



SimmarianOnline

Message from Anne Moran Pro-Vice-Chancellor



I am delighted to introduce myself. In December 2014 I joined the staff of St Mary's University as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) following a career in higher education in Northern Ireland.

My responsibilities at St Mary's include both international marketing and recruitment and also recruitment at home. I have had a wonderful experience so far and that is largely due to the warmth and friendliness of both staff and students and the commitment of staff to ensuring that students have a first class university experience.

One of my first tasks is to prepare a new internationalisation strategy that will equip us for the challenges and opportunities of the next decade in an increasingly borderless world approaching the end of the first quarter of the 21st century. Our ambitious internationalisation plan will build on good work undertaken previously at St Mary's and focus primarily on integrating an international, intercultural and global dimension into the goals, functions and delivery of the University. It will permeate virtually everything we do in an exciting world that offers us enormous opportunities across teaching, research, enterprise and civil society.

Current numbers of international students are very small as are the number of St Mary's students availing of outward mobility opportunities. To counteract this we have ambitious plans for growth. Initially our focus is on Canada and the Americas and already we have a Director of Global Engagement based in Chicago. We have our sights on Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China as well as across Europe with a special focus on Ireland where traditionally recruitment has been strong. We plan, too, to develop strategic partnerships with other Catholic Universities in the US, Australia, Rome, Japan and elsewhere.

Wherever you are in the world it would be great if you were able to work with us as ambassadors for St Mary's, in whatever way you can, to help us grow our global profile and reputation. I hope to get a chance to meet some of you over the course of the next few months but if you feel you can support us in any way with our recruitment please get in touch.

Anne Moran
anne.moran@stmarys.ac.uk

St Mary's Appoints Rugby World Cup 2003 Winning Coach Sir Clive Woodward



Rugby World Cup 2003 winning coach, Sir Clive Woodward OBE, has been appointed Visiting Professor at St Mary's joining the School of Sport, Health and Applied Science.

Sir Clive will start his role at St Mary's in April to support high profile research projects related to Rugby and to broaden the international appeal of the University's online courses. The appointment comes as the UK's largest Catholic University celebrates its 165th anniversary and plays host to several teams taking part in the Rugby World Cup 2015.

Prof John Brewer, Head of St Mary's School of Sport, Health and Applied Science, said, "It is a great honour to have Sir Clive working with us – his experience in coaching and in business is second to none. He will help us to reach a global audience, particularly in the area of international sport. We very much see this as a two-way appointment, enabling us to support Sir Clive with his work in elite sport, whilst gaining from his expertise in areas such as sport management and leadership."

Sir Clive Woodward said, "St Mary's is a very well-known name in the field of sport science and has supported many international athletes in their careers. I had no hesitancy in joining the fantastic team of academics here and I hope give as much to the University as I will certainly gain from the experience."

Sir Clive is one of international rugby's most successful coaches, leading England to World Cup triumph in 2003. By combining his knowledge and experience in both elite sport and business he is credited with revolutionising the way the Rugby is coached and played. In 2006 Sir Clive joined the British Olympic Association and, as Director of Sport for Team GB, worked in close partnership with all key stakeholders in British sport to support British coaches and athletes to deliver the most successful Olympic Games for Team GB in the modern era.

Alongside his work at St Mary's, Sir Clive will continue his role on the International Olympic Committee Entourage Commission and as a Team GB Ambassador. He is also a member of the Daily Mail sports team and a commentator for Sky Sports and BBC rugby coverage.

Introducing Father Benedict, St Mary's new Chaplain



I was born in Silesia in Poland in early 80's just weeks before the martial law was introduced by the government. It was an attempt to re-gain control over the society that was close to the boiling point. Growing up I had not been much aware of what was going on in the country as we were safely far away from the centre of the riots. Living in the countryside very much meant being shielded from any large scale excitement.

But our local area was exceptional in itself; mixed communities of indigenous Silesians and Germans and a motley crew of people from various parts of Poland who were displaced by war.

