



St Mary's  
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Twickenham  
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# SimmarianOnline

## MESSAGE FROM LANCE PETTITT, HEAD OF SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

The start of the academic year sees the inauguration of the School of Arts & Humanities. With over 50 academic staff, 1,200 undergraduates, 80+ MAs and 11 PhD students, the School's range of courses, depth of staff expertise and physical resources (theatre, studios, media and design facilities) represent a major asset for the creative, critical and research activities of St Mary's. The School attracts students, academics and practitioners who have inquiring minds, vivid imaginations and strong ideas that can find creative expression through collaboration with others.

The School's curriculum – newly revalidated for 2013/14 – offers a broad spectrum of BA programmes, from English and creative writing to a portfolio of vocational drama and enterprising media arts/screen media degrees. The philosophy, history and sociology degrees offer innovative approaches to established disciplines. The degree programmes are typically rated very highly for student satisfaction in NSS scores (2012/13 between 89-97% – with 100% in single honours History!).

At Masters level, the School offers programmes in specialised courses of study, including Applied Linguistics, Bioethics, Gothic, Irish Studies, Physical Theatre, Sports Journalism, Religion, History and Conflict Resolution, Theatre Directing with Creative Writing, and Public History planned for 2014/15. There is a thriving culture of PhD students supported by published academics or those with current professional practice in the arts.

Arts & Humanities is a research-rich environment with established Centres on Conrad, Irish Studies (CIS) and Bioethics (CBET) and a newly founded Centre for Philosophy of History, as well as Chairs in Literature, Applied Linguistics, Screen Media and Religion/Politics. An investment was made in 2011 to fund three PhDs and appoint several Research and Professorial Research Fellows built around the units of assessment in Literature and Language, Philosophy, History and Media/Communications/Cultural Studies that will be entered for REF2014, the national scheme for evaluating the quality of university research.

The School kicked off its autumn programme with a Research Fellows evening on 25th September showcasing the research of lecturers and fellows with presentations about current projects, new books and the launch of a new journal published by CBET. We hope you'll be able to join us at one of these upcoming events. For more information, please visit the [event listings](#) online.

Lance Pettitt  
Head of School of Arts & Humanities

## Class of 2013 Competition Winner



Congratulations to Danielle Cole (Drama & Theatre Arts) who won our Class of 2013 competition for £100 Amazon vouchers. Danielle is pictured here on the left.

The 2013 Summer Graduation ceremonies on Thursday 18th July saw three ceremonies held over the course of the day, where students were awarded with a range of undergraduate and postgraduate awards. Guests were then invited to a garden party celebration on the historic grounds of St Mary's Strawberry Hill campus.

St Mary's Vice Principal (Students and External Relations), Dr Claire Taylor said, "Graduation is always a fantastic event and a day to remember for our students and their families. Our graduating students will continue to be part of the St Mary's community as alumni and we look forward to keeping in touch with them as they start the next phase of their lives."

Photos from the day can be found on [St Mary's Facebook](#) page, and a video has been uploaded to the [Your St Mary's YouTube](#) channel.



## NICOLA ALESBROOK INTERVIEW

Former Sport Science student, Nicola Alesbrook, gives us an insight into her career story after graduating from St Mary's in 2000. Currently working for the International Rugby Board (IRB) as their Rugby World Cup (RWC) Tournament Manager, Nicola shares her path to success and some valuable advice to those aspiring to succeed after studying a sports related degree.

### How has your career progressed since you graduated from St Mary's?

I have been lucky in that I have only had two jobs since I left St Mary's. Both jobs have been great in terms of career progression, enabling me to develop professionally and personally. I read Sport Science so I haven't needed to draw on my degree knowledge for my roles. However, what St Mary's did teach me was how to be structured, organised and thorough in my work and that has certainly paid off. My first role was at Harlequins Rugby Club where I helped with the running of match days and non-match day events. I also supported the Chief Executive and Marketing Manager. Each of these roles helped to increase my knowledge in different areas of sports management – again with a focus on being organised and efficient. Fortunately, this facilitated me working for the International Rugby Board based in Dublin as their Rugby World Cup Project Manager. I have been at the IRB for eight years now and been through two RWC cycles. It is great to be back living in Twickenham to work on my 3rd tournament here in England.

