



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

## Faculty of Education, Theology, & the Arts

### **FETTA Newsletter November 2023**

It has been a very busy month for all members of FETTA, both students and staff. Hopefully this Newsletter will give you a bit of light relief. We have a student profile kindly provided by Yahwegoirim Victor Onwuneme from the PGCE Modern Languages, whose mention of the support from his academic staff is truly wonderful, and you can also read about our Film Lead Fallon Parker's binman – a true hero.

Do take a look at the various events going on, and remember you're always welcome to attend events that seem interesting – a bit of interaction across different disciplines is nearly always a good thing, and part of what defines working or studying in a University.

I recently held our first FETTA student forum, which was a great way to hear about the student perspective on St Mary's and on the programmes within FETTA, particularly. Key positive takeaways that were shared included our community feel, the attentiveness and availability of our staff, the engaging and accessible teaching styles, and the attractiveness of the Catholic ethos for students from a range of backgrounds.

For staff, a PDF is attached from the Provost about the work taking place toward building an Academic Strategy for St Mary's, along with news about Academic Promotions, work on University Partnerships, the NSS, Student Outcomes, and TEF.

Always feel free to drop me a line about anything going on you want to make me aware of – my inbox is always open!

Happy November,

Jacob



**Prof Jacob Phillips**

**Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, Theology, and the Arts**

**Professor of Systematic Theology**



### **Meet a FETTA Student.**

**This month we talked to Yahwegozirim Victor Onwuneme, who is studying the PGCE Secondary Modern Foreign Languages with QTS**



### **Tell us a bit about yourself and why you choose to study at St Mary's**

I studied an Undergraduate degree in Modern Foreign Languages in Nigeria before coming to the UK to study to be a teacher. I began an MA in Education at Bristol University, thinking that would lead me to a career in teaching, but it was research focussed and actually the wrong course for me. I was encouraged by my tutors to complete the programme anyway to boost my teaching career, but I started to look for a good University for PGCE study and that's how I came to apply to St Mary's. I'm currently teaching at Twickenham School and really enjoying it. I'm already thinking of staying on at St Mary's and studying for a PhD.

### **Is there a particular staff member you would like to give a shout out too, who particularly inspired or supported you?**

All the staff here are really supportive, but Lisa Panford has been amazing, she really looks out for us. I recently had a down day and she noticed immediately and gave me some sound advice. She encourages us to share what we have done for our own well-being and that can be really helpful.

### **Tell us about something you do outside of university.**

I'm a football referee. Back in Nigeria the schools in my region called on me whenever they needed someone neutral to ref a match. I also coached a school team, we practiced at break times and we did really well. In my current Twickenham school, I have one student in particular who needs some encouragement, he's often in detention. So, when he comes to class, I say I can only come and watch you play on Tuesday if you are quiet in class today, and it works, it helps me to support him.

I also like to write young adult fiction, mainly adventure stories and if I am cover teaching and need to engage a class for a little bit of time, I often tell them a story. I have a lot of inspiration and need to settle down to finish some of the many stories I have on the go.

### **What do you want to do in the future?**

Ultimately, I want to go back to Nigeria and build a school of my own. There are problems of support from the government and also of a lack of technology. I want to teach in my way, to use my knowledge and add in my style, my videos, my songs, make something different. I want to do my part, because whilst I can't change the whole society, I can change my bit.



### **Meet a FETTA Colleague**

**This month we talked to Fallon Parker, Course Lead for Film Programmes**



### **Tell us a bit about yourself and what you do at St Mary's**

I'm the Course Lead for the BA Film programmes, but I've been at St Mary's for 10 years or so. I studied BA Media Arts here and after graduation, I secured a job as the intern. The University then offered me a temporary position as the film technician, which became permanent and eventually I applied for a lecturing role. Originally, I had applied to St Mary's for primary teaching and it's funny that despite going down a different path, I still ended up teaching.