When I was two years away from A-levels I came to England, to Downside School. This experience made me very much feel at home in the country and this is why eventually I settled in the UK already being member of the Order of Preachers, known as Dominicans. We are also commonly known across the land as "Blackfriars" due the fact that our full gear is made up of the white habit you see me wearing on the campus and a black capa (a cloak) that we wear for some occasions or simply to keep warm.

In the Order I lived at Blackfriars in Oxford where I completed my Theology degree. Later on I embarked on Classics but have not quite finished that adventure yet as I am currently enrolled for a part time masters at Birkbeck. I have been living at Blackfriars Cambridge since 2011 and in my time there have worked in chaplaincy to students and youth, parish ministry at Our Lady and the English Martyrs church, as well as giving retreats and talks. In the priory my chief responsibilities are being bursar and cantor.

I found the prospect of being part of St Mary's very enticing from the first time I heard about it. The Dominicans are very dedicated to universities in general, and we have been present in many of the medieval colleges and schools from their earliest days. There is something deeply captivating and beautiful in the human search for truth and excellence and the Catholic Church in Europe has always been supportive of that important part of life. Indeed, the motto of the Order is 'veritas' – 'truth' and whether you are Catholic or not that passion for truth is something we can all share.

I'm not the first Dominican to work at St Mary's: Fr Vivian Boland taught Theology here for many years. More recently, Fr Robert Gay led a Wednesday discussion group. Fr Richard Finn is a governor, and Br Joseph Bailham, professed last autumn, is an alumnus, and former member of Benedict XVI House – a small residency for students who wish to be more involved in the busy life of the chaplaincy. I'm here for both staff and students, inducting new arrivals and supporting the strategic vision of a Catholic university serving the Church and the wider community. I am also here for you, and please watch this space for information about retreats and study days that will be organised for the alumni of St Mary's. In a nutshell, it's a ministry I love – please keep me in your prayers!

From this autumn the Chaplaincy will start offering small bursaries for singers, musicians and servers to make the liturgical life of the University even more beautiful. Approximately £10,000 per year will be needed for that purpose. Please let me know if you would like to support that exciting project!

With fraternal best wishes,

Fr. Benedict, O.P.

benedict.jonak@stmarys.ac.uk

St Mary's Alumna to Host BBC Radio 1's Live Lounge



St Mary's alumna, Clara Amfo (2006) has been announced as the new host of BBC Radio 1's mid-morning weekday show, *The Live Lounge*.

The former Media Arts student, who currently hosts the Official Chart show on Radio 1 and the Weekend Breakfast Show on 1Xtra, will take over *The Live Lounge* in May from current host, Fearne Cotton. To take up her new role, Clara will be leaving her show on 1Xtra but will continue to host the Official Chart show.

Head of Media Arts at St Mary's, Lee Brooks, said, "Everyone at Media Arts St Mary's is delighted to hear that Clara has landed such a prestigious gig, it is great to see, and hear, one of our graduates making such a success of a career in the media."

Clara has had a varied career since leaving St Mary's, having worked as a television presenter for Nickelodeon and CBBC, in addition to her work as a voiceover artist and radio presenter for the BBC, MTV, and Kiss FM. In her career as a radio presenter she has interviewed numerous high profile musicians and been nominated for a Sony Radio Award.

Strawberry Hill Completes Second Stage of Restoration

Horace Walpole's private rooms on display for first time since 18th century

The completion of the second stage of the award-winning restoration of Horace Walpole's Gothic villa, Strawberry Hill was unveiled to the public on 1st March 2015, with five of Horace Walpole's private rooms on display for the first time since the 18th century. The second phase restoration, totalling £1.2 million, authentically reinstates the architectural detail and decoration, revealing the bold patterns and colours of fashionable London from 1700 to the 1750s.

An array of traditional crafts have been brought together, with paints made from raw materials using natural pigments, to handmade paper and wood block printed flock wallpapers. Original fragments found in the rooms have been redrawn and new wood blocks carved and paper printed and flocked by the Adelphi Paper Hangings in America.

The newly restored rooms include Walpole's private apartment featuring his Bedchamber, the Plaid Bedchamber and Dressing Room. Directly below are the Breakfast Room and Green Closet, where he lived and wrote so many of his famous letters. A further room on the first floor, the Red Bedchamber, served as the best guest bedchamber.