### What does your current role entail?

My job title is RWC Tournament Manager which basically means that I oversee various different functional areas relating to the organisation of the tournament. The IRB has a central office located with the Organising Committee (OC) in Twickenham and we work alongside the OC, ensuring the tournament is delivered to the highest standards, using previous tournaments as a base. The areas I have specific responsibility for include master planning, risk management, some of the tournament service areas (such as accreditation, accommodation, travel and transport, logistics, security and officials planning and management). However, because of my experience on the previous two tournaments, I often get involved in many of the other areas ensuring consistency and continuity between tournaments whilst allowing the host nation to put its own cultural spin on the event.

### Have you always been interested in rugby and is this job something you have always wanted to do?

I did grow up around rugby but certainly didn't ever imagine working in it – I didn't even know jobs like this existed when I was at university! However, I suppose, when you work in sport or event management, one of the jobs that people would like to do is work on a World Cup or Olympics. I have just been very lucky that I do a job that I enjoy.

### The next world cup is in 2015, how are preparations going?

Preparations are going well. The Organising Committee now has a staff of around 40 people, which will increase to around 80 by the end of the year.

With more people coming on board it means more detailed work is now starting across all different areas. As a result, there are a lot of meetings to ensure departments are talking to each other and not making certain assumptions about how things will run. There is certainly more and more collaboration now which means things are starting to take shape and move forward. A lot will come together in the next 4-5 months, setting the foundations for what will be a great tournament.

### Do you support any local teams?

Harlequins, because I worked there, but I don't really know anyone there anymore and I haven't been to watch them for a while.

### What advice would you give to students graduating this summer?

If you can do some work experience during your time at university – do it. I was lucky enough to do an internship at a sports management company as one of the modules of my course and this definitely set me apart from other graduates looking for work. Offer your services on your days off if you can – you never know where it might lead.

### What was your favourite memory of St Mary's?

I loved the fact that St Mary's was a small University College. I didn't want to go to a huge university where you were just another student. St Mary's made you feel like you were part of a family and it was easy to make friends with students and lecturers. I am still in touch with many of the people from my halls in the first year. Meeting someone now who went to St Mary's at the same time as you, always means you will have lots in common.

## St Mary's Alumna Tackles 100k to Raise Money for Cancer Charity



A former student at St Mary's University College, Twickenham has taken on the challenge to run 100km to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Former Sport Science and Physical Education student, Sinead Dunphy, sadly lost her mum to breast cancer in May last year. Since then, she signed up to 15 Race for Life events, which saw her run 100km in just a few months.

Sinead has taken part in both 5km and 10km events across London and raised more than £1,750 for the charity. She said, "My mum was only 52 when she lost her battle with cancer after fighting the illness for five years and her determination inspired me to take part in the Race for Life.

"I believe that the Race for Life is something that every woman should do at least once. It's a fantastic way to raise money to ensure that we have the tools we need to fight cancer so that young women, like my mum, should not die at such a young age."



[www.facebook.com/yourstmarys](http://www.facebook.com/yourstmarys)



[www.twitter.com/yourstmarys](http://www.twitter.com/yourstmarys)



[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4261105](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4261105)

## ST MARY'S ALUMNUS RECOGNISED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

A former student at St Mary's University College was recently recognised for his contribution to teaching and education during Mass, which was held in the Chapel at St Mary's Strawberry Hill campus.

John Booth, Deputy Headteacher at Mount St Mary's Catholic High School in Leeds, graduated from St Mary's University College in 1975 and is due to retire from teaching this year. He was presented with a special commemorative plaque from St Mary's to mark both his retirement and in recognition of his many years' service to teaching, along with his relentless work raising the aspirations of those he teaches.

