



**ST. CLAIR** 2023-24  
COLLEGE

# ConGRADulations!

## Grad Classes and The Year-in-Review



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# ConGRADulations!

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# The world needs more Saints



## Dear Graduates of 2023-24,

Your hard-earned diplomas now in-hand, we are confident – and immensely proud – that you are now poised for limitless professional success and personal fulfillment in your careers. You’ve absorbed all of the theoretical knowledge, mastered all of the hands-on skills and techniques, and acquired all of the technological expertise relevant to your chosen occupation.

Oh, and you’ve also “learned how to learn”: how to maintain your own self-education, so that you can stay up-to-date – and will want to stay up-to-date – through tutorials and research, as your professional responsibilities evolve and expand. (And if we can ever be of further academic service – via your enrolment in ConEd courses, Corporate Training programs, or micro-credential offerings – we’d love to see you back on campus.)

Just as important as all of your scholastic work has been your involvement in the spirit-laden atmosphere of the college: its multicultural environment, its many awareness campaigns, and its outreach efforts to assist causes and charities in the community-at-large.

We are confident, too, that this “Saintly” mindset is now deeply embedded in your psyche ... and that you will not just be a tremendous employee/entrepreneur in your professional life, but also a conscientious, caring and generous citizen wherever you may call home in the future.

It is not just the employment marketplace that will benefit from your abilities and talents, but the world-at-large that needs the good deeds emanating from your heart and soul. Please spread the spirit of Saints Nation to all who need it throughout your lives.

Thank you, and Congratulations.

– Jean Piccinato, 2023-24 Chair, Board of Governors; and Patti France, President

And the rest of the 2023-24 Board of Governors, top to bottom and left to right: Vice-Chair Garry Rossi; Past Chair Egidio Sovran; and Governors Rose Anguiano Hurst, Art Barron, Warren Beck, Paula Corro-Battagello, Garnet Fenn, Charlie Hotham, Bryanna Kressler, John Parent, Al Provost, Shannon Sasseville, Al Teshuba, Michelle Watters, and Gay Wrye. (New Governor/no photo: Jennifer Yee.)



# Congratulations, Saints Nation of 2024!



The 2023-24 Student Representative Council Board of Directors, left to right: Executive Director Ryan Peebles, Directors Isabella Milner and Harnoor Kaur, South Campus Vice-President Rishi Vatish, President Nour Takach, Downtown Campus Vice-President Khushi Patel, and Directors Rudri Ravi Pota, Umme Salma Syeda and Keith Luize M. De Ramos, and Board Manager and Corporate Secretary Sandy Taylor.

## Dear Saints,

It has been our privilege and pleasure to have supported you during your time at St. Clair College.

Whether you made extensive use of our health plan or food bank or assorted other services, or just turned out for the fun and informative events that we staged throughout the year, we do hope that we made your time at St. Clair more productive, enjoyable and as low-stress as possible.

Many of us, your student association members, are, like you, graduating this year. And, like you, we're looking forward to our futures, with our St. Clair diplomas in-hand – ready to go out and conquer the world.

It's great to know, too, that we can all still be connected to "Saints Nation", as the SRC and TSI now "turn you over" to the college's Alumni Association, which will continue to provide you with a number of services and programs post-graduation. See its info on the next page, and stay connected.

Congratulations and best wishes for

what we know will be an accomplishment-laden future.  
Saints rule!

– Nour Takach, SRC President; and  
Mikayla Welch, TSI President,

2023-24



The 2023-24 Thames Students Incorporated Board of Directors, left to right: Seated in chairs: Directors Cameron Lennox, Webster Chapwanya, Ty McQuaid; Back row: Director Rain Thomas, Vice-President Olivia Soresi, President Mikayla Welch, and Directors Megan Darbyson and Rumeesa Begum.

# St. Clair’s Alumni Association welcomes this year’s grads to a huge new circle of friends



Upon your Convocation (Congratulations!), you just joined a new family of approximately 125,000 people – all of the graduates of the college during its half-century-plus of existence. That family takes the form of St. Clair’s Alumni Association.

From the day you graduate, make sure to stay connected with us by checking out our webpage at [www.stclair-college.ca/alumni](http://www.stclair-college.ca/alumni), and our social media pages too.



Also on our webpage, you can update your contact info whenever you move, so we can make sure to stay in touch.

As an Alumni Association member, you’ll enjoy a number of services: discounted rates for ongoing use of the college’s athletic facilities, diploma framing, special rates with Johnson Insurance, ticket give-aways to community events, and “second generation” scholarship eligibility for your children.

And please join us for our many college-based activities: golf tournaments, Homecoming festivities, class reunions, trips to sporting events, the Alumni of Distinction Banquet, and more.

Look for us, too, as we sponsor a host of community events throughout Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent.



The 2023-24 Alumni Association Board of Directors, top to bottom and left to right: President Belinda Bulhoes, Executive Vice-President Lori Kempe, Vice-President of Finance Fernando Brunone, Eddie Azar, John Fairley, John Feldman, Patti France, Adam Hoang, Adam Ibrahim, Sara LeBlance, Billy Panagiotopoulos, and Ryan Peebles .

# Veteran V-P Silvaggi elevated to Presidency by Board of Govenros



## From The Saint Scene

An almost-quarter-century-long veteran employee of the college will become St. Clair's seventh President in June of 2024, with the school's Board of Governors announcing on September 26th that current Vice-President Academic/Registrar Michael Silvaggi would be elevated to the top administrative position that is being vacated by the retiring Patti France.

Silvaggi, following France, is the second consecutive President to take the form of an "internal hiring". He was chosen after a months-long, nation-wide search by the Board, assisted by the Toronto-based executive recruitment firm Odgers Bernston.

A college-issued news release described Silvaggi's background:

Michael Silvaggi's journey at St. Clair College is a testament to his dedication and commitment to the institution. Starting as a Clerk in the Accounts Payable Department in November 2000, he swiftly progressed through various roles, demonstrating his exceptional leadership and management skills. Over the years, he has held pivotal positions within the college, including Associate Registrar and Associate Vice-President of Student Services and Registrar. In April 2022, he was appointed as the Vice President Academic and Registrar, a role in which he has excelled.

Silvaggi is a well-qualified leader, holding a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours Business Administration) from the University of Windsor, and a Master of Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. His academic background, coupled with his extensive experience within St. Clair College, equips him with the knowledge and expertise to lead the institution forward.

A staunch advocate of St. Clair's role in the community, Michael is deeply committed to nurturing the minds and vocational competencies of students to help them succeed in society. He firmly believes in community engagement, and has actively supported local elementary and secondary schools through leadership and service. Currently serving as a Board of Governor member at Assumption University and as a member of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee, Michael has demonstrated his dedication to education at all levels.

"Michael Silvaggi embodies the core values of St. Clair College – 'excellence in all he does' and 'transforming lives and strengthening communities'," said Jean Piccinato, Chair of the Board of Governors. "His leadership is expected to usher in a new era of prosperity for the college and the broader community."

# Presidential Promenade capped with gold gryphon



**Contributed by the  
College's  
Administration**

The final piece of the Dr. Patti France Community Promenade at the college's South Windsor campus (facing Cabana Road) arrived and was installed in late July for all to see.

The golden gryphon is a custom-made sculpture representing the spirit of St. Clair's mighty mythical emblem.

The concept was created collaboratively by St. Clair College and ROA Architects.

Skilled artist and fabricator John Ciotoli of Custom Metal Fabricating brought the concept to life.

The sculpture was





produced by creating dozens of custom-shaped elements using plate metal and stainless steel, then precisely fashioned on to a central structural core. The promenade design committee selected the custom paint colour with a multi-stage painting process, ensuring that the gryphon will watch over the campus for many years. The eight-foot tall by ten-foot wide, 1,300-pound sculpture is proudly displayed on a 20-foot-tall stone monolith. It adds adding another spectacular element – welcoming students, staff, and guests – to the beautiful Dr. Patti France Community Promenade.

The new entrance to St. Clair's main campus was dedicated on August 31, 2023, as the Dr. Patti France Community Promenade, in recognition of the honorary doctorate bestowed upon college President Patti France by Assumption University.



At that time, Dr. France humbly received the dedication, while surrounded by friends, family, local dignitaries, past and present Board of Governors members, and various other colleagues. The Community Promenade features a decorative steel archway suspended between two stone pillars adorned with steel-fabricated light fixtures and mythical grypons. A garden surrounds the pillared archway, with green shrubbery and gold flowers to honour the school's colours. The promenade serves as the starting point of a pathway to connect the main campus from north to south via a walking trail leading to the St. Clair Sports Park.

The newly installed gold gryphon is affixed on the top of the main centre pillar with the commemorative plaque.



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# College gives peace a park



## Contributed by the College's Administration

Just before Christmas, the 20-foot-tall peace symbol – the centrepiece of the college's final campus beautification project of the year – was hoisted on to its pedestal.

The conceptual design was created by Alexander Seguin, Architectural Technology grad of the class of 2017.

The Peace Parkette, located in the physical centre of main campus in South Windsor, is easily seen from the Anthony P. Toldo Centre for Applied Health Sciences, Quittenton Hall Residence and the SportsPlex.

The parkette has radiating sidewalks that also form the peace sign, connecting the campus to the centre point.

It is complemented by benches for seating, as well as centre seating surrounding the statue.

The stainless-steel peace symbol was manufactured locally by Cunningham Sheet Metal.

The parkette was designed by ROA Studios, and constructed by Alliance General Contracting.

St. Clair's Horticultural program students added the plants and landscaping in the inner and outer circles.

In the new Year, lighting will be installed.

This parkette will be a comfortable and peaceful area for students, staff and the community to use.

# Minister wowed by Nexus arena



## From The Scene

Provincial Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop now has first-hand familiarity with both of St. Clair's newest athletic facilities.

In a previous visit, shortly after being named as Minister, she toured the college's new Sports Park just after its construction had been completed.

Today (August 9th), she learned about the newest "indoor athletic competition", when she toured St. Clair's Nexus esports arena, and was briefed about the college's experience – and success – as Canada's collegiate pioneer in varsity computer gaming and education.

Dunlop was joined in her brief visit to campus by local MPPs Anthony Leardi and Andrew Dowie.

In addition to the Nexus tour, Dunlop breakfasted with St. Clair President Patti France, the college's senior administration, and student leaders Eric Dominquez (SSAA) and Nour Takach (SRC).





# College supports recognition of Canadian musical pioneer



By making a substantial donation to the casting of a sculpture, St. Clair played a major role in paying tribute to a pioneering Canadian – and a pioneering woman – in the North American music industry.

In the 1960s/'70s, Windsor's CKLW Radio (AM800) was one of the half-dozen most powerful stations in North America, with its transmitter covering much of central Canada and the U.S..

In that era, Rosalie Trombley rose from being the broadcaster's receptionist to being its Music Director.

With her remarkable ear for talent, and her intuition about what would prove to be popular among listeners, her decision to promote air-play fostered the careers of such now leg-

endary musicians as (the late) Gordon Lightfoot, Bob Seger, Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, The Guess Who, Elton John, Ted Nugent, and Earth, Wind and Fire (and many more).

After she retired, Trombley was inducted into the Motor City Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Canadian Music Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

She died in 2021 at the age of 82.

On September 18, Trombley was immortalized with a sculpture on Riverside Drive (near the city's casino) during Windsor's "Open Streets" weekend.

The statue was created by local sculptor Donna Mayne.

A special surprise guest at the event was Burton Cummings, lead singer of The Guess Who, who credited



Trombley both for that band's success and that of his subsequent solo career.