To find out more or to book a ticket visit www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk.

Gibraltarian Alumnus Celebrates Centenary

On Sunday 8th March John Sciacaluga (1958) celebrated his 100th birthday in Gibraltar with over 80 guests in attendance. During his time studying at St Mary's, John was recognised by the College as the top student of his year. John was presented with a commemorative plaque from St Mary's by Lionel Perez (1966) to mark the occasion. John was reported to have said, "I hope you will be available to come to celebrate my 101st next year!"

Academic Delivers Presentation on the 'Conscience' in Hong Kong



Dr John Lydon, Programme Director for the postgraduate Catholic School Leadership programme at St Mary's presented at the La Salle College in Hong Kong on Tuesday 27th January to a warm audience, eager to learn more in the 'Ethics Masterclass.'

Students, teachers and other international educators were invited to attend the presentation, followed by a small reception for the visitors. There were a number of distinguished guests in attendance, including representatives from the Grant Schools of Hong Kong, members of the Catholic Education Office of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, and the President and Vice Presidents of Caritas Institute of Higher Education.

This will hopefully be the start of a series of lectures given by St Mary's lecturers abroad to young audiences who wish to study in the United Kingdom.

Wanted – International Alumni Ambassadors

Did your St Mary's course land you that dream job? Did you make friends for life? Or did you just love studying on our lovely campus? Then get in touch – we want to hear from you.

Please contact the International Office at international@stmarys.ac.uk or telephone at +44 (0)20 8240 2307.

Answering the Call ...

At the end of last year, Martin Blomley (1975) responded to a request for alumni willing to give careers advice. With his experience in a number of industries, Martin was invited by the University's Business Management programme to contribute as a guest speaker.

Martin was called upon to deliver two sessions to the undergraduate cohort on the programme. Firstly, he addressed the Business Ethics students, giving a brief review of the bribery act legislation and a personal note on its effectiveness, giving real life examples of doing business internationally and ethically. Then he did a session with the Leadership students about leadership and management behaviours covering both transactional and transformational leadership and giving examples from the companies he has worked in. Both sessions were followed by lively Q&A and discussion.

Martin's contributions were particularly well received by the students who were able to gain insight into the realities of business in its different guises. Lise Georgeson, Programme Director for the Business Management programme said, "Being able to offer the students sessions by guest speakers like Martin is invaluable. It's a great addition to the curriculum and gives the students a lot to think about."

Martin describes his willingness to offer his time as a way of "giving a little back to an institution that means a lot to me for what it gave me." He also felt that it was good to share things that people perhaps thought was valuable. Martin also added that although St Mary's has seen a lot of change over the years it is still possible recognise the fundamental values that were present in his day. Always good to hear!

Lise Georgeson

Good News for NQTs!

NQTs will be able to borrow resources from the new library opening in September. St Mary's aims to continue to support our trainees after they have left university, so we will give them access and borrowing rights. They will be able to borrow up to 4 items, but will not have access to electronic resources.

NQTs will need to register at the main campus library and will receive an ID card which they can use to gain access to the new library and to borrow resources.

Easter at Strawberry Hill 28th March-15th April

There's lots going on at Strawberry Hill House this Easter. Little chocoholics can decorate their own eggs or make truffles, bouncing bunnies can explore the garden and puppet masters can create their own puppets to tell tales of the fun and fantastical. From trails to workshops and other fun craft activities, find out more at www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk.

Upcoming Alumni Events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 4th June | Primary KIT day: transition from NQT to Recently Qualified Teacher (RQT) |
| 5th June | Alumni, Staff and Friends Pub Quiz |
| 19th-21st June | Massive 40th-ish Anniversary Reunion |
| 21st-23rd August | Alumni Reunion Weekend |
| 11th December | Magical Christmas Night |

Massive 40th-ish Anniversary Reunion

Every five years since 1985, Simmarians who attended in the first half of the 1970s have held reunions at Strawberry Hill. This will be the seventh.