Alongside work here, I have continued with professional projects in the Film industry. I've produced my own films, primarily within the fantasy genre, but I have worked across genres including horror, which has helped me to get over being petrified of actually watching horror films. I project manage films for other filmmakers, including SMU's very own Francesco Gabriele and this is amazing for the

University because we can take some of our students with us on set and give them some work experience opportunities.

**What is the most interesting project you've worked on at SMU?**

The current redesign of the suite of Film and Acting programmes is really exciting because having spent that time with students on set, we have talked to them about the kinds of jobs they want to go on to do and the skills they need. We are integrating many more employability skills into the new programme and really thinking about how we best prepare our students for the place of work.

**What do you enjoy most about working here?**

The students.

**Tell us about a hobby or activity you do when not at work**

I love reading, mostly fantasy novels. I re-read Harry Potter every Christmas. At the moment I'm reading A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J Maas, it's a teen fantasy but it's all over TikTok, which is a great resource for recommendations, but you have to watch out for spoilers. The faculty book club are reading Frankenstein at the moment so I'm reading that next.

I'm also trying to learn to play Bridge which is really difficult, so can I put a shout out around the Faculty for a Bridge tutor please?

**If you could do another job for a day, what would you do?**

Immediately I'd say I want to be a space cowboy...but seriously, I once really wanted to be a midwife and so I'd like to try that.

**Who inspires you?**

I'm really inspired by people who go the extra mile, to do a job well, to support others and be kind; like my binman. I sometimes forget to put my bin out, so he comes into my garden, gets my bin, empties it and then returns it. How lovely. He is kind, he takes pride in what he does and he makes my day easier.

**What's a secret talent no one knows you have?**

I'm an ex professional mermaid. One of the best things I did, as a mermaid, was actually here at the University, Maria Mellins got some funding to run an event to track themes of sport and swimming to promote body positivity and wellbeing in girls. We set up a mermaid school, took the girls swimming with mermaid tails in the morning and in the afternoon, we talked about a variety of topics such as mindfulness and the environment and we related it back to the mermaid world. It was really successful.

**What's on in FETTA this month?**



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## Day Conference The Good Friday Agreement Twenty-Five Years On

**Tuesday  
7th November  
2023**  
10am-5.30pm

Senior Common  
Room and online

£24 in person  
£12 online

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

Philip McDonagh  
Dublin City University

The Rt Revd Donal McKeown  
Bishop of Derry

Dr Maria Power  
Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

Baron Glasman of Stoke Newington

**To book:** The Good Friday Agreement Twenty Five Years On –  
7th November 2023 | St Mary's University Online Store ([stmarys.ac.uk](http://stmarys.ac.uk))

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School of  
Education

## Autumn MA Education Keynote Event

### Talking Heads

**Monday 20th November 2023  
6-7.30pm | Online**

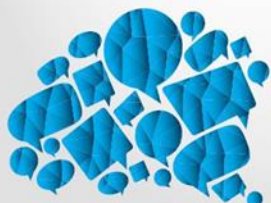
This will be an opportunity to hear school  
educational leaders from diverse contexts  
reflect on their experience and style of  
leadership, followed by a Q&A panel session.

**The speakers include:**

**Declan Linnane, Headteacher**  
Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, St Albans

**Shireen Razeq, Executive Principal**  
Christ the King Sixth Form College, South East London

**Andy Smith, Headteacher**  
Lime Academy Ravensbourne, Essex



**To attend this event  
please email  
[MAEducation@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:MAEducation@stmarys.ac.uk)  
by Monday 13th November**

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**SHOCC invites you to**

## Music for St Cecilia's Eve

**Tuesday  
21st November  
at 7.30pm**

**Drinks reception and  
Silent Auction from 7pm**

The Waldegrave Drawing Room  
St Mary's University  
Twickenham TW1 4SX

**Michael Bevan (piano) and  
Maryna Raivska (violin)**  
will play pieces including  
Bruch Concerto 2nd Movement,  
Beethoven Spring Sonata,  
Debussy and Rachmaninoff

