

School Ties



Bob
the Builder



CREDITS

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Inside Cover: Wayne from Centaur Products repaints the Blue Jags logo on the new gym floor last summer.

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Thoughts from the Head of School | Andy Rodford

What a year it's been. If you've been stranded on a desert island—or worse, you're not on our email list—you may have missed the news about Bob Snowden's retirement, our search for a new Head of School, and finally the appointment of Mark Turner as our new Head starting in the summer of 2018.

In the intervening period between Bob's retirement and Mark's assumption of the headship of St. Michaels University School, I am honoured to be the Acting Head of School. One of my official duties is to introduce this "Thoughts from the Head of School" column, Bob's last message to the school community. Besides hearing directly from Bob below, you can also look forward to reading a retrospective of Bob's career in "Bob the Builder" as well as learning more about Mark Turner and me in the article "Head to Head." Please enjoy this issue of *School Ties*. **Vivat!**

Better and Best | Bob Snowden

Our School is 111 years old. It has history, and we have faith in its future. School House, the original building, still stands; its passages still breathing and pulsing with students, much as it did in the School's first decade. The bell tower still looks down on the same front field over which our first students swarmed and over which the students who left in June also swarmed. Although newer buildings also occupy our grounds, they serve functions that the School's founders would recognize: they include residences, science classrooms, gymnasiums and athletic facilities, the library, the chapel, music rooms and the dining hall.

Even schools at the forefront of change try to preserve the things that don't change. Since the time of classical Greece, when schools as we know them had their start, we who teach in them have been stewards of an ideal the ancient Greeks cultivated: the pursuit of truth and goodness. Those values have always been fundamental to SMUS.

Yet our School's founders could not have imagined the SMUS of today. When I cleaned out my office, for instance, I was surprised at how little paper goes in the recycling bin: my colleagues know well that, as of about a decade ago, there was no point in bringing in sheaves of paper to show me—I would only ask to have the electronic version. And, although no girls attended the original school, I can only believe that the founders whose School is now 111 years old would have been more shocked if this evolution had not taken place. These days, we are in the habit of observing robust enrolment and our new buildings are intentionally built to last more than a century.



The Impact of Giving at SMUS



**Be part of the team that's supporting our dream.
Your gift will help our community reach its goals.**



St. Michaels
University School

www.smus.ca/give

dream
big

An embracing community of learners requires more ideals than the diversity that creates it: it requires ideals that shape it and give it purpose. In a school, this central ideal must be excellence.

If, however, we say that the School is stronger now than it was at its start, we can only do so because the original was built on rock, not sand—to echo a parable our Founders would have known well.

I have repeated a few things at the School every year, like a refrain. For example, since my first year, I welcomed everyone to our Senior School Closing Ceremonies and Grade 12 Graduation in about 10 of the languages of our School. These are the languages of the world, and they are the languages of our School, where the basic posture to the wider world is one of invitation.

Another refrain: I have told the Biblical story of the Flood to our Junior School students since my first year at the School. Across the world's cultures, a more common story cannot be found. The flood is told in the Bible, the Koran, Hindu texts and Norse mythology, Mayan legend, in Ojibwa tradition here in North America, and as an Aboriginal legend in Australia, all the way down to many of the details.

In my version, it is not the usual harrowing story of justice and retribution, but a story of how one would start a new world if one had that task, as Noah had. I ask the open, eager faces of the students seated cross-legged in front of me on the floor of the Junior School gymnasium, "If you had to start the world over, how would you do it?" Well, you start with two of everything, just like Noah. Not just the nice animals and the impressive ones, and not just the graceful birds and the majestic ones, but also the nondescript, the irritating, the vicious, and the seemingly useless creatures ... the nasty bugs, the unpleasant vermin, and the misunderstood organisms we might leave behind if no one were watching. We might have misgivings or choose different creatures for a week-long cruise, but to populate the ark of a new world, we take everyone. So begins—and so began, in my first year as Head of School—the tale of diversity that our School tells and lives. The story of Rosa Parks, another narrative that I repeated for 22 years in the Junior School, modernizes this tale. Before long, even before they begin Middle School, students are adding their own stories—more than I can count or invent. Soon, the boys and girls become self-aware and realize they are not just telling it, but living and learning the story of diversity with its drama, its questions, its discomfort and its idealism. Finally, in the last years before graduation—when notable distinctions abound, prizes are won, and scholarships earned—our students start shaping the world as much by the breadth and power of their openness and attitude of acceptance towards each other as by their lofty achievements.

An embracing community of learners requires more ideals than the diversity that creates it: it requires ideals that shape it and give it purpose. In a school, this central ideal must be excellence.

Some people scoff at excellence as a concept that is over-used and abused. However, it remains real—just as diamonds remain real when surrounded by rhinestones. Like a diamond, excellence has many facets—intellectual, moral, athletic, social, aesthetic—and exhibits a complexity to be examined, discussed and articulated in order to emerge from that camouflage of false gems. As I said above, we who teach are the stewards of the pursuit of truth and goodness—a pursuit that is at the core of excellence. Such stewardship makes teaching both humbling and ennobling. In practicing our craft, our goal is to help students to want to do better and be better and, even more, to help them to do their best and be their best.

Finally, because these paragraphs dwell on what endures: **Vivat!**

R.T. Snowden



School News

Every day at SMUS offers students the opportunity to experiment, discover and take another step closer to their dreams. The following pages highlight those daily opportunities at our school as captured in the *SMUSpaper*, our online news site at news.smus.ca.



Transformations completed at the Junior School this summer included the renovation of the front foyer, new floors throughout the hallways, a redesigned art studio, some upgraded classrooms and the completion and furnishing of the flexible Imagination Lab space. The Middle School received new floors, paint, furniture and lighting in common areas. One of the Senior School science labs and a library classroom became more flexible learning environments, and new kitchens were built in the common rooms of two of our boarding houses. The renovations and upgrades were made possible by financial support through the annual Dream Big fund.



Junior School

1 Kindergarten students Lauren and Isabel dress as 100-year-olds to celebrate 100 days at the Junior School.

2 Grade 5 students from Parkyn House celebrate victory at the annual end-of-the-year Sports Day.

3 Grade 2 student Ronan cradles one of the baby chicks that hatched in the classroom. Students incubated and hatched chicks and ducklings as part of a unit on the life cycles of animals and plants.

4 British Columbia Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Judith Guichon, reacts as she receives a bouquet of flowers from Kindergarten students Oscar and Alice during her visit to the Junior School in February.

5 Manav, Stephanie and Liam mix their batter, as Grade 1 and Grade 9 students work together to make healthy desserts.

6 Jeffrey (Grade 5), Will (Grade 4), Michael (Grade 5), Patrick (Grade 5) and Will (Grade 4, top) smile after winning a trophy at the First Lego League Championship Tournament.

7 During their Arctic life studies, Grade 2 students make (and cook) bannock.



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Middle School

1 Emily S., Grace M. and Tori F. (Grade 8) show off the cupcakes they baked and sold during the French Food Truck Festival in June. The festival involved all Grade 8 students and raised \$1,820 for the iBelieve Foundation.

2 Samuel K. (Grade 7) jumps to avoid getting hit during a game of dodgeball, organized as part of Health and Wellness Week.

3 Ava O. (Grade 6) tries to catch a snowflake on her tongue during our unusually snowy winter.

4 The Oompa Loompas from the Middle School production of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* try to tempt Charlie Bucket and Grandpa Joe to take a sip of the Fizzy Lifting Drink.

5 Science teacher Ms. Lindy Van Alstine shows a sheep's heart to Grade 8 students Divyesh N. and Zuva T. during an in-class dissection.

6 Students Jacob L. and Callum C. smile after a colour fight that took place as part of the Grade 8-organized leadership conference, Accepting 2 Connecting.

7 Grade 7 student Tomi C. runs alongside his schoolmates during the annual Terry Fox Run.

8 Axel O. (Grade 6) concentrates on the music during the annual Jazz Night in the Chapel.

9 Middle and Junior School students were joined by funk band Carter & the Capitals, as well as Head of School Bob Snowden, for the end-of-the-year Choral Concert.



9

Senior School

1 Emma Coetze (Grade 10) weighs Kindergartener Sam R. when the older students help teach the younger ones about different units of measurement.

2 Track and field athletes Cordel Tromp (Grade 10), Ella Chin (Grade 10), Izzy Champion (Grade 9) and Angelina Shandro (Grade 9) won bronze in the Junior girls 4x400m relay at the provincial championships. Angelina also won two gold medals (200m, 400m) and another bronze medal (100m).

3 Grade 12 musician Alec Xu conducts the senior choir on "The Music's Always There With You" during the Large Ensembles Concert.

4 Using his new knowledge of forensics, Simon Erlic burns a piece of fabric that had been found at the scene of a fictitious crime to determine what it is. The murder mystery was part of experiential learning in the Grade 10 Science classes.

5 Grade 12 students Dalal Tubeishat, Titobi Wuraola, Sara Cui and Judy Kim got involved and supported the Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock fundraiser.

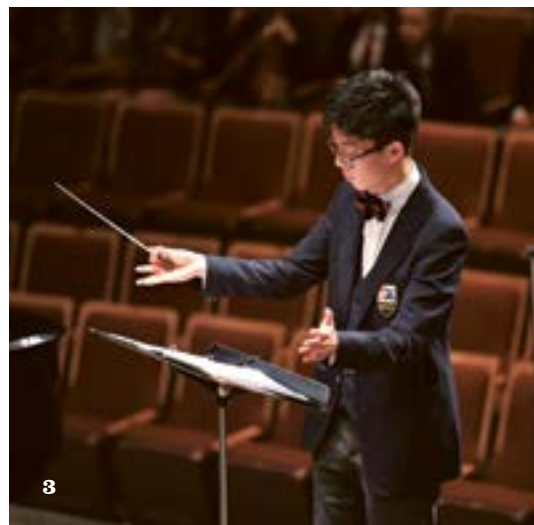
6 Alumnus John Burns '85 walks through a crowd of Senior School students during Career Day. John, a former journalist and now Story Director at ECHO Storytelling, was the event's keynote speaker and had students pick from a deck of cards to determine which stories he would share.

7 Head Boy Christian Okiring took on a major role in the Senior School production of *Ragtime*, sharing the lead role of Coalhouse Walker, Jr., with David Allens.

8 The Senior boys 1st XV rugby team celebrates their Boot Game win during Alumni Weekend. The team went on to capture their third-straight provincial rugby title.

9 The entire Grade 10 class took part in a variety of outdoor education trips at the start of the 2017-18 school year. More than 55 students spent three days learning how to sail aboard the SALTS Pacific Swift and Pacific Grace ships.

10 Grade 10 student Alex Shirley works at transforming a gas-powered Volkswagen into an electric vehicle as part of the experiential program.





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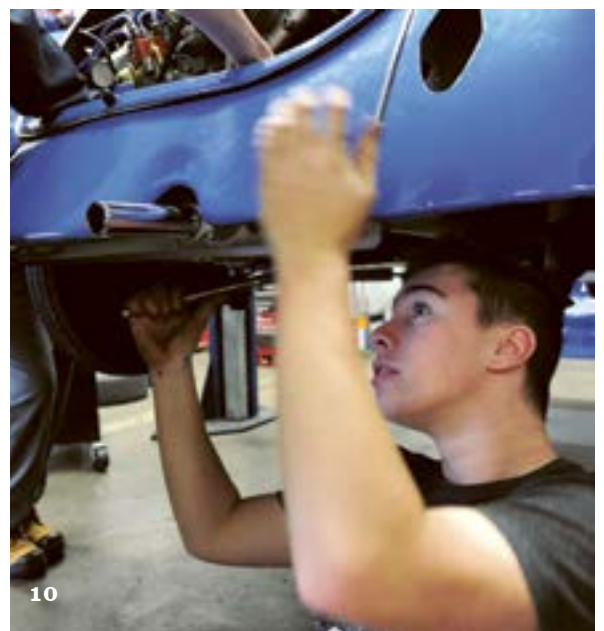
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Ryan Taylor

A Dream Big Profile



It wasn't until Ryan Taylor '10 ran on to the pitch for a rugby game in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2010 that he stopped to consider just how surreal his life had become. Eighteen months earlier, he had never been on a plane, let alone played rugby in Europe.

It was one of the high points of his three years at SMUS that almost didn't happen.

Ryan was neither being challenged nor challenging himself at his hometown high school. His buddy Anthony Sharma '11 had just come back from his first term at SMUS and had regaled him with stories of inspiring classes, passionate teachers and a jam-packed life in boarding. The opportunity seemed out of reach financially, but Ryan decided to contact SMUS Admissions and inquire about financial aid. Within a couple of months, he was named a Timmis Scholar, benefiting from a special endowment fund that directs financial support to students who can't otherwise afford a SMUS education.

It was a whirlwind transformation for Ryan. Describing himself as immature when he entered SMUS in Grade 10, Ryan found a world where students directed their own projects and challenged themselves to reach new levels. His days of sitting at the back of English class doing his own thing because he had finished the assignment were over. His new English teacher, Mr. Robert Common, pulled his desk to the front of the class and dared him to rise to his potential.