As always, our invite is all embracing and is directed towards no particular group or year. In essence, we're aiming at all Simmarians who arrived between September 1970 and September 1974. For those who thought it was a three-year course, we have knowledge of a student who arrived in 1972 and hung on until 1977!

We have engaged with the University and organised a reunion on the weekend of 19th-21st June 2015. In recognition of the fact that many/most/all of us have retired, we have moved the usual date from Easter to after the University students have left for the summer. The reunion itself is planned for the Saturday evening, 20th June from 7.30pm.

Invitations by email and Royal Mail have been sent out but if you are seeing this for the first time and are interested in joining us, please contact:

Frank Sudlow: 01604 406777 or frank_sudlow@yahoo.co.uk
John Booth: 01274 637810 or idlebooths@blueyonder.co.uk

1962-1965 Reunion

A chance for the 62-65 Simmarians to gather back on campus is being organised for the 2015 reunion weekend, 21st-23rd August. We envisage there will be a gathering in the Students' Union bar on Saturday night with a hot buffet. Accommodation will be available on campus for those who would like to stay over. For more information and to register your attendance, please contact the Alumni Relations Office in the first instance.

Tom Clapperton

Class of 1954/55/56 Reunion

The Alumni Relations Office has been contacted by Peter McHugh, John Metcalfe and Humphrey Long who would like to organise a 60th anniversary gathering for the class of 1955, extending the invitation to those who also left in 1954 and 1956.

The reunion will take place during the annual reunion weekend, 21st-23rd August. Accommodation in halls of residence on campus will be available. Specific details of the reunion are still to be confirmed. If you are interested in attending the reunion, please contact Humphrey: 01708 769339 or member@collierlong.freeserve.co.uk.

1975 Physical Education Starters' Reunion

A reunion is presently being organised as a chance to meet up and reminisce on early morning swimming lessons, horrendous leotards, ridiculous GPA results, stressful practical assessments and Poole exploits. The weekend of 21st-23rd August 2015 has been reserved to celebrate 40 years since those freckle-faced, naive and innocent youngsters entered the halls of academic excellence to lead the youth of their generation (well, most of this is true)!

Meeting for a set dinner on Saturday evening in one of the rooms at Simms, possible golf, or other activities in the sports hall, followed by a Reunion meal. Accommodation is available. If you are one of the class of '75 or you are still in contact with someone who is, please do contact me so I can start to put together our guest list for the weekend. Bob Pearton will attend with, hopefully, some other lecturers as well.

Matt Tallon
matttallon1@gmail.com

'60s and '70s Group



Pictured L-R: Colette Rose (Roe), Joe Loughran, Chris Kelly, Joe Siedlecka, Angela Barnes (Gair), Dave Parish, Sheena Cunningham (Currie), Michelle Morrow (Duffy), Fran Parish (Luciol), Adrian Capper and Geraldine McMahon

By the time you read this issue some of you will have missed our Easter get together, which was held at The Chandos pub, off Trafalgar Square, on 20th March. As always, it was well attended and a great time was had by all. Some new old friends were able to make it this time and some interesting suggestions were put forward for the future. I have attached a photo of some of those who came ... recognise anyone?

There are nearly 200 of us now and, thanks to word of mouth and *The Simmari*, we get new members each month. If you would like to jump on board or know someone who you think might, please let me know and I'll do the rest.

We'll be meeting again later this year but, in the meantime, a bunch of us are arranging a weekend away in The Lakes sometime in May or June for walking, socialising, shopping and drinking, etc. Any and all are welcome to come along and join us; no experience necessary (as they say!). If you want more details just email me. Catch you later.

Joe Loughran (69-72)
joe@theloughrans.co.uk

The Liverpool Simmari Club

The recent visit to Simmaries, organised by John White ('64/'67), was a great success. I quote from an email sent to me by Mike Chapman ('61/'64).

"Thanks to all who helped on the recent visit to the new St Mary's University. It was a busy weekend but it was a marvellous experience for me to play some music on the wonderful grand piano which I used to play when studying there. Some great photographs were taken and special thanks to John White and Tony Halpen ('65/'69) and all who attended – fabulous visit."