In her remarks to the audience at the unveiling St. Clair President Patti France said:

*On behalf of St. Clair, and the college's family of students and staff, it is an honour for the school to have contributed to this effort to create a lasting tribute to the truly remarkable Rosalie Trombley.*

*We were fortunate, also, to have been able to recognize Rosalie for her pioneering nature and her rare talent-spotting ability when she was alive. Over a decade ago, we presented her with an honorary diploma, which, also, meant that she was able to share stories of her trend-setting career with graduating students as a guest speaker during one of our Convocation sessions. We also staged a tribute banquet in her honour – the proceeds of which created a permanent scholarship in her name for our Music Theatre students.*

*As I observed a few weeks ago, in the lead-up media conference to today's event, our staff, students and grads have been fans of Rosalie for decades. Some of our older alumni, in fact, had a very symbiotic relationship with her: they listened to the musicians whose careers she fostered on CKLW; and those musicians, in turn, were so thankful for her support that they played frequent concerts in the city – including at the former Gryphon Hollow outdoor amphitheatre at St. Clair's South Windsor Campus.*

*So, for the tail-end of my parents' generation, and certainly for mine, Rosalie – quite literally – helped to create the soundtrack of our lives. And given the fact that many of the artists who she originally discovered and promoted are still major stars, she is also influencing the listening habits of the current generation, even though they might not have first-hand knowledge of her ground-breaking role in both the local and North American music scenes.*

*Now, thankfully, that knowledge – that recognition and remembrance – will be fostered, by both this special celebration and this permanent artistic fixture in our community. And what a well-timed celebration it is, given that Rosalie's birthday occurs tomorrow.*

*Why did St. Clair get involved in all of this? Why did we honour her with the diploma and scholarship several years ago, and support the sculpture's creation this year? Because, as I've often reminded people by putting some emphasis on the first section of our official title, we are St. Clair College of Applied ARTS and Technology. So, most assuredly, Rosalie's combined*

*passions of music and broadcasting have always had, and always will have, important places within our institution.*

*To the Trombley family: Once again, thank you for sharing your Mom with all of us, because that allowed her to share her musical insights – her "golden ear" – with both south-western Ontario and all of North America, as we sat by our radios, tuned in to AM-800, to fall in love with the new lyrics and melodies discovered by Rosalie Trombley.*



# Furnishing fidgety finery

**Contributed by the College's Administration and Windsor Regional Hospital**

A group of students from St. Clair College are making sure some of our senior patients stay stimulated while spending time in the hospital. During the summer of 2023, students from the Fashion Design program designed and created more than 25 "fidget blankets" to be given to patients.

But what is a fidget blanket?

The blankets are therapeutic, lap-sized quilts that provide sensory and tactile stimulation for the restless hands of those with Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia. The blankets have different items such as fur, pockets, buttons or zippers sewn on to them. These small quilts alleviate boredom by keeping the patients hands busy, while providing a calming effect through repetitive motion.

St. Clair College's Fashion Design students have a long history of lending a hand to Windsor Regional Hospital, creating and donating items like designer PJs for toddlers, hospital gowns for patients, and 640 fabric masks to be used during the COVID-19 pandemic. This time around, 30 students from the Fashion Design Program's Fabric Science course took on the fidget blanket project.

"The students are upcycling donated fabrics and notions from the community," explained Professor Elaine Chatwood. "The project is a perfect example of circular design, by utilizing supplies that would have ended up in a landfill."

"These fidget blankets are just the latest example of this unique and mutually beneficial relationship between our local educational and health-care institutions," said college President Patti France. "I hope this serves as a message to the whole community: that if you think that any of the programs at St. Clair might be able to help your organization, get in touch with us."







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# Awareness and remembrance



## From The Saint Scene

On September 24, St. Clair continued its tradition of hosting the region's Suicide Remembrance and Awareness Walkathon, and using that occasion to provide support to the Windsor-Essex chapter of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).

The college's administration, Student Representative Council (SRC), Saints Student Athletic Association (SSAA) and Alumni Association pooled their resources to present a cheque for \$5,000 to the CMHA.

September is Suicide Awareness Month and, for the past half-dozen years, the college's SportsPlex has been the launch-point of the area's remembrance walk.

In her remarks at the commencement of this year's Walkathon, St. Clair President Patti France reflected that it "is always a bittersweet event, of both sad remembrance and proactive awareness."

She continued:

*A couple of years ago on the occasion of this walkathon, my comments were based on the theme of two words: help and hope.*

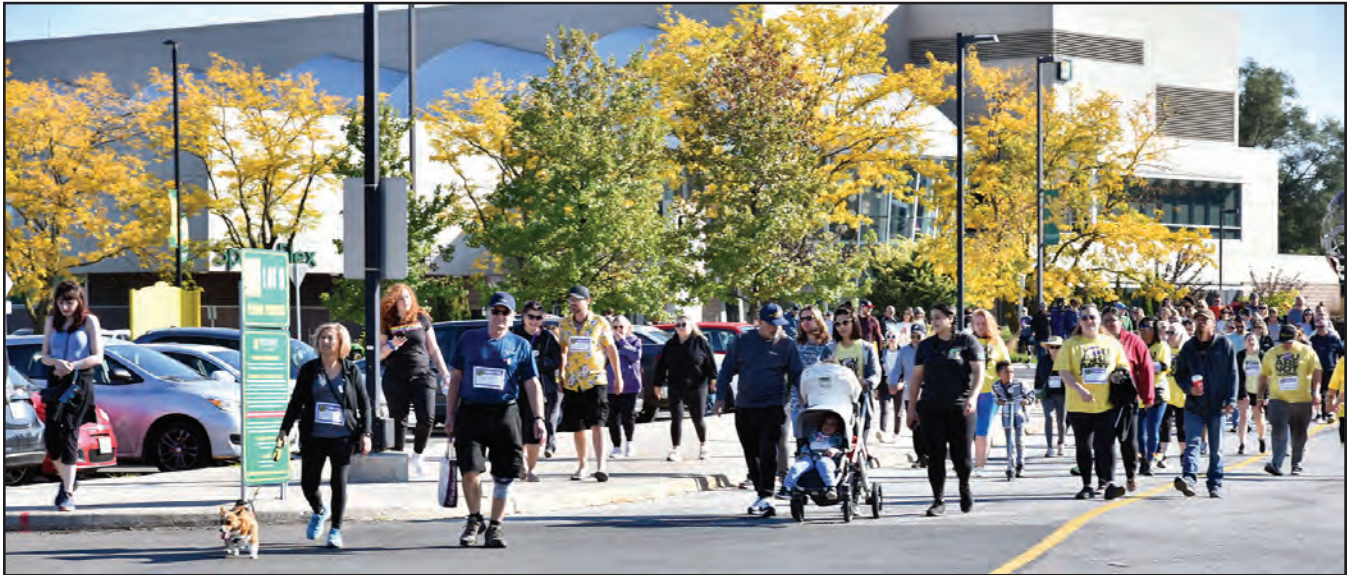
*I'd like to re-visit variations of those words this year – in*

*an effort to, perhaps, describe what brought us here today, and what we're seeking to achieve in the tomorrows to come, as we strive to reduce the tragic occurrence of self-harm and suicide.*

*We all, from time to time, feel helpless. We're often confronted with problems and dilemmas in our professional and personal lives that are so dire and complicated that they seem to have no solution – at least, no obvious or readily applicable solution.*

*Feeling helpless may not be especially healthy, but it is natural, given the complexity of life. And it is, in most cases, a temporary state of mind because, eventually, a solution is discovered. It may not be a quick fix, it may not be a long-term fix; but a course of action can usually be found – often with the help and advice of friends and family – to address the matter at-hand and relieve that feeling of helplessness.*

*Sadly, it is when that temporary feeling of helplessness, usually coupled with loneliness, drags on and on, and devolves into a mindset of permanent hopelessness, that the potential for self-harm arises. That's not healthy by any definition; and it's not really natural, because it usually involves a sense of total isolation in a species – humankind – that is,*



or should be, social and communal.

So, as we seek to combat the scourge of suicide, I think our most basic task is to rapidly and freely render support and assistance to those who are feeling temporarily helpless, before they begin to wallow in permanent hopelessness. That transition often involves the crossing over of a fine line, and it is our challenge to inject ourselves to help before hope is lost.

For me, this event serves as an annual reminder to strive to be person who is highly attuned to those around me, so that I can be sensitive to the vibes of helplessness; and step in and step up, with an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on, and to counsel or arrange counselling – to do whatever is necessary to derail that ill-fated descent into hopelessness.

With all of you, and with the local chapter of the Canadian Mental Health Association and (event sponsor) Caesars Windsor Cares, St. Clair is honoured to share in the remembrance of lost loved ones as we walk today; and – as their legacy – to recommit ourselves to keeping our eyes, ears, arms and hearts open to all who need our support.

Also speaking at the Walkathon was SRC President Muskan Shabbir Mala. She said:

I and members of the Student Representative Council's Board of Directors are pleased to be with you today, as we spread awareness of this mental health crisis. During the past several years, we have lost too many teenagers and young adults to suicide.

Fostering mental health services has become one of the student council's chief jobs. We've teamed up with the Canadian Mental Health Association and a number of other services so that our students have constant access to counselling for depression, stress, anxiety, substance abuse, sexuality and gender issues, relationship violence, and thoughts of self-harm and suicide.

Many of our board members, full-time staff and volunteer students have also taken the training offered to all college staff, to identify, communicate with, and arrange professional help for individuals in crisis.

And during the past few years, several council members and our staff have actually had to make use of that training, when they were the first people to encounter students who were considering self-harm.

A few of those cases developed in a casual fashion. An on-line chat was taking place, and the student council member – thanks to the training they'd received – sensed a tone that set off some alarm bells. When they did confirm that the person was in crisis, they arranged for expert counselling – on a couple of occasions, they actually escorted troubled students to the hospital.

This may not have been something that we thought we'd be doing as student council members, but we feel that we must be as involved as possible in this situation. This is a crisis that is devastating our generation. So, it is not just our desire to play a role in fixing it, it is our duty.



# Maybe, one day, this will be you



## Contributed by the College's Alumni Association

St. Clair College hosted the 31st Annual Alumni of Distinction dinner in mid-April, celebrating the remarkable accomplishments and journeys of six outstanding graduates.

Following graduation, each embarked on a unique path filled with challenges, opportunities, and triumphs. Their stories serve as shining examples of dedication and resilience, and embody what it means to be a part of our St. Clair College family.

Since 1992, the college has now honoured 137 graduates as Alumni of Distinction.

This year's honourees, pictured, left to right:

Ursell Arends, Deputy Prime Minister of the Caribbean island of Aruba. Graduated in 2005 from the International Business program, and was honoured as a graduate of Business and IT.

Larry Delaey, President and CEO of the Aarkel Group, Wallaceburg. Graduated in 1989 from the Mold Making Technician program, and was honoured as a Technology/Engineering graduate.

Bhupinder Singh, Professional TNA Wrestler, Windsor. Graduated in 2018 from the Human Resources program, and then in 2019 from the Event Management program, and was honoured in the Recent Graduate category.

Dan MacDonald, Radio Host at AM800 CKLW Radio-Bell Media, Windsor. Graduated in 2002 from the Journalism program, and was honoured as a graduate of Media, Art and Design.

David Cassidy, President of Unifor 444, Windsor. Graduated in 1991 from the Electrician Construction Maintenance Program, and was honoured as a graduate of the

Apprenticeship program.

Chaouki Hamka, Community Leader Windsor – Essex Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Correctional Officer at the Southwest Detention Centre, Windsor. Graduated in 2009 from the Law and Security Administration program, and was honoured as a Community Studies graduate.

The ballroom was filled with the 2024 honourees' families, friends, work associates, college staff, alumni, students, former faculty, and members of the communities of Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent, acknowledging the journeys of these amazing alumni.

Guests were reminded of the impact of our alumni community, which now stands over 130,000 strong in all of our communities. Our graduates have woven themselves into industries and communities from Windsor-Essex to Chatham-Kent, across Ontario, Canada and the globe. Their contributions in business, skilled trades, engineering, media, community, sports, and leadership serve as a testament to the quality education and values of St. Clair College.

College President Patti France said, "Thanks to the solid basis for ingenuity and hard work that a St. Clair education provided then and now, these award winners demonstrate that the dreams of our graduates can come true before they even fully realize that they are capable of achieving them. Tonight's six honourees are living proof that one of our mottos isn't just advertising hype; with a St. Clair College education, you really can 'Start Here and Go Anywhere' – to the top of a profession, to community leadership, to the upper reaches of the political realm, even, yes, to a championship belt in the wrestling ring. They impressed us as students and inspired us as graduates, and now they are our Alumni of Distinction."

# Saints use their noodles



Enjoy the Bahmi Goreng winning recipe.

Serves up to 8.

## INGREDIENTS

1.5 lb. ground pork (lean)  
 1 Spanish onion large, sliced  
 3 Garlic cloves minced  
 Half a Savoy cabbage, chiffonade  
 1 Tbsp Fish sauce  
 1 Tbsp Sambal Olek  
 4 eggs  
 1 lb. Wide linguini or narrow fettuccini  
 Vegetable oil as needed  
 2 Tbsp Oyster sauce  
 1 Tbsp Soy sauce  
 1 Tbsp Sesame oil  
 1 Green onion, bias cut (green and white separated)

1 Leek, thin bias cut (white only)

1 Carrot, julienne

## METHOD:

1. Whisk eggs with a pinch of salt. Heat wok on medium-low heat, rub with oil, and add eggs in small batches, swirling to make very thin omelet. Gently peel from wok in rolls. Slice and reserve.