"It was one of the first times I felt truly challenged," Ryan says. "Mr. Common had an unmatched ability to make students feel like intellectual equals."

Despite it being a minor action on Mr. Common's part, Ryan says it was a "monumental learning moment" for him. Being tested like this revealed a path that demanded hard work, energy, thought and failure.

It was just what he needed.

It wasn't just the academic side of life at SMUS that tested Ryan. As part of his scholarship responsibilities, he attended functions with school donors. One of those functions was the Founders and Scholars Dinner, and he had no idea what he would talk about in a room full of philanthropists. Growing up below the poverty line meant that his experience in this area was thin. He says he simply hadn't been introduced to the concept—or power of—networking.

"I hadn't been to anything like that before and I was nervous about the whole thing. Immediately upon arriving, however, it was evident how welcoming everybody was and how eager they were to hear about our experiences at the school."

Dinners like that and other Advancement events helped him immensely because they demystified the whole concept of networking. He learned that, at its core, the purpose was good conversation and relationship-building.

"I'm fairly introverted, but now I'm completely comfortable at any kind of reception," he says. "I'm not sure that would be the case if I hadn't had those experiences at SMUS."

Those events also cultivated trusting relationships with those supporting him. It's that trust that helped keep him on the right path when he thought about dropping out of university.

"After SMUS, I went to Colgate as a chemistry major since I thought I wanted to be a doctor," he says. "I think many children who grow up in a low-income household aren't aware of the plethora of different career paths available and I definitely had tunnel vision on becoming a doctor or an engineer. I was under the impression that because they were the shiniest objects, so to speak, I was expected to strive toward them."

He almost dropped out after his first semester when he realized he had no interest in studying chemistry. He was good at it but he had a bit of a weak stomach, which is not ideal for the profession. He didn't know what to do and felt his options were limited.

"Peter Gardiner walked me back from the ledge after that first semester and convinced me that Colgate was right for me," he says. "I remember Peter saying, 'It's only three more years and, before you know it, you'll wish you could do three more years.' At 19, three years seemed like a long time, but he was exactly right."

While trying to decide what courses to take in his sophomore year, Ryan recalled advice that Hugh McGillivray '64, his SMUS benefactor, offered: "Do what you love and the money will come." Although highly skeptical of this advice, he took it and signed up for a political science course. He fell in love with the subject, his grades skyrocketed and he graduated *cum laude* from Colgate in 2015 with a degree in political science. He's now in the second year of law at the University of Calgary.

At Colgate, he never once felt unprepared socially, culturally or academically, thanks to his experience at SMUS. In fact, he thrived and refers to Colgate as the best four years of his life. Now, as he begins his career, his relationships with donors like Hugh have inspired him to start making his own contributions to SMUS's annual Dream Big fund.

"I'm certain that my gratitude towards Hugh is only outmatched by how proud he is of all his scholars and by how much happiness he derives simply from hearing about what we're doing," Ryan says. "His outlook on philanthropy had a big impact on me, and I'm highly motivated to put myself in a financial position to give as generously as he has."

"I've discovered that I should give because I can. Breaking an intergenerational cycle of poverty is easier when you have a world-class education."

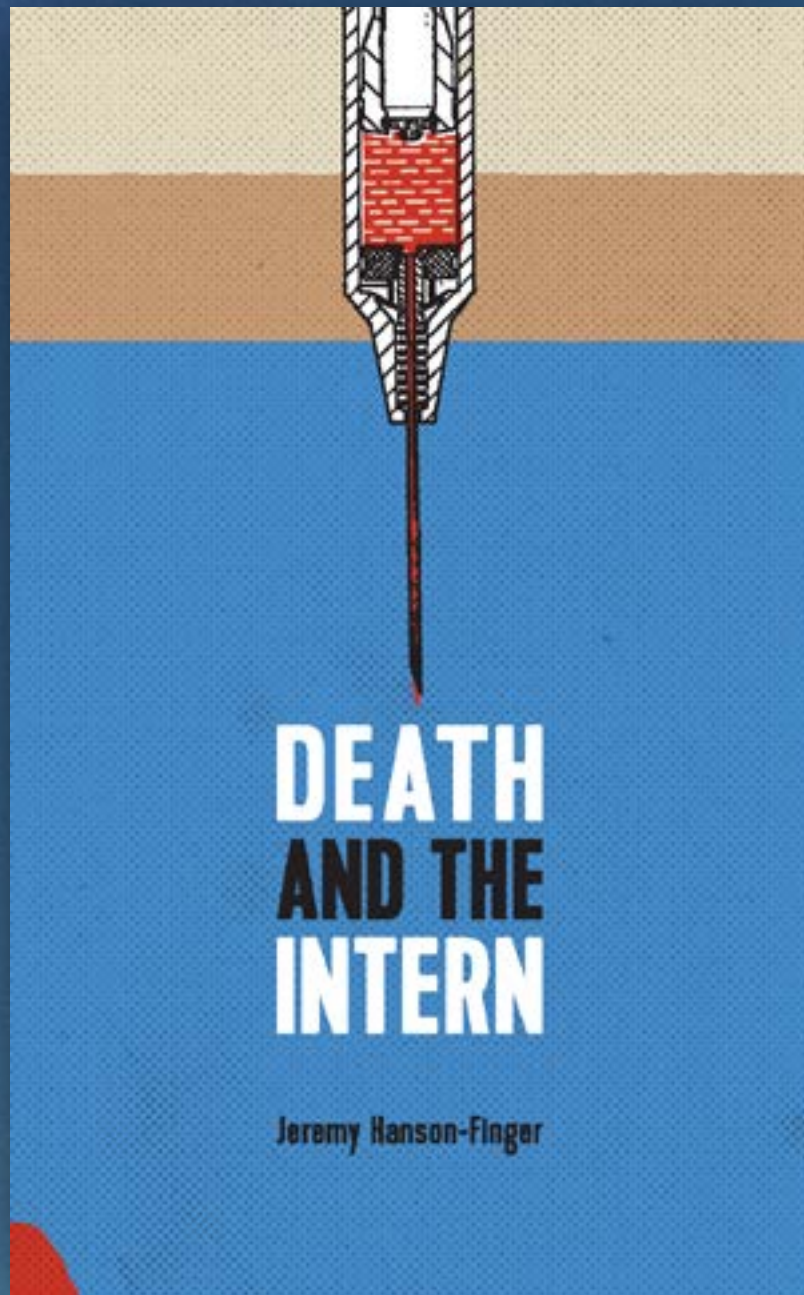
Be part of the team that's supporting the dreams of our students. Make a contribution to the Dream Big fund at www.smus.ca/dreambig.



Great Alumni Reads

Jeremy Hanson-Finger was born in Victoria, and graduated from SMUS in 2005. A co-founder of the magazine *Dragnet* along with fellow alumnus Andrew Battershill, his writing has appeared in *Joyland*, *Little Fiction*, *Feathertale* and *The Puritan*, as well as on online at hanson-finger.com. Jeremy attended Carleton University in Ottawa before moving to Toronto to work in publishing. He has returned to Ottawa where he is a senior technical writer at Shopify.

The following excerpt is from Jeremy's debut novel, *Death and the Intern*, which he launched at an event in May hosted in the Snowden Library.





PROLOGUE

Janwar will anaesthetize eight patients before he kills one.

This isn't a probability; it will happen on Wednesday. The solution has been planned for a long time, planned before Janwar even applied to the placement at Civic. Janwar doesn't know anything about his role. And he won't until he has played it.

On Tuesday night, a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt holds a pungent dishtowel over Diego Acosta's face while his partner smashes Diego in the knees with a bat. The two men then drag Diego behind an advertisement for MEC-brand dog backpacks, where they rifle through Diego's pockets. They take his wallet and cell phone, although the theft is for show: later that night, the henchmen crush the cell phone and shred the cards from the wallet before they toss all the fragments into the Rideau Canal, not far from where a university student drowned himself a few months ago.

The henchmen do take the cash before they dispose of the wallet, however. Henching doesn't attract the ascetic.

At the emergency room, the doctors say Diego is healthy aside from his fractured kneecaps, which is true, these thugs being professionals in the delicate art of kneecapping, among other body modifications both temporary and permanent. Diego's knee surgery is scheduled for the next day.

Horace Louisseize supervises Janwar during Diego's operation on Wednesday morning. As a medical student intern, Janwar is not allowed to perform anaesthesia unattended, so a senior staff member has to be present.

From the hallway, Janwar hears rubberized wheels squeak and Llewellyn Cadwaladr's sing-songy voice saying that a certain halfwit should watch where he's going.

José Almeida rolls the anaesthesia cart into the OR, freshly filled at the dispensary.

Janwar draws 7mL from a vial labelled "1% solution of lidocaine" into a syringe, enough for Diego's 70 kilograms, followed by the appropriate amounts of fentanyl and propofol. He prepares another syringe of rocuronium and switches on the ventilator.

By then José has already departed to retrieve the materials that the surgeon, Victor Kovacs, and the attending, Karan Gill, need for surgery.

Rasheeda Mohammed is the scrub nurse assigned to the operation. Following Janwar's instructions, she attaches the ECG leads, pulse ox, and BIS, and swabs Diego's arm.

As Rasheeda performs her tasks, Janwar walks Diego through what is going to happen: Janwar will inject a mixture of drugs into Diego's IV feed, and less than a minute after that, Diego will be out cold until the operation is over.

Janwar pats the BIS, a blue machine the size of a shoebox, and points at the display, which at that moment reads "97." He explains that when he administers anaesthesia, Diego's brain activity will slow and that number will drop, and once it drops enough, the surgeon will conduct the operation by peeling back the skin, drilling into the bone, and laying the latticework to brace Diego's patellas as they heal. Janwar will watch the glowing number and adjust the IV drip to keep Diego unconscious, as well as monitor his vitals to make sure everything goes fine.

This is what Janwar says to Diego, and what Janwar believes—that everything will go fine.

Instead, everything goes fine according to the solution, which is not the same as going fine for Janwar, since Janwar does not come out of the solution looking good. And it's definitely not the same as going fine for Diego, who doesn't come out of the solution at all: the permanent removal of Diego is the solution.

Diego doesn't know any more about the solution than Janwar does—although, being the problem, he does possess information concerning the series of events that have led to his forthcoming negation. He doesn't flinch as the IV goes into his vein. Diego thinks the hospital is a safe space. But he is wrong. The hospital is a much less safe space for him than the street.

Rasheeda tapes the IV down. Janwar slides the first syringe into the port in the tubing and depresses the plunger.

Diego's ECG spasms into the twisted party-streamer shape of torsades de pointes. Before any of the staff can intervene, the display flatlines.

Janwar shouts that Diego is in cardiac arrest and orders José to page for a crash cart.

José snatches up the intercom and makes the request, but by the time the cart thunders down the hallway and screeches around the corner, Janwar and Horace and Victor and Karan and Rasheeda and José all know Diego is not coming back

But right now it's Monday morning. Diego is still asleep in his own apartment. He is a consultant; he has no meetings scheduled. He can sleep in.

And Janwar is about to anaesthetize his first patient.

Excerpted from Death and the Intern, by Jeremy Hanson-Finger, with permission from Invisible Publishing. Available at www.invisiblepublishing.com



Bob

the Builder

by Kyle Slavin

Standing atop the Science Block on a warm spring morning, Head of School Bob Snowden takes in a view of the Richmond Road campus he's never seen.

"I've always wanted to see the school from up here," he says with a smile as he slowly scans the 360 degrees around him. There is no evidence of the changes under Bob's watch more tangible than this view. Had he come up here in 1995, the school he would have seen would look very different.

But appearances don't tell the complete story.

While beautiful, this view is simply cosmetic evidence of a school that has changed dramatically over the last 22 years. The facades of these buildings obstruct the view of the biggest changes that have impacted what matters most at our school: the students, the teachers and the education. This is the St. Michaels University School we know today that Bob Snowden helped build.

Building Faculty

When he started teaching French at Appleby College in 1975, Bob already had a good handle on boarding school life. He had spent his high school years living and studying at that very school, excelling as an athlete (football, tennis, hockey, squash and cricket, eventually playing the last of these for Team Canada at university) and school leader (being named Head Boy in Grade 12).

"Boarding schools were very different then," he says. "There were two diametrically opposed motivations for sending your son or

daughter to boarding school: either they needed straightening out or they needed the rich environment and opportunities." Fortunately for him, he attended for the latter reason.

"I was lucky to have some good teachers who really struck a chord," he recalls. "The good teachers were the ones who were dedicated to their students. They were teachers; they were coaches; they were all-rounders who really transformed you as a person."

In hindsight, Bob says even as a student he really valued the teachers who put in the time and effort to ensure their students received a well-rounded education.

He drew on their example when he started working at Appleby, a job he planned on being only temporary "while I figured out what I really wanted to do." Before long, he realized he was passionate about teaching.