Above is a photograph of a few of The Liverpool Simmarians. From left to right Geoff Glew ('71/'74), Bill Hughes ('71/'74), Lawrence Grownay ('59/'62), Vin Macdermott ('52/'54).

Geoff Farrell ('54/'57)
Secretary

Easter Island Reunion



Our thanks to John McSweeney (1973) and Eileen McNulty (1972) for allowing us to print this image from their recent reunion – on Easter Island!

If you have any reunions or gatherings you'd like to share with the St Mary's alumni community, please do contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Leading Economist Appointed Professor at St Mary's

Renowned economist Prof Philip Booth has been appointed Professor of Finance, Public Policy and Ethics at St Mary's and will be based in the School of Management and Social Sciences.



Prof Booth will take up his post at St Mary's in May 2015 on a part-time basis and will remain as Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs. He will use his considerable experience to inform, develop and contribute to the curriculum, research and knowledge transfer activities within the school and wider university community.

Francis Campbell, Vice-Chancellor, said, "Philip's vast knowledge and experience of the world of finance and public policy will be a great asset to our University. I very much look forward to working with Philip in the months and years ahead and I know he will make a very valuable contribution to life at St Mary's."

Prof Booth said, "It is an honour to be joining St Mary's at an exciting time for the University. I am very much looking forward to meeting my students and working with my departmental colleagues to bring an extra dimension to the work of the School of Management and Social Sciences."

Prof Booth has been Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs since 2002, managing its education and research programme. Previously Prof Booth was Professor of Insurance and Risk Management at the Cass Business School. Prior to that he was Associate Dean at City University Business School and has worked at the Bank of England as an adviser on Financial Stability. Prof Booth has authored 50 papers in refereed academic journals on subjects spanning pensions and social security, financial services regulation, risk management and insurance and real estate finance. He has also written widely on Catholic social teaching, including edited and co-authored books and many book chapters on that subject and is a frequent commentator in the media. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and of the Royal Statistical Society and has previously been a Fellow of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University.

Rest in Peace

St Mary's has been informed of the passing of the following Simmarians, may they rest in peace.

Thomas Walsh (1945)
Joseph Metcalf (1949)
John (Derick) Delaney (1951)
Esther Kirk nee McCormick (1975)
Christine Brett (1977)
Stephen Murphy (1976)
Eileen Forrest (staff 70s-90s)
Patrick (Paddy) Nash (1946)

Where Are They Now?

John McMullen (1953) Headmaster of St Patricks RC Primary School from 1978 to 1993. Magistrate from 1980 to 2005. I got married in 1959 and my wife and I are still together, having produced 7 children and 10 grandchildren. We are currently looking after my wife's sister and the priest she is housekeeper to.

James (Jim) Hynes (1955) I taught in schools in Britain and Canada and lectured in English and Education in England. Following early retirement, as a volunteer, I served on the Social Justice Committee (formerly the St Vincent de Paul Society's Social Welfare Advisory Committee founded in 1986), working alongside international, national & regional organisations & groups on a range of poverty issues including asylum seekers, prisoners, unemployment, and homelessness. I was also a member of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales Social Welfare Committee; a UK delegate to the European General Assembly of the European Anti-Poverty Network and a member of the Catholic National Council of Lay Organisations. Locally, in Wales, I have served as a school governor; been a founder member of a credit union and an inter-denominational justice and peace group and of a community centre. In recent years I have written: 'Lawrence of Arabia's Secret Air Force' published by Pen and Sword; 'The Hynes of Ireland' published by Countyvise; 'The O'Shaughnessys' published by Countyvise; 'Justice in the World' published for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and various booklets.

Denis Reid (1965) Retired & living in Calgary, AB Canada

Bruce McKenzie (1966) After graduating in 1966, I worked for 1 year at St Joachim's Primary School in London's East End, along with fellow graduates Tim O'Connell and Brendan McCaig. I then worked for 1 year as a lab technician for The Ministry of Fish and Chips (aka The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food). After that I emigrated to Canada and worked as a teacher for The Montreal Catholic School Commission for 29 years. During my 1st year in Montreal I worked in the same school as John Dagleish, a 1966 St Mary's graduate. In 1972 I worked at William Hingston High School where I met Mike Farnan, another 1966 St Mary's graduate. I officially retired in June of 1997, but I have since gone back to work as a substitute teacher and I am still doing it. After retiring I started working as a film extra in Montreal and I took a number of acting classes. I have worked in about 60 films and T.V. productions and performed in 2 plays. In 2013 I had the good luck to be chosen to be the Stand In for Sir Ian McKellen in The X-Men film The Days Of Future Past, which was made in Montreal. I worked on the film for 30 days. I got to meet some of the other stars including Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, and James McAvoy.