**In Aid of Kisaki Girls'  
Secondary School, Tanzania**  
Information and donations at  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/  
concertforKisaki2023](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/concertforKisaki2023)

Tickets are free  
(suggested donation £25)

**BOOK HERE**

or scan QR code




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## Work-Based BA Primary Education are fundraising for:



**We would like to collect items for our homeless  
community this Christmas. Suggested items are:**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Chocolates       | Shower/hand gel |
| Socks            | Wet wipes       |
| Gloves           | Hairbrush/comb  |
| Scarves          | Deodorant       |
| Hats             | Lip balms       |
| Toothbrush/paste | Wrapping paper  |

**The collection point will be on the ground floor of K Block, by the  
Partnership Office. Collection open until Thursday 23rd November.**

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School of Theology Research Seminar

**Professor Brian Schmisek**

**Signs, Superstitions  
and God's Plan  
– The Human Quest  
for Meaning**



Thursday 23rd November 2023  
5-6.30pm | Room F8

Refreshments will be provided  
All welcome


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School of Theology Research Seminar

**Dr Mark Murphy**

**The Direction  
of Desire:**

**St John of the Cross, Jacques Lacan  
and the Contemporary Understanding  
of Spiritual Direction**



Thursday 7th December 2023  
5-6.30pm | Room F8  
Chair: Prof. Peter Tyler

Refreshments will be provided  
All welcome

### School of Liberal and Creative Arts Research Seminar

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 5:30pm Senior Common Room.



**Dr James Lesslie, lecturer in English Literature and Liberal Arts will present his paper 'Wildness, loveliness, beauty and barrenness': Women writers and the Scottish Highlands in the Romantic period.**

This talk will discuss representations of the Scottish Highlands in the works of four women writers of the Romantic Period – Sarah Murray, Dorothy Wordsworth, Anne Grant, and Elizabeth Hamilton. Largely unknown today, these authors were influential in shaping their contemporaries' perceptions of Highland landscapes and lifeways at a time when the region was being transformed by agricultural 'improvement' and clearances. The seminar aims to show how their descriptions of these 'wild' spaces and their inhabitants participate in wider debates about gendered and national identities and cultural and socio-political hierarchies against the tumultuous background of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

There will be refreshments and lively conversation. All welcome. If you would like to attend, please e mail [michelle.paull@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.paull@stmarys.ac.uk)

## Notices from our SU this month



St Mary's  
University  
Students'  
Union

[www.stmaryssu.co.uk](http://www.stmaryssu.co.uk)

Our recently published cost-of-living report found that last year, 53% of St Mary's students struggled to afford food and groceries. In response we have launched our "SU pantry", providing food, toiletries and sanitary products to students in need.

The SU pantry is completely reliant on donations.

We currently need donations of the following items...

- Toiletries (Toilet Roll, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel etc.)
- Non-Perishable food items (Canned foods, Long-life Milk, Tea/coffee etc.)
- Sanitary Products (individually wrapped and unopened)
- Stationery (Notebooks, etc.)



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[www.stmaryssu.co.uk](http://www.stmaryssu.co.uk)

**Movember** is just around the corner. Whether you have a mo or not, please show your support for men's mental health.

### The Big Shave Event

- 30th November 5pm-7pm at the SU Bar
- A barber is coming to shave your Mo's after the Big Grow!

Remember, ladies can still fundraise, and can still run the best awareness campaigns, regardless of Mo's (or lack thereof)!

For further information about Movember, please visit:

- [guide to being great Mobassadors](#)
- [the UK university fundraising leader board.](#)

St Mary's is currently 16th in the UK for university Movember fundraising, let's try to climb those rankings!

[Join the St Mary's fundraising team](#)