"I didn't have any formal training, but I was fortunate I had a headmaster at the time who thought I had potential as a teacher and gave me really good advice and opportunities."

The standout opportunity, Bob says, came five years into his career when he went on a year-long teacher exchange in 1980 to a boarding school on the other side of the country. Bob spent a year teaching at St. Michaels University School, a school that became co-ed two years earlier and was still recovering from financial struggles that led to amalgamation less than a decade before.

The strongest impression he was left with from his time at SMUS was that Headmaster John Schaffter cared a great deal about hiring the right faculty.







"He was really making the school better: he put a high value on great teachers, and it was clear that these teachers were going to make a big difference at the school," Bob says.

In 1995, Bob was headhunted and offered two Head of School positions: one at St. Michaels University School; the other at a day school in Houston, Texas.

"What attracted me to SMUS right at the outset was I had had such a good experience the first time around, and most of those great teachers who were here in 1980–81 were still here," Bob says. He adds that, on a personal level, he also chose the school where his background made the most sense. "I had just spent 16 months as Acting Head of School at Ridley College, which was a co-ed school, day and boarding, and it was a big, old, established school—just like SMUS." By this time, he was also a father to two boys, Scott and Graham, and felt SMUS would be a better fit for his kids.

When he arrived in the summer of 1995, the traditional Head of School role at boarding schools was changing as the schools' priorities changed. For Bob, that meant fundraising and facilities. But with the strong academic program still at the heart of the school, he needed to ensure that great teachers continued to thrive and be able to help great students.

"I came into the role conscious of what I had learned the previous year as acting head: students have to be at the centre of all of the decisions, followed closely by the staff. That may sound very obvious, but at a lot of schools that wasn't happening."

Bob created one of the first Director of Academics roles in the country. "We are a school first and foremost, so having someone dedicated to supporting teachers, supporting the curriculum and building up the academic program was important."

He hired Tom Matthews, now Head of School at St. George's School in Vancouver, to help ensure the strength of our academic program.

"Bob ensured that SMUS was constantly moving forward, developing new programs and enhancing its instructional practices," Matthews says. "On a personal note, I am indebted to Bob for the faith that he placed in me. In my view, he is the smartest and most strategic Head in the country. Bob never allowed any obstacle to prevent him from achieving his overriding goal of making SMUS the very best school possible, for the benefit of its students, both present and future."

Over the course of Bob's time at SMUS, this focus has allowed the school to build an exceptional academic program that has helped the school remain a leading-edge institution.

Ask any SMUS teacher and they'll tell you that, under Bob, students could get whatever support and resources necessary to be successful in class. As well, Bob put high value on professional development, knowing that teachers who hone their craft positively affect their students.

"I think he would say the teachers are his legacy," says math teacher Ms. Bernadette Abrioux. "Bob knew what he wanted for SMUS long before I came to the school: he wanted it to be the best it could be and he expected his staff to reach the students in whatever way works. He knows the value of teachers forming strong relationships with students and he expects his staff to do that."

"Hiring good teachers has been the most important thing I do," Bob says. "The school exists for its students, and the students are at the centre of it all, but the teachers are the key cogs in the wheel."



Then-board chair Stephen Martin, Bob and major donor Graeme Crothall celebrate the opening of the Crothall Centre in 2003.

Building Facilities

When Bob taught at SMUS for a year in 1980, another aspect of SMUS life left an impression: “The facilities were very poor. The school had to move out of one of the buildings—the old Harvey House—because it was going to be condemned.”

In 1995, he arrived at a school that had made only slight progress in improving its physical space over the 15 years since he had taught here. A new Middle School, Science Block and gymnasium had been built, but there was still a long way to go. The previous headmasters (Schaffter and Rob Wilson) focused on building the fundamentals of the school: teachers, curriculum and students. Bob came in knowing the SMUS Board of Governors expected him to make significant progress in improving the physical spaces. Although he would have preferred to focus his efforts elsewhere, it was evident new facilities were required.

“The facilities were literally falling down. It wasn’t that there was a desire for wonderful facilities that swept through the school—we just had to do something,” Bob recalls.

Coming from a boarding school himself, Bob knew that schools could do a much better job at making the facilities more inspiring and nurturing places to be. Working with architect Paul Merrick on building plans allowed SMUS to build those inspiring and nurturing facilities.

“Boarding schools now are much more like a home away from home. ... When alumni come back and look at our current facilities, they think students now are a bunch of softies,” he says. “When I was a student, boarding schools were quite regimented, there were strict rules, and the unspoken culture of survival of the fittest really prevailed.”

Under Bob’s watch, the school has been a construction zone for nearly as many years as it hasn’t. Three major buildings have been completed (Crothall Centre in 2003, Schaffter Hall in 2004, Monkman Athletic Complex phases 1 and 2 in 2005 and 2008, respectively) and a fourth, Sun Centre, is under construction. As well, many of the buildings have been renovated and upgraded, including the Junior School, boarding houses, Chapel and, most notably, School House and the Snowden Library, which was named last year to honour Bob and his wife Joan for their contributions to the school.

The goal with the facilities that Bob has helped shepherd to fruition is longevity: build buildings that will last and the school won’t need to undergo major facility upgrades again for a long while.

“We tried to conceive of most of the buildings we could imagine needing or wanting, and we wanted superior buildings that would endure for decades, if not centuries. All the buildings we’ve built will be standing in 100 years. That creates a sense of permanence and commitment to the school that says, ‘The learning and experiences you have here are going to endure.’”

Building Financial Aid and Endowment

“When I started I was told, ‘Our school has never raised much money. We’re not like other schools. We can’t raise money at SMUS. Victoria’s different.’ I couldn’t believe I was hearing this,” Bob remembers.

Independent schools rely on fundraising to help make students’ experiences that much better. Money raised by the school goes to a variety of initiatives that Bob focused on, including building new facilities, providing unique learning opportunities, running extra-curricular programs and, perhaps most important, awarding financial aid and scholarships.

Bob recognized the potential for fundraising within our community. Despite the school’s history of not being a fundraiser, he managed to use the school’s story and strengths to ensure endowment and philanthropy grew during his time as Head.

“A good education has breadth of all different kinds: academic exposure, character development through sports and leadership, but also breadth through its socio-economic culture. If you’re going to have a good education, you need to go to a school with a spectrum of students—ethnically, economically, geographically,” he says. “I remember in my first year or two, we gave out about \$200,000 in financial aid. This year we gave out \$2.3 million.”



Bob enlists the help of a group of students to kick off centennial celebrations in 2005.



In the last 22 years, the geographic diversity on campus has grown exponentially too. Bob guesses that when he started at SMUS, we had students from five or six countries. This past school year, we had students from 24 different countries.

The growth of endowment at SMUS isn't exclusive to financial aid. Bob spent a lot of time focused on building relationships with alumni and SMUS community members to help raise money to build the facilities and programs for students that couldn't exist without that donor support.

"The people connected to SMUS know what is possible here," Bob says. "Raising money for a school is not like selling cars and you're not twisting people's arms. People want to know that they're supporting the leaders of tomorrow. They want to know what's going on with the school and that what the school's doing is going to last."

Building Family

A school community is all about the people and the relationships built. Bob has never thought otherwise, and it's what made him decide to continue as a teacher after that first "temporary" year.

"I loved the relationships and getting to know the students. I loved the interaction with the students and how it made me feel," he says. As Head of School, prioritizing the hiring of great teachers, attracting a diverse student body and providing them all with support allows you to build a warm and committed school community.

But perhaps the most important relationship for Bob that formed during his time at SMUS was with his wife, Joan. They met in 1998 on a blind date organized by two SMUS families, and were married in 1999.

He says Joan has been a wonderful support. "What I have found is that we seem to work together seamlessly. She's been such a wonderful



Bob and Joan with some of their family (left to right): Macartney Tonello-Greenfield and Graham Snowden '99, Bob and Joan, Scott Snowden and Kelly Power, Elizabeth Dutton and Rodger Banister '89 with baby James Banister.



Bob and Joan in 2015 enjoying the yearly tradition of distributing gingerbread cookies to Junior School students.

complement to me here. Joan is warmer and emotive and loves people quite openly and sincerely. I think she's become a big part of our community and its warmth."

Joan's contributions to SMUS cannot be overlooked. She cares deeply about community, got to know students, parents and families, and has built genuine and lasting relationships.

Cathy Dixon, a SMUS Governor and a past SMUS parent, says Joan embodies the passion and compassion of the school's mission.

"Bob and Joan together have amazing qualities that were very complementary to each other, and being in those roles is truly a team effort," Cathy says. "Bob was just so great about talking about where the school has come from and where it's going, and Joan was equally up to speed, but she really brought the soft side of community and family and love to everything she did for SMUS."

Bob and Joan now have four adult children and five grandchildren.

Building a Legacy of Excellence

Bob says he spent a lot of time during his last school year reflecting on his career at SMUS.

"This kind of tenure was not in my sights when I began. But I stayed because the school is exciting and there were exciting things to do," he says. "One of the highlights for me was the construction of the Crothall Centre. It was our first big project and it proved that we could do it: we could raise the money, we could plan and build a building, and we could see how it has blossomed in the way it was intended to."

One of his most important undertakings, he says, was formalizing the school's mission.

"It's what epitomized us. Everyone participated in the conversation to create our mission and it put into words what we are and what all want our school to be," Bob says. "It comes down to excellence in all of us. My hope is all students and all teachers and staff know that excellence can look different for each person. I don't think that was ever new for this school. I like to think that we're still the way we've always been, but only better."

And while it's inevitable in retirement, he says he doesn't like to think about the word legacy.

"People will point to the facilities, but that was necessary; whoever sat in this office had to do it," Bob says. "I hope the legacy is the memories people will have—not of me, but of their time here. Whatever role I may have played in them having the best possible experience at the school is what I hope people remember."

Left: Bob poses in front of School House soon after becoming Head of School in 1995.

Right: Bob thanks students after a surprise performance of the school song, rearranged by Tim Williams '83 in honour of the Snowdens' service to the school.









Saying Goodbye

With almost 75 years of combined teaching experience at SMUS, we wish Lisa Hyde-Lay, Lindy Van Alstine and Jim de Goede a fond farewell. Jim and Lindy retired, while Lisa is pursuing her real estate career. The excerpts below are from speeches delivered at the staff recognition dinner in May.

Lisa Hyde-Lay | by George Floyd

Twenty-six years at SMUS. For some here, that's an entire lifespan. For others, 26 sounds like a life sentence with time off for good behaviour. In truth, I suspect it's a bit of both, with a good measure of hard work, laughter and tears thrown in. For those of us lucky enough to have worked with Lisa over those years, it's been an absolute joy.

If Sting were here, he might say, "Every little thing she does is magic." Lisa always brought a special, practical magic to work and life at SMUS. I suspect that one source of that magic comes from some unique childhood experiences.

Picture a little Lisa perched inside a floatplane high above the Discovery Islands off Campbell River. She's peering intently out the window, watching the world below go by as the family heads off to adventure at some hidden cove. Growing up near and playing in Strathcona Park fueled Lisa's passion for the environment and the outdoors. She has shared that passion with students, colleagues, friends, and the greatest loves of her life: Graeme, Derek and Ian.

Beginning in 1991, Lisa taught Science to half of the Middle School, Computer Programming to all Grade 6 students, and took on extra-curricular coaching. Not long after that, she joined boarding in Timmis, sometimes tending to 40-plus girls with her trusty partners, Kathleen Cook and Lindy Van Alstine. "The Three Helgas" (as they were known) were a power team that guided and guarded the flock.

More laughs, tears and late nights were in store. Not busy enough, she later became a Senior Houseparent, serving for 14 years in boarding until the time came to focus more on home and garden (her other great passions).

“Lisa always brought a special, practical magic to work and life at SMUS.”

Lisa is imaginative, thorough and never content to repeat the journey exactly the same way. She always revised and polished lessons, conscious of the destination for her students. She wanted to fine-tune their experiences. This is the classic model of a student-centred educator.

Lisa also spent decades coaching—including girls and boys basketball. She developed and promoted the now successful city night-league basketball program, as well. If she wasn't busy enough with students and boarding, she spent well over 15 years working on behalf of the school and her colleagues through our faculty association executive.

Lisa has taken on a lead staff role in each production, whether it's props, set or coordinating costumes. She's recruited and run an efficient team of staff and parents to design, assemble, and then wrangle a cast of well over 100 kids into costumes for each successful show.

In sports, there are star players who lift the game for everyone on the team. When you're down, they talk you up; when you're up, they keep you focused. Through encouragement, dedication, skill and effort, that type of player leads from within, giving the best and getting the best from teammates. Lisa has always been that teammate for us.

We offer our love and thanks to Lisa for everything she's done for us. Rod Stewart wasn't available tonight, but if he were he might say, "Nobody does it better, makes us feel sad for the rest, nobody does it quite the way you do. Baby... you're the best."