John has spent the last 30 years encouraging his pupils to consider higher education and helping to broaden their horizons by organising annual trips to London, using St Mary's as a base for the visits. The trips give students the opportunity to experience university life, as well as getting to see some of the sights around the city. Many pupils have gone on to study at St Mary's, including John's own son who graduated in Media Arts in 2010.

The surprise presentation was made by Mount St Mary's Headteacher, Mark Cooper. He said, "John is quite a character and a product of St Mary's through and through. Since graduating and returning to Yorkshire to teach, he has influenced the lives of hundreds of children.

"John has made a tremendous impact while here at Mount St Mary's and we wanted to ensure his work did not go unrecognised. We will be sorry to see him leave, but are certain that this will not be the final contact John has with either the school or University College."

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## ST MARY'S ALUMNI LAUNCH MAJOR RUNNING EVENT IN RICHMOND

Richmond Running Festival, a brand new running event in Richmond upon Thames has been launched this summer by former students at St Mary's University College. St Mary's Alumni, Tom Bedford and Jade Parker have organised this new race, rivalling some of the best running events in the country.

Tom, who graduated in Sport Science was also part of St Mary's Endurance, Performance and Coaching Centre (EPACC) and has been involved with the Virgin London Marathon for more than 15 years. He, along with Drama graduate, Jade, have developed the Richmond Running Festival as a way to get local people of all abilities involved in running and exhibit local businesses at the festival.

The event offered a half marathon, 10km and mini-mile course for children, aiming to encourage members of the public to continue running, even after the event. Ten per cent of the entry fee went directly to Richmond Running Festival's official charities, the Mo Farah Foundation and Shooting Star Chase, whilst the kids' mile races were free of charge for local children of all ages with a special sponsor helping to fund the next Mo Farah.

Jade Parker commented, "It was St Mary's that brought us to the borough and, like many students, we didn't want to leave it. We believe that Richmond upon Thames is the most beautiful part of London and deserves a stunning race that showcases all of its assets.

*Continued on page 4 >*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**William Brett (1945)** Retired to Mullion, Cornwall, later moved to Somerset.

**Vincent Powell (1955)** Following general interests (ie.lazy!)

**Chris Boyle (1964)** In touch with a number of classmates; writing poetry and a couple of novels; photography; oil/acrylic painting.

**Adrian O'Sullivan (1967)** I write to tell you that in April, ten days before my 72nd birthday, I was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Literature and Philosophy (DLitt et Phil) at a congregation of the University of South Africa in Pretoria. My subject was Intelligence History, and I graduated with a thesis on "German Covert Initiatives and British Intelligence in Persia (Iran), 1939-1945." May my achievement be an encouragement to all Simmarians to pursue their academic goals relentlessly and to believe in the efficacy of lifelong learning.

**Christine McGough (1970)** Travelling.

**Terence Hooper (1970)** Relaxing.

**Anne Worth Nee Meehan (1973)** Travelling with my husband Mike, ex Simms 1969-72. Enjoying time with our new granddaughter. Amateur dramatics and singing. Learning to play golf. Trying to cultivate our allotment. Catching up with old Simms friends. Enjoying life without the shackles of work.

**Sue Bradley nee Giandoni (1982)** Founder and teacher in my own school of Creative Arts teaching Drama, Art and Creative Writing. 1983-2000-teacher of English and Deputy Head of Upper School at St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School, Tunbridge Wells. Former Students' Union Vice President: 1982-1983

**Ann Brine nee Kenny (1987)** I am a school librarian and responsible for the EPQ AS. I have been a librarian in various authorities around the country. I am married to Alan who is also a Librarian and in charge of the technical services at DMU library. We have two teenage children.

**David Tuffin (1989)** Senior Advanced Skills Teacher with responsibility for Science and whole school continued professional development.