2. Boil pasta until not quite cooked. Shock in cold water. Allow to drain in colander. Oil lightly.

3. Brown pork. Before it is fully cooked, add fish sauce and chili paste. Strain and reserve all liquid.

4. Use pork fat from the top of reserved liquid. Saute onions for 1-2 minutes. Add garlic and cabbage. Season with salt and pepper. Sauté for 1-2 minutes more. Add pork and all reserved juices (if fatty pork was used, some fat may be discarded). Remove from wok.

5. Working in batches depending on wok size: Saute leek and white part of green onion for 30 seconds. Add pork mixture to reheat. Add carrots and noodles with oyster, soy and sesame.

6. Stir-fry until heated through. Add egg and remaining green onion to combine and serve.



## Contributed by the College's Administration

St. Clair Culinary students, under the guidance of Chef Michael Jimmerfield, won the Best Pasta Dish Title at the Unemployed Help Centre's first-ever Pastabilities Luncheon fundraiser in October.

Patrons voted on the finest pasta creation among 25 participating restaurants.

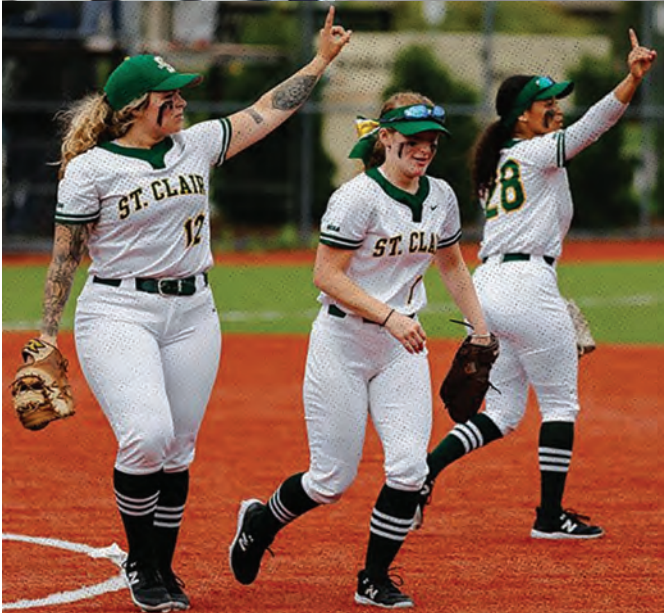
The Pastabilities Luncheon, hosted by the UHC in partnership with the Culinary Federation of Windsor, took place at the Ciociaro Club to raise funds for UHC's food initiatives.

The event showcased a diverse array of pasta dishes, with the St. Clair College Culinary Students winning with their Asian-inspired pasta creation.

Pastabilities surpassed expectations, raising \$50,000. These funds will go directly to help support initiatives combating hunger and food insecurity in our community.

"We extend a heartfelt congratulations to the students at St. Clair College. Not only does this showcase their culinary talent and dedication, but also establishes them as the very first winners, leaving behind a legacy for St. Clair College," said June Muir, CEO of the UHC – Hub of Opportunities. "I also want to express my gratitude to the community for coming together with a shared passion for feeding people. It is because of this collective effort we were able to raise \$50,000 and make an impact on those battling hunger in our community. Your support is instrumental in our mission to ensure no one goes hungry."







# Powerline Transmission's annual Skills Rodeo shows students have lofty goals







# Giving a good account of themselves



gram at the Chatham campus returned to campus on a Saturday to assist Professor Shelley Cook at she staged a free income tax preparation service for local seniors. St. Clair's Chatham campus has been offering this service to seniors for about 15 years.

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On a weekend in early-March, a St. Clair team competed in the 19th annual Scotiabank Vanier National Marketing Case Competition in Montreal.

The team was made up of Business Administration - Marketing students Ellie Hanna, Taha Lababidi and Cameron Rudy, along with the team alternates Mimi

Nguyen and Roman Kovalev, and faculty coaches Justina Ciarlariello and David Garant.

The students worked very hard to prepare in the weeks leading up to the competition. The day of the competition they were given a comprehensive case study, and had three hours to produce a strategic marketing response. The students then had 20 minutes to present their response to a panel of judges, made up of invited experts from the business, industry, and education sectors.

The St. Clair team was highly praised by the judges for its innovative and strategic response to the case study, which resulted in a third place win in their division against the seven schools from throughout Canada.



## Contributed by the College's Administration

The Ontario Colleges Accounting Case Competition (OCACC, hosted in March by Humber College in Toronto, saw student teams from across Ontario compete in a challenging case study event.

Despite fierce competition, St. Clair College's team – made up of Ramie Tytgat, Jacob Godda, and Cassandra Franchi – clinched an impressive second place under the guidance of coach Professor Michael Malkoun.

St. Clair's achievement highlights their dedication and exceptional performance. Their success reflects St. Clair College's Accounting Program commitment to excellence in preparing students for real-world challenges.

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Meanwhile, a number of graduates of the Accounting pro-



# Ad students beat the world

**Contributed by the College's Administration**

In November, students from the Advertising and Marketing and Communications Management Program at St. Clair College emerged as finalists in the prestigious Digital Marketing Competition and Summit, hosted by Purdue University Northwest's College of Business – and then, in early December, they won international contest.

This global competition featured 271 university and college teams from around the world. In the “Final Four”, St. Clair competed against the University of Oklahoma, Wheaton College and Villanova University.

The team members were Captain Emma Carosella, Sara Rupert, Zach Dillen, and Dalton Drouillard. They showcased their skills, creativity, and strategic thinking in the digital marketing realm.

Special congratulations go to Professor of Advertising and Marketing and Communications Management Scott Briscoe, for his collaborative effort with the students. Briscoe aided in the success, worked tirelessly to guide the students throughout the competition. Also advising the students was Professor Glen Evans of the Graphic Design program.

The St. Clair entry stood out for its creativity, strategic approach, and creative utilization of the latest trends in digital media advertising. The students demonstrated an exceptional understanding of consumer behaviour, media channels, media planning, and technological trends in the ever-evolving landscape of digital media and advertising.

Professor Scott Briscoe said, “The students put in the work and effort to make this happen. As a group, they spent roughly 40 to 60 hours on this competition case study solution. This is a testament to their dedication, as they still attended all classes, and kept up with their course work and part-time jobs. They’ve developed some outstanding solutions to this marketing problem. Their work ethic and strategic thinking was outstanding.”

The Digital Marketing Competition is an international competition for university and college students in which they develop and “pitch” their digital marketing strategy for a real-life client. Students are required to develop and execute a full digital Integrated Marketing Communications plan.

This is a huge event, with a prestigious roster of past winners including Rutgers University, IAE Angers (France), Ball State University, the University of Missouri, and more.

The team had been tasked with creating a campaign to help launch a product called Sole Search, a tracking tag for kids’ shoes.

The team changed the campaign to Pax Guardian to reflect the company name, and created characters called Pax Pals.

“I was pretty excited,” Dillen said. “I knew we created something really great, and I guess the judges thought so as well. So, when we won, we all kind of looked at each other, all screamed, a couple tears were shed. Winning this thing proves we are ready for industry.”

The team and its faculty advisors noted:

*This feat did not come without help and patience from other programs and divisions of St. Clair College. Teamwork makes things happen.*

*School Chair Jimmy Parsons said, “Whatever you need, let me know”, and he delivered big time.*

*Professor Scott Briscoe spent countless hours with the students, coaching them and preparing them for this huge event. His knowledge and expertise are second to none.*

*Professor Casey Purdy led the students in the design of the social campaign leading up to the final presentation.*

*Mike Lovell and Glen Evans from Graphic Design, and Larry Forsyth and Veronique Mandel from The Mediaplex/Journalism program were unbelievable. They did a crash course on on-camera presentation and made sure the livestream channels for audio and video were flawless. They made sure the slides looked top-notch. It looked incredible compared to the competition. They took time from their weekend to make sure everything went off without a hitch.*

*Shawn and Tim from the Centre for the Arts team: We needed bigger desks for the team. Shawn had them delivered and set up in the Mediaplex in ten minutes even though he was also setting up for a huge event in the Centre. Tim and his team had a room ready for the viewing party on incredibly short notice.*



# Big ideas and small business



## With Material from the College's Administration

Just days after winning first and third place prizes in a regional entrepreneurship and innovation contest, St. Clair students showed off their ingenuity to the federal Minister of Small Business (a branch of the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada).

Just before the March Break, St. Clair teams took first and third place places in the Enactus Canada 2024 Regional Competition, beating out dozens of other teams from across central Canada.

“Dyssolve”, a student project creating processes for purifying greenhouse wastewater run-off and harvesting fertilizer, took first place in two categories.

“It is a personally important project,” said Sanay Santhosh, the Dyssolve student project manager. “I did a lot of volunteer work recovering plastic debris from the ocean. That is what led me to create a project that has to do with sustainable waste-water management. So, it means something that I can be part of a small change.”

Enactus Canada, a social entrepreneurship program for college and university students, is among 33 members in the global Enactus family. It’s one of the world’s largest platforms for experiential learning, aligning with St. Clair College’s emphasis on hands-on learning through competitions, internships, and mentorships. It functions as a campus

club at St. Clair, based within the Genesis Entrepreneurship Centre (and Experiential Learning and Career Services Office).

The organization annually hosts expositions in Atlantic, western, and central Canada, allowing students to showcase how their community outreach projects and business ventures can make a real impact.

This year, 29 teams competed in several different categories.

They included two teams from St. Clair, led by Enactus St. Clair President Amol Sandhu, a third-year Marketing student.

The student project “Endure”, a social initiative that supports students with developmental disabilities, won third place in the Desjardins Youth Empowerment Challenge.

Endure is a partnership with St. Clair’s Community Integration Through Cooperative Education Program. It includes an eight-week program for students with developmental disabilities, teaching them skills such as time management, budgeting, and preparing for interviews.

“The projects aim to address global and community issues or problems in regards to environmental challenges, social challenges, and financial challenges,” said St. Clair College presentations coach Teodora Milovanovic.

A total of 30 St. Clair students, ranging from first- to third-year in programs including Robotics, Horticulture, Business,



Chemical Laboratory Technology, Public Relations and Millwrighting went to the regional event.

The winners from each regional competition will head to Toronto in May for the National Exposition. That includes Dyssolve team members Santhosh, Avery King, Hallie Westwood, Mimi Nguyen, and Rebecca Sit.

The Dyssolve project won first in the Canadian Tire Environmental Sustainability Challenge, as well as the Innovation and Impact Challenge.

“We created a photobioreactor, which is a closed loop system that takes waste-water and we added an existing algae culture into the waste-water,” said Milovanovic. “That goes through the entire photosynthesis process. The wastewater is purified and can be used in greenhouses. Then algae that settles at the bottom of the tank can be harvested and turned into fertilizer.”

It can also be used as an ingredient to make organic plastic – plastic that will, eventually, biodegrade (dissolve) as natural waste.

St. Clair will also do a combined presentation for all of its



Enactus projects at the national competition.

“This is huge for the students,” faculty advisor Michael Spadotto said of the St. Clair victories. “This is a very young team. We have a lot of new students on the team who just joined Enactus at the beginning of the semester. They just started learning about entrepreneurship and getting a feel for what the projects are all about.”

On March 12, during a visit to campus, the Enactus team wowed federal Small Business Minister Rechie Valdez and Windsor-Tecumseh MP Irek Kusmierczyk with a recap of their innovation.

Another student presenter at the get-together in the Genesis Centre was Quinton Gignac, one of the winners of last year’s Ford Showcase (for innovations). He displayed some of his 3D printing expertise to the minister – including her modelling of his “Star Wars”-esque helmet.

Valdez and Kusmierczyk concluded their morning-long visit to St. Clair by touring the Research and Innovation Department’s workshop area in the Truck and Coach building, featuring a number of electric vehicle projects.







# Outdoor ECE officially opens



Contributed by the  
College's  
Administration

The new St. Clair College ECE Outdoor Lab, located at the Chatham Campus, is an outdoor teaching area that offers a first-hand learning opportunity for ECE faculty, students, children, and our community.

The outdoor lab extends the teaching space, and allows students to gain practical learning experiences.

The ECE Outdoor Lab received funding from three partners: Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Chatham Kent YMCA Foundation, and the St. Clair College Alumni Association.