Lindy Van Alstine | by Dariol Haydock

A few years ago, several faculty members headed up to Parkville for one of Bob Snowden's August retreats. It was a year when Bob extended an open invitation to staff, and there was quite a gang of us. One of the strongest memories I have from that weekend is a long, in-depth conversation with Pete McLeod about servant leadership. It was the first time that I had heard this term. Robert K. Greenleaf says, "The servant leader is servant first, it begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve first."

As soon as I heard this definition, I thought, "Lindy. She's always serving others first and contributing in a quiet and humble way."

Some people, day in and day out, just do for others. They anticipate need and, because they believe so passionately in our shared purpose, no job is too big or too small. Whether it's opening the school at 5:30 a.m., unloading the dishwasher, buying a book for a new staff baby, or quietly putting a Lindt chocolate on your desk when the day is hard... this is what Lindy does. She is our chief cook, counsellor, bottle washer, bartender, social convener and head cheerleader in the Department of Positivity.

I am not quite sure how we will manage without her.

A few weeks ago, I was chatting with an alumnus who was visiting from Queens. When I told him that Lindy was retiring, he said "Wow.

What will the Middle School do without her? I still remember when I was chosen to be a prefect, the first congratulatory email I received was from Ms. Van. Even four years on from Middle School, she still called me one of her 'treasures.' To me, teachers like Ms. Van are what make SMUS great. She remembered me."

“Some people, day in and day out, just do for others. They anticipate need and because they believe so passionately in our shared purpose, no job is too big or too small. That is Lindy.”

For 26 years, Lindy has modelled leading from the heart for children and—dare I say—some of us adults. Whether she is coaching volleyball, leading the Christmas hamper drive, working with the U15 girls soccer team, lining up peanut butter jars in the lower hallway for donation, or donning her goggles and lab coat to dissect a sheep's heart, Lindy shows children that they are listened to, cared about, valued and always capable of picking themselves up after a fall. She just believes that children are worthy of such extraordinary care.

As well as Lindy's passion for service, she is deeply committed to giving children opportunities to experience the arts. At the close of the Middle School run of *Willy Wonka*, I took a moment backstage to watch Lindy in all her glory as the show's producer. Perched on her high-back stool, dressed in signature black, headset poised, Lindy positively beamed at the hordes of unruly Oompa Loompas rushing to stage left. She was unfazed by the squirrels with nut issues who were held captive in the upper mezzanine, and she truly seemed to be the only adult backstage who wasn't secretly joyful that, YES, this was the last night of the Middle School run!

Lindy has been the producer of seven Middle School productions, working with Douglas Manson-Blair, Ian Farish and Duncan Frater to produce *AFRIKA*, *Will Power*, *The King of Elfland's Daughter*, *Oliver*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Willy Wonka*. Lindy has been at the centre of these productions and shared her love of theatre with hundreds of children.

When I asked Lindy what she would miss most about this SMUS world, she said: all of us—her colleagues, the family that she's chosen.

Families are forever, and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

Jim de Goede | by Nancy Mollenhauer

There were more than just a few people on the Middle School staff who were a little—how do I say this delicately?—scared, when Jim showed up to teach 21 short years ago. Large in stature and with that big, booming voice, who wouldn't be a little intimidated? It didn't take long for us to figure out that despite the tough exterior, he was just a big, soft teddy bear inside. Now, don't get me wrong, the not-so-soft Jim came to the forefront on more than a few occasions. It was always with good reason and, in a very short time, we recognized this was indeed a very special man and that we were lucky to call him one of ours!

Whether it was in the classroom on the third floor (corner suite I might add) teaching the Medieval Ages to his Social Studies 8

class, playing Jeopardy with his Teacher Advisory Group (TAG) class, training his students in the Great Canadian Geography Challenge, or arguing the finer points of a good debate with his Comm Skills students, Jim always put the kids first. This is just one of the many things I admire about him: his dedication to the students and the passion he brought to the classroom.

When not in his classroom, Jim could be found on the soccer pitch where, for 19 seasons, he coached our U15 girls CAIS soccer team. After “retiring” from coaching U15 girls soccer, Jim continued to share his knowledge and love of the game by helping as the goal-keeping coach for our Senior School girls team. His words of encouragement from the sidelines will be sorely missed... and always remembered!

“Jim always put the kids first. This is just one of the many things I admire about him: his dedication to the students and the passion he brought to the classroom.”

Family has always been, and will always be, very important to Jim. His two wonderful daughters, Andrea and Olivia, both graduated from SMUS, and you only have to ask him how they are doing to see his smile stretch from ear to ear. He is one proud papa! And then, of course, there is his partner in crime for the last 20 years, Sherry. How lovely for them to be heading down this new path in life together, filled with continuous love and perhaps a few adventures thrown in there to keep things interesting. It is hard to say goodbye to you, Jimmy, so let's not. It'll be “so long for now” with love, heartfelt wishes and all of the very best that life has to offer.

Iain Forbes | by Kyle Slavin

For 20 years Dr. Iain Forbes provided amazing guidance and care to the students and staff as the school physician. This past summer Dr. Forbes retired after a long career serving the SMUS community.

“This has been my favourite job in my career,” Dr. Forbes says. “Being surrounded by young people, day and night, was the best medical experience I’ve had. There’s something wonderful about waking up every day wanting to go to work because you get to see all these young faces.”

Dr. Forbes studied medicine at the University of Aberdeen. He worked in Scotland and England before he and his wife (former SMUS teacher) Anna came to Canada. He practised in Lethbridge and Qualicum Beach before coming to Victoria.

He and Anna have three children, all of whom graduated from SMUS.

In 1997, Dr. Forbes became the school physician. At the same time, he and Anna also joined the boarding community as houseparents.

Dr. Forbes also led the popular Flight Experience Weekend for students in the 2000s, helping to introduce students to careers in the aviation industry.

“I think there are close to 20 people who are now professional pilots in major airlines, and some who work as aeronautical

engineers and there’s one I know of who works for Boeing,” Dr. Forbes says proudly.

His warmth and friendly personality is what his colleagues at SMUS say will be missed the most.

“From the moment we met I could sense that his engagement with the students was quite different from any doctor-patient relationship that I’d previously observed in my nursing career,” says Nurse Kaye Mains. “He gave his full attention, he was fully present in the moment with his patients and because of this he could establish relationships of real trust that often blossomed into friendships that lasted well beyond the orbit of a student’s school career.”

“He was a master communicator and most important a superb listener,” adds Nurse Allison Weir. “He was extraordinary for our day and boarding communities. It was such a privilege to have worked with this amazing gentleman, friend and MD.”

We wish Dr. Forbes all the best in retirement.

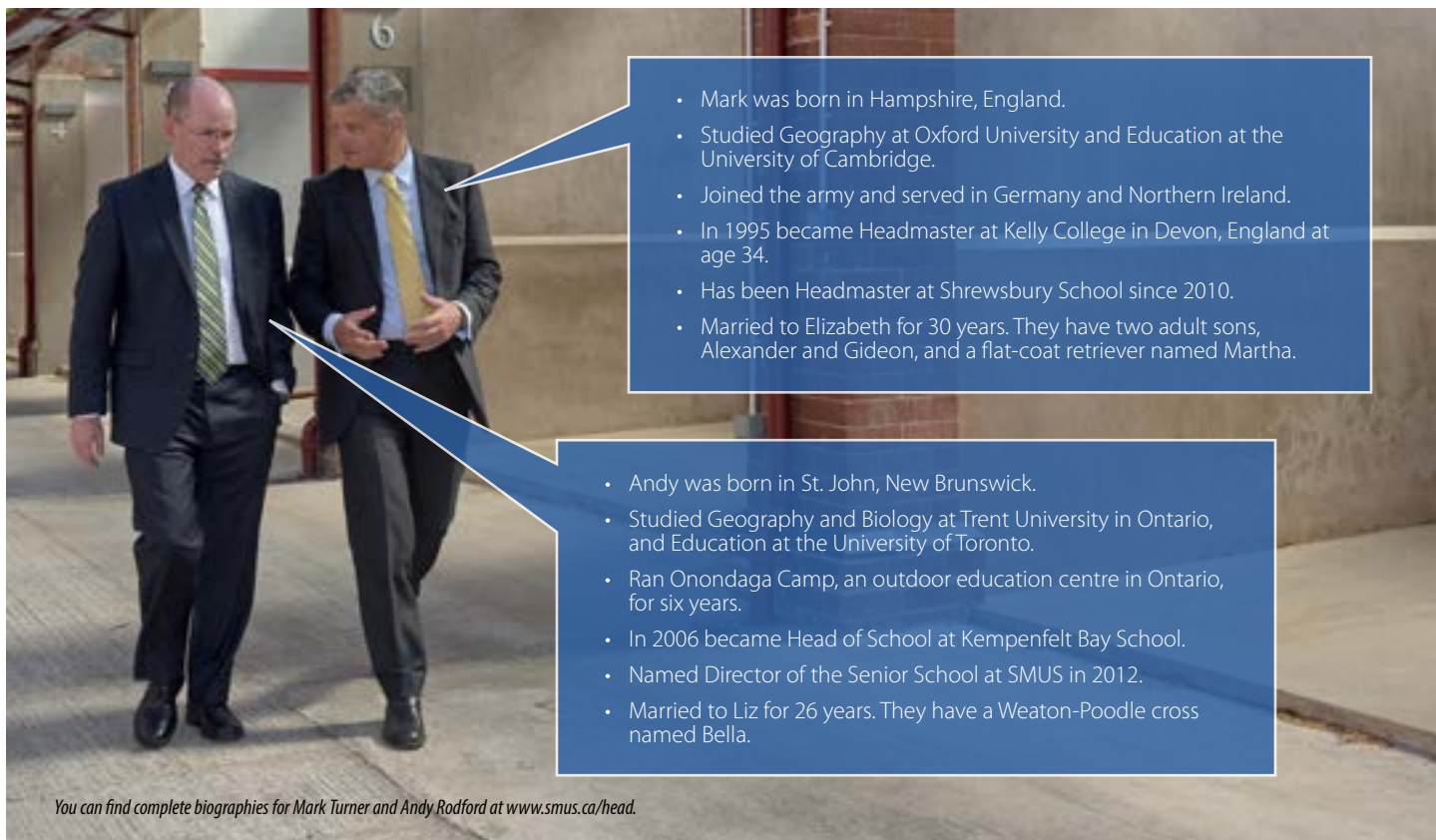


Iain Forbes

Head to Head

A photograph of two men in business suits sitting in wooden armchairs, facing each other in conversation. They are in a room with dark wood-paneled walls. Behind them is a large, ornate gold-framed painting of a landscape with a body of water and a small boat. A small round wooden table with papers on it sits between the chairs. The man on the left wears a yellow tie, and the man on the right wears a striped tie and colorful socks.

Earlier this year we announced that Mark Turner, a dynamic and award-winning educator in the U.K., has been appointed as our incoming Head of School. Mark will move from Shropshire, England this summer when he takes over as Head of School in July 2018. In the interim, Senior School Director Andy Rodford has been selected as our Acting Head of School for the 2017-18 school year.



- Mark was born in Hampshire, England.
- Studied Geography at Oxford University and Education at the University of Cambridge.
- Joined the army and served in Germany and Northern Ireland.
- In 1995 became Headmaster at Kelly College in Devon, England at age 34.
- Has been Headmaster at Shrewsbury School since 2010.
- Married to Elizabeth for 30 years. They have two adult sons, Alexander and Gideon, and a flat-coat retriever named Martha.

- Andy was born in St. John, New Brunswick.
- Studied Geography and Biology at Trent University in Ontario, and Education at the University of Toronto.
- Ran Onondaga Camp, an outdoor education centre in Ontario, for six years.
- In 2006 became Head of School at Kempenfelt Bay School.
- Named Director of the Senior School at SMUS in 2012.
- Married to Liz for 26 years. They have a Weaton-Poodle cross named Bella.

You can find complete biographies for Mark Turner and Andy Rodford at www.smus.ca/head.

Q&A with Mark and Andy

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL?

MT ▶ Definitely history because I found the various topics we studied fascinating. I've always been a believer that those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it; that famous quote from George Santayana.

AR ▶ Science, biology especially. I loved figuring out how things worked and I was really interested in the human body. I thought it was the coolest thing on the planet.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

MT ▶ The first opportunity to earn money was selling mackerel for pocket money every summer holiday. I did that age 8 to 14 or 15. We would spend our summer in a village on the Atlantic coast near Cornwall and every morning my brother and I would take our little boat out and go catch mackerel.

AR ▶ Delivering the *Sunday Express* newspaper in Montreal. I was a Toronto Maple Leafs fan and I would occasionally wear my Leafs jersey on my route. I delivered to a neighbourhood where a couple of the Canadiens players lived, plus a lot of Canadiens fans, so being a Leafs fan set me up for a lot of persecution with the people I was interacting with.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE A TEACHER?

MT ▶ There was no dramatic light-bulb moment. I was doing the course at Cambridge and was invited to become a teacher at Oundle School. I did that because it was the best of the options available at the time. It was only once I was at Oundle that I realized this was a job I loved, and decided it would be my career and life thereafter.