**Alexandra Davison (1990)** I got a Masters in Project Management in 2002. I worked for NCR until I stopped working at the end of 2006 to raise my sons. We emigrated to Canada in September 2011.

**Roger Horton (1990)** President of Clarkson Shipping Services USA LLC, in Houston, Texas. Married with 3 children: 8, 7 and 2 years old.

**Nick Corp (1992)** Dabbling in property abroad. Spending quality time with my 3 children Lewis, Ella and Mia.

**Paul Jones (1993)** Moving from Manhattan to Dallas after 2 years heading up Digital eCommerce for L'Oreal.

**Katherine Loupart nee Full (1994)** Head of History, Citizenship and PSHE and lead teacher for gifted and talented. Living at home with husband and 4 horses which take part in dressage, show jumping and showing.

**Theresa Davis nee Crossley (1994)** Working in Lisbon, Portugal for EMSA, as Deputy Executive Director and Head of Safety and Standards Department.

**Samantha Nixon nee Spiers (1994)** Teaching LAMDA and writing my own show for performance.

**Dan Coleman (1996)** I run an EAL department in an historic seafaring boarders' school, along with rugby coaching duties.

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“With Tom’s experience of running from an athlete’s perspective and myself as a casual runner, we understand running from all perspectives and are using this to hopefully achieve our overall aim to keep people in the sport and encourage a healthier lifestyle while showing people that running can be fun.”

Tom Bedford commented, “The response from the public so far has been fantastic and we’ve encountered nothing but support from local businesses, runners, and those who simply want to volunteer and be part of the event. We have not forgotten our roots and the St Mary’s Clinic were the official massage and physio provider for runners after the event.”

The day also saw a post-race festival with live local bands, DJ’s, a beer garden and fun children’s activities to cater for the whole family. Students from St Mary’s Centre for Short Courses and Continuing Professional Development also offered free sports massages to participants.

For more information about the event please visit the [website](#).

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## BASKETBALL ALUMNI WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 2013

There was a terrific weekend reunion held last month at St Mary’s for the Simms basketball players of the 1970s. Celebrations started in the Pope’s Grotto (or Alexander Pope, as it is now known) on Friday, continued with lunch in Teddington on Saturday followed by an extremely competitive and highly skilled series of basketball games in the Sports Hall.

The evening’s black tie dinner in the Common Room was followed by an introduction of Professor Dave Sugden, who regaled us with his memories of Simms basketball, in his two stints at College during the 1970s. Dave and I both touched on the loss of Teresa Tooze and Bob McKay, who are, unfortunately, no longer with us. May they rest in peace. The group took liberal advantage of the bar facilities both before and after dinner, then reprised to 9 Waldegrave Road, where several of the group were staying in College rooms.

It would be great to have more attendees next time. All promised to make the next one, which will be part of the class of 1974 reunion that is being organised for next year.

Particular thanks go to Charmaine and Helen for helping organise the event, providing a terrific Powerpoint slideshow to take us down memory lane, and for Dave Sugden for being our guest of honour. If you wish to join the Simms Basketball Alumni group, please drop me an email.

**Tony Markowski**  
[tmarkowski@aatrivers.org](mailto:tmarkowski@aatrivers.org)

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## 40 Year Reunion Report

On Saturday, 31st August the second reunion of the class of 1970-73 was held in the Students’ Union bar at Strawberry Hill. This was more or less 40 years since most of us left and, once again, the evening proved to be another hugely enjoyable occasion.

Although there weren’t as many in attendance as the first reunion in 2010, it was held in conjunction with a reunion for the 1968-71 crowd organised by Torchy Simpson with over 50 present.

A number of people who couldn’t make the first reunion turned up this time including Sean Murphy, who was over from Canada and Alex Lonnou, who now lives in Spain. As usual, the evening passed incredibly quickly thanks to the telling of weird and wonderful stories from our time at College.

Sean had to be reminded that the coach for the History/Geography field trip to Weston-super-Mare stopped outside the Waldy and Brian Flynn was dispatched to his digs above the pub to get him out of bed.



