

The Simmarian

Supplemental edition
Summer 2020

St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



JOSHUA BUATSI

St Mary's Olympic medallist secures the British light-heavyweight boxing title.

In March 2019, alumnus Joshua Buatsi beat Liam Conroy to take the British light-heavyweight title, and in June he climbed into the ring in Madison Square Garden to win against Mexican Marco Peribán in his US debut.

"The nicest, most dangerous man you can meet" is how boxing promoter Eddie Hearn describes Buatsi. An opinion echoed across the many column inches now being written about Joshua and his developing career. Buatsi is described as a quiet soul, a man of God, who showcases boxing at its best, both inside and outside the ring. He was complimented on his good grace and professionalism in the lead up to fights – no histrionics, no trash talking, no nonsense – and is applauded for how he uses his prodigious talent.

Read the full interview with Joshua on our website: www.stmarys.ac.uk/alumni/news

Also In this issue

Meet the
new VC

Amazing
Simmies stories

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the university

A year in
photos

Simmies Spotlight

Many of our graduates have been going online to support their communities during COVID-19. Here are just a few.



Joe Wicks becomes the nation's PE teacher

Joe Wicks has taken the country by storm with his daily PE lessons, keeping the country fit by live streaming to almost a million homes every weekday. All advertising revenue from the videos goes to the NHS.



Crystal Dyke entertains children with classic tales

Crystal launched a new YouTube channel to help keep young children entertained at home by performing readings of classic tales in costume.



Amy-Louise Peach inspires with creative early years education

Amy launched *Little Learners* on YouTube in 2017 to help parents, guardians and teachers with creative lessons for children in early education. Since then, *Little Learners* has grown to a community of almost 50,000 subscribers.

GOOD NEWS

You can read more features on our inspirational alumni on our website at www.stmarys.ac.uk/news.

Don't forget to follow St Mary's on Twitter as well @YourStMarys.



Welcome

Welcome from Anthony McClaran, Vice Chancellor

As the new Vice Chancellor of St Mary's, I would like to wish a very warm welcome to our alumni in this special edition of the Simmian magazine.

As you can imagine, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University and its people has been huge. At the end of March, all teaching transitioned online, campus closed to visitors and most staff began to work from home, with all University operations being delivered remotely.

For me, it has been an unusual start to a new role, to say the least, but I am already immensely proud of the way our students, staff and alumni have risen to the challenge of protecting each other's health and wellbeing, and have maintained the high professional and academic standards for which St Mary's is known. You can read more on this page about some alumni who have put their skills to good use in supporting their communities.

The University continues to make good progress in all areas, and we were proud to retain our Ofsted Outstanding status in 2019. This is the fruit of so much hard work from colleagues in the Institute of Education. The Ofsted report highlighted the commitment to the University's values and showed a well-deserved and continued first-class reputation in teacher training.

I hope that once lockdown is over and campus reopens, we will be able to welcome you back to St Mary's. Thank you for your continued support, and best wishes for your good health.

Some headlines from St Mary's over the past year




Outstanding Provider

The Institute of Education has once more achieved 'Outstanding' in all primary and secondary categories www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2019/02/ofsted-announcement



From autumn 2021, St Mary's will be launching a new postgraduate campus in Edinburgh www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2020/05/gillis-centre



Last summer, St Mary's hosted a special edition of Songs of Praise on campus, hosted by Katherine Jenkins www.stmarys.ac.uk/student-support/chaplaincy/chaplaincy.aspx



In 2019, St Mary's athletes won all four individual titles at the British Universities and Colleges Sport Cross Country Championships and came first in both the Women's and Men's Elite races at the Virgin London Marathon www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2019/02/indoor-championships-epacc



Student firm Gusto won the first Start-Up St Mary's programme, scooping the £5000 seed-funding prize to develop their new, sustainably sourced range of air-dried fruit snacks www.stmarys.ac.uk/careers

St Mary's made a partnership with the University of Arizona www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2019/10/university-of-arizona-partnership

Update your details on our website to receive our regular enews: www.stmarys.ac.uk/alumni/update

GET INVOLVED!

Looking for ways to reconnect with St Mary's?

Join one of our upcoming webinars with high-profile speakers - see www.stmarys.ac.uk/events for details or subscribe to our events mailing list at www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/subscribe

Improve your prospects by enrolling on one of our wide range of professional or creative short courses at www.stmarys.ac.uk/short-courses

Come back for further study and receive an exclusive alumni discount of up to 20% on postgraduate courses - visit www.stmarys.ac.uk/student-finance/postgraduate/alumni-discount



A year in photos



1965

I was at St Mary's from 1962 to 1965. Having spent year two in bed and breakfast accommodation I wanted to be in college for my third year, and the best way to do this was to become an elected officer.

Being a Handicraft student wanting access to the workshops was not enough. So I got myself elected as secretary of the Photography Society. This was an interest I had and, with working every summer holiday at Kodak in Harrow, I used the cheap prices in their camera club to buy my consumables.

A group of us spent time capturing life at St Mary's and sharing it, even though it was just in black and white. We had a darkroom on the first floor of the Old House [now G Block] – top of stairs, turn right, and it was the first door on the left. And it was there that these photographs, along with hundreds of others came, into existence.

One stand-out event, from a photographer's perspective, was the Strawberry Fair. The theme in 1965 was pirates, and there were races, games on the river bank and stalls, including a Photographic

Society stall. Richmond Bridge was the place for collecting for charity, and someone went in the river from there, although I can't remember who.

Eddie Bleasdale, President of the Auto Club, is pictured here in the chariot race, pulled by two PE lads; and here too is my A35 van decorated with Fair posters.

My van secured my election as Auto Club Vice President, and this, along with my photo society election, ensured my room on campus – happy days!

Kevin Clayton (1962-1965)



Join the Simms 60s and 70s group run by Joe Loughran – email joe@theloughrans.co.uk

Join the 1980s Simmarians Facebook group run by Enda Mullen – search '1980s Simmarians'

Supporting Our Students

As the current pandemic separates us from our students, it's more important than ever that we pull together as a community and look after each other. We are distant, but together in spirit, and we want to continue to support our students as best we can, whatever hardship they may be facing.

In September a new cohort of students will join St Mary's:

60% of our students are from households with an income of less than £25k.

20% of our students are impacted by some form of disability.

The number of students seeking support for mental health has seen a dramatic increase.

In spite of these difficulties, the Sunday Times Good University Guide recently ranked student satisfaction at St Mary's the best in London "by a considerable margin".

A key element of this satisfaction is the comprehensive and dedicated student support service that we offer in a range of crucial areas, including mental health, disability and dyslexia support, and student hardship.

This year, amid an unprecedented squeeze on university finances across the country, in addition to the considerable pressure from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are asking you to support our students by donating to our student campaign.

Help our students to thrive whatever their background or circumstances

Set up a direct debit on our secure site: www.stmarys.ac.uk/regulargiving

Make a single gift on our Just Giving site: www.justgiving.com/stmarysuni-twickenham

Electronic bank transfers can be made to:

Account Name: St Mary's University Development

Bank Name: HSBC

Account number: 82123533

Sort code: 40-05-20

If you would like to discuss your support, or if you have any questions about the above, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@stmarys.ac.uk, on +44 (0)20 8240 4007 or by visiting www.stmarys.ac.uk/alumni/support.