AR ▶ My time at summer camps and as director of Onondaga Camp where I was a counsellor and teaching kids really made me realize I wanted to be a teacher. It was seeing those aha moments—a kid learning a new skill and finally mastering it, or someone getting over their fear of the high ropes course—and knowing you were able to have a part in their success that was really special to me. And being camp director was just everything that I loved to do: being outdoors, teaching, working with kids, organizing, problem-solving. It was like being Head of School.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU WERE 10 YEARS OLD?

MT ▶ I wanted to be a fisherman with a string of lobster pots.

AR ▶ A garbage man. When I was a little kid I loved when the garbage truck came and the guys threw the stuff in the truck and I was fascinated by the mechanics of it. And that they get to hold on to the side of the garbage truck and jump off and on is awesome.

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

MT ▶ I'd love to say something profound but the real answer is a good glass of Australian Shiraz or a classic French Syrah.

AR ▶ Aside from my wife and family: cheese. My favourite would be a toss-up between a very old cheddar or a finely ripened blue.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE FIELD TRIP IN SCHOOL?

MT ▶ When I was at Oxford University we went on a trip to South Africa. It was about 1983 so it was in the apartheid era. It was absolutely fascinating to go and travel around South Africa. We went to Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana to look at the impact of apartheid on industrial migration. Also on that field

trip I met Elizabeth, who became my wife. I didn't know her while we were students, so it's slightly ironic that although we were both studying at Oxford it took until we were gathered for a trip to South Africa to meet her.

AR ▶ It was a geography field trip in university where for several days our class visited small towns heading north through Ontario to explore the argument of "Where does southern Ontario stop and northern Ontario start?" It was a very cool trip with a very cool prof where we stopped in mining towns and went to the pubs to interview locals about life in that town.

DO YOU COLLECT ANYTHING?

MT ▶ I collect fishing flies. I do quite a lot of fly fishing and anyone who fishes knows that you need lots of different flies for conditions and for different types of fish. I've got a large collection of several hundred, if not thousands, of those. I make them, as well. Fly tying is a bit of an art. You have to collect bits of fur and feathers and then put them together in different combinations on a hook to replicate different types of natural flies.

AR ▶ I used to collect antique keys as a kid and I still have a bunch of them. I was a very distractable kid and I spent a lot of time sitting beside the teacher bored in class. My Grade 6 teacher went to England for his Christmas holidays and told me that if I got my act together he would bring me back a gift. I got focused and I improved and he brought back a couple of giant keys that looked like they came from a castle. From then on I started to collect old-fashioned keys from all over the place.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL?

MT ▶ Self-caught lobster with salad and mayonnaise. I enjoy all seafood. That was another attraction of coming to Victoria and B.C.

AR ▶ Raclette. It's basically all about cheese.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

MT ▶ Swimming underwater. This is because my running style has been described as very much like a seal. I think that's regarded as the worst criticism you can make of anybody's running style. But I think seals are very graceful and elegant under water, so that gives me a little bit of hope.

AR ▶ Teleportation. There are so many cool things to see in the world, and getting there is sometimes the journey, but it's also a pain. If you could just get from here to there and avoid a 16-hour plane ride, I would be very happy.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

MT ▶ Working with young people because there's never a dull moment. It's great to be able to celebrate successes with them and feel the joy of their success. It's also great to support them through times of difficulty, which is rewarding in its own right.

AR ▶ The best part of my job is being around people who care about what's going on in their lives. I get so much enjoyment standing in the quad in the morning just connecting with people, saying "Good morning," congratulating them on things from the night before and connecting with staff. I think the community component of this job is really the most important.

Read more of this Q&A with Mark and Andy by checking out their Teacher Features on the SMUSpaper at news.smus.ca.



A person's hand is shown pointing at a digital network of user icons. The icons are white silhouettes of people inside blue circles, connected by thin white lines. The background is a blurred image of a person's face, looking towards the camera. The overall theme is digital connectivity and sharing.

Share your passion for SMUS!

Help us spread the word by becoming an Admissions Ambassador.

We're looking for alumni from around the world to share the amazing experiences awaiting future students at SMUS. If you're passionate about sharing SMUS in your community, get in touch at: admissions@smus.ca



St. Michael's
University School



CONGRAT

The Graduating Class of 2017

Rawan Al Ojaily | Muscat, Oman
Younis Al Riyami | Muscat, Oman
Al Muhallab Al-Siyabi | Muscat, Oman
David Allens | Nassau, The Bahamas
Nathan Anter | Victoria, BC
Chen Bai | Penang, Malaysia
Alex Balfour | Seattle, WA
Leah Balter | Baltimore, MD
Walid Basher | Doha, Qatar
Joshua Benjamin | Victoria, BC
Matthew Berntsen | North Saanich, BC

Jasper Bosley | Victoria, BC
Gina Brown | Cape Town, South Africa
Felix Butterfield | Victoria, BC
Daniel Cao | Coquitlam, BC
Brynn Cathrea | Victoria, BC
Carlson Chan | Kennedy Town, Hong Kong
Ivy Chatvijitchoke | Nonthaburi, Thailand
Pandora Chen | Taoyuan County, Taiwan
Riley Clare | Victoria, BC
Nick Considine | North Saanich, BC
Jacob Couchman | Victoria, BC
Sean Davis | Victoria, BC
Samuel De Vries | Nanaimo, BC
Emma Demarchi | Saanich, BC
Ming Deng | Victoria, BC
Sierra Dunbar | Victoria, BC
Stephanie Dunbar | Victoria, BC
Meggie Edwards | Victoria, BC
Jordan Egles | Victoria, BC
Ricky Fabris | Victoria, BC

Kathy Feng | Shanghai, China
Bryce Forbes | Saanich, BC
Erin Forbes | Victoria, BC
Abby Fraser | Victoria, BC
Max Freund | Victoria, BC
Kristin Gage | Victoria, BC
Edi Game | Edmonton, AB
Aaron Gelmon | Victoria, BC
Gavin George | Victoria, BC
Ayham Gheis | Victoria, BC
Brian Gouw | Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Rosendo Gutierrez | Las Vegas, NV
Sophia Gutierrez | Las Vegas, NV
Pascale Halliday | Whitehorse, YT
Euan Hannigan | Victoria, BC
Vanessa Harrison | Campbell River, BC
Grace Hart | Victoria, BC
Alana Hawes | Victoria, BC
Bryn Haydock | Victoria, BC
Ivan He | Victoria, BC
Tony He | Vancouver, BC

Noah High | North Saanich, BC
Ryan Hindson | Whitehorse, YT
Chad Hou | Victoria, BC
Lelia Hoube | North Vancouver, BC
Jacky Huang | Guangzhou, China
Simone Ingstrup | Victoria, BC
Akina Ishiwatari | Victoria, BC
Oria James | Victoria, BC
Ankit Jayant | Victoria, BC
Maya Jervis | Cozumel, Mexico
Cindy Jiang | Vancouver, BC
Sophie Jones | Victoria, BC
Samuel Kahn | Victoria, BC
Benjamin Keep | Victoria, BC
Edwin Kim | Victoria, BC
Yully Kim | Victoria, BC
Gwyneth Kinar | Victoria, BC
Rowan Ko | Victoria, BC
Dani Lagadin | Victoria, BC
Nick Lee | Seoul, South Korea
Jayne Leggatt | Victoria, BC



ULATIONS

Jack Levelt | Victoria, BC
David Li | Richmond, BC
Derry Li | Richmond, BC
Edward Li | Victoria, BC
Jacqueline Li | Beijing, China
Jasper Li | Beijing, China
Leo Li | Harbin, China
Edward Liang | Victoria, BC
Joanna Liang | Guangzhou, China
Jason Liao | Victoria, BC
Madison Liew | Victoria, BC
Gladys Lin | Richmond, BC
Kelly Liu | Shenzhen, China
Jane Lu | Taiyuan, China
Emilio Macario | Villahermosa, Mexico
Maggie Manson-Blair | Victoria, BC
Miwa Masuda | Victoria, BC
Katie McAulay | Victoria, BC
Jessa McElderry | Victoria, BC
Nirov Mehta | Degla, Egypt
Anna Mollenhauer | Victoria, BC

Kelvin Muk | Chai Wan, Hong Kong
Andrea Nesidalova | Victoria, BC
Livia Newman | North Saanich, BC
Marco Ng | Charlottetown, PEI
Quinn Ngawati | Victoria, BC
Katie Oestreicher | Vienna, VA
Roy Oh | Goyang-Si, South Korea
Esther Ojum | Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Christian Okiring | Calgary, AB
Max Olberg | Victoria, BC
Anya Paiboonsirijit | Bangkok, Thailand
Brennan Parson | Medicine Hat, AB
Laura Queen | Victoria, BC
Roan Raina | Victoria, BC
Jared Reis | Victoria, BC
Jade Robinson | Victoria, BC
Molly Robson | Victoria, BC
Joshua Santo | Victoria, BC
Jamison Schulz-Franco | Victoria, BC
Jasper Shim | Seoul, South Korea
Dennis Siegrist | Herrliberg, Switzerland

Semele Smith | Victoria, BC
Leah Sparkman | Portland, OR
Mateo Strasdas | Victoria, BC
Elena Strasser | Waltenhofen-Oberdorf, Germany
Donovan Sturdy | Victoria, BC
Jonathan Sudul | Victoria, BC
Sonia Sun | Vancouver, BC
Glenn Sung | Cheongju, Korea, South
Valerie Swanston | Victoria, BC
Helen Szeto | Taipo, Hong Kong
Derek Tam | Macau, Macau
Avery Thorp | Victoria, BC
Yvonne Tong | ZhaBei, China
Kaitlynn Torstensen | Victoria, BC
Chrissa Tromp | Victoria, BC
Angel Tsui | Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Connie Wang | University Park, PA
Poon Wannasathit | Rayong, Thailand
Lizzie Watson | Comox, BC
Luke Watson | North Saanich, BC

Philippe Welter | Los Angeles, CA
Chloe White | North Saanich, BC
Aubry Williams | Victoria, BC
Laura Williams | North Saanich, BC
Benjamin Wingert | Victoria, BC
Bruce Wu | Beijing, China
Fo Wu | Hangzhou, China
Tirenry Wuraola | Calgary, AB
Alec Xu | Victoria, BC
Karla Yanez | Bahias de Huatulco, Mexico
Jake You | Foshan, China
Jasmine Yu | Nanjing, China
Lucy Zeng | Vancouver, BC
Ariel Zhu | Richmond, BC
Jack Zhu | Wuhan, China
Zach Zwicky | Victoria, BC



Kenneth Oppel

Author Kenneth Oppel '85 was recognized with the 2017 SMUS Distinguished Alumnus Award this fall.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes SMUS alumni who have excelled in their chosen field and who exemplify many of the core values of St. Michaels University School. Each year we select a different field and welcome nominations from across the school community. The selection process typically concludes in July and the award is presented the following October.

In 2018 we will recognize one of our alumni who has done remarkable work in the field of engineering. Nominees should demonstrate vision and innovation, dedication, achievement and accomplishment, as well as community involvement. To nominate an alumnus for the 2018 award, please complete the form online at smus.ca/alumni/daa.

Kenneth came to St. Michaels University School in Grade 8 and wrote his first book, *Colin's Fantastic Video Adventure*, while he was still a high school student here. The book was well received and published in France, Britain and Canada. Upon graduation, Kenneth attended the University of Toronto, focusing his attention on his double major in English and Cinema Studies. During his time at U of T, he wrote his second children's book, *The Live-Forever Machine*.

Over his storied career, Kenneth has written numerous books including the extremely successful *Silverwing* trilogy, which sold more than a million copies worldwide, and *Airborn*, the winner of the 2004 Governor General's Award for children's literature and the Michael L. Printz Award from the American Library Association. He has also received the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award, and the Young Adult Book Award for his book *Half Brother*.

Kenneth returned to SMUS in October to celebrate Founders and Scholars Dinner and was the keynote speaker for the event. Here is an excerpt from his speech:

“

The last time I ate here was as a lowly Grade 8 day boy. I remember the feudal, dare I say Nietzschean, system of food distribution where a tray of lunch was delivered to the Grade 12s who sat at the head of the table. They proceeded to help themselves to huge Ubermensch portions until the tray was empty and someone would shout, “You kill it, you fill it!” and that person would go back to the kitchen for a refill. And so it went down the table to the Grade 8s. It took a long time to eat and it was fairly demeaning. After a few weeks I started just bringing a bag lunch and eating it on the front steps with other reviled and bitter underlings.

So I'm delighted to be here for your Founders Day celebration and enjoy my first meal here in 36 years. I am only a little bit disappointed that my meal didn't come in a tray.

I'm particularly happy to be here on an occasion that recognizes both the recipients and donors of scholarships because it was a scholarship that enabled me to come to SMUS halfway through Grade 8.

I'd been fairly miserable at my previous school and I was very grateful for the refuge that SMUS offered me. It was an oasis of civility and a crazy number of English accents.