Alex confirmed a long-held story that, to make a few bob, she used to take in other students’ washing. This lucrative sideline was finally brought to a halt when someone complained about her drying the clothes on the tennis court nets!

All seemed keen to meet up again in another two to three years, by which time everyone should be fully retired, so there should be no excuses for not attending!

**David Lawrenson**  
[davidlawrenson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:davidlawrenson@blueyonder.co.uk)

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## Sunday 28th July 70s Gathering Report

The 28th July this year saw another gathering of the Simms Group in their regular meeting place at The Chandos Pub just off Trafalgar Square in London.



Since its inception in 2011, the group has met 6 times and is always enjoyed by those who come along; but this one was a bit special. Early on in setting up the group we made contact with Rose Webb (now Rehill) one of our friends from the 1970-73 intake who has lived and taught in Philadelphia for the last 35 years. It turned out that she was planning a family holiday to the UK this summer so we chose our dates to coincide with Rose’s trip and met up on that Sunday. For many, it was the first time in 40 years! There was a really good turnout and everyone had a great time swapping stories and photos and catching up on the years in between.

The group is now over 130 strong, mostly from the late 60s to mid 70s and we are always looking to track down and entice former colleagues to join us. For those people who live abroad or can’t make it to our socials, joining the email based contact list allows them to keep in touch with each other and find out what’s going on within the group.

Our next meeting will be the Christmas Bash and is scheduled for Friday 29th November at The Chandos, and everyone is welcome!

**Joe Loughran**  
[Joe@theloughrans.co.uk](mailto:Joe@theloughrans.co.uk)

## EVENTS AND REUNIONS AT ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### Planned events and reunions for 2013 are as follows:

#### 2013

10th November	Remembrance Mass
29th November	70s Gathering at Chandos

#### 2014

26th March	Varsity
28th March	Students' Union Annual Awards Dinner
5th April	SIMMStock
3rd May	Basketball Reunion Event
16th May	Students' Union Summer Ball
17th May	Students' Union Boat Party
29th-31st Aug	Basketball/40 Year Reunion
29th-31st Aug	47 Year Reunion for the Class of 1966

The 2014 the Alumni Reunion weekend with free venue hire for alumni events has been confirmed as 29th-31st August. There is now limited availability for the 2014 reunion weekend. If you are considering holding a reunion on this weekend then please let the Alumni Relations Office know as soon as possible. Outside of those dates alumni are also entitled to 10% off venue hire for any function type. If you are interested in attending an existing reunion, organising your own, or booking rooms for a business or social function then please contact the Alumni Relations Office: [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk) or phone us on 020 8240 4007.

## Health and Wellbeing Ideas and Funding Event

St Mary's University College recently held a workshop for staff and partner organisations to discuss and consider the many ways in which they could develop collaborative projects.

Over 60 delegates attended the workshop, including representatives from large and small local businesses, public sector organisations and charities with an interest in health, wellbeing and community issues. With talks and group discussions, it gave delegates the opportunity to identify key areas of interest, shared priorities and ideas for collaborative projects.

Throughout the morning, speakers including St Mary's Centre for Workplace and Community Health, and the Centre for Workplace Learning, gave talks about how they have successfully developed collaborative projects with local partners. There was also lots of advice on hand about the various funding schemes available for joint projects between universities and non-academic partner organisations.

St Mary's Director for Enterprise and Business Development, Catherine Sheppard, commented, "We were delighted to welcome so many varied organisations to St Mary's to talk about how we might work together – and we discovered a lot of common ground. The feedback from the day has been excellent, and it already looks like some really interesting projects will happen as a result of the event."

## School of Sport, Health and Applied Science Research Events

Alumni are invited to attend this year's School of Sport, Health & Applied Science Research Seminars. If you have an interest in current research across the sector into topics of sports and health, then your attendance at the following seminars will allow you to find out the latest trends and also to network with professionals at the cutting edge of best practice.