In the newly funded lab, set in a dedicated space outside the Mary Uniac building on St. Clair's Chatham Campus, ECE students will host classes for both theory and practice based on moving the theory of outdoor research into practice. ECE students have an opportunity to conduct experiential learning in the outdoor lab on an individual basis, with peers, and with the ECE faculty.

In the fall of 2022, Dr. Beverlie Dietze, Director of Learning and Applied Research at British Columbia's Okanagan College, invited St. Clair's Chatham Campus to become part of the Outdoor Pedagogy ECE Faculty Research Project, of which she is the lead researcher. ECE Professor Brenda Huff is the faculty participant in the research project representing St. Clair College. The research project explored



research and practices associated with outdoor pedagogy while developing the community of practice.

"Ten colleges across Canada participated in the project, and St. Clair College is one of three colleges from Ontario. The involvement in the research project has rooted the new outdoor lab as a focal point for our ECE program by

implementing key learnings from the research project. Our ECE students gain core competencies as graduates by bringing research and practice closer together," said Huff.

In late 2023, the Chatham Kent YMCA Foundation donated outdoor learning materials. This donation added equipment for outdoor multipurpose use. In collaboration with the ECE program, the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario hosted two community events named "Loose Parts" in the fall and winter. These events were open to the community.

Also in late 2023, St. Angela Merici School participated as a community partner with the ECE program. This partnership included four Kindergarten classes visiting the ECE Outdoor Lab to explore the natural setting. The opportunity deepens the practice of the ECE students to include interaction with children to plan, implement, and reflect on their prepared curriculum.

St. Clair's Alumni Association funded the purchase and installation of raised garden beds for an Indigenous garden project.



# Caesars welcomes CICE students



## Contributed by the College's Administration

St. Clair College's Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) program has achieved another milestone in its development of dynamic field placement opportunities.

Caesars Windsor, Windsor-Essex's second largest employer, piloted a field placement program for CICE students in the Winter 2024 semester. Placements were developed in the fields of Culinary, Human Resources and Environmental Services.

Over a period of six months, both Caesars Windsor and CICE - with support of its Chair, Biagio Lattuca - worked in developing meaningful placement opportunities in this world-renowned company.

Every aspect of the field placements was developed from

the ground up. Caesars Human Resources team responded to the needs of students with exceptionalities by developing training modules in video and pictorial format, selecting staff to work alongside students, and issuing lanyards. No detail was too small or too large to work through.

The cornerstone of the CICE program is its field placement courses. For many employers, this is

their first experience in having individuals with developmental disabilities in their workforce. Having Caesars Windsor open its doors to field placement opportunities for all has been an exceptional milestone.

## Student Testimonials:

"The people there and the work environment was great! Everyone was so nice, and I learned a lot!" - Dimitri (Kitchen)

"It's good at Caesars. I was happy working there. I liked working with the staff at Caesars." - Saliba (Restroom Cleaning)

"I liked that I was able to work at my own pace as well as interacting with my co-workers. Overall, the experience was fun, insightful, and very educational." - Dan (Human Resources)

# IBM team excels in national contest

## Contributed by the College's Administration

A resounding victory echoed through the halls of St. Clair College as International Business Management (IBM) Team One emerged triumphant in the ASCM London and District Chapter Supply Chain Case Competition in April.

The team was comprised of Jawahar Ramachandran Sundaramurthy, Ragul Ganesh Ramakrishnan, Dinakaran Veera Ragava Perumal, and Raj Philip Johnson. This formidable quartet showcased unparalleled ingenuity and strategic prowess, securing gold in a field of fierce competitors which included colleges and universities from across Canada.

The journey to victory was marked by relentless dedication and meticulous preparation. Guided by Coach Paul Jacobs, the team delved deep into complex supply chain challenges, crafting innovative solutions rooted in real-world experiences.

Their outstanding performance, culminating in a final round score of 91.3, stood as a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence.

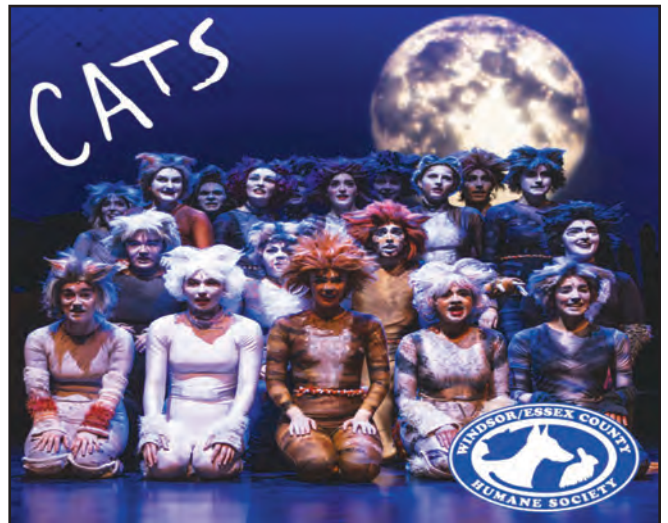
As champions of the ASCM Case Competition, St. Clair College's IBM team not only brings honour to the institution but exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines the future of supply chain management.



# Music Theatre: Christmas and Cats



# Music Theatre: Christmas and Cats



# Data Saints excel in national competition hosted by UNB



## Contributed by the College's Administration

Two St. Clair teams – the Data Saints and the Griffins – took top places in a major “data challenge” hosted by the University of New Brunswick (UNB) International Business and Entrepreneurship Centre in November.

Eager and motivated after being informed of the opportunity to participate by their professors, they promptly registered for the competition and were thrilled to be shortlisted.

With determination, they dove into data analysis, meticulously crafting draft presentations.

They sought guidance from Professors Manjari Maheshwari, Harpreet Virk and Pratik Bedi, who provided valuable suggestions on enhancing their analysis and refining their visualization styles.

Armed with data tools like Python Pandas, Excel, and Tableau, they employed statistical methods to fine-tune their work.

The teams diligently incorporated the feedback received and geared up for the final showdown in the challenge.

Their hard work paid off, as they not only cleared the preliminary rounds, but secured a spot in the finals.

In a thrilling culmination, Team Data Saints achieved a remarkable milestone by clinching third place in the Data Analytics competition.

Their dedication, teamwork, and adept use of data tools proved to be the winning formula, earning them well-deserved recognition and success.

The Griffins’, meanwhile, achieved a first place finish, also in a Data Analytics contest; and second place in “Teaser Poster”.

## Note from the Griffins:

*Our team had the honour of participating in an International Data Analytics competition organized by the University of New Brunswick.*

*We were overjoyed to stand out among the 96 teams from around the globe, including some top Canadian universities and colleges.*

*The competition involved analyzing the “HR EMPLOYEE ATTRITION” dataset from Kaggle, provided by UNB. We utilized tools such as Power BI, Tableau, Python, and Machine Learning to craft our presentation.*

*Our work was met with high praise from the judges, who also commended St. Clair College for nurturing such talent in Windsor. One judge even remarked, “There’s something really good happening in Windsor.”*

*We applied the analytical, visualization, and presentation skills imparted to us by St. Clair College.*

*We are deeply grateful to all of the Data Analytics for Business professors, especially Manjari Maheshwari, Harpreet Virk, Mark Cassar, John Ulakovich and Pratik Bedi. Your invaluable support, guidance, mentorship, and motivation have been instrumental in our journey. We deeply appreciate your trust in our team from the beginning of the competition.*

*We believe that this achievement will serve as a testament to the quality of education at St. Clair College, and will inspire future students.*

*– Dileep Sathyan, Ambily Treesa Varghese, Joel Soloman Raj Addala, and Ram Sundar Thanumalaya Perumal*

*Data Saints Team Members: Veera Santhosh Kumar Narapareddy, Bhavitaben Upendrabhai Bhatt, Vidya Biradar, Rituraj Borah*

# Tops in North America in Data Science



## Contributed by the College's Administration

St. Clair emerged as the winner of “The U.S. & Canada Learn-A-Thon, Introduction to Data Science on Skills for All”.

Hosted by industry leader Cisco, this competition unfolded for six hours spread over several days in February, with teams from various educational institutions battling it out for the title.

The Data Science Learn-a-thon Challenge serves as a platform to foster innovation and collaboration within the data science community.

St. Clair College's participation was driven by its unwavering commitment to educational excellence, and its desire to provide students with practical, real-world opportunities to apply their skills. Recognizing the significance of such competitions in enriching students' experiences and showcasing their talents, the college seized the chance to shine on a broad-stage.

Coordinator and Data Analytics Professor John Ulakovich expressed his elation: “Upon learning that St. Clair students had won the Learn-A-Thon, our initial reaction was one of immense pride and excitement. It was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our students.”

The victorious students had poured countless hours into preparation for the rigorous Learn-A-Thon, engaging in intensive training on pertinent data science concepts, and sharpening their practical skills with relevant tools and technologies.

Student and participant Ikram Gafoor Patel offered his insights and experiences from the competition: “Cisco Learn-A-Thon provided an enriching experience, particularly through its Introduction to Data Science course, which offered a comprehensive exploration of the field's fundamentals, and showcased the transformative impact of machine learning across sectors such as business, healthcare, and education. The well-designed course structure, coupled with insightful exercises at the end of each module, helped in a deeper comprehension of the subject matter. I highly recommend this course to aspiring Data Analysts, whether they are beginners or at an intermediate level.”

This achievement underscores the exceptional quality of education provided at St. Clair College, highlighting the effectiveness of its programs in fostering holistic student development. The win showcases the college's priority in equipping students with the essential skills, knowledge, and practical experience needed for success in competitive professional environments.

Sujata Biswas, another student and participant shared her perspective of the event, detailing her experience: “Cisco Learn-A-Thon provided an exceptional learning journey into the realm of data science. The course delivered clear and concise explanations, accompanied by interactive activities and practical labs, making complex concepts easy to grasp. Overall, it was a fantastic experience that equipped me with valuable skills and knowledge in this dynamic field.”

Faculty members played a pivotal role in guiding and mentoring the students throughout the competition, providing indispensable resources and unwavering support.

Ulakovich believes that triumphs like the Learn-A-Thon victory significantly impact the academic and personal growth of St. Clair students, offering invaluable experience, recognition, networking opportunities, and career advancement prospects. Such achievements instill a sense of confidence, school pride, and inspire a relentless pursuit of excellence among students.

Looking ahead, St. Clair aims to leverage this success to inspire and motivate other students by showcasing their achievements, and highlighting the myriad opportunities available through participation in competitions and extracurricular activities. The college plans to cultivate a culture of excellence and innovation that encourages students to pursue their passions and excel in their chosen fields.

St. Clair College intends to build on this triumph by further enhancing its Data Science education through curriculum advancements, industry partnerships, and the integration of cutting-edge technologies into its programs. The college remains committed to supporting students' participation in competitions, research endeavours, and experiential learning opportunities, ensuring they are well-equipped for success in the dynamic field of data science.



# EMS and SCC celebrate partnership



## Contributed by the College's Administration

On March 18, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services (EMS) honoured long-serving employees at its 2024 Service Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. During the evening, it recognized 15-, 25-, and 35-year employees and retirees. There were also awards for Rookie of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Fellowship.

Two Community Awards were presented during the evening. Essex Windsor EMS Chief Justin Lammers presented trophies to St. Clair President France and Lakeshore Mayor Tracey Bailey (also the CEO of the Community Support Centre), and thanked them for their ongoing support over the years.

Chief Lammers said, "We are grateful for the support and leadership shown by President France and her team over the years. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the work in advocating with provincial bodies to ensure that St. Clair College was one of the only Paramedic programs that graduated (students) on time in the middle of the pandemic. Success stories like this with President France and St. Clair College are why they are this year's recipient of our Community Award."

"Receiving recognition from an agency, from a group of

people, such as this region's Emergency Medical Service, is truly humbling – because you, all of you, are the heroes of our community," said France in her acceptance speech. "As citizens of this area, we can never praise you too highly or thank you too much for your caring and courageous service.

"Yet here you are providing recognition to me and to the college. The college and I are immensely honoured by your thoughtfulness.

"The relationship between St. Clair College and the EMS has been long-standing, close, and highly personal. None of those adjectives are particularly surprising in view of the extremely symbiotic nature of our partnership. We want to provide you with exceptionally trained employees, and you, of course, want that too. So, to achieve both our academic goals and your professional ones, we have developed a spirit of liaison which is beneficially a 'win/win' for everyone.