I was not perhaps ideal SMUS fare in that I was not a joiner, especially in the realm of athletics, but I was grateful that one of the options for after school games, was Board Games, which I eagerly took full advantage of. I did try other things, honestly I did. I was tallish so I tried basketball but couldn't do a lay up—and one of my teammates insulted me, so I quit. On another tack, I was argumentative and tried debating but I wasn't very good so I quit. My temperament was solitary and somewhat misanthropic, even ornery—in short I was destined to be a writer. As the famously misanthropic British writer Martin Amis said about himself as a teen, I was “trying to be a writer, sitting in a corner, quietly reeking.”

And to this day, and for always, I have a big place in my heart for those quiet outliers who might not have found their niche yet, who are just going about the often solitary business

of pursuing their interests and passions. If there are any such students here, I salute you, and say, great things likely await you. At university and beyond you will find a niche of surprising width and welcome.

Here at SMUS I was very fortunate to have some outstanding teachers who went above and beyond to read my stories and poems and give me encouragement and feedback: namely Rev. Terence Davies, my Grade 10 English teacher, and Grenfell Featherstone who was to be my English teacher for most of my years at SMUS. Tellingly, I didn't like him at first in Grade 9 because he was a very tough marker and naturally I thought I deserved better. But soon I was won over by his erudition and enthusiasm and his overall Beowulf demeanour. He looked like a freaking viking. A classmate drew a cartoon of him in a horned helmet holding aloft a frothing tankard of ale and saying something too saucy to repeat here. He was one of those teachers who is an expert in his subject, but who also managed to impart to us that high school was just one part of our lives, and that there was a bigger world awaiting us. To someone like me, this was a heady elixir.

Various teachers—and not just English teachers—steered me towards opportunities to write and occasionally win prizes or publication—the annual Permanent Trust short story competition (now sadly defunct); my geography teacher Mr. Murdoch submitted one of my essays to a Commonwealth society essay competition; and Terence Davies' Grade 10 short story anthology which featured a short story of mine, a kind of Roald Dahl, John Cheever mash up called *The Rocking Horse*. Though the anthology was humbly Xeroxed and stapled together, I can't convey the excitement it gave me to see my work in print, and that anthology is still a prized possession of mine.

Despite how atypical I was, the school helped me thrive. It was a combination of encouragement—and really, with an aspiring writer all you need to do is give them unconditional praise and keep them hydrated—and a dollop of benign neglect. Which means I wasn't expected to play rugby. Such a terrifying game. Or take part in those mind-buckling maths competitions which were quite beyond me.

While here at SMUS, I also wrote what was to become my first published novel. I was a devotee of Roald Dahl, and I was also a devotee of the Atari Corporation—whose icon is now alas only seen in the *Blade Runner* movies—and as such I put a lot of quarters into video games, especially one called Asteroids. When I show kids a photograph of this game they think I'm showing them a picture of my refrigerator. It's huge and the graphics are terrible, but it was this game that inspired me to write my first novel over two summer holidays when I was 14 and 15. It was done alone, for my own pleasure and ambition, and when I'd finished after the summer of Grade 11, I had a novel that eventually found a publisher. So my first book was published just as I was graduating from high school. And really, that gave me the confidence to think writing could be my career—as I'd wished since the age of 13.

Writing, as I've said, is a solitary business, but I feel grateful to the teachers I had here who saw something in me, some potential, and nudged me along in the right direction. Mostly, though, I'm thankful for the excellent overall education I received.

”

Alumni Weekend 2017

Our annual alumni celebration was a great success, thanks to all of you!
You can browse and download all the event photos from the weekend at the SMUS Photo Gallery: gallery.smus.ca





Alumni Weekend 2018 | MAY 4-6

Mark your calendars. Alumni Weekend will be here before you know it!

Come back to campus to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and see what's new on campus.

Did you graduate in a year that ends in 3 or 8? What about 1988 or earlier? Maybe the Class of 1968?

We have special events just for you, so make sure you register!

www.smus.ca/alumni/events

If you would like help planning your reunion please contact Nicole Laird at **nicole.laird@smus.ca** or **250-370-6175**



Alumni

Alumni Updates



Maurice (Migs) Aikins Turner '40

St. Michael's School Head Boy from 1940, **Maurice (Migs) Aikins Turner '40**, wrote to tell us that he is currently writing his memoirs. It will include deeply interesting stories from his time in the navy (1943-1974) and the coast guard (1974-1988). We look forward to reading them when they are complete! He and his wife Diana now live at Carlton House in Oak Bay.

Rafael Melendez-Duke '48 was inducted into the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame in October to recognize his life-long achievements and contributions to the sport of track and field. An international-calibre sprinter, Rafael began officiating at races in 1968 and attained the highest classification level within Canada. He has long been considered one of the best starters in Canada.



Rafael Melendez-Duke '48 (second from the left)



Ian Graeme '77

Bill Norris '64, who boarded at our school from 1958-1960, updated *School Ties* on life after leaving our community:

"I graduated as a day boy from St. George's in Vancouver in 1964. I traveled for a year and then attended BCIT, graduating in 1968. My career was spent in three phases – Sears Canada for 22 years, Trinity Western University for 20 years and finally as an HR consultant. My wife, Carolyn, and I moved to Sechelt in 2010. We celebrated our 40th anniversary this year with a family trip (children, spouses, grandson) to Tofino. Not one to retire and do nothing, I remain involved in community volunteering, church and family activities."

Geoffrey Thornburn '60 wrote to tell us that he and his wife, Olivia, recently moved from Victoria to Cloverdale to be near their family. Geoff says he would be glad to hear from classmates. If you'd like to connect with Geoff, please email schoolties@smus.ca and we will pass along his contact information.

Andy Brinkley '68 shared with *School Ties* what he has been up to since his graduation 50 years ago:

"My college years started at Shoreline Community College in Seattle but my time there was interrupted by going in the military (US Navy). For two years I was on an aircraft carrier in Vietnam, but I also saw Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines. I worked for five years for Britannia Sportswear supervising duties in the warehouse and travelling to Hong

Kong where some of the clothes were made. From 1979 to retirement in July 2009 I worked as a buyer for two different floor covering companies. I continued to play rugby after graduating, too. Gary Simonson '64 and I played for Seattle Rugby Club, and I played for and coached Central Washington State University. I also started a rugby team in Seattle with other SMUS alums from the '60s including Gary, Tooley Meyer '65 and Chuck Lenfesty '65. I married a gal in 1977, who had been up to the school with me during an Alumni Weekend in the mid-'70s but we were divorced in 1984. I re-married in 1988 and Gwen and I celebrate our 30th anniversary next April. Unfortunately, I will miss my 50th anniversary from SMUS as Gwen and I will be in Arizona, but we will try and get up there at some point."

Ian Graeme '77 and his partner Janice Mason embarked on a 1,200-kilometre adventure up the rugged and spectacular B.C. coast as part of the annual Race to Alaska. Ian and Janice completed the self-supported, engineless boat race from Port Townsend, Wash. to Ketchikan, Alaska on their 22-foot open rowboat in 23 days.

If you've been to the movies in recent years, you've probably heard work by **Tim Williams '83**. He provided the score for *Wild Horses* (2015) and *I.T.* (2016), wrote music for and orchestrated this year's *Get Out* and *Guardians of The Galaxy, Vol. 2*, and conducted the soundtracks of *Hidden Figures* (2016), *Annabelle 2* (2017) and *It* (2017). He also orchestrates scores for the television shows *Castle*, *Timeless* and *SWAT*. Tim and his wife, Heather, have three children—Caitlin (16), Sean (14), and Jenny (8).



Tim Williams '83

The **Hon. Justice Russell Brown '83**, of the Supreme Court of Canada, was the guest of honour at an event organized by the Bora Laskin Law Society in May. About 100 members of the public attended the event, which offered them a rare chance to ask him questions and get to know the person beneath the black silk robes. Russell was Stephen Harper's final appointee to the Supreme Court, in the summer of 2015. He also co-authored the 2016 ruling in the case *R. v. Jordan*, which set time limits for criminal trials.

Michael Wale '85 reports that his work as a cinematographer continues and that since 2014 he has started directing television for Warner Brothers. He has worked on *iZombie* for four seasons, returning as both a Director and Director of Photography in 2017. This year, he also shot the 10-part series, *Somewhere Between*, for ABC. He lives in Vancouver with his family—wife Janice, son Matthew and daughter Jocelyn—and says they've recently welcomed a dog named Bandit into the family.



Michael Wale '85



Sean Pihl '87

Jeff Marshall '87 describes a physical education program he has initiated at Saskatoon's Confederation Park Community School as "CrossFit meets Montessori." The program empowers students at the elementary school and helps them concentrate academically by encouraging them to engage in physical activity. The students are allowed to leave class at any time to burn off energy at the gym. About 30 students at the school use the program regularly.

Last December, the Attorney General of British Columbia appointed **Sean Pihl '87** as Queen's Counsel, a designation given to lawyers who have shown professional integrity and excellence in the practice of law, and who have made significant contributions to their communities and the legal profession. Sean has appeared at all levels of court in B.C. and before provincial tribunals and arbitrations on matters relating to human rights, labour and employment law. He currently lectures at UBC Okanagan, and chairs the Telus Thompson–Okanagan Community Board.

Jewelry designed by **Jenny Huston '90** made its North American debut this year. Jenny launched Edge Only in 2014, after almost 10 years working as a popular disc jockey for Ireland's 2fm, Raidió Teilifís Éireann's (RTÉ's) second national radio station. She draws on experience gained in the jewelry trade during university to create her high-end designs for men and women. Edge Only is carried by Wolf & Badger, which opened its New York store in March.

Andrew Mitchell '92 writes: "Our family has re-relocated to Australia to the beautiful Coffs Harbour area of New South Wales. I have taken a position as the general manager of the local Fishermen's Cooperative and am enjoying its many challenges."



Major Kurt Schweitzer '93

Major Kurt Schweitzer '93 says he is taking parental leave to look after new family member Robin Ryan-Schweitzer, who joins siblings Thandie Ryan (6), Evan Ryan-Schweitzer (6) and Alec Ryan-Schweitzer (4). Kurt was promoted to Major in 2015, after flying high-ranking generals and ministers with 412(T) Squadron on the Challenger jet from 2010–2014, and currently works as a Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft accident investigator. Kurt recently finished his MBA with the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management Executive program.

Filming of the latest movie by **Corey Large '93** started in May. *In Like Flynn* is inspired by the life of screen legend Errol Flynn before he became a Hollywood superstar. In addition to producing, Corey co-wrote the screenplay with Luke Flynn—Errol's grandson—and two Victoria screenwriters. He also plays Rex, a Canadian ex-bootlegger who joins Flynn's ragtag crew as it sails up the Australian coast on a yacht stolen from Chinese opium smugglers.

New Orleans' *Gambit* newspaper named **Melissa Sawyer '94** New Orleanian of the Year for 2016 for her work with the Youth Empowerment Project. Melissa started the project in 2004 to provide community-based education, mentoring and youth employment programs to more than 1,000 of the city's at-risk, court-involved and out-of-school youth every year.

Luis Castilla '97 shared with us the following update: "In 2015, I was chosen to become Harley-Davidson's brand ambassador in Europe and got to travel with them through more than 20 countries representing the brand. In 2016, I began working for the Union of Concerned Scientists and this year I traveled all over Texas to speak to citizens, elected officials and students about the impacts and solutions around climate change. I also recently concluded Al Gore's training to become a part of his Climate Reality Organization, and we just recently moved from Texas to Colorado. I'm hoping for a little peace and tranquility after so much traveling."



Luis Castilla '97

Multi-instrumentalist **Lucas Lee '97** released a new album, "Acceptances of Gravitational Collapsing Manifestations," in November. He describes the music as "a mixture of instrumental rock fusion, progressive rock, hard rock/metal, modern classical, jazz, with hints of experimental/avant-garde elements."

He wrote to us about the experience of working with drummer Marco Minnemann, who is best known as the drummer for The Aristocrats, a supergroup that features guitarist Joe Satriani: "Marco is considered by many of his peers and fans as one of the most creative and prolific drummers in the world today. As a huge fan of The Aristocrats, as well as all the other musicians that he has worked with, this has been one of the bucket-list items that I wouldn't even think would have been possible."

Charlotte Paul '98 recently started a new financial advisory business, Perspective Wealth Management, which helps women maintain or re-establish financial wellbeing during times of transition. Charlotte's career in finance began in 2003. After spending four years working in retail banking, she moved to a sales role with a top-tier Canadian mutual fund company where she remained for nearly a decade. Charlotte has lived in Toronto since 2015 but with her new business, Charlotte is spending time in both Toronto and Victoria.



