabel Lemire (Garroni '42)

Donalda (Dona) Eileen Brekelmans (O'Connor '43)

Elizabeth 'Betty' Fox (McVeigh '43)

Mary Clara Middleton (Bemister '48)

Rose Chyzzy (Breznev '48)

Eugenie Bowes '50

Sister Shelagh Deegan RSCJ '50

Helen Scott (Finch '51)

Lynne Deanna Barley-Cholakakis (Brangan '53)

Joanne Singbeil (McDonald '57)

Elizabeth Gaerke (Vielhaber '59)

Lynne Heywood (Benson '61)

Grace Marcoux '62

Valerie Louise Parrish (Dowdall '67)

Mary Jane Holtmann (Seier '69)

Elizabeth Anne Dennehy '70

Marilyn Graham (Boyce '71)

Kimberley Thomas '72

Margaret Mary Edmond Brown (teacher, 74)

Sylvia Beaucage-Pena (teacher, 98-08)

Marguerite Louis McDonald (teacher, 66-71)

Doreen Akins (Innes)

Mary Elizabeth Sharp

With deep regret, the following alumnae were omitted from last year's Torch Light. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Mary McLeod (Vickers '31)

Molly McLennan (Phair '35)

Joan Bieganowski (Wood '36)

Elvira Magnifico '40

Mary Sopchuk '44

Beverly Clark (Arbuthnot '44)

Marguerite 'Peggy' Ashcroft (Wall '49)

Carla Moore '52

Barbra Straszynski (Kruczynski '54, BA '58)

Carol Hearsey (Cadaro '62)

Mary Lou Smith (Kelly '65)

Mary Beehler '69



Colin, Janet & Noah Paterson with Melissa Coleman

Friends of Hailey Scholarship

Alumna Janet Paterson (Debroni '91) and her husband Colin created The Friends of Hailey Foundation in memory of their daughter Hailey Marie Paterson, who passed away in 2009 at the age of 10 months. Beginning in 2016 and on an annual basis, The Friends of Hailey Foundation will award a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating SMA student whose intent is to pursue post-secondary education in any medical field.

Congratulations to Melissa Coleman '16, the 2016 recipient of the Friends of Hailey Scholarship.

from the Advancement Office



Georgine Van de Mosselaer '83

Have you ever been asked to explain what you do for a living? The answer is often diverse and the journey likely includes many chapters and titles along the way. Mom, Dad, Daughter, Son, educator, whatever hat you wear, you know that the title is only a beginning to the beautiful and challenging adventure that you are on. When I arrived at St. Mary's Academy, almost two years ago, I added another title to my life's journey, "Director of Advancement and Alumnae Affairs." I have reflected often on what that means to me and to our community and I have come to realize that two words – Advancement and Alumnae – are key to the mission of our office.

Advancing the mission and vision of SMA started with asking questions. What does

SMA and charism mean to you, Sister? How can we foster leadership in our community, teacher? What does a mind, body and soul education feel like, fellow alumna? How can we partner with you, parents? What gifts do you share as a volunteer, student?

By continuing to ask questions and listening to the collective stories, we have moved forward this year with new events like our Burning Bright Speaker Series, An Evening at the Academy, Bursary Barista and Yoga for Bursary in which we served up a kaleidoscope of opportunities to gather and further share and build relationships.

In listening to stories from alumnae, I am reminded of how strong our bond is in sisterhood, forged by the strength of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and their tenacity in helping each one of us find our full potential. Alumnae parents, alumnae students, alumnae board members, former staff and faculty, friends–

we are all touched by and contribute to the fabric of SMA. We are keenly aware of the inspiration of Mother Marie-Rose to educate young women and we continue to be engaged and tell our stories to ensure that another generation will have this unique experience so that they can create their own stories as leaders in the service of the community.

I am reminded of a quote from our Truth and Reconciliation Round Table Discussion, where one of the survivors asked us to "hear me, believe me and walk beside me". When we are heard, when we walk beside one another with a personal and active faith in God, we can move mountains. Thank you for helping move mountains this past year.

I look forward to scaling even more with you in the years to come.

*"Hear me, believe me
and walk beside me."*

expanding the vision



St. Mary's Academy Foundation was pleased to unveil the *expanding the vision* donor wall in October 2015. This campaign was the third phase of a facility renewal project which commenced in 2008 and concluded in 2015. It successfully strengthened the visual arts, dramatic arts, library and athletics programs at SMA by expanding the facilities and broadening the programming available to the students and the wider community. **Thank you to all donors who generously supported *expanding the vision*.**



Annual Giving

THANK YOU to the donors who support SMA's mission through our Foundation's Annual Giving program.

The following donors made gifts between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

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\$25,000+

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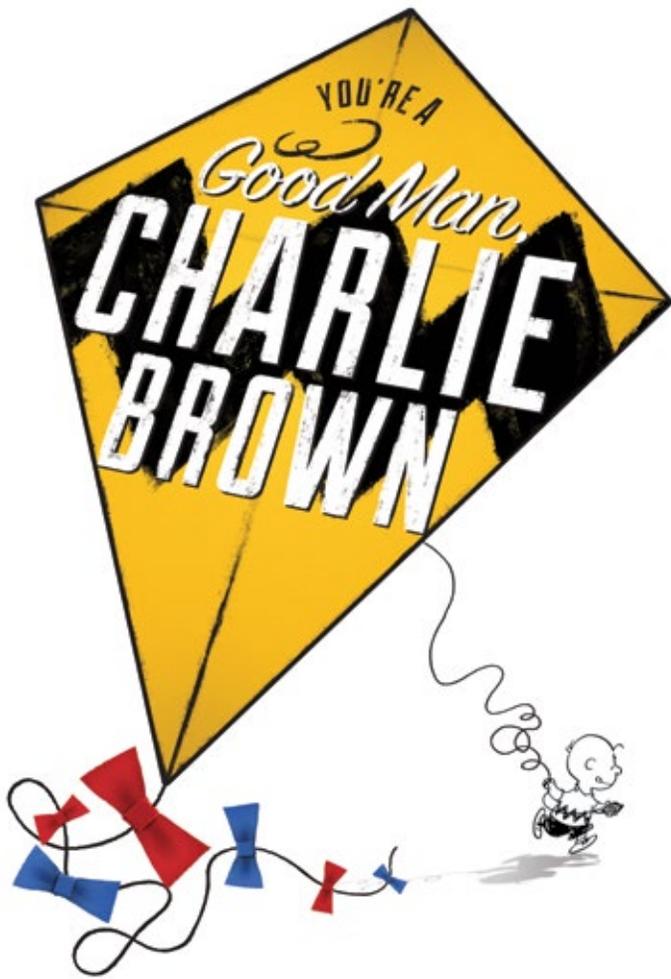
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St. Mary's Academy 2016 Dramatic Arts Performance

You're A Good Man Charlie Brown

Showtimes

Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15 each

Available this fall from stmarysacademy.mb.ca

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Cornerstone Necklace

Handcrafted, sterling silver necklace cast from a piece of limestone from the very foundation of St. Mary's Academy, finished with a blue sapphire, and stamped with SMA insignia.

Makes a great gift for a graduate, retirement or any special occasion.

Cost: \$75.00 each

Ordering Information

Download an order form from www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/supporting_sma/cornerstone_necklace/ during the below stated dates and submit your form to: kmoore@smamb.ca. Orders take 4-6 weeks for processing. Purchasers will be notified when necklaces are ready for pick-up from SMA. Out of province and International shipping is available (additional charges apply).

Orders accepted during the following time periods:

September 15, 2016 - October 15, 2016

January 15 - February 15, 2017

April 15 - May 15, 2017

Produced in partnership with Johanna Brierley '95 of Johanna Brierley Jewelry Design

Coming Events

2016 Homecoming: Saturday, October 1, 2016

Commemorative Years Breakfast Reception: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | SMA Cafeteria | \$20 per person

For alumnae from the Classes of 1936, 1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2006, 2011

To reserve seating, contact Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031 before September 23rd.

SMA Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Alumnae Hall

Mass: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Alumnae Hall

“Welcome Home” Alumnae and Friends Celebration: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | SMA will be open for viewing and reminiscing. Alumnae, friends and families welcome.

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 | 5:30 p.m. | St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium

Guest Speaker: Lesley Sacouman, SNJM | Topic: The Transformative Power of Mercy: Where Do You Stand?

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

International Day

Sunday, November 6, 2016 | 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: 58th Annual Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, November 6, 2016 | 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Richmond Girl Guide House, 4780 Blundell Road, Richmond, BC. For information contact Darlene Burns (Woerlee '69) at darlene_burns@telus.net.

Cocktails on the Crescent

Saturday November 19, 2016 | 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (Art Auction at 9:30 p.m.)

Everyone is invited to enjoy and share in this wonderful evening hosted on the 2nd floor of the 1902 building at SMA. Evening will include an Art Auction, catered appetizers, dessert table, cash wine bar and so much more. Tickets are \$50 and available for purchase later in the fall.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown – High School Drama Production

Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. | Friday, December 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. | Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets available this fall from stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

December Celebration and Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 4, 2016 | Mass at 11:00 a.m. | Holy Names Chapel | Christmas Tea to follow in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom

Celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Donations of non-perishable food items, new hats, mitts and scarves, or monetary donations will be gratefully accepted and donated to Rossbrook House.

Drinks Under the Dome

Wednesday, December 21, 2016 | 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The grads from the Class of 2016 gather in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom to share a Christmas beverage and snacks, pick up their yearbooks and take the opportunity to get their classmates' autographs. Please use the 550 Wellington Crescent entrance.

RSVP to Kerri Moore at kmoore@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6031.

An Evening at the Academy

Saturday, January 28, 2017 | Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., Dinner and Live Auction at 7:00 p.m. | St. Mary's Academy

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

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

Tickets available on October 4, 2016 from stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Thursday, April 20, 2017 | 5:30 p.m. | St. Mary's Academy, Sheila Chipman Atrium

Topic TBA

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

Generations Day (New Event)

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 | Further details to be announced early in 2017

Current students are invited to bring their Grandparents or Grandfriends to school for the day. Guests will get to experience a day-in-the-life of their grandchild.

Marian Awards for Excellence Celebration

Saturday, May 13, 2017 | Reception at 10:00 a.m. | Brunch to follow at 10:30 a.m.

The Gates on Roblin, 6945 Roblin Blvd.

Tickets \$75 each and will be available from stmarysacademy.mb.ca early in 2017.



2nd Annual
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 28, 2017

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

Tickets available October 4, 2016, from stmarysacademy.mb.ca



– Happy Birthday –
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Celebrating 150 years in Winnipeg as a Catholic School
for young women in the tradition of the
Sisters of the Holy names of Jesus and Mary

Save the date

Friday, September 27, 2019

Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

