

Saint Mark's College Alumni Newsletter

November 2013, Issue 1

ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT: RECONNECT

Greetings, and thank you for taking the time to take a look at our first ever Saint Mark's Alumni Newsletter! With this newsletter, we are launching the Saint Mark's Alumni Development Program. The purpose of this program is to reconnect with friends and alumni of Saint Mark's College, and to create an Alumni Community. Through the creation of this community, we hope to host reunions like our upcoming Homecoming, **(June 21-22, 2014)** renew lost connections, and to inform Alumni and friends about the progress that is and has been underway at Saint Mark's College since you were last here.

Warm Regards,

Allison Baker

Allison Baker, Alumni Outreach Project Coordinator

SAINT MARK'S COLLEGE HOMECOMING

JUNE 21/22, 2014
Vancouver, BC

Join us for a fun filled
reunion!

For information or to join our
planning committee, contact
alumni@stmarkscollege.ca or
call Allison at 604-822-4463



Message from Dr. Paul Burns

Interim Principal

Greetings to Alumni/ae from Saint Mark's College! I remain very grateful for the opportunity that I had to be part of the staff of Saint Mark's College and part of campus ministry for sixteen years during the 1970s and 1980s. Together we faced the challenge to bring the mission of the Church to the largest residential campus in the country. We were ably supported during those years by a number of dedicated Basilian Fathers. We also had important assistance from Sister Zita Maier, an Ursuline Sister, Sisters Kathleen Crowley and Monica Guest, Sisters of Charity, and Marina Smith, a Sister of St. Ann. Many of you who were university students provided support and leadership to the Orientation Weekends which we held at places like Evans Lake or St. Mary's Resort on Saltspring Island or the Bible Camp on Keats Island. There you helped to develop the programs of activities for weekly Discussion Groups in Student Residences, Newman Club, social activities, hikes, camping trips and retreats. Some of you joined in the field trips to work among the poor in Mexico. For many especially for those in University Residences, the Sunday Masses were an important gathering point. The services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter vigil were especially memorable. Generations of students supplied music at the three Sunday Masses.

I am writing to you not to indulge in nostalgia, but to let you know about some of the changes in the lives of people who made a difference in our experience back then at Saint Mark's and also how the College is expanding its activities to continue to serve the Church's mission in post-secondary education. In 1990, Pope John Paul II wrote *Ex corde ecclesiae*, an important encyclical about the challenges of that mission in our times. He explored the integration of faith and reason and how this productive interaction should inform the whole curriculum of a Catholic University. He also noted that this effort is most effective when conducted within strong bonds of friendship. The Vatican Commission on Post-Secondary Education took on new energy and produced a number of challenges for Catholic Institutions around the world. To lead this Commission he appointed J. Michael Miller CSB, former head of the Basilian University of St. Thomas in Houston Texas. After his term of service on that Vatican Commission, the Pope sent Archbishop Miller to Vancouver. This was a very timely appointment since the Archdiocese had just completed an extensive Synod to review the pastoral life of Vancouver. One of the priorities which emerged from this process was the need to support Catholic post-secondary education in the Archdiocese. As a sign of the increased role the Colleges have in the mission of the Church, Archbishop Miller encouraged one of our own "alumni," Monsignor Mark Hagemoen, to take on the leadership of the two Colleges in 2011 (*Father Mark has recently been appointed a bishop of the Archdiocese of MacKenzie-Fort Smith*). Saint Mark's has also become a Parish in its own right under the direction of the Jesuits Father Rob Allore SJ and Father Mike Stogre SJ.

Housed within Saint Mark's is an initiative in undergraduate education that began fifteen years ago. Corpus Christi College is currently designed as a two-year transfer program with all of its courses approved for transfer to universities and colleges in B.C. It is interesting to note that



some of the children of people at Saint Mark's during the 70's and early 80's have studied at Corpus Christi. I am aware of the son of Susan Hegler and Matt Coady, the daughter of Ron Dumont and the daughter of Dileep Athaide.

Prior to his appointment as Bishop, Fr. Mark invited me back to the College to be Dean of the Liberal Arts Program of Corpus Christi College and to help with Saint Mark's new BA in Theology and Culture. For Corpus Christi we have integrated the course offerings around the theme of the extended Liberal Arts within the Catholic intellectual tradition.