Vincent Latin (1967) Started teaching in the local Secondary Modern School after I left College in 1967. In 1981-71 followed a DASE course at Keele University leading to a School Students Counselling Course. In 1972 Gibraltar went Comprehensive and I took up the post of Careers/Counsellor. In the mid 80s I became Senior Teacher Pastoral in the Boys Comprehensive School. In 1988 I was appointed Assistant Director of Education and joined the Department of Education. I retired in 1995 and in 1996 I became a Justice of the Peace and was Bench Chairman until the age of 70 in 2010. Since then I have been enjoying my full retirement, my wife, my three sons and my five grandchildren. I was very pleased when my son Ivan joined Simms and obtained a BSc(Ed) and started teaching in Gibraltar.

Stefan Cieslik (1967) Retired but still teaching as a "Teacher On Call" (Substitute teacher), as required, when available. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Michael Gibson (1968) I am now enjoying full-time retirement but still actively involved in many aspects of education including U3A (University of the Third Age) and membership of various professional bodies including the Royal Microscopical Society.

Michael Barron (1968) Headteacher in Nigeria in the 1980's, Senior Lecturer in Education at St Mary's from 1991-1997, Ofsted inspector since 1999. Lived in Cyprus since 2006. Presently leading the inspections of schools in Abu Dhabi (2014/15).

Marianne McAleer nee McPhillips (1977) I sang in the folk mass group & the Chapel Choir. As a singer of traditional Irish songs – in English and in Irish – I have won the All Britain Fleadh Cheoil over a dozen times. As a litter I have won medals on three occasions at the All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil. Anyone who remembers me can find my website online (<https://mariannekmcaleer.wordpress.com/>) and my songs on YouTube.

Michael Lavelle (1978) I am an executive headteacher in a 4 school multi-academy trust. I am a National Leader of Education and lead a Teaching School, including 200 ITT trainees. I have secured 4 successive outstanding judgements from Ofsted. On a good day I wish I was starting out all over again, but on others am looking forward to retirement from headship, the best job in the world, to pursue a second career!

Joyce Cassidy nee Gareze (1980) Principal at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School part of the The Painsley Catholic Multi Academy. This is a multi academy of 6 primary and 1 high school in North Staffordshire.

Nicky Woodroffe nee Wagstaffe (1983) Having left St Mary's I started teaching in Cambridge and I have remained in the area ever since. I am currently Head of Humanities at a village college 5 miles north of Cambridge. I keep in touch with a couple of people from St Mary's but it would be great to see more from my time.

Jacqui Brewster nee Dunn (1984) After a career in the NHS as a Learning Disability Nurse I now teach on health and social care programmes at Sheffield Hallam University as a Senior Lecturer.

Jim Lowther (1990) Moved to N. Ireland after living in London for over 23 years. Ulster University, Belfast lecturer in Sports Development and Coaching since November 2010. Kingston University, London (2004-2010), senior lecturer in sport and exercise science. Caius House, Battersea, London, Community Development Manager, 2002-2004. Wimbledon FC, Community Programme Manager, Sports Science Co-ordinatior – 1991-2002.

Paul Swift (1992) Having met my wife, Lisa Taverner, while both of us were studying at St Mary's we worked in the teaching and museum education sector for the last 20 years and, after brief stays in Greece and France, we settled in New Zealand with our two teenage sons in 2008.

Simon Thomas (1993) Army Husband and Operational Watch Manager in the London Fire Brigade (16 years). Married to Hazel Whiteman (also SIMMs, Movement studies/History 1990-1993) now British Army 17 years. 2 children and 2 dogs! Live somewhere in the UK every 2.5 years!