"Our Essex-Windsor EMS has consistently given us its expertise in the development and review of curriculum, provided our classes with guest speakers and mentors, trained our students in their field placements, helped to stage and judge our mock response and treatment scenarios and donated equipment and vehicles to our Paramedic program. And of course, ultimately hired our grads."

# Lifetime achievement award is a tribute to the whole college, says outgoing President France

On October 19, in a banquet at the college's Centre for the Arts, retiring St. Clair President Patti France was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce.

In her acceptance speech, France emphasized that the recognition was very much a collective state-of-affairs, representing an honour for the college too:

*The circumstances and achievements of a lifetime are never of a solitary nature.*

*I owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to hundreds of individuals who I've been associated with over the years, at the college and in the organizations that I've served as a volunteer or as a board member; and, of course, to my family and my friends.*

*Every day for over 30 years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to work with the brilliant and dedicated staff of St. Clair College, and the members of its Board of Governors.*

*During the past eight years as the President, I've been the public face of the institution. So, I'm often the recipient of all of the compliments about its quality, innovations and success.*

*But make no mistake about it: those achievements have been collective ones. Our motto of "Excellence In All We Do" has been exemplified by everyone: administration, faculty, support staff. I've rarely had to deliberately impose any leadership techniques along the way. With or without me, my colleagues would be delivering an unparalleled quality of post-secondary education because that's just what they do.*



*As for the generation-and-a-half of students who I've seen pass through the college: I know that we, the staff, were supposed to have been mentoring and encouraging these young people; but, more often than not, the opposite has been true – it has been the intelligent, committed and driven students who have constantly inspired all of us, and certainly me.*

*If I've achieved anything in my professional life, it has been because I've pushed myself and the institution so that we can provide the best education and support to these treasured students.*

*I will still be involved with St. Clair for a little while in a transitional role, after I officially leave the Presidency next May.*



*And among my involvements with various organizations in our community, my membership on the Boards of Directors of the Windsor Family Credit Union and Windsor Regional Hospital will continue to keep me occupied.*

*As I look around this room, I see many people whose lives are similar to mine, who are extremely hands-on with their chief lines-of-work, yet who also find some time to join an organization or a board or two, or to support a program which seeks to enhance the well-being of the entire community.*

*Like me, you may often have had these questions posed to you: “Why do you do it, all of this extra stuff?” and “Where do you find the time for it?”*

*And, like me, I think a lot of our shared behaviour in this vein arises from a societal philosophy – and an academic course that used to be taught in high school – called “Civics”.*

*Maybe we never had that instruction, under that exact name, delivered during our educations. But, somewhere along the line, we developed the mindset that there is more to our existence than our own self-centered interests.*

*We are members of a community of fellow humans, where we’ve got to look out for each other, and, yes, where we must step up occasionally to deliberately contribute to the positive condition of that community. Maybe it’s just by volunteering once or twice in your life to help a local organization; or*

*maybe it’s years of serving as an active member of, for instance, your community’s Chamber of Commerce.*

*Whatever the case, whether it is an occasional or a constant involvement in the life of one’s small neighbourhood or the community-at-large, the degree to which we practice the civic spirit is what determines the quality-of-life of wherever we might call home.*

*So, why do we do all of this extra stuff? Where do you find the time for it? You know the answers because you’ve all been living civic-minded lives too. This isn’t “extra stuff”. It is the essential stuff that has to be carried out to create the communities that we want for ourselves, our families and our friends. So, we just build the necessary time into our schedules.*

*Again, as I look around this room, and see people who I know have been sharing their experience and expertise as volunteers, advocates and board members for decades, I realize that I am “preaching to the choir”. I’m giving a lesson in civics to people who define the word. And I’m also speaking to scores of individuals who deserve to be at this podium themselves; and who I’m certain will be in the future, when your lifetime achievements are recognized.*

*I’ll be in the audience then, applauding you, knowing that you – we, all of us – have enjoyed lifetimes of achievement; and not because we’ve enjoyed success personally, but because we’ve contributed to the success and well-being of our community.*





# Spitfires don the green and gold for a special night



**Contributed by the College's Administration**

On November 2, at the WFCU Centre, St. Clair College hosted the first annual St. Clair College Night in partnership with the Windsor Spitfires – decked out in the school colours of green and gold for this special event.

During the event, Vice-President Academic and Registrar Michael Silvaggi had the pleasure of dropping the puck with our mascot, Griff, to start the hockey game against rival Kitchener Rangers.

In true Saints Nation fashion, the Spits won 4-3 before a crowd packed with students, staff and alumni.



# Grant to foster STEM studies



## Contributed by the College's Administration

During the early summer of 2023, St. Clair was awarded a \$500,000 grant by the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) to launch the Regional Future Workforce Program, a program designed to get more children and youth engaged in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The grant funding ends on December 15, 2023.

St. Clair is working in collaboration with several community partners on this project, including Centerline (Windsor) Limited, FIRST Robotics Canada, Invest Windsor-Essex, WEtech Alliance, and Women Enterprise Skills Training (WEST) of Windsor.

Together, the team is preparing a pilot program designed to encourage students to pursue careers in the automotive and mobility sector, set to launch in September 2023 in schools.

According to Waseem Habash, Senior Vice President of Academic and College Operations at the college, this program is important to the region for several reasons.

“It has created a strong working partnership among industry partners, postsecondary education, and four local school boards in Windsor/Essex and Chatham/Lambton/Kent. All the constituent groups are so excited about this partnership that future synergies are already being explored to help enhance STEM training. Providing a venue for postsecondary students to engage with K-12 learners in a hands-on training environment creates opportunities for mentorship and the ability of all learners to acquire prudent STEM knowledge in a relaxed and fun atmosphere,” he said.

The program will be piloted in Windsor-Essex County and Chatham-Kent, and will focus on early introductions to auto-mobility, skilled trades, and robotics.

As part of the program, funds will be used to purchase over 500 robots, with an aim to impact 1,000 students in the local community. These robots will play a hands-on role in the program, teaching lessons on coding, programming, automation, and electric vehicle powertrain.

Furthermore, this initiative will offer students valuable insights into future STEM careers, specifically in the field of automobility. Nationally, the greatest challenges faced by the automobility sector are raising awareness and addressing labour issues.

Larry Koscielski, Vice-President of Process and

Technology Development at CenterLine, notes the importance of industry-supporting initiatives that inspire the future generation to be interested in STEM: “As a global automation company, we wholeheartedly support initiatives that ignite a

passion for STEM learning at any age. We actively collaborate with schools, endorse co-op programs, and champion OYAP (apprenticeship training) and women-in-STEM programs. As a family-owned business, we gladly accept the responsibility of industry playing an active part in building tomorrow’s desperately needed workforce in trades and engineering.”

This is echoed by WEtech Alliance’s President and CEO, Yvonne Pilon: “STEM skills are the fuel that drives innovation, economic growth, and technological advancements. By investing in and nurturing our region’s STEM talent, we can position Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent as a hub of excellence, opportunity, and prosperity.”

The Engaging the Future Automobility Generation team is taking a proactive, community-driven approach by working in partnership with the Greater Essex County District School



Board, Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, Lambton Kent District School Board, and St. Clair Catholic District School Board. In doing so, the program hopes to spark students' interest early.

Dave Ellis, President of FIRST Robotics Canada, highlights the advantages of early exposure to STEM education, specifically the competitive advantages it provides children: "As technology advances, STEM skills are increasingly in demand. Early exposure to STEM gives children a competitive edge, equipping them with vital skills for the modern workforce, and fostering creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork. Introducing STEM early also helps bridge the gender gap, as research confirms equal interest and capability in both boys and girls. Closing these gaps in underrepresented groups needs to be a top priority."

While the funds were awarded to St. Clair College, the pilot program delivery will tie in the expertise of both St. Clair College's School of Engineering Technologies and the University of Windsor's Faculty of Education. The program will focus on mentorship and hands-on interactive STEM lessons.

The STEM program was piloted as a summer camp, hosted at St. Clair College. Several community groups were welcomed on campus to engage in the program and provide input on program design and curriculum.

Ensuring that all students feel welcome is a key piece to the program, as research suggests stigma exists in STEM fields.

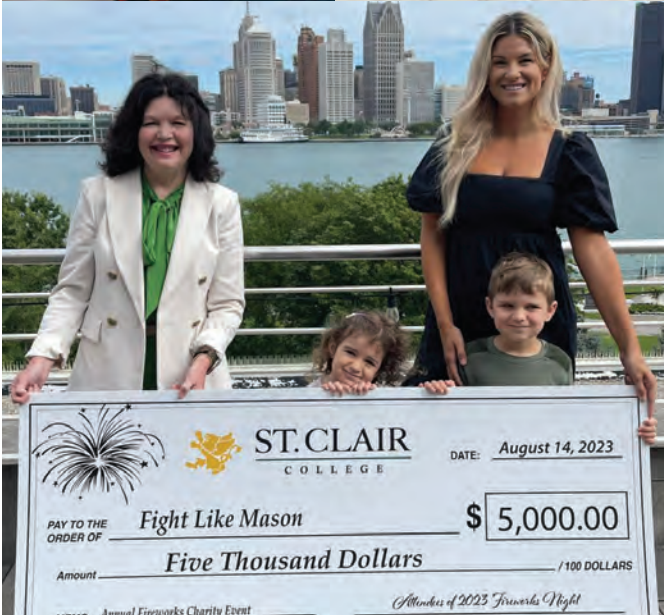
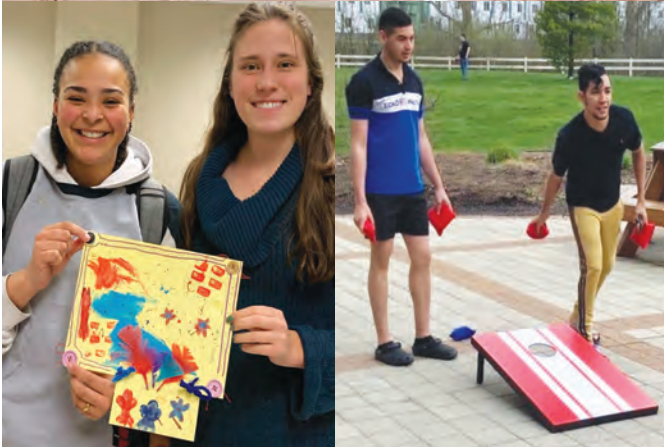
Rose Anguiano Hurst, Executive Director for WEST of Windsor, is thrilled to be a part of this partnership, recognizing the significance and opportunity this program could have

on local students in the region: "WEST recognizes shortages in the skilled trades and values early access to STEM education for students. We are thrilled to be part of the OVIN project, engaging youth in hands-on STEMS programs to cultivate their curiosity about careers in STEM."

This program will help the region to solidify itself as the Automobility Capital of Canada by ensuring that local students are exposed to pathways and opportunities that exist in the generations to come. "Windsor-Essex has been a leader in automotive manufacturing for over a century and continues to lead the nation in next-generation vehicle production," said Stephen MacKenzie, President and CEO of Invest WindsorEssex. "With continued advancement and investment in this sector, it is critical to provide the support and programming needed to ensure a strong and skilled labour force to meet industry demands. The Regional Future Workforce Program will provide our region's youth with the STEM skills necessary to succeed in the automobility space. As the leader for the OVIN Windsor-Essex Regional Technology Development Site, we are excited to participate in this program, and teach the future workforce how to embrace and utilize advanced technologies that will fuel future industry development."

OVIN is a collaborative network focused on advancing Ontario's commercialization and adoption of the next-generation electric, connected, and autonomous vehicle and mobility technologies. Established by the Ontario government, OVIN brings together industry, academia, and government organizations to support research and development, promote partnerships, and drive economic growth for the automotive and transportation sector in the province.





# Project provides research and outreach

## Contributed by the College's Administration

In March, St. Clair College and Windsor Youth Centre (WYC) showcased a heartwarming display of community and compassion to provide local youth facing housing insecurities and homelessness with a hot meal and a care package “to go”.

Through research funds, the Identifying and Developing Youth Homelessness Prevention Strategies Through Respondent-Driven Sampling and Intersectionality research team was able to host an event that provided youth with many items, including food, basic hygienic needs, and crafts.

The primary focus of the event was to connect with youth and help battle the crisis of youth homelessness by giving back to the community. Working with the WYC allowed the research team to use a portion of its resources to directly assisting the community they are researching and studying.