In practice we are providing an extensive range of courses within the four streams of "Faith and Culture," "Global Studies," "Science and the Environment," and "Business Studies". Students who complete all the requirements for one of these streams will earn an Associate of Arts Degree approved by the Province. Over the years our students have gone to complete their Bachelor's Degree at UBC, SFU, Victoria, BCIT, Langara, McGill, Queens or Toronto. With the introduction of the new BA in Theology and Culture at Saint Mark's hopefully some will remain with us. Two of our Corpus Christi graduates are back with us on our staff.

We are looking for your assistance on a number of levels. You helped us with our mission a generation ago and we want to acknowledge that in a more regular fashion through Newsletters and Reunions. We also want you to be our ambassadors and spread the word about the expanded programs of the two Colleges. November is a time when Catholics remember in special ways those who have died. I am encouraging you to remember those who touched and enriched our lives and especially during those critical years of your university experiences. From among the students themselves a surprising number have died prematurely: Ellen Turley, Ron Dumont, John Deutsch Jr., Steve Parker husband of Maureen McDougall, Adrianna wife of Joachim Cue and Malvina wife of Dileep Athaide. There may be others about whom I have not heard so please let us know.

Message from Dr. Burns continued on page 4

ALUMNI PROFILES

Dileep Athaide



My close association with Saint Mark's College commenced in 1973 when I hosted a weekly discussion group for Catholic students at Totem Park residence. Soon after, I lived with the Basilian Fathers at Saint Mark's for four years; it was during this period that I helped with the engaging of UBC students -- mostly from the Residences and the Newman Club -- in a myriad of activities at the College. These included special Masses and Retreats, spiritual, intellectual and academic workshops, service activities, and all sorts of social events (some will remember Maria Spumoni and the Madam Newman Quartet of Singing Pleasure!); highlights included an annual Orientation Weekend at Saltspring Island and a year-end Camping trip, and a variety reflected by "Dance Prayer" and a Learning and Study Skills workshop series.

In the late 70's and early 80's I served on the Executive of the Newman (Alumni) Association, establishing the annual Jack and Leo Leavy Bursary, Epiphany Party, and Retreat at Westminster Abbey. With the support of many at Saint Mark's, I founded Communitas International Volunteer Society, sending several young adults to live and work for a year in the Developing World. The Basilian Fathers, both residents and visitors to the College through those years, had a profound influence on me, for which I am ever-grateful.

Fast-forwarding a couple of decades, I was privileged to teach a Geology course at Corpus Christi College in 2006-2007, and earlier this year my daughter Olivia obtained an Associate Degree in the Liberal Arts from the College. Members of the Saint Mark's diaspora were very supportive of our family when we lost my wife, Malvina, to cancer in 2004. My full circle back to Saint Mark's appears now to be completed as I study theology there, as part of the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Permanent Diaconate Formation program.



Fr. Mark Gazin, CSB

I have recently returned to the Lower Mainland after 30 years thanks to an appointment to Star of the Sea Parish in White Rock by Archbishop Miller, CSB. This appointment came at the request of the Basilian Fathers. Prior to moving to White Rock, I spent time in Edmonton, at St. Basil's in Toronto, New Mexico, Texas, and Ontario in Basilian University campus ministry. Saint Mark's College, Paul Burns and the Basilian Fathers stamped a lasting impression on my life. Not only did an auspicious desire grow to live my life in service to the Church, but also I have wonderful memories of lively people and solid friends.

We studied for our respective UBC degrees...and did more! We visited the Burnaby L'Arche Community, traveled on Sunday mornings for Mass at Oakalla Jail and returned for Mass *again* at Saint Mark's. We organized talent nights and dances and Newman Winter Balls. We learned about the Easter Triduum and stayed up all night for dawn Easter Mass. We sang, hiked, camped, caught and cooked smelt at Tower Beach, drank and pulled pranks on paternally patient priests. We planned orientation weekends at Saltspring Island, retreats at Westminster Abbey and graduation parties on the Saint Mark's grassy lawn.