Derren Fox (1995) Currently working for the RSPB as Warden (species and habitats) in Scotland. I've worked in conservation for 16 years since leaving St Marys mostly for the RSPB on both reserves and in various research roles. I've also had a few stints in Antarctica carrying out albatross and penguin research with British Antarctic Survey, worked on frigatebirds on Ascension in the south atlantic and on a few other remote little islands!

Karen Kendal-Smith nee Smith (1997) After completing my undergraduate degree in English in 1997, I worked at St Mary's as the PR and Alumni Officer until I completed my PhD. Whilst doing my PhD I also worked for a number of major TV production companies including BBC and Celador. I was a Visiting Lecturer at St Mary's and at the University of Westminster. I left St Mary's following the birth of my daughter in 2010. I live in London and am a home educator.

Text SIMM14 £3 to 70070 to support our students in need and make a donation to the Alumni Hardship Fund, providing essential support for students in need.

Where Are They Now?

Continued from page 6 >

Mary Anderson-Ford nee Cannell (1998) After completing my English degree I worked in PR & Marketing for a jewellery retailer, then became National Retail Manager before stepping into a Buying & Merchandising role. In 2005 I started working in retail recruitment – specialising in merchandising – before establishing my own boutique recruitment company in 2013. I live in Hampton Wick with my husband and cats, and we have plans to move to Greece and open a taverna.

Leah Pilmer nee Poulton (2000) After leaving St Mary's I worked in various libraries and then qualified as a professional librarian. I also got married and have a beautiful daughter, so I'm now a very happy full time mum.

Laura Harris nee Hunt (2001) After spending 6 years in the entertainment industry I moved into business marketing. I am currently on maternity leave after having my first daughter in March of 2014.

Thomas Abbott (2002) I am currently living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, overseeing the development of Care for Children's projects in SE Asia (since 2012), who I have worked for since 2003. I also spent 5 years in China, 4 of which was with Care for Children (2003-2007). I originally moved to China (Shanghai) with the British Council as an English Teacher, which was my first job after St. Mary's (2002-2003).

Ruth Facey (2005) Still teaching and head of department, but have retrained as a child psychotherapist.

Clive Lawrence (2005) Living and working in Maastricht, the Netherlands, where I teach at the university. I am a member of EATAW (European Association for Teachers of Academic Writing) and present regularly at their conference. Contribute to several European international projects in the field of academic writing and presentation skills. Have taken up rowing and regularly row competitively in the 11 cities rowing marathon in N Holland. Should have done it many years ago.

Andrew Merry (2005) TV Producer in entertainment and sports. Have 2 amazing kids and a wife ... did not see that coming!

Linda McGarry (2006) I left St Mary's with a PGCE (Primary). After teaching for a while I returned to my previous career in Human Resource Management in Central Government, as well as doing supply teaching around family commitments. I am now starting a new year 4 class teacher role at a primary school in New Malden and am really looking forwards to this.

Maxine O'Connell nee Pennington (2006) Moved back home and became a wedding co-ordinator for a chain hotel. Been married almost 5 years and now full time mummy to my 18 month old son.

Bernadette Mooney (2006) After graduating I went to London College of Communication to do a PgDip in Broadcast Journalism. As a qualified broadcast journalist I worked for the BBC and commercial radio stations in Suffolk and Essex reading and reporting the news. I then worked for the Wildlife Trust in Cambridgeshire as a comms officer for a year followed by working for 4 years as a comms officer for Macmillan Cancer Support in London. I have been 'back at uni' as the press officer for University Campus Suffolk since October 2014. My line manager at UCS is coincidentally also a Simmari!

Simmari Postbox

Roger O'Brien would like to get in touch with **Carol Schofield** (Drama, 1971-1974). If you know or are still in touch Carol then please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Are you trying to trace an old school friend? If so, get in touch to see if we can help.