### Semester 1 dates are as follows:

#### Wednesday 6th November 2013, 1pm, G5

Dr Brian Hemmings, SMUC: CHASES  
PhD, C.Psychol., FBASES, HCPC Registered Sport & Exercise Psychologist  
*The Sport Psychologist and Chaplain: Reflections on a Season-Long Collaboration in Professional Sport*

#### Wednesday 4th December 2013, 8.15am, K217

Dr Sarah Allison, SMUC: CHASES/CWCH  
*The influence of high impact exercise on bone strength in older men*

To register your place at any of the seminars please email [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk) or call 020 8240 4007.

**Drama St Mary's Theatre**  
Autumn/Winter Season 2013

Weds 18th Sept - Studio 3 @ 5pm  
**Oyster Boy**  
Award Winning Haste Theatre bring their new show to studio 3.

Tues 8th Oct @ 7.30pm  
**North, North, North**  
International Physical Theatre Company NIE return to Drama St Mary's Theatre.

18th - 23rd Nov - Times Vary  
**T Junction Festival 2013**  
A veritable feast of new and exciting work. See website for further details.

Sun 1st - Tues 3rd Dec - Normansfield Theatre @ 7.30pm  
**The Giant of Earlswood**  
Applied Theatre retell the story of local legend James Henry Pullen.

Weds 11th - Fri 13th Dec @ 7.30  
**In Arabia We'd All Be Kings**  
Written by Stephen Adly Guirgis

Tues 10th - Thurs 12th Dec - Studio 1 @ 6pm  
**MAPT Ensemble**  
The first outing for this years MA Physical Theatre students.

[www.dramastmarysreservations.weebly.com](http://www.dramastmarysreservations.weebly.com)

All Tickets £5\*  
\*Excluding Festival and The Giant of Earlswood. See website for details

f Drama St Mary's (Official)  
t Drama\_StMarys

## Alumni Profile: Emer Nolan (1987-1991)



I chose secondary teaching because I loved school, because I was interested in education and, yes, because I wanted to use the holidays to travel. As things turned out, I spent plenty of time travelling, but never once took advantage of the long holidays! My life since College has taken me through many jobs, countries, educational environments and challenges, and I wouldn't change any of them for the world.

My current job is Chief Operating Officer with Educate Together, an educational charity with 68 primary schools in Ireland. I was hired to set up the project to open a brand new type of secondary school – a really exciting challenge – and the first three are opening in 2014. The whole job is exciting – working with parents, teachers, pupils and the Department of Education to open new schools to meet the demands of the growing population, and supporting the development of our unique Ethical Education curriculum at primary, secondary and third-level. We have just been approved as academy sponsors in England too, so I might be going back to St Mary's to renew old acquaintances soon.

Mine was not a linear path from Teacher Education College to today. When I left to go travelling after College, I thought I was going for a year. In the end, 17 years passed between leaving school and returning to Ireland, during which time I lived in the US, Australia, New Zealand and Portugal. I taught in lots of places (the TEFL certificate I did at College was particularly useful!) but also gained lots of different experience and met lots of interesting people. I ran my own language school in Portugal for 6 years and loved the business element of that, as well as the work with teachers in pedagogical and curriculum development.

Coming back to Ireland in 2005, I wasn't sure if I wanted to work full-time in one school and teach a similar curriculum year after year, so I did my Masters in Education whilst taking stock and getting to know the Irish system again. By the time the job with Educate Together came up, I had somehow ended up starting my PhD. The job was exactly the challenge I had been waiting for, though, so I gave up my scholarship and continued my research part-time – I hope to complete my thesis, which explores the experiences of Asian students secondary schools this year.

Would you like to provide an alumni profile that we can use both in our careers support and in promotional materials?

Email us [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk) to find out more.

## Eyes Wide Open

Recently the government announced plans to 'name and shame' companies they think are flouting the rules that ensure a minimum wage is paid to each employee. What does this mean for people looking for work – from students entering the job market for the first time or those who have worked for the last 30 years? The message is the same as it has always been – go into everything with your eyes wide open.