“The services exist, it’s just a matter of connecting them. This is more of the social justice approach to research,” said lead researcher Dr. Kyle Jackson, a Professor in the college’s Honours Bachelor of Applied Arts in Social Justice and Legal Studies program. “You know, partners (like the WYC) force you to think differently, think better, and challenge you to do things – things like this.”

The event brought many youth to the WYC for a hot meal, but also brought many parents looking for meals for their little ones. Youth attendees were met with a hot meal consisting of pasta, chicken parmigiana, salad, and dessert, all provided and served by St. Clair College.

Highlighting the need for change and community support, the efforts of the research team and the WYC showcase the power of collaboration and community power.

Following the meal, creating care packages provided by the research team was also a form of entertainment for attendees. The research team provided youth with a “shopping experience”, followed by an art and design table where youth could personalize the bags they chose.

“Some people don’t get the opportunity to experience shoppin,” said Jackson. “Setting the place up like a store is something neat and interesting we can do for youth.”

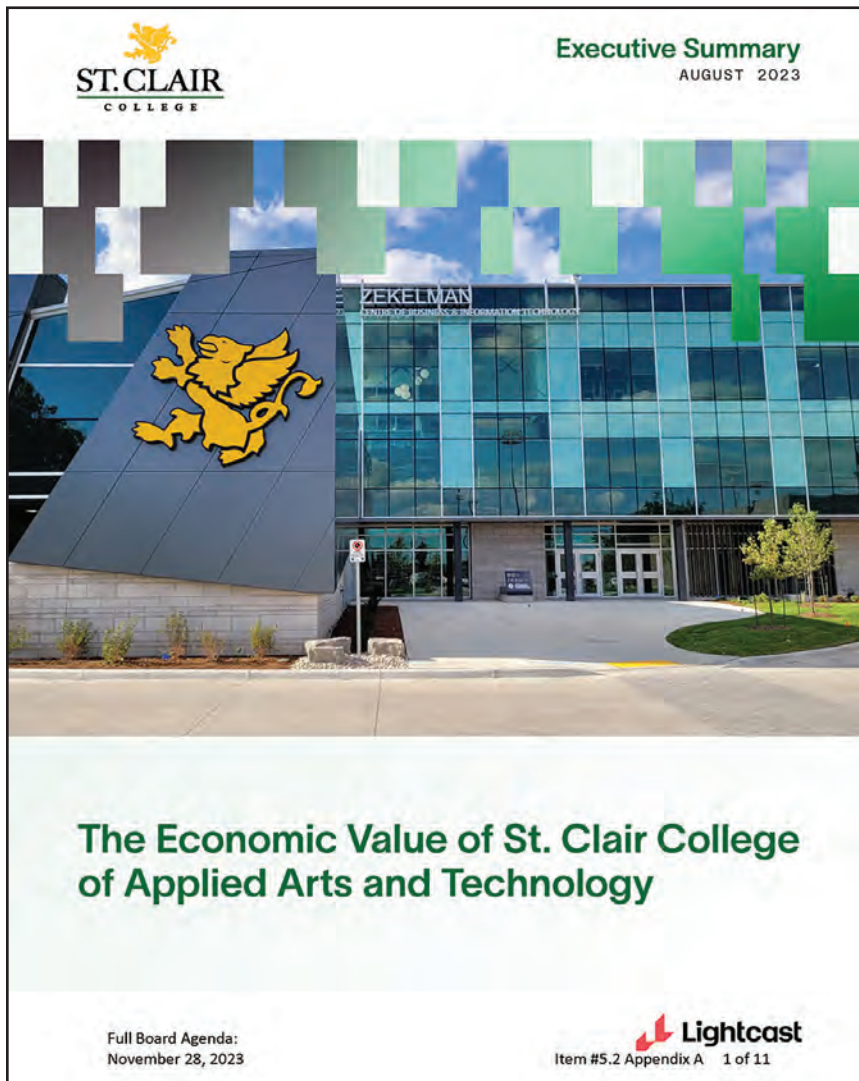
Over the course of many hours, the space was filled with laughter, with many attendees enjoying spending time with the research team and eating alongside other youth facing similar crises.

Through action, research and collaboration, an inclusive and supportive environment supported by change was fostered for all members of the growing community.

“A primary goal we have at St. Clair College Research and Innovation is connecting the work that we do with our local community. Outreach events such as this help connect the value of community research initiatives and contributions. It was also great that the student researchers from the project took a leading role in planning and delivering the event. The project still has a year to go and we are all excited to see what comes next,” said David Potocek of the college’s Research and Innovation office.



# College continues to contribute to area’s economic well-being



## From The Saint Scene

What does St. Clair mean to – and for – the community, above-and-beyond the delivery of postsecondary education?

The college set out to answer that question five years ago – and has updated the analysis annually since – with the assistance of a consulting firm that gauges the institution’s impact as an “economic engine” of southwestern Ontario.

The 2023 update from the EMSI/Lightcast labour market analytics company was presented to the college’s Board of Governors during its November 28th meeting, with this introductory report by President Patti France of Chief Financial Officer Marc Jones:

The college first engaged EMSI in 2018 to perform an economic value study.

The study assessed the impact of the college on the region-

al economy, and the benefits generated by the college for its main stakeholders: students, taxpayers, and society.

The study reports on two main measures: economic impact and return on investment ...

... In following through with its five-year commitment, the college had EMSI refresh the economic value study annually from 2020 to 2023 ... While this report is useful in demonstrating the current value of St. Clair College, it is not intended for comparison with previous studies conducted by EMSI. Differences between study results year over year do not necessarily indicate comparative changes in the value of the college. It only reflects that there were changes in external data or the college’s data.

The college’s 2023 study showed these results on the report’s metrics (accompanying graph at bottom):

The improvement from 2022 to 2023 is due to the following:

- Operations Spending: The college’s operating budget increased as we continue our pursuit of excellence in student service and support, enhance facilities, and invest in staffing resources;
- Student Spending: The student headcount at the college increased over the prior year, which inherently increased the level of student spending in the community;

- Total Jobs Supported: Due to the increase in the operations and student spending, the college’s total economic impact to the region improved, which inherently increased the number of jobs supported.

The college continues to promote economic growth in the Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent regions. The results of these studies were shared with our local municipal leaders and with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities through the college’s Annual Report.

Measure	2023	2022	2021	2020
Operations Spending Impact	151.1	145.2	123.0	133.1
Student Spending Impact	22.3	18.7	8.2	25.6
Alumni Spending Impact	718.6	705.7	653.2	647.9
Total Jobs Supported	11,282	10,922	8,859	9,381
Investment – Students Gain	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.1
Investment – Taxpayers Gain	7.1	8.0	8.6	7.6
Investment – Society Gain	7.4	7.4	8.7	7.2



# Saints are Goodfellows again

During two days in late-November, students from the Protection Security Investigation/Police Foundations Society, Border Services Club, and Community and Justice Services Club hit the streets around the South Windsor and Downtown campuses as “paperboys” for the local Goodfellows fundraisers.

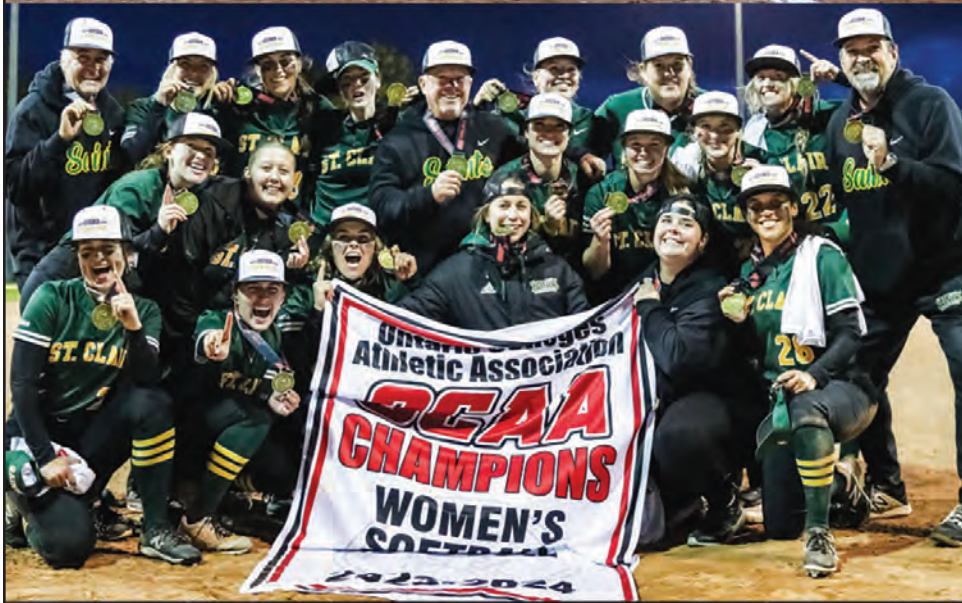
Once again, students and staff greatly supported the event, with both campuses combining to collect \$13,168. St. Clair’s administration matched this amount, for a total combined submission of \$26,336.

Thank you to the administrative staff who sold papers in the front hallway, students and staff of other programs – including Business and Paramedic, and the Cross-Country team, who volunteered their time. Finally, thank you to the Genesis Centre for acting as the base of the campaign.





# Two years in a row, St. Clair celebrates a “Golden Saturday”



For the second consecutive year, St. Clair experienced a “Golden Saturday”, with three varsity teams holding on to the provincial championships that they captured in 2022.

On Saturday, October 21, the women’s softball team, men’s baseball team, and men’s football team repeated as champions in their Ontario leagues.

The baseball team’s achievement was actually a “three-peat”, when they won the OCAA title in Aurora, in the tournament hosted by Seneca College.

After rain pushed their Friday game against Durham College (Oshawa) to Saturday morning, the Saints upended the tournament’s second seed with a 7-2 result, and then used a 12-2 mercy-shortened victory over Humber College (Etobicoke) to take home the banner.

The women’s softball team had to sweep three games at Connorvale Park in Etobicoke to earn their second consecutive OCAA Championship gold medal, in the tournament hosted by Humber College.

In the gold medal game against Durham, the Saints’ bats were unstoppable, and led to 18 hits as a team in the 8-3 victory.

The Saints football team hoisted the Teddy Morris Memorial Trophy and successfully defended their Ontario Football Conference title on Saturday night, beating the London Beekeepers 32-31. The Saints, determined to defend their title as reigning champions, were facing their rival Beekeepers for the fourth consecutive time in the OFC Final.

# North America's best program



Contributed by Saints Gaming

St. Clair cleaned up at the annual National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) Awards in July of 2023 in Indianapolis, picking up 13 awards, including being named Program of the Year.

The Saints beat out finalists Butler University (Indianapolis), Full Sail University (Winter Park, Florida) and Shenandoah University (Winchester, Virginia) for the honour.

The awards were voted on by members schools of the NACE, which has grown to over 250 institutions this past year.

“It was an absolutely amazing feeling to be recognized by

our peers in this way,” said Shaun Byrne, St. Clair’s Esports Director. It really puts things into perspective, and gives us the confidence to continue building towards our vision for what collegiate esports can be.”

The Saints also took home 12 individual awards, including five for Player of the Year, four for Coach of the Year, Male Student of the Year, Social Media Producer of the Year, and Broadcast Producer of the Year.

“St. Clair College has been a longstanding leader in collegiate esports, recognized for their program’s outstanding, comprehensive approach,” said Sari Kitleyn, Chair of the NACE Board of

Directors and Director of Esports at Full Sail University. “After an incredibly competitive season, it was no surprise to see them take home awards in coaching, game-play and student success. NACE members clearly recognize the power of the St. Clair Saints.”