Charlotte Paul '98

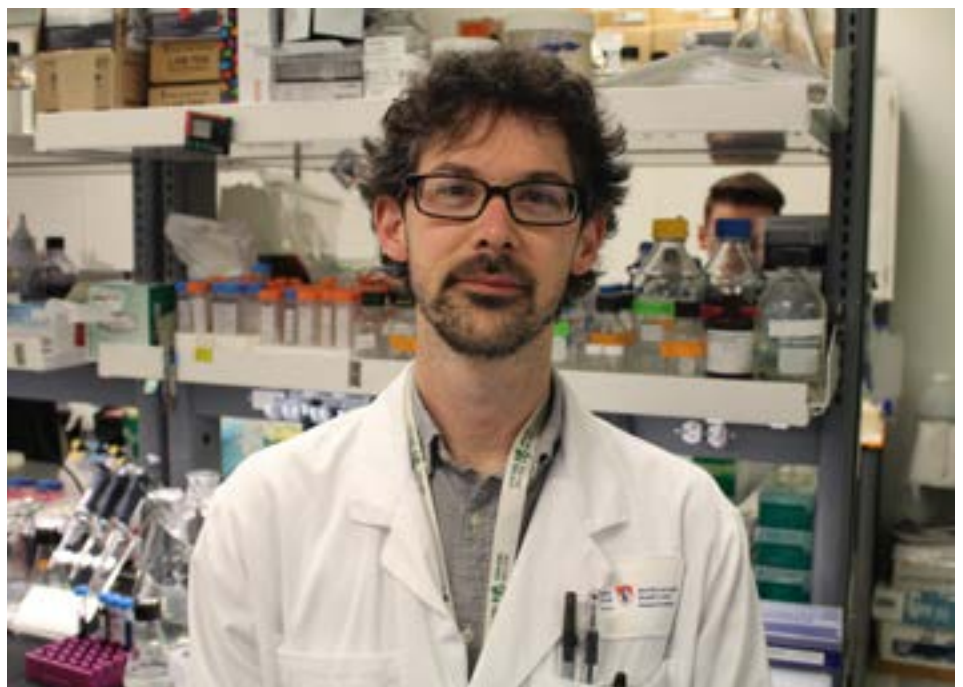
Dr. Reid Chambers '99 was one of 20 Canadian medical personnel who traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, in March to provide reconstructive surgery to soldiers and civilians wounded during the conflict in the country. Reid is shown below with Dr. Steve McCabe performing a hand surgery during the 10-day volunteer mission.

Brendan Snarr '05 is part of a team with the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre doing groundbreaking research related to biofilms. Brendan sent us this explanation of the work he's doing: "You know the dental plaque that forms on your teeth?

It's actually a community of microbes known as a biofilm. Biofilms use slimy, glue-like membranes produced by the microbes, such as bacteria and fungi, in order to colonize surfaces. While fairly innocuous on your teeth, they can take hold on venous and urinary catheters, artificial joints, and even in your lungs, and consequently represent one of the biggest threats to patients in hospital settings. Once established, biofilms are very hard to treat, as the microbes within are resistant to antibiotics and your body's immune system, and often require physical removal of the contaminated implant.



Dr. Reid Chambers '99



Brendan Snarr '05

I have been working with a team to develop 'a novel enzyme technology that can break down the membrane of the biofilms, as well as prevent them from forming in the first place,' explains a news release from McGill. With the membrane broken down, the biofilm falls apart, rendering the exposed microbes susceptible to antibiotic killing or clearance by the immune system.

The finding is a promising step forward that has the potential to revolutionize the treatment of a variety of diseases and hospital-acquired infections such as pneumonia, bloodstream and urinary tract infection. It may even end up as a treatment for dental plaque, but as commercialization is still at least five years away, in the meantime you should probably stick to brushing."

Since graduating from SMUS, **Ross Vivian '06** has been working in the film industry in Canada (Vancouver and Toronto) as a production assistant, and most recently as an assistant director and producer. "In 2015, a short film I co-produced, called *Boy*, was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival. Most recently I was working as a 3rd Assistant Director on the television shows *Star Trek Discovery*, *Black Mirror*, *Incorporated* and *American Gods*."

The poetry of **Emily Jungmin Yoon '09** is getting noticed. "Time, in Whales" appeared in *The New Yorker's* May 15, 2017, issue, and other works have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Offing*, and *The Literary Review*. Emily's poetry collection, *Ordinary Misfortunes*, was named the 2017 Sunken Garden Poetry Chapbook Award.



Ross Vivian '06 (back left)



Monica Rossa '09



Nikki van der Wal '09

Monica Rossa '09 was named by PR in Canada as one of the 2017 Top 40 Under 40 public relations professionals in the country. She currently works as an account manager for Brill Communications in Toronto.

Having recently completed her doctor of dental medicine degree at McGill University, **Nikki van der Wal '09** is heading to Dalhousie to complete a one-year general practice residency program. Nikki was president of her class at McGill and won the Dr. Shahrokh Esfandiari Undergraduate Award for demonstrating outstanding personal initiative in social equity, diversity awareness and community service.



Sean Wiggins '09

We recently heard from **Sean Wiggins '09** who is running a Vancouver-based company: "After SMUS I traveled, got my bachelor's and master's degrees, and worked in the corporate world for a few years. I realized my passion and drive for entrepreneurship two years ago when I founded North Digital. I enjoy being active in the mentorship space, helping other entrepreneurs, and giving back any way I can. It's crazy to think my 10-year reunion is coming up in just over a year—I'm looking forward to reconnecting with everyone."

With the help of **Mike Fuailefau '10** and **Luke McCloskey '10**, Team Canada made men's rugby sevens history, winning a Cup final on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series for the first time in April. The Canadians defeated New Zealand and England before dispatching the United States in the final.

Rachel Wong '10 wrote to *School Ties* to tell us about her involvement with Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary: "I have been involved in Canada's largest animal rescue where 586 parrots were rescued from the World Parrot Refuge. It has been an eye-opening and humbling experience working with these intelligent creatures. They have deep emotional and physical scars, and it has been very rewarding watching them improve under our care."



Mike Fuailefau '10 and Luke McCloskey '10



Rachel Wong '10



Zachary Klein '14

On June 11–12, **Kobus le Roux '11** cycled more than 200 kilometres, from Toronto to Niagara Falls, with the 2017 Enbridge® Ride to Conquer Cancer®. A member of Team Aecon, he raised more than \$2,600 to support Toronto's Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, one of the world's top five cancer research centres.

Zachary Klein '14 shared this update with *School Ties*:

"This past summer I interned at the North Carolina Republican Party. My role as a state

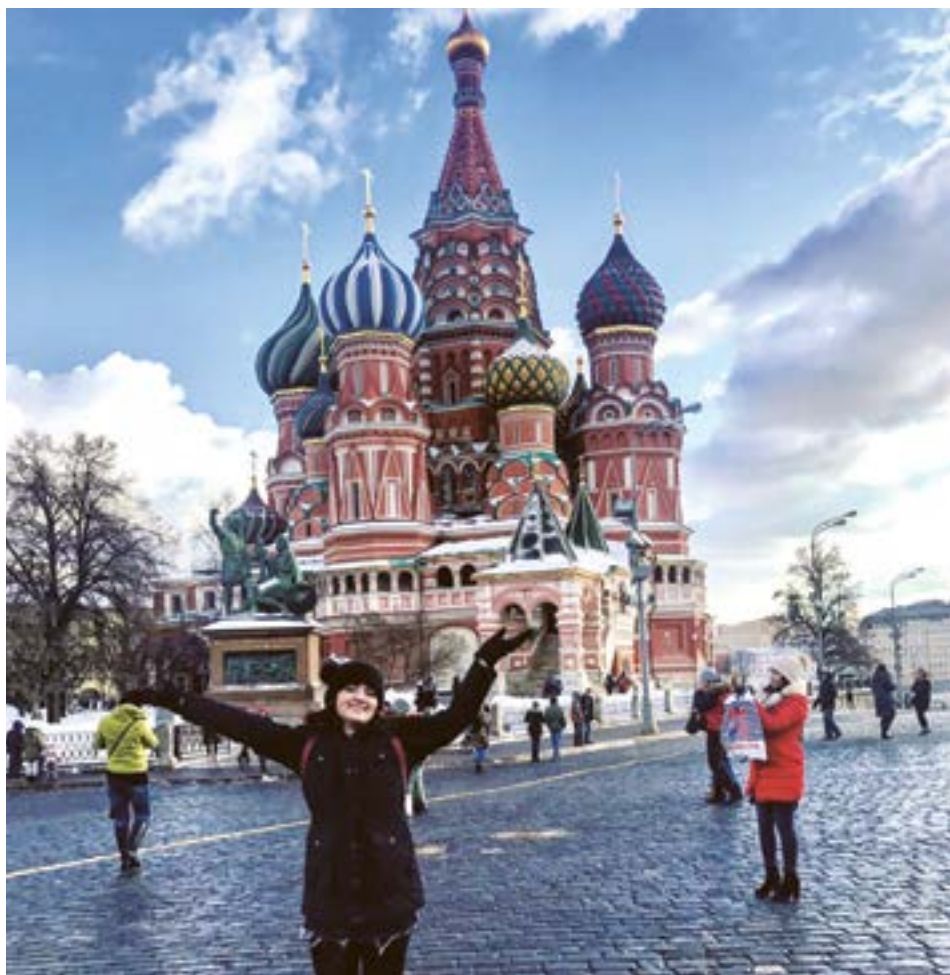
intern included preparing for the State Convention in Wilmington and assisting with opposition research. I also helped with voter registration and went door knocking in various constituent counties. I also had the privilege to be part of a delegation to a state congressional hearing and spoke before the committee on recent Supreme Court decisions. I had the honour of meeting Lara Trump and other high-ranking U.S. officials. I am currently in my fourth year at the University of Victoria finishing my political science degree."



Tessa Pihl '14

Since graduating from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2016, **Tessa Pihl '14** has kept herself busy working in the film industry. An accomplished ballet dancer as well as an actor, she has appeared in several short films and music videos, and has also played a supporting role in *45... Good Wine*, a feature film shot in Italy last winter.

We recently heard from **Alessandra Massa '15**, who spent a semester in Russia this year. "My trip was fascinating, especially since I was in Russia during Trump's inauguration," she says. "It definitely made for interesting conversation between the American and Russian students." As part of the study-abroad program, Alessandra studied at



Alessandra Massa '15

The Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg. On weekends, she traveled into the area surrounding St. Petersburg and to Moscow. "I loved Moscow so much," she says, "that I am heading to Moscow State University to study in 2018."

Mia Roberts '16 received two 2017 PACWEST conference awards in March. Mia, who plays on the Camosun College Chargers women's basketball team, was named PACWEST Rookie of the Year by the Pacific Western Athletics Association. She also picked up Women's All-Rookie Team honours.

UniversityHub, the organization that publishes the annual Canadian University Rankings, selected **Jamison Schulz-Franco '17** for a Future 15 award. The award recognizes extraordinary Canadian Grade 12 students who are already well on their way to impacting positive change in their schools, communities, and beyond.

Quinn Ngawati '17 signed a three-year contract in July with the Toronto Wolfpack, who play in the world's first trans-Atlantic rugby league. During open trials for the team, he wowed spectators in the final match against the Brighouse Rangers, scoring a try and demonstrating the experience he gained playing on New Zealand teams during his Grade 10 year.



Mia Roberts '16

PASSAGES



Simon Ibell '96: 1978–2017

Our friend Simon Ibell '96 passed away on May 26 at the age of 39. A frequent and welcome visitor to the school, Simon spoke to students matter-of-factly of his experiences living with Hunter's Syndrome, a rare disease caused by enzyme deficiency. On June 28, the SMUS Chapel hosted a crowd of friends and family to celebrate Simon's life. The following tribute to Simon is excerpted from the eulogy delivered by Simon's long-time friend Alex Henri-Bhargava '96.

Dear Simon,

It's rare that people write letters anymore, but sometimes they're still the best way to say what matters most. Ordinarily, I would be writing this letter to ask for your advice; but this time I know you won't write back. Still, it's comforting to imagine how you might. Simon, I've been tasked with the tremendous honour and the awful burden of delivering some words to remember you by in eulogy, and I hope I can draw on your strength to keep it together.

Simon, you wouldn't shy away from a challenge like this. You were so strong, yet underneath that strength, we always knew your body was fragile. You defeated the odds so many times; we expected we would get more of a warning before saying goodbye. But why should we have expected that warning, though, when you were giving it to us all along. You lived every single day as if it would be your last.

You loved inspirational quotes, and I understand now that you were using them to teach us your lessons. So I'm going to repeat some of your favourites for all of us who have gathered today. We've all gathered because we wanted and needed to take in your wisdom one last time.

Simon says: *"You were given this life because you are strong enough to live it."*

Liv told me that the cruel irony is that you would have been the best person to give this kind of talk, and she's right. You were an inspiring orator. What's even more inspiring, though, is that it didn't come naturally to you. I remember practicing with you for the high school recitation competitions and how nervous you were to get up in front of people and speak. But as you grew older, you realized that this was something you had to do. So you chose to do the right thing, even though it was the hard thing. And you did it with equanimity and with grace.

