



SMC ALUMNI KNIGHTLY NEWS

Feb 1, 2005

Issue 1

Initial Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the SMC Alumni Knightly News. As many of you know, on October 7-9, 2005 St. Mary's College is blessed to be celebrating its 50th Anniversary Reunion. A remarkable milestone to say the least. We hope all alumni will return to Sault Ste. Marie, to gather with friends and former staff, to tell stories and reminisce about the many life experiences at SMC.

It will be A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER!

The purpose of this newsletter will be to keep our alumni up-to-date regarding news, events and information leading up to reunion weekend. We hope you will find it enjoyable and informative reading.

Please feel free to offer comments and/or ideas that you feel would be of interest. Contact by email to info@stmaryscollege.ca or by contacting Abbie DiDonato at the reunion office at 705-945-9373.

Oh what a Knight!

by Bob Denham

More correctly stated—**Porketta Knight**.

Don't feel badly if you don't know what I am referring to, because until I actually experienced it, I really had no idea what everyone was making such a fuss over.

Your 50th Anniversary Alumni Committee threw one of the great fun events of the Holiday Season at the K of C Hall on December 27 as the first of what will be many community-building/fund-raising gatherings this year.

There were actually two groups of participants at the hall that night. One group had obviously done a 'porketta night' before. These folks showed up with shopping bags full of cold cuts, cheese, bread and assorted munchies. Their group included parents, grand-parents and various friends, neighbours and anyone left over from the latest Christmas party and who still had five bucks in his pocket. The rest of us



Father Dan Zorzi C.S.B. (1979 Alumni) addresses Alumni and Friends. Fr Dan is currently President of St. Michaels College in Toronto.

Inside this issue:

Initial Newsletter	1
Oh What a Knight	1
SMC 2005 - New look, Same Spirit	2
Theatre SMC - "Charley's Aunt"	3
SMC Students Prepare Commemorative Publication	4

Special points of interest:

- SMC 50th Anniversary Weekend is October 7-9, 2005
- Register information at www.stmaryscollege.ca/alumni
- Calendar of Events will be available Soon.

Oh what a Knight! (...continued)

showed up with five dollars and gravy stains on our jeans. It put me in mind of my Grade Nine year at SMC when we 'mangacakes' showed up in the Cafeteria on the hill with peanut butter sandwiches and Oreo cookies and suddenly discovered that a whole lot of our classmates were eating some really cool food. Salami. Prosciutto. Mortadella. Cold friggin' pizza. Pizza? What was that?

You get the idea. Seems the idea is to play some variation of Bingo and when you win you yell "Porketta!". Instead of money you get a pound of hot porketta roast and a chunk of real bread. (If you are reading this and still are wondering what Porketta is you must have gone to White Pines and probably begged off attending when your spouse brought up the idea. The old 'too much turkey hon' excuse.)

Here's the catch. If you *don't* win, you get to sit there and watch the lucky winners stuff themselves. Unless of course you were given a heads-up by Porketta Veterans and arrived with grub from home. (Someone forgot to tell the Brothers Hennessy and they walked in with only their aging bodies and old stories of the Glory Days when they played football wearing leather helmets painted white.)

Now the kicker to the whole night. The "callers" for all this silliness were two guys named Barsanti and Didonato. Have you ever seen our former Principal deal cards? Is there any correlation between that and the fact that the first twelve winners had names ending with a vowel? *The ol' SMC Hustle. Some things never change folks.*



Loris Pecile and fellow alums enjoying the evening.

By the end of the night, a whole lot of the SMC family had eaten, drank and caught up with old friends, classmates and staff. We raised over two thousand bucks to help with the Anniversary Year events, were astounded at how everyone else got older and remembered our shared experience at a very special school.

Did I win? Are you kidding? I am learning to love string cheese and old celery.

St. Mary's College 2005 - New look, Same Spirit (by Madeleine McInnis)

Friends old and new to St. Mary's College will be pleasantly surprised by its recent face lift. The attractive new offices of Administration and Student Services are now immediately visible and accessible to visitors as they enter on street level. Separating them, a bright corridor which exhibits outstanding student art is overlooked by the statue of our patron, Mary.

Principal, Cindy Salituri, explained that the idea to relocate offices to the ground floor occurred about five years ago. From his vantage point on second floor, then principal, Jack Stadnyk, was concerned with security issues in the gigantic school. The request was submitted and the Board approved the project for early 2004.

Two classrooms and the caretakers' room were blocked off and the transformation was underway. By late June the barriers came down and stacks of files and equipment were on the way to their new home on the ground floor.

New look, Same Spirit (...Continued)

Meanwhile, upstairs, in place of the old offices, Jeannine Jefferson and her students enjoy a brighter and acoustically improved venue for Composite Arts. She proudly pointed out the dance floor constructed with boards saved from the renovations of SMC's first gymnasium floor.

According to Cindy, the advantages are many. "Safety is increased when office personnel can better monitor the entry of unexpected guests or issues that might arise on the street." She adds, "Parents and elderly guests will benefit from the greater accessibility of the ground floor offices." A happy consequence of these practical improvements is the "welcoming focal area" which has emerged for the big building.