## AWARD WINNERS

Program of the Year: St. Clair College

Player of the Year: Call of Duty, Justin Parent, Honours Bachelor of Commerce; Rainbow 6 Siege, Ethan Elmer, Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship; Rocket League, Ben Talbot, Computer Systems Technology-Networking; Overwatch, Liban Abubaker, Computer Systems Technology-Networking; Valorant, Gabriellus Jakas, Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship

Coach of the Year: Call of Duty, Zarin Bartholomew, Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship; Rainbow 6 Siege, Spencer Squires, Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship; Rocket League, Isabella Talotta, Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship; Valorant, Owen Mantha, Business Administration-Marketing

Male Student of the Year: Nicolas Ciri, Honours Bachelor of Business Administration (Information Communication Technology)

Social Media Producer of the Year: Trent Sovran, Advertising and Marketing Communications Management

Broadcast Producer of the Year: Ryan Sheehan, Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship

**NAC Esports PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

**5 PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**  
 ETHAN ELMER - RAINBOW SIX SIEGE  
 JUSTIN PARENT - CALL OF DUTY  
 GABRIELIUS JAKUS - VALORANT  
 BEN TALBOT - ROCKET LEAGUE  
 MURSAL ABUBAKER - OVERWATCH

**4 COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS**  
 ZARIN BARTHOLOMEW - CALL OF DUTY  
 OWEN MANTHA - VALORANT  
 ISABELLA TALOTTA - ROCKET LEAGUE  
 SPENCER SQUIRES - RAINBOW SIX SIEGE

**3 STUDENT AND STAFF AWARDS**  
 TRENT SOVRAN - SOCIAL MEDIA PRODUCER  
 RYAN SHEEHAN - BROADCAST PRODUCER  
 NICOLAS CIRI - MALE STUDENT

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE ESPORTS AWARDS**  
 ST. CLAIR 2022-2023 SEASON

# Saints hold all championships



## Contributed by the Saints Esports Program

The St. Clair Saints Esports program collected five National Championships in mid-November, with a clean sweep of the annual Canadian Esports Nationals.

The Saints won National Championships in Call of Duty, Overwatch and Rocket League for the second-straight year, while also claiming victories in League of Legends and VALORANT for the first time.

“Our players and coaches have bought into the vision, and the results demonstrate just how solid of a foundation we have built over the last six years with the program,” said Esports Director Shaun Byrne. “I know a few schools do not enjoy having to see the Saints logo on all five championship banners, so I anticipate a new sense of urgency in a lot of programs to rise up and challenge our dominance in 2024.”

In Call of Duty, the Saints were unstoppable with victories over the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, enroute to a dominant win over York University in the Grand Finals.

The Saints Overwatch team took the momentum into their championship run with series sweeps over the University of Toronto and York University. In the Grand Finals, they took on the University of Waterloo where the outcome was no different, as the Saints swept the series to earn the National Championship.

In Rocket League, the Saints battled past the University of Windsor and Conestoga College to face-off against the University of Ottawa in the Grand Finals. The Saints found themselves down 3-0 in the best-of-seven series, but mounted

one of the most impressive comebacks in the program’s history. The team clawed back one game at a time, and completed the reverse sweep to take the series and win the National Championship with a 4-3 win.

In League of Legends, the Saints looked to improve on last year’s result where they finished in fourth place after losing to the University of Waterloo in the semifinals. The team marched past the University of Calgary and University of Toronto-Mississauga to book a rematch with Waterloo in the Grand Finals. In a hard-fought series, the Saints avenged last year’s loss to earn the team’s first National Championship.

In the final match, the Saints Academy VALORANT team took centre stage to represent St. Clair College in the Canadian Esports Nationals. With the Saints Varsity team in Istanbul representing Team Canada in the Red Bull Campus Clutch World Finals, the program’s secondary roster stepped up to flex the depth of St. Clair’s VALORANT talent. The Saints Academy team didn’t let the opportunity go to waste, as it mowed through Brock University and the University of Waterloo to match up against Western University in the Grand Finals. It was a back-and-forth battle between the two, with Western taking an early lead in the series. Down, but not out, the Saints mounted a comeback in the final game of the series to earn the 2-1 victory to claim the National Championship and to complete the Saints sweep of the Canadian Esports Nationals.

Thirty-eight schools and 103 teams from across Canada took part in the second Annual Canadian Esports National Tournament.

# St. Clair helps Habitat Hub

## From The Saint Scene

St. Clair's name is now officially attached to an organization with which it has partnered on numerous occasions in the past to carry out extremely constructive projects – quite literally.

On November 7, at the local headquarters of the regional Habitat For Humanity low-income house-building, charitable organization, the “St. Clair College Youth Mentorship Hub” was unveiled.

The college-funded centre will be used to mentor Habitat volunteers in the group's philosophy and operations, and to teach basic construction skills.

The donation to establish the Hub came from St. Clair's administration and the college's Alumni Association.

In her remarks at the Hub's ribbon-cutting, St. Clair President Patti France reflected upon the long, cooperative history that the college and Habitat have shared:

*And it is our distinct honour to be partnering with Habitat For Humanity yet again on a project of such enormous benefit to the community.*

*When I say “partnering yet again” it is because I flipped back through a number of the college's yearbooks as I was preparing these remarks, to refresh my memory about our relationship.*

*I saw names pop up like now retired Civil and Construction Engineering Professor, and long-time Habitat supporter, Rob Lanoue. Throughout his entire career, it seemed like Rob tied about 90 percent*

*of his curriculum to Habitat. For instance, he pioneered the practice of having his students pre-assemble roof trusses and studded walls in the college's workshops; and then we'd truck them to Habitat building sites, both here and in other parts of the province.*

*I also came across some photos, from the early-2000s, of*



students, grads and faculty from about a half-dozen of our programs – Civil and Construction, Architecture, Landscaping, Plumbing, Electrical and HVAC – who supplied almost all of the people-power to construct a Habitat house near the corner of York and Tecumseh.

In 2006 and 2007 – again, under the leadership of Rob Lanoue and Architectural Technology Professor Ken Acton – we sent about two big buses in each of those summers, for about two weeks at a time, to New Orleans. There, our faculty, support staff, administrators, students and alumni contributed to Habitat For Humanity’s rebuilding efforts after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

And, on a very personal level, aside from volunteer labour by scores of our students, staff and grads over the years, Habitat’s regional Board of Directors has long been well stocked by Saints – including, among others, Rob Lanoue,

become Habitat volunteers in the future.”

She said the new Hub would be a symbol of the “transformative power of education ... and hands-on training”, as both St. Clair and Habitat pursue their shared goal of nurturing young talent.

“Volunteering,” Bulhoes added, describing her association’s membership, “is part of who we are.”

And two alumni of the college were key spokespeople of Habitat at the event: Lindsay Lovecky is the regional chapter’s current chair, and Justin Fox is its past chair.

While the organization’s mission is key to helping to address the local housing crisis, its reliance upon volunteers provides it with an ample opportunity to nurture young leaders, Lovecky said. “We believe that true community transformation thrives on collaboration and partnerships. The support of St. Clair College in sponsoring our Youth Mentorship Hub

embodies our commitment to empowering the next generation. Together, through shared knowledge and resources, we build not only homes but futures, fostering a stronger, more resilient community.”

Fox thanked the college by presenting France and Bulhoes with Habitat “hammer pins”, symbolizing the solidarity and unity of volunteers working on behalf of the community, and generating awareness of the need for affordable housing.



Justin Fox and current Chair Lindsay Lovecky.

Our long-standing relationship, obviously, has been naturally symbiotic, and always a “win-win” for both parties. Our Trades and Technology students obtain, literally, hands-on experiences with Habitat; and Habitat enjoys our people-power, our faculty members’ expertise, and often some donated material.

The opportunity to build upon our involvement with Habitat was something that we jumped at, especially when we could use a synonym for the word “education”: namely, “mentorship”. To be able to foster the training of Habitat volunteers in this facility, in order to continue to contribute to the integral and heart-warming mission of this organization – well, that’s what being a Saint is all about, isn’t it?

“So many of our students and grads have become involved with Habitat over the years, precisely because it represents the best aspect of their St. Clair education: namely, applying hands-on energy to make a beneficial contribution to our community,” said Alumni Association President Belinda Bulhoes. “I expect that this new connection between the college and the organization will lead even more Saints to

Habitat Community Engagement Manager Hope Lovell and volunteer trainer Robert Catherine made note of the fact that 30 percent of the 19,000-plus volunteer-hours that have been contributed to the organization to-date this year were performed by secondary- and postsecondary-school-aged young people.

Some of them come from tech and trades programs of the local school boards and college, others are high school students “at large” who joined Habitat to carry out their mandatory 40 hours of community service.

The St. Clair Youth Mentorship Hub provides workstations in the heart of Habitat’s operations for student-volunteers seeking hands-on experience in administration, marketing and fundraising leadership, and hands-on construction skills.

Founded in 1994, Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex is a non-profit, faith-based organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Its mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting home ownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty. For more information, visit [www.habitatwindsor.org](http://www.habitatwindsor.org)

# Honorary degree recognizes exceptional youth mentor

**Contributed by the College's Administration**

"Mehari Hagos epitomizes the type of person who merits the sort of recognition associated with an honorary degree," said St. Clair President Patti France. "For over a decade, he has dedicated his life – personally and professionally – to mentorship, advocacy, the delivery of life-lessons, and inspiring the youth of our community. His personality is the definition of the word 'educator', so the college is elated to present him with a degree which symbolizes that."

The college bestowed an Honorary Honours Bachelor of Applied Arts in Social Justice and Legal Studies degree to Mehari Hagos at the 56th Annual Winter Convocation on February 22.

In her recommendation to the Board of Governors proposing the honour, France wrote:

*Mehari Hagos has truly been an inspirational force in our community for over a decade.*

*His family settled in Windsor after escaping political strife and violence in Eritrea in eastern Africa, but they did not, he reflects, find an entirely safe and peaceful haven in Canada.*

*His family settled in the low-income Glengarry neighbourhood of Windsor, where Mehari (as a child and teenager) eventually witnessed family members and friends descend into the dark atmospheres of drugs and crime.*

*On the cusp of those potential lifestyles himself, Mehari found salvation in his pursuits of sports and fitness – and through the mentorship he found at the city's YMCA.*

*In his early-20s, as a coach/motivator/personal-trainer/youth-advocate, he replicated – and enhanced and expanded upon – that mentorship by founding MH100 Boot Camp, servicing (originally) his home-base in the Glengarry area.*

*"MH100" translates into the pre-teen and teen members*

*of the after-school organization spending a minimum of 100 days under the tutelage of Mehari Hagos: participating in sports and fitness activities, financial literacy courses, assorted "life lessons", and female empowerment exercises.*

*Upon completion of the 100-days-long Boot Camp, "graduates" receive a pair of shoes from Mehari: athletic shoes or dress shoes – whatever they need to pursue their primary life-goals, whether they be athletic, academic or employment-related.*



*Through the revenues of his own fitness-training business, government grants and other financial support, Mehari and MH100 have, during the past decade, allocated \$1.6 million in scholarship funding to hundreds of the program's participants. Many of them, also, have won their own athletic and academic scholarships to prestigious postsecondary institutions throughout Canada and the United States.*

*MH100 has become a model for similar grass-roots programs in cities throughout Ontario.*

*Every day, the MH100 centre of Pelissier Avenue is full of activities, after school and on weekends. The centre provides computers, gaming, life lec-*

*tures and mentoring.*

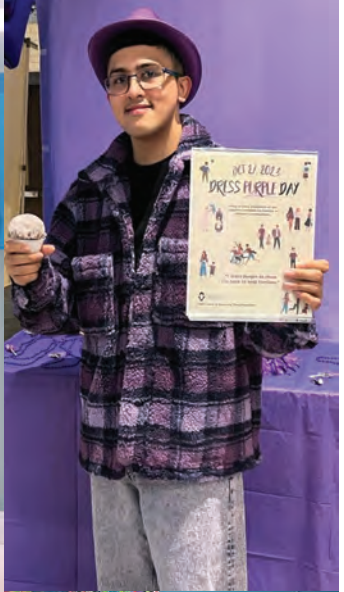
*Participants also play sports and do physical activities throughout the city.*

*During the past several years, Mehari has added a concentration on postsecondary education to his advocacy efforts.*

*He conducts frequent tours of St. Clair College and the University of Windsor for his program's participants, and encourages them to explore not just the athletic amenities but the academic offerings of the two schools.*

*He is truly a community-builder who merits the gratitude of all his fellow citizens and that of this college.*





# Annual college-sponsored Christmas concert campaign passes half-million in food fundraising in the past decade

## Contributed by the College's Administration

The spirit of the holidays was on full display in late-December at Caesars Windsor where The S'Aints, Caesars Windsor Cares, and St. Clair College announced the grand total of proceeds raised by the 2023 "Sleighting Hunger" charity concert.

Thanks to incredible community response and donations from St. Clair College and Caesars Windsor Cares, the Windsor Essex Food Bank Association and Chatham Outreach for Hunger received \$114,786 to share among 16 food banks in the region.

The fundraising concert has an incredible history in the community, raising over \$557,320 to feed those in need since 2013.

Now, with another successful year, even more families and individuals will be helped through these local organizations.

This year's Sleighting Hunger holiday took place on December 22 in The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor.