- **Minimum Standards.** You must know what the standards are that an employer must meet – not only in terms of the minimum wage but contracted hours, working conditions, breaks, health and safety, discrimination, etc. You should not assume that because they are a legal requirement all companies comply.

The risk of non-compliance increases the smaller the company – quite simply because they may not have the resource or knowledge to keep on top of the requirements – and in some cases it is deliberate to reduce costs.

- **Industry Best Practise.** In any industry sector there are many companies and roles. Each will have different working practises, expectations and approaches to their employees.

Do your research and understand how the sector and each company operate. Most of this information you can get online – but talk to friends and contacts and see what else you can find out. Very quickly you will get a picture of how companies compare in terms of pay, normal working hours, company culture, approach to training and staff development, etc.

- **Use the Recruitment Process.** The recruitment process isn't just about an employer finding out about you – it is as much about you deciding whether you fit with the company.

Why not ask how many graduate recruits are still with the company and what are they doing? What is their approach to training and development? What reasons do people give for leaving?

- **Consequences of the Evolving Job Market.** The job market is always changing. Examples include:
  - Increasing use of contractors and freelancers rather than permanent employees.
  - Home working – technology is such that, for many roles, individuals don't need to commute to a central office.

It is critical that you understand the implications and obligations. For example, working from home – who is responsible for the cost of repairing a computer? What are the tax rules for a freelancer?

It is difficult to research and understand all of these areas, and this is where the careers service and [GradClub](#) can support you. Use the skills and expertise that are available – don't attempt to tackle everything on your own.

Bringing it back to the new government initiative, you should be avoiding companies that do not meet the minimum wage requirements, but by following the approach above you will identify them before joining rather than when they appear on a government hit list!

Accepting a new job is a big step; you need to be confident in your decision and make it with your eyes wide open.

To see how the campus has changed visit our virtual tour [www.smuc.ac.uk/virtual-tours](http://www.smuc.ac.uk/virtual-tours)

## FAREWELL FROM ST MARY'S LECTURER



After 24 years at St Mary's, Education lecturer, Bob Vertes retired in August. Bob joined St Mary's in 1989 as Senior Lecturer in Education (Mathematics) following 15 years 'out in the field' teaching in London local authority schools in Bow, Southgate and Northwood, including 8 years as Head of Department in a mixed comprehensive school.

In 2001 Bob was shortlisted for the National Teaching Fellowship scheme and became a fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He has won both the internally awarded St Henry

Walpole Prize for Excellence in Teaching, as an individual, and the Equality and Diversity prize, as a member of the recruitment team.

Bob is happy to hear from former colleagues or students to trade stories, memories and news. He can be contacted via email [vertes@gmail.com](mailto:vertes@gmail.com).

We wish him a happy and peaceful retirement.

### Rest in Peace

St Mary's has been informed of the passing of the following Simmarians:

Roger F Pope (1965)  
Bill Tindall (1967)  
Tim Cullen (1973)

May they rest in peace.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S

All alumni are invited to join us for the Annual Remembrance Mass at 11am on 10th November

We will be remembering and praying for Simmarians who fell in the First and Second World Wars. We also pray for all other alumni who have died, especially over the last year. If you would like us to remember someone who has died over the last year by name, please contact [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk). Tea and coffee will be served after the Mass in the Dol.cHe Vita Café.

### Strawberry Hill Conferences and Banqueting

Wedding Receptions, Conferences and Private Parties

Tel: 020 8240 4044 / 4311 Email: [conferences@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@smuc.ac.uk)  
[www.smuc.ac.uk/conferences](http://www.smuc.ac.uk/conferences)



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Nathan Flatman (1997)** Now working on marketing campaigns for the largest technology distribution companies in the UK. Previously worked on securing the Fleadh Cheoil, the largest Irish music festival in the world for the City of Culture Programme 2013 in Derry.