We formed ecumenical faith communities (The Lighthouse aka Dunbar Abbey) and we gathered for discussion groups at UBC residences, all the while struggling with various vibrant personalities and even hoisting the occasional beer from the Newman Holy Fridge. It's good to be back! I'm looking forward to June 21-22, 2014 at Saint Mark's. *Cor ad cor loquitur!*

Leonard Tenisci

After my degree in Zoology from UBC, I pursued work as a contract biologist, and later creative enterprises in photojournalism, acting, as well as a stint in the Trudeau administration as Assistant Press Secretary to the Minister for the Wheat Board.

Living at Saint Mark's College was a boon to my university education. We were a close knit group, living in a family-type atmosphere, with close and abiding friendships and a ready-made social life. To this day, I maintain close contact with some of the friends I made at Saint Mark's. The fact that we were mostly all Catholic was a huge advantage - it was comforting to have this common bond. In my university years, I began to delve more deeply into the issue of religion and cosmology - who we are and how we fit into the universal scheme - and I was delighted to find myself in the company of several kindred souls, including a couple of the resident priests. We were encouraged to question, rather than blindly accept. Some of the conversations we had over coffee or beer would have earned us the guillotine five hundred years ago, just for questioning the established doctrines. I remain ever grateful to the Basilian Fathers for their open mindedness and willingness to let us be without judging.

Greetings from Rev. Msgr. Mark Hagemoen!

Alumnus and Former Principal

As we respond to the supportive interest of many SMC Alumni, I am pleased to highlight that growth and consolidation of academic programs and financial support for students are the key developments over the past year.

We continue to experience increasing enrollment in our six new graduate Masters and Masters of Arts degree programs, launched in July 2012. The hybrid model of course delivery, which features both on-line and on-site facets, continues to serve our students well, as most face busy professional lives, and several are accessing our programs from areas outside of the Lower Mainland, including the BC interior and the Yukon. The hybrid format applies to all Saint Mark's programs, and features an enhanced learning format, discussion forums, and an expanded array of resources. We look forward to graduating our first-ever cohort of Education Leadership students through our Teacher Qualification Service accredited program in the Spring of 2014. We also look forward to the graduation of the first cohort of Deacon candidates from the Graduate Diploma program in Pastoral Ministry in the Winter of 2015.



We are pleased to announce the first ever Bachelor of Arts in Theology program, beginning in September 2014. The program is designed for students seeking admission into the Bachelor of Education program at UBC, although it also provides an excellent foundation for students seeking an inter-disciplinary 'theology and culture' liberal arts program.

Saint Mark's College continues to work towards building academic programs that are recognized for their academic rigor and its goal of full Association of Theological School accreditation within the coming few years. Significant developments over the last year will contribute to this goal. I am pleased to announce the expansion of our SMC faculty with the following appointments: Dr. Lynda Robitaille as our first Academic Dean, and Dr. Michael Downey as Professor of Theology. We have expanded student scholarship support through the "Catholic Scholars" program for students sponsored by their parishes, schools, or Catholic institutions. The growth of both Colleges requires strong donor support! The Colleges receive no government funding, and thus rely on revenue from tuition and donations. This year, we achieved our fundraising target of \$850,000. This was in large part due to the support from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and the sustained and expanding support of benefactors. I am also pleased to announce evidence of increasing sound fiscal management with a third consecutive year of a balanced budget.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Mark Hagemoen

We want to hear from you!

We'd love the opportunity to reconnect with you and hear how you're doing, so drop us an email, or just drop by!

alumni@stmarkscollege.ca

Message from Dr. Paul Burns Continued

Among the Basilians from those years who have died please remember Fathers Robert Finn, David Bauer, Daniel Mulvihill, Bob Madden, John Janisse, Basil Glavin, Neil Kelly, Leo Klosterman, and James Hanrahan.

In practical terms, we hope that you use the Alumni Newsletters and proposed Reunions as opportunities to reconnect and renew friendships. So please spread the word that we want to rebuild the networks with people who spent some time with us at Saint Mark's College. Please pray that we can respond to the renewed call to this important ministry in the Church. Be our ambassador and spread the word about expanding activities.

Paul Burns