Simon says: *"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty."*

So let's talk about all the great things you did in your life—that's how great men are usually remembered. You excelled academically. You managed sports at the highest levels of competition, and are still fondly remembered at SMUS and UVic as their best-ever basketball managers. You brought provincial governments to their knees and got them to fund essential treatments. You started an amazing set of charitable foundations and enterprises, including iBelieve and Be Fair 2 Rare. You co-authored scholarly books. You made the whole

world do crazy rare dares. You hosted must-attend fundraisers and along the way you befriended captains of industry and famous stars. Any one of these accomplishments would be considered a lifetime achievement. You were a shining example of a great man.

Simon says: *"Smile often, think positively, give thanks, laugh loudly, love others, and dream big."*

Simon, you were curious about people. When I was the shy new kid at school, you were the first to talk to me, and later on you were the first to invite me to hang out when I thought I would never be able to make friends. I'll never forget that kindness and the confidence it instilled in me. You would usually talk of people you knew by referring to them as "my good friend" and you meant it so sincerely. Everyone you met became "your good friend." They all had touching and interesting stories about you, and you loved to connect people.

Simon says: *"In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take."*

Simon, there was no one more important to you than your family. I don't know if Marie and Roger know how often you talked about them, and how much you appreciated everything they did for you. I don't know anyone who loved his parents more. And I also don't know anyone who loved his sister more. You spoke about Liv all the time, and you were so proud of her. And when she met Cam, it was like he had been your brother forever. Simon, I know your one regret looking down from heaven is that you won't have more time to spend with Emily and Andrew. Although you will always be watching over them, you would have wanted to spend more time with them on this earth. You loved them so much and they were so lucky to have an "Unkie" like you.

Simon says: *"Life is not something that has meaning—it's something we give meaning to. You don't end up with a meaningful life, you create it."*

Simon, although you are no longer with us, the meaning you created in my life and in the lives of all of us here today, and in the lives of countless others throughout the world ... that meaning will continue to live, and will continue to grow. So while I am so very sad that you won't answer this letter, I am so glad that at one time you did, and I will cherish your memory forever. Thank you for everything you gave to this world, my friend. Rest easy knowing we will carry on for you.

With love always, from your friend,

Alex

Chris Beeston '92: 1974–2017

Chris Beeston passed away peacefully on Oct. 1, 2017 after a brave 10-month battle with cancer. He never lost his ability to take pleasure in the smallest things and he showed an admirable strength and optimism right to the very end.

After graduating from SMUS, Chris did his undergraduate studies at Queen's University before going to Ireland to attend medical school. After his family medicine residency in Dauphin, Manitoba, where he met his future wife Stacey, they settled down in Brandon, Manitoba. There he challenged the emergency medical exam and became the head of the Emergency Health Services.

He is survived by his three children, Cailen, Luke and Greer, his wife Stacey, his parents Bill and Val Beeston, his big sisters Sarah '89 and Nicola '91 and his big brother Adrian '87.

He was bright, kind and adventurous, and a loving husband and playful and devoted father. The only consolation from this

tragedy was that Chris knew at the time of his passing how loved and respected he was in his community at large, within his professional community and family. In the year that he found out about the cancer, the whole town rallied around his family and was incredibly kind and supportive. The family has realized that it is a rare thing to know just how loved and respected you are in this life, and this brings them occasional moments of peace along with

the knowledge that Chris lived a very full life despite it being cut short.

Not only did Chris travel the world and run marathons, but his message to others by which he himself lived his own life were to be kind to others and to enjoy every moment with loved ones.

This fine young man, little brother, son, husband, father and doctor will be dearly missed.



Clint Nickerson '66: 1951–2017



Veteran journalist and broadcaster Clint David Nickerson maintained his two main passions—news and golf—right until the end. He died June 3 in Victoria, following a short battle with lung cancer. He was 65.

Clint grew up in Victoria, where he attended University School. After graduating and spending two years at the University of Victoria, he began his long career in broadcasting. Clint worked at Victoria radio stations CJVI and CKDA and at CFUN Vancouver, then moved to Toronto in the mid-1970s. There he moved back and forth between radio and television, ending up in the producer's chair at Moses Znaimer's CITY-TV, which had at that time recently been acquired by CHUM TV. While the station was producing shows such as *Fashion TV*, *MuchMusic* and *The New Music*, Clint charted the course towards some of the city's most innovative news programming.

In 2001, he brought Toronto's CHUM network to Vancouver Island, establishing The New VI, Victoria's first new television station since 1956, and hiring its staff and taking on the role of News Director.

After leaving the station in 2004, Clint returned to radio, working part time in the news department and as a board operator at Ocean 98.5 and KiSS 103.1.

He also devoted more time to his other passion: golf. He became heavily involved with the Victoria Golf Club, where he had worked as a caddy when he was young. He served as a board member for several terms, championed the Evans Caddie Scholarship—a fund that provides four-year university scholarships to caddies—and completed a two-year term as club president just a couple of months before his death.

Clint loved Alisa, golf, Victoria, and journalism, and was a fine and loyal friend to many.

Bill Everett '40: 1921–2016

Alfred William “Bill” Everett '39 passed away November 8, 2016.

Born in Duncan and raised in Comox and Vancouver, Bill attended Maple Grove and Point Grey High School before starting at University School, where he particularly enjoyed sports.

In 1939, he was accepted into Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. He joined the Canadian Navy in 1941 and was assigned to the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England.

Bill began serving in the war as a midshipman aboard the battleship H.M.S. King George V and was later transferred to the aircraft carrier H.M.S. Victorious. In 1943, he was assigned to serve on the H.M.C.S. Saskatchewan escorting convoys to Murmansk and later served on the H.M.C.S. Kootenay. By the time he left the navy, Bill had achieved the rank of lieutenant and had been mentioned in dispatches for distinguished service.

Bill met Mary in Halifax after the war. After they married, he worked for the family business in Winnipeg. He became involved in the Winnipeg business and sports community, and served as aide-de-camp to Manitoba's lieutenant-governor. When the family business expanded west, Bill returned to Vancouver. There, he became involved in the Vancouver business, arts and sports communities, serving as a director of the Bank of British Columbia, the Vancouver Art Gallery and the B.C. Lions.

His years in the navy inspired Bill's interest in Canadian maritime art, which he researched and collected, later donating his collection to the Vancouver Maritime Museum and Victoria Art Gallery. He wrote a book (after he turned 90) about his family's history. He loved travelling, playing golf and being with friends.

Bill was a true gentleman, and will be missed.



John Barclay Young '39: 1922–2016

John Barclay Young was born in Cuba on December 13, 1922, the son of English parents Robin and Evelyn. When he was four, his father was paralyzed in a riding accident. A whirlwind of travelling and upheaval began, centred around specialists in California, New York and many other cities. The family finally moved to Vancouver where Robin had invested in real estate.

After their father died, John and his brother, Bob, joined University School as boarders in 1934. Under Headmaster G.H. Scarrett and surrogate father Reg Wenman, John flourished in his studies, as well as at cricket and rugby.

In September 1939, John's life changed again. He had just completed high school when Britain declared war against Germany. He enlisted and, soon after, traveled to England to begin officer training at Dartmouth College.

John graduated at the top of his class in 1941 and began his apprenticeship as a midshipman on the British cruiser Jamaica. In December 1942, the Jamaica

took part in the Battle of the Barents Sea, an engagement that helped change the course of the war.

Next came the H.M.S. Brissenden, on which John served as a junior officer, then the new tribal class Canadian frigate, the H.M.C.S. Sioux, on which he served as a navigation officer under the command of Eric Boak '56. This ship took him to the Mediterranean and French North Africa as part of Operation Torch. He was injured and nearly killed during a battle that resulted in the destruction of the Vichy French fleet at Oran.

John's war experiences framed his life thereafter, as a captain of many Canadian ships, a teacher at Greenwich Naval College

in the U.K., a senior officer in joint NATO sea exercises, and commander of the Canadian Pacific Fleet. Upon early retirement from the Royal Canadian Navy in his late forties, John engaged in successful business ventures in Britain and Canada.

John was, foremost, a leader. Within that context, he was also rebellious, fiercely independent, but a valued team player. He did not suffer fools lightly, whether senior officers or politicians. He was keenly interested in people of all backgrounds—he wanted to see beneath the veneer to what made them tick. John was a devoted family man who cherished his first love and wife Rosemary, their three daughters and their families, and his brother Bob and his family.



John Payne '65, John Young '39 and Bob Young '37 at Alumni Weekend.

Vimy Ridge Centennial

On April 9, 2017, School staff, students and alumni joined thousands of other Canadians in marking an important day in Canada's history: the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. During this First World War battle, which took place in northern France from April 9–12, 1917, the Canadian Army achieved an impressive victory, but at a cost of more than 10,000 casualties.

Commemorative ceremonies were held this year both at Vimy Ridge—attended by more than 25,000 Canadians—and across Canada. In Victoria, the Bay Street Armoury hosted VIMY 100, a six-hour program of remembrance featuring military displays, entertainment and historical information. John Azur, of the Western Front Association, and Major David Proctor '89, of the Canadian Scottish Regiment, organized the event.

At the event, archivists Brenda Waksel and Rob Wilson presented two displays that Brenda had made. One showed University School's alumni participation in the First World War. The other provided information on Founder R.V. Harvey and his role in the war. Binders with information on individuals from University School's alumni and staff participation in the First World War, as seen in the statistics here, were also made available.

The event attracted interest from across the Victoria region, with many people, including alumni, students, parents, past parents, and curious passers-by, visiting the SMUS display.

Recent information describes the Battle of Vimy Ridge as a defining moment in Canadian history. It took place 50 years after Confederation in 1867, and was seen to be something of a coming of age for the young country.

University School First World War

Enlisted	283 Boys 10 Masters (<i>teachers</i>)
Killed	60 Boys 5 Masters
Wounded	35
Prisoners of War	4
Distinctions Won	20

Our alumni have an impressive record of service and achievement, as well as of sacrifice. Founded in 1906, University School was relatively small and young at the time. Records show that, by the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, a total of 532 students had been enrolled at the school.

University School Founder and Headmaster J.C. Barnacle kept a diary that logged the goings-on of boys enrolled at the school and recorded news reaching Victoria about "old boys," the School's alumni. The numbers make it clear that a very large proportion of old boys answered the call to arms.

Every year, during our Remembrance Day Service, the School commemorates and honours our losses in both world wars.





Rob Wilson and Michael Nation.



Brenda Waksel, Rob Wilson and David Proctor.



Jonathan Wang, Carlos Lerma, Klaus Schraermeyer, Leanne Hart and Justin Lee.



Anthony Southwell and Rob Wilson.



Michael and Lee Symons.



Rob Wilson and Brenda Waksel.



2018 Receptions & Notable Events



JANUARY 18

Victoria Alumni
Reception



JANUARY 25

Vancouver Alumni
Reception



FEBRUARY 23

Spring Spark Open House,
An Open Day of Discovery
at SMUS



MARCH 1–3

Senior School Musical,
Catch Me If You Can,
McPherson Playhouse



MARCH 6

Seattle Alumni
Reception



MARCH 8

Los Angeles
Alumni Reception



APRIL 12

Seoul Alumni
Reception



APRIL 14

Tokyo Alumni
Reception



MAY 4–6

Alumni
Weekend



MAY 15

New York
Alumni Reception



MAY 31 – JUNE 1

Junior School Opera,
The Barber of Seville,
McPherson Playhouse

For more information about
Alumni events, contact

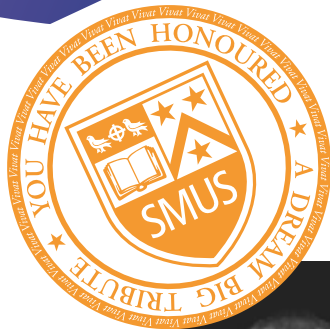
hailey.smith@smus.ca

And for more information
about Admissions visits,
contact

admissions@smus.ca

Tribute Giving

dream big
SMUS annual fund
for scholarships
and special projects



A great teacher is many things: a catalyst, a counsellor, a mentor, and sometimes all three. These teachers make a profound impact on our lives.

In 2016-17, these staff members were recognized for making a difference by a parent, student or alumnus who made a tribute gift to our annual Dream Big fund.

If you would like to recognize a teacher or staff member—present or past—who has changed your life, visit www.smus.ca/tribute for more information.



Xavier Abrioux



Chris Bateman



Timio Colistro



Richard DeMerchant



Brandon Hawes



Dariol Haydock



Matthew Keil



Tanya Lee



Laurie Parker



Susan Vachon



Susanne Walker Curry



Evelyn Zapantis

"As a boarder, I am very excited about the Sun Centre. Our dining space is a place where we can sit down and really feel like a family. And being able to bring more people together at once is truly going to add to that. SMUS is focused on being a community and adding a place that allows for the development of mental and physical connections really just shows how committed we are to that."

- Morgan Warner, Class of 2019

SUN CENTRE

Through the extraordinary support of a number of key donors, we are pleased to have been able to begin construction on the Sun Centre. But we still need your help to complete the Sun Centre by 2018! Your gift now will allow us to finish the building to the highest standard and equip it with technology, finishings and furniture for student occupancy as early as Spring 2018.

For more information, go to www.smus.ca/suncentre



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