SU Election Results

The Students' Union held their annual elections on Friday 27th February. The elected representatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

Sports Chair – Laura Timmins (Physical & Sport Education and Sport Science)

Vice-President Community – Ryan Dowsett (Business Law and Management Studies)

Vice-President Sports & Societies – Hester Benham (Physical & Sport Education)

Students' Union President – Zander Lavall (Physical & Sport Education and Sport Science)

Congratulations to our Spring 2015 Graduates

Over 400 graduates attended campus on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March for the Spring Graduation ceremonies. From the Alumni Relations Office, we'd like to say congratulations to you all and welcome you to the alumni community at St Mary's.

Here's a couple of pictures from the day.



To view more photos from the day visit the [St Mary's facebook page](#).

St Mary's Publishes Latest Education Journal

The School of Education, Theology and Leadership at St Mary's has published the latest edition of its Education Journal, ReflectED.

ReflectED was first published in 2011 and is a platform for the distribution of interdisciplinary articles, while celebrating the challenging and changing nature of educational research and practice. The latest edition of the publication, which features an editorial by St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Francis Campbell, begins with a report on the Mathematics Education Teaching Research Enterprise (METRE) Sphere event held at the University in November 2014.

The Journal includes an investigation into the factors behind Finland's high results in the Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) by Dr Jennifer Chung, lecturer in Education and Social Science. Business Management Lecturer Dr Chi Maher also contributes research to this issue, in which she explores Students as Active Participants in Curriculum Design: Exploratory Implications for Career Path Choices.

Alumna Helena Vardy is also featured in this issue with her article entitled Resilience in Primary Mathematics: Providing a challenging learning environment, which discusses the position that problem solving can foster resilience by focussing on key aspects of persistence.

Senior Lecturer for Primary Maths and Editor of ReflectED Dr Edwards-Leis said, "The quality of research at St Mary's is born with our students who continue to feature strongly in each edition. Our NQTs, like Helena Vardy, demonstrate that researched-informed practice is a key benefit of undertaking studies here. ReflectED continues to showcase research, scholarship and outstanding professional practice."

The latest edition of ReflectED is also available to [view online](#), contributions are welcomed from all.

Update from Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC)

In the last edition of the Simmarian Online I mentioned that I had been invited to spend Christmas with Simmarian Sr Dee Smith (1972-1975) at Proyecto Vida in Guatemala. Imagine my delight on being met from the plane at Tapachula, Mexico (Dee lives just across the border) to be greeted with the news that Dee had been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours. The award was for services to the victims of HIV in Guatemala. Dee is shown here with two of her three dogs on her eco-farm. SHOCC provided the funding to purchase 5 acres of land at the Santa Maria Hospice and the farm is producing honey, fruit, vegetables and medicinal herbs for use in the Hospice.



I was able to present Dee with \$4,730 to fund the purchase of solar panels for the hospice. The hospice runs a 24 hour facility and Dee estimates the panels will save \$1,500 a year, thus paying for themselves in just over three years.

The renovation of the science laboratories at Muthetheni Girls' School in Kenya is now complete and already we are seeing marked improvements in science results. The 2015 Year 4 national results were released in February and the school's average score has risen from B- to B+; the best results for the last 14 years, placing the school amongst the Province's best. I will be visiting the school in the summer and will be presenting a plaque in memory of Amy Hemmings (pictured below) whose legacy enabled the renovation to take place. Many of you will remember Amy with much affection especially if she supervised your School Experience (Teaching Practice as it was then known).



In 2008 we added another 'C' to the SHOC name to reflect our vision of meeting the needs of the disadvantaged within our local community. To this end we have recently provided £2,045 to a member of the University's security staff who runs a Youth Club for severely disabled or mentally challenged young people in SW19. The Club was in danger of closing and our donation to his work will enable the Club to continue for another year. We hope our support can be repeated in 2016.

This year marks the start of the SHOCC Volunteering project and we have received six applications from staff and students. Four will spend a month working at Orkiliili Secondary School near Moshi in Tanzania and two will work at the Ndoro Children's Charity orphanage and school in Zimbabwe, both long-standing SHOCC projects. SHOCC will be providing bursaries of £500 to help defray the volunteer air fares.

Kevin L Cook
SHOCC Trustee

How did we do? Your views on this edition are important to us – Please email alumni@stmarys.ac.uk