**Imogen Senior nee Kennedy (1999)** After leaving St Mary's I spent a couple of years working in London before completing my PGCE at Cambridge University. After several years teaching in London, my husband and I moved out to Suffolk and I am now an Assistant Head Teacher in charge of Post 16 learning in a mixed 11-18 comprehensive. My husband is also a teacher and we were married in 2007 and have two small boys aged two and four.

**Thomas Abbott (2002)** I am currently SE Asia Project Director for Care for Children, and based in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**Neil Reading (2006)** I am now running the University of Wolverhampton's venues, The Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton and The Performance Hub at Walsall. I have responsibility for the commercial operation of both buildings as well as having artistic control of the programme at both venues. I am still directing and running comedy shows throughout the Midlands.

**Ailsdair Cruchley (2007)** Family man and teaching!

**Kelly Price (2008)** After graduating I worked 7 days a week in the refectory and the college bookshop to pay rent and get by. It was a hard and lonely time in my life but I can honestly say I had a lot of friends to thank at St Mary's who listened and helped me. After one unsuccessful attempt to apply for the PGCE I finally earned my place and graduated in 2008. I worked at St Angela's Ursuline in Forest Gate for four and half years and during that time I met my boyfriend and we now live in Brentwood, Essex where I recently started working at Brentwood County High School where I hope to progress my career.

**Chris Dyczek (2009)** I am continuing research in London, writing articles and a book, and pursuing some pastoral issues in Newham.

**Lucy Steerwood (2010)** I have been teaching for over three years. I am head of a house and have recently been chosen to be the new Junior School librarian.

**Daniel McNamara (2012)** Part time Masters student at Heythrop College and Youth Worker for the Diocese of Westminster.

**Michelle Markey (2012)** After graduating, I went on to begin my teaching career in Hillingdon. My school which is situated in Ruislip is an 'Outstanding' school and the staff and children are so nice. St Mary's really helped me in becoming the best teacher that I could be.

**Rebecca Doak (2012)** I started off as a supply teacher and now have been taken on as a full time member of staff at a school in Brixton.

**Richard Zsirai (2012)** I am currently working within the facilities section of the estates department for University of the Arts, London.

**Stephen White (2013)** Currently working at a secondary school as a Teaching Assistant/Cover Supervisor/Head of House with additional responsibilities of PE GCSE mentor and Year 8 football coach. Also, consistently involved in Catholic Youth Ministry.

If you would like to include a short summary of developments in your life since you left St Mary's and what you're doing at the moment, then visit the Alumni website [www.smuc.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.smuc.ac.uk/alumni) and 'Send us your contact details'. Alternatively, you can email us at [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk).

## NEW BIOETHICS JOURNAL LAUNCHED AT ST MARY'S

The Centre for Bioethics and Emerging Technologies (CBET) has just launched a new bioethics journal with Maney Publishing. *The New Bioethics* is a multi-disciplinary academic journal specifically focusing on issues connected with the body and biotechnology as well as considering other aspects of bioethics. St Mary's alumni may be interested in taking a subscription or writing an article for consideration for publication in the journal. Details on both of these can be found on the [publisher's website](#) or by contacting the Managing Editor, Matt James at St Mary's on [matthew.james@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.james@smuc.ac.uk).

The first two issues have included articles by St Mary's staff on artificial intelligence and agency, human enhancement and other interdisciplinary perspectives on the human body and identity in the face of new advances in technology.

## Alumni Feedback Group

The Alumni Relations Office is looking for alumni to participate in a market research focus group to help inform our work and better tailor the communications and events you receive. If you are able to spare some time on Thursday 14th November, 6.30pm-7.30pm, or if you can't make that time but would like to share your input, then please email us [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk) or phone 020 8240 4007.

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## How did we do?

Your views on this edition are important to us – what have we missed, and what did we do well? What would you like to see included, and what events would you like to attend? Please email [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk).



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