The principal credits their unqualified satisfaction with the finished product to Sam Colizza and the Plant Department. "He brought us into the consultation process whenever possible," she said. The Architect firm was Ellis Pastore Oswin and the contractors were George Stone & Sons.

In true St. Mary's tradition, the formal opening of these new areas was blessed in a ceremony on Tuesday, January 11 at 4:00 pm. Father Paul Conway of St. Veronica Parish led Board members in prayer following a tour of the new facilities.

Alumni are always welcome to come in and check out the new look of our old home.

Theatre SMC presents our first QUONTA entry: "Charley's Aunt" (by Maria Burgess)

Theatre SMC has wowed audiences for 15 years with its great work and gifted actors -- from comedies to dramas to musicals. This year, it's time to laugh and laugh hard. We will be presenting Charley's Aunt, a classic comedy which has been performed to literally millions of theatergoers over the years.

The author, Brandon Thomas weaves a complex plot full of comical and surprising twists and turns that hang together like a beautifully constructed house of cards. His characters are touching, appropriately inane, and very winning. The play is an irresistible lark. Mistaken identity, cross-dressing, deranged uncles and ravished heroines inhabit this sparkling comedy.

The show stars our hardworking and talented young actors John Reed Hryskiewicz, Rick Mills, Brendan Doan, Laura Schnablegger, Whitney Mancuso and Shana Brown, and featuring our very good friends from the Community Theatre family: Bob Cooper, John Dedes, Harry Houston and our very own Jeannine Jefferson.

We are so excited about securing a spot in the QUONTA regional drama festival in North Bay in March -- it is the first time that a theatre group of young high school actors has been accepted into the festival. We look forward to our work measuring up against that of five other theatre groups in the Northern Ontario region.

We will be presenting Charley's Aunt to Sault audiences from February 23 to 26 at 8:00 p.m. in our own beautiful theatre. Tickets are available at the school (945-5540) and at the Box Office in the Station Mall (945-7299). Please join us for this very funny play -- come meet Charley's Aunt -- she promises everyone a little romance, a little pretense, a lot of laughs!

February 23 - 26 8:00 p.m. St. Mary's College Theatre



Cindy listens while Father Paul Conway blesses the newly renovated offices January 11, 2005

SMC Students Prepare Commemorative Publication for 2005 Reunion: **Bridging Two Millennia** (by Pat Annett)

Laura Schnablegger and Sarah Huckson, two students at St. Mary's College are researching the history of SMC to prepare a Commemorative Edition for the 2005 Reunion. Their goal is to capture the unique character of a school, that despite its obvious external changes over fifty years, has retained the legacy left by the Basilian Fathers in modern and exciting ways.

The student writers identified their audience as alumni, staff, and parents from the past and present. A great deal of research was needed to cover the thirty-one years when the college was an all-boys school. During interviews, Sarah and Laura discovered a core tradition and spirit that did not alter over fifty years. They defined that tradition as a strong, faith-based community spirit rooted by the Basidia fathers. That tradition comes alive today in the creative, inclusive liturgy celebrations that embrace language, drama, music and dance from a committed and talented student body.

Sarah and Laura conducted a wide scope of interviews with alumni such as author Frank Paci, Saltate Frank Sarlo, past administration such as Harvey Barsanti, and Huron-Superior Board members, Doctor Cecile Somme and Gerald Birkens. "Our favourite interview was with basketball coach, Karen McLean," said Sarah Huckson. McLean's personal account of the first ever girls' NOSSA companionship to come to SMC and the tremendous school celebrations that followed capsulated the success of the transition from the school 'on the hill' to the Wellington Street campus.

Laura and Sarah found a common thread throughout the interviews that is as true then as now. "The kids like coming to school because it's like coming home to family," commented Laura Schnablegger. Alumni remember that the school was home to the Basilians, like Father Pat Lalonde who kept the gym open til late at night and were always available for help. The girls best research was information about Father Mulcahy Laura and Sarah were amused and surprised to discover that the founding Father was priest, teacher, principal and janitor or whatever job it took to make the school a success financially in its beginning years.

Father Mulcahy would be proud today. Who knew what great success would be achieved in 1956. Today, St. Mary's College instills the universal values of the Basilians in a contemporary setting that is still vibrant and unique. Laura and Sarah feel very connected to the past and to the new millennium. Many of the students earn credits in the workplace through SMC's extensive co-op program. French Immersion programming, a 1.25 million dollar technology wing, CISCO credits, a state of the art media lab, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship programmes and a student body that raised 15,000 dollars for "kids helping kids", all highlight SMC as a tradition that has embraced this millennium.



Laura and Sarah discuss their project on the history of the Basilian Fathers at St. Mary's College.



St. Mary's College Alumni

St. Mary's College & Alumni

130 Wellington East
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Phone: 705-945-9373
Fax: 705-945-5561
Email: info@stmaryscollege.ca



St. Mary's College
50 Years

Questions/Comments about this newsletter can be directed to:

info@stmaryscollege.ca

If you have a story that would make good reading for our alumni, please send it to us.

Don't forget to Register at:

www.stmaryscollege.ca/alumni

Teach me Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge