

# Saint Mary's employees recognized

An employee recognition ceremony held in the McNally Theatre Auditorium on November 14 was an opportunity for Saint Mary's University to recognize employees for their dedicated service to the University community.



Many Saint Mary's employees were recognized at a celebration held in November. (Front row L-R): Doug Vaisey, Margaret-Anne Bennett, Dr. Margaret Harry, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, David Lane, Dr. Renee Hulan, Dr. Andrew Harvey; (Middle row): Dr. Stephen Davis, Alison Boyer, Dr. Paul Erickson, Joan Whitney, Dr. Stavros Konstantinidis, Dr. Pawan Lingras, Dr. Zhongmin Dong, Sarah Gough, Larry Corrigan, Bill Ellis; (Back row): Dr. Anthony Farrell, Alan O'Laughlin, Donald Simpkin, Kate Brookes, Dr. Vlodk Tarnawski, Dr. Xiaofei Song, Gabrielle Morrison, Barry McNeil, Dr. Terry Murphy. (Missing from the photo): Dr. Suzanne Dansereau, Gary Dukeshire, Jerry Heffernan, Dr. Teresa Heffernan, Dr. Janet Hill, Dr. Audrey MacNevin, Dr. Anthony O'Malley, Dr. Lyndan Warner, Kathy Mullane, Dr. Phillip Street, Dr. Nancy McAllister-Irwin, Beverley Miller and Eve McDermott.

Thirty-four employees of Saint Mary's University were recognized for their years of service, and three outstanding individuals, one from the faculty ranks and two from staff, were presented with the *President's Award for Exemplary Service* at the ceremony.

"Saint Mary's can only be successful in guiding our students to be 'aspiring citizens of the world' through the ongoing support and commitment of our faculty, staff and instructors," said Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University, as he thanked all Saint Mary's employees for their dedication to Saint Mary's students.

The *President's Award* is presented each year to three full-time employees who have demonstrated outstanding service and made a significant contribution to the University community. The nomination process for the *President's Award* is quite competitive. At least three reference letters must accompany each nomination. This year's winners are Dr. Margaret Harry, Associate Professor of English (retired); Margaret-Anne Bennett, Director of the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development; and David Lane, Observatory Technician.

## Dr. Margaret Harry

Dr. Margaret Harry, who recently retired, joined Saint Mary's as part-time faculty in the English Department in 1971. She left Saint Mary's in 1975 to pursue her PhD at the University of Toronto and returned a few years later to teach in the English Department. Over the years Dr. Harry has taught in a wide range of disciplines in the Faculty of Arts, including Irish Studies, Atlantic Canada Studies as well as many courses in the English Department. Dr. Harry also served as Chair of the English Department and as Graduate Coordinator of Atlantic Canada Studies.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Harry has served as an advisor, mentor and teacher to countless students, helping them prepare their theses for defence and guiding them through to graduate school. In the community, Dr. Harry has brought together scholarship donors such as the Marshall family and students who compete for the *Joyce Marshall Hsia Memorial Poetry Prize* awarded annually to a Saint Mary's University undergraduate student for their outstanding poetry.

Recently Dr. Harry worked tirelessly toward the revision of the Department of English programs and curriculum, making sure that the innovative changes were well presented and ultimately approved. Her service to the Faculty of Arts is greatly appreciated.

## David Lane

David Lane is the public face of the Astronomy Program at Saint Mary's. Whether he is presenting the night sky to public schools, speaking on radio or hosting public tours at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory, David's enthusiasm for astronomy has rubbed off on many future Saint Mary's students.

David joined the Department of Astronomy in 1992 as the Observatory Technician responsible for the operation of the 40cm telescope in the Burke-Gaffney Observatory. Over the next few years, he spearheaded the modernization of the telescope's pointing and setting system from a manual operation to a computerized "point and click" system.

David's work with the Saint Mary's telescope, his contacts within the local amateur astronomy community and his involvement on the executive of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada have led to national media exposure for Saint Mary's University on many occasions. Whether it is the discovery of *Supernova 1995F* or the total eclipse of the sun in 1994 that attracted thousands of people to Saint Mary's, David's community outreach efforts have placed Saint Mary's on the astronomy map world wide.

As 2009 and the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope approaches, David Lane, along with other faculty and staff of the Astronomy and Physics Department, will be showcasing the Burke-Gaffney Observatory once again making Saint Mary's University a focal point for International Year of Astronomy celebrations.

## Margaret-Anne Bennett

Margaret-Anne Bennett began working at Saint Mary's in 1979 as a support staff in the Division of Continuing Education. In a sense Margaret-Anne practiced what continuing education and life-long learning is all about. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from Saint Mary's as a mature, part-time student and a Bachelor of Education and Masters in Education from Dalhousie University.

Throughout her years of study, Margaret-Anne continued working in the Division of Continuing Education as an advocate for non-traditional students; as Director, Summer Sessions, and eventually as Assistant Director. In 1998, she became the founding director of the Office of Instructional Development, since renamed the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development. This office provides services and programs for professional development in teaching to full and part time faculty, including support in the use of educational technology. More recently, her role has been expanded to include a number of strategic projects within the Academic Plan, including student success initiatives and the implementation of academic program reviews.

Over the years, Margaret-Anne has served on many Saint Mary's committees including the President's Task Force on the Future of the University; the Faculty of Education Review Committee; the Quality of Teaching Committee and the Task Force on Student Success. Margaret-Anne is currently playing a key role on the Global Commons Implementation Committee tasked with introducing "learning commons" principles to the new Global Commons space in the Atrium set to open in autumn 2009.

"I'm presuming I speak for David and Margaret as well when I say that, no one really goes about their daily business, year in and year out, with the aim of being recognized or rewarded – which is why the *President's Award for Exemplary Service* is an important recognition within Saint Mary's, and usually comes as a pleasant surprise to the recipients," reflected Margaret-Anne on being chosen for a *President's Award for Exemplary Service*.

*Congratulations to all Saint Mary's faculty and staff who received recognition for their dedication to the University and the broader Saint Mary's community!*

# Students rewarded at Saint Mary's

Each year, through the generosity of alumni, friends, businesses and organizations, Saint Mary's is able to offer more than \$4.5 million in scholarships and bursaries to its students. In addition the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research offers its graduate students graduate awards, fellowships and external scholarships.

On November 12, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research handed out 57 named scholarships, fellowships and bursaries to deserving graduate students. In addition, 79 Graduate Awards and 62 Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Fellowships were awarded.

Then on November 16, undergraduate scholarship winners and their families met with scholarship and bursary donors who gathered at the President's Undergraduate Reception held in the McNally Theatre Auditorium. This year over 200 named entrance and undergraduate scholarships and bursaries were awarded at the reception. Congratulations to all the scholarship, bursary and fellowship award winners!



Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University, congratulates the winners of the Constance "Teak" McGibbon Memorial Bursary awarded this year to (From L-R): Taylor Comeau, Krysania Hume, Tara Totten and Allen Wolfe.



Graduate students receiving awards included (From L-R): Felicia Thomas, winner of a Graduate Studies Award, Corinne McNally, winner of the Dover TrustCo Ltd. MBA Bursary, Ryan Mrozek, winner of a Graduate Studies Award, and Kimberley McIssac, winner of the Royal LePage Scholarship.