The WEFBA is comprised of 15 local food banks. Collectively they enhance their ability to reach thousands of individuals and families in Windsor and Essex County who need emergency food supplies. Thanks to the association, in 2023, they provided food bank access to 190,000 people battling hunger locally. The food banks include UHC - Hub of Opportunities, Downtown Mission, Drouillard Place, Community Food Pantry Lakeshore, three Salvation Army locations, Welcome Centre Shelter for Women, Windsor Homes Coalition, and more.

Chatham Outreach for Hunger (COH) is a non-profit charitable organization servicing the Chatham-Kent region. Supported entirely through the generosity of the community, in 2022 it served over 5,970 households, providing nutritious meals for those in crisis.

A big Thank You to this year's media sponsor and community partner, AM800 Bell Media, and Devonshire Mall.



# ID students re-imagine the Library



## From The Saint Scene

The college's Interior Design students, especially in their third (and final) year, tackle a number of "real-world" challenges, setting out to reconfigure, reconstruct and redecorate commercial and public agency spaces throughout the city. On some occasions, these exercises have even led the participating companies and agencies to adopt and carry out some of the students' ideas to improve their facilities.

In the first semester of the third year, however, the redesign project is traditionally a bit "closer to home". Over the



years, graduating-year students have been asked to re-imagine the lay-outs and amenities of a number of spaces within the college: the former Chez Talbot restaurant (now Eatery 101), the Presidential Office complex and corporate boardroom, the cafeteria, and Griff's Cavern and several areas within the Student Centres.

This year, the challenge was to re-imagine the Library Resource Centre, that huge space on the south side of the second floor of the college's main building.

Working in groups of three or four, the Interior Design students have been toiling on this major project for much of this semester.

On October 26 – again, replicating a "real-world pitch to a client" – the students presented their architectural/decorating recommendations to an audience composed of professors, administrators of the

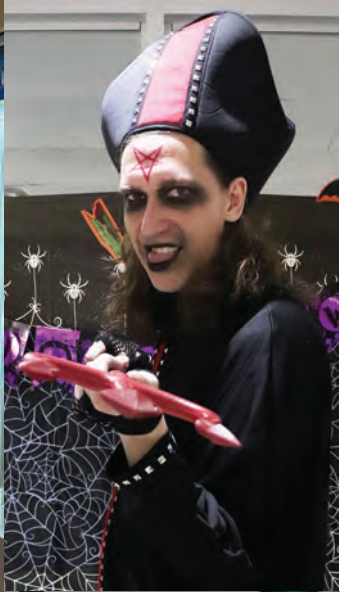
School of Engineering Technologies, Library and Student Services staff, a representative from the Centre for Academic Excellence, and members of the Facilities Management Department. Also in attendance were staff from the college's Career Services/Genesis Entrepreneurship Office, to critique the students' presentations as "business pitches".

Certainly, book-shelving and study carrels were on the check-list of all of the students, but a host of other new and fascinating space usages were also proposed for the Library by each of the design teams: meditation and "recharging" pods, exercise areas, meeting and group-study rooms, and lounges for coffee-sipping and board-game play.

In addition to their PowerPoint slides depicting all of those amenities and the building/flooring materials, furniture fabrics and lighting which go into them, the students created hand-out booklets of their proposals, and capped their presentations with video walk-throughs of their new and improved versions of the Library.



# Hallowe'energy Scenery





## New agreement with UofW keeps Nursing students in Chatham for program's duration



### Contributed by the College's Administration

Nursing students studying in Chatham will no longer have to travel down Highway 401 to complete their degree, thanks to a revised agreement between St. Clair College and the University of Windsor.

Leadership from both institutions signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance in early October, ushering in a new era for nursing in Chatham-Kent.

"This MOU between the university and St. Clair College exemplifies our commitment to being a driving force for positive change in this region, and putting student experience at the forefront of program delivery," said University of Windsor President Robert Gordon.

"By offering the complete Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at St. Clair College's Chatham campus, we are not only enhancing educational accessibility but also fortifying our role as a regional catalyst for progress. Together, we bring

global perspectives, emerging knowledge, and leadership to the table as we address regional challenges."

The Collaborative Nursing program partnership began in 2001, with the first MOU being signed between St. Clair and the university in 2012.

Initially, students enrolled in the program completed their first two years at the college's Chatham campus, followed by the third year at the University of Windsor, and culminating with fourth-year clinical placements.

However, with the signing of the new MOU, the entire four-year B.Sc.N program will now be available at the Chatham campus, eliminating the need for students to travel to Windsor for their third year.

"Historically, the vast majority of Chatham-based Nursing students actually end up working in that community upon graduation," said St. Clair President Patti France. "To develop their familiarity with the various facets of the Chatham-Kent health-care system, it makes sense to keep them in that area

throughout their educations - and especially in their clinical placements.

“We’re grateful for the University of Windsor’s cooperation in making that happen, and to clinical placement agencies for welcoming our students.”

France’s full remarks during the MOU signing event:

*Thank you for joining us, as we announce our re-commitment to this partnership with the University of Windsor and its School of Nursing – including some special consideration for our Chatham-based students.*

*A few years ago, when the provincial government announced that colleges – if they so desired – could create their own Bachelor-degree-granting Schools of Nursing, well, yes, we did think about doing so, as some colleges have.*

*But, eventually, we came to a pretty simple conclusion, that you can phrase in any number of ways: If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. Why not just leave well enough alone? Is there really a need to re-invent the wheel?*

*Translation: We believe that our partnership to educate and train nurses with the University of Windsor works. Period. It works for both of our academic institutions. It works for the students enrolled in the program. And it works for the hospitals, doctors’ offices, seniors’ facilities, public health clinics, and other health-care agencies that eventually engage, that eventually rely upon, our graduates – our joint St. Clair/UofW grads – to serve local patients and clients.*

*Indeed, in many ways, this long-standing partnership epitomizes the value of a hybrid education in general: one that combines the traditional hands-on skills training of the college format with the theory-laden science-and-math of the university format. It is, quite literally, the best of both academic worlds.*

*Admittedly, this partnership was thrust upon us about a dozen years ago, when the provincial government announced that all registered nurses in the province must have Bachelor’s degrees. We – as a college operating a stand-alone Nursing school, which was then turning out recognized Registered Nurses – were a bit irked by that provincial announcement at the time. But, given the increasing complexity of medicine and health-care settings from then to the present-day, and the increasing responsibilities that are being expected of nurses in terms of front-line care and facility management, I think that maybe the province was right after all: nurses should have an advanced education of this nature.*

*From our perspective, our partnership with the University of Windsor delivered on the province’s intention, and it will continue to do so under this agreement of recommitment.*

*Together, we are furnishing medical institutions and agencies, locally and across Ontario and Canada, with exceptionally skillful, smart and caring nurses; and we’re doing so with convenience for students, and cost-efficiency for both the education and health-care systems.*

*There’s one new element of convenience for students included in this updated partnership agreement: namely, that the Nursing students based at St. Clair’s Chatham campus will now be allowed to carry out all of their labs and clinical placements in Chatham-Kent – even during years three and four when they fall, specifically, under the registration system and academic supervision of the university.*

*A community of Chatham-Kent’s size – with its own hospitals, clinics, doctors’ offices, seniors’ facilities and public*



*health agencies – needs and deserves its own source of new nurses. And ensuring that we’re training them here, and keeping them here throughout that training, is good for everyone. It is, of course, convenient for the students; and, also, for the local health-care providers because it means that those nurses – as both trainees and post-graduation employees – will be ultra-familiar with the clientele profiles, services and facilities of Chatham-Kent.*

*So, thank you to our colleagues at the University of Windsor for recognizing that, and for extending this hometown-based training to our college students as they eventually transition into the final years of the program. Does that mean it could expand its title to include something along the lines of the University of Chatham-Kent? I suppose that will have to be the subject of a separate agreement and announcement.*

*For now, we’re elated to be extending and enhancing this partnership, for the good of all of our shared students, and the communities of Essex-Windsor and Chatham-Kent.*

# Provincial grant funds new CNC machines in the FCEM



## From The Saint Scene

Apprentices and students in several programs in St. Clair's Ford Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing (FCEM) will be working on some new equipment, thanks to a \$653,000 provincial grant presented to the college on September 15.

The money is from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development's Apprenticeship Capital Grants program.

It will be used to purchase seven new, three-axis computer-numerical control (CNC) machines – devices which cut metal to make machined parts.

The machines will be used by apprentices in St. Clair's General Machinist program, and by students in the Tool and Die and Mould Maker programs.

Handling the presentation for the provincial government during the press conference at the college was Windsor-Tecumseh MPP (Conservative) Andrew Downie.

He said updating the equipment of colleges and other apprentice training agencies was part of the government's overall plan to attract people to consider and secure careers in the skilled trades – a provincial employment sector that will have in excess of 100,000 job openings during the next decade.

The grant application prepared by Richard Lauzon, St. Clair's Manager of Apprenticeships, stated: "This project (updating the machines) will modernize program delivery to enhance the student's understanding of current and upcoming technology of the metal-cutting trades. With the demand for new technology in CNC machines, students must be prepared to learn how to use this equipment. The new equipment is state-of-the-art and ideal for operators still working on advanced machining skills. These machines can be found in the local industry. Therefore, students that have had the opportunity to learn on these machines will be job-ready. It



will significantly increase apprenticeship training efficiency and quality in support of this program's upcoming 2023-2024 seat plan enrolment."

In addition to the many existing local factories that make use of CNC-created parts-making, the application added that the new and retrofitted Stellantis, DongShin Motech and LG Energy Solution plants will be employing staffers skilled in this technology.

In her remarks during the grant presentation ceremony on September 15, college President Patti France observed:

*As manufacturing materials and processes have evolved – and that sort of change is constant – so have the machines used in almost all industries.*

*For us, that has meant that this building (the 20-plus-years-old FCEM) – and the educational and training pro-*



*grams housed within it – have never been static. To meet our mandate of providing state-of-the-art job-preparation that is responsive to the needs of local employers, the FCEM's*

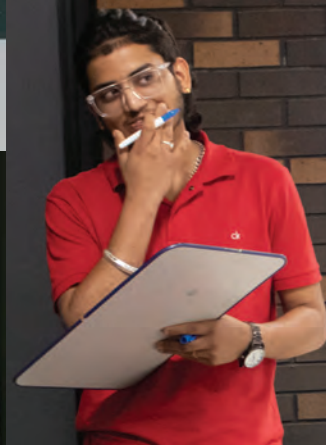
*inventory of equipment and its teaching curriculum have had to be enhanced and expanded almost annually.*

*We've been extremely fortunate in having developed close relationships and formal partnerships with dozens of local and national manufacturers. They have donated machinery to us frequently during the past several decades, making it easier for our grads to slide directly on to the shop-floor with perfect familiarity with the equipment they'll be using.*

*And we're extremely fortunate, today, to have this support from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. This grant of over \$650,000 ... will ensure that our General Machinist apprenticeship training remains vibrantly up-to-date and accessible – benefitting both the program's enrollees, and the industries which so urgently need their skills. These machines are also used by our Tool and Die and Mould-making students (and such programs as Mechanical Technician–CAD/CAM and Mechanical Techniques–Precision Metal-cutting).*

*As such, this is not just an investment in the college. It is an investment in the lives of our apprentices and students, in the efficiency of local manufacturing industries, and in the economic well-being of our community.*







# Maintaining Mackenzie Hall



## Contributed by the College's Administration

St. Clair College Landscape-Horticulture student Tyler Ross was the latest landscape steward of Windsor's Mackenzie Hall, a building constructed in 1855 by Alexander Mackenzie, Canada's second Prime Minister.

Ross was the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship provided during the summer of 2023 by the Windsor Port Authority in partnership with The Friends of the Court.

He worked alongside city staff to ensure the landscaping around the property is befitting of the treasured landmark.

The City of Windsor Parks and Horticultural Departments, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 82, St. Clair College Landscape-Horticulture program, The Friends of the Court and Windsor Port Authority came together to make this project a reality.

"This multi-level partnership is a win on so many levels: for Tyler, for all those involved in Mackenzie Hall, for our residents who cherish our history, and for visitors to our community," said Ward Councillor Fabio Costante. "On behalf of the City Council, I commend everyone here for their role in helping keep these grounds in their showcase quality."

"The pride that our Landscape-Horticulture students have in their handiwork is equalled by the pride that St. Clair College takes in making contributions of this nature to our community," said St. Clair President Patti France. "And we're thrilled to be joined this year by the Windsor Port Authority as we work with The Friends of the Court to beautify this centerpiece of west Windsor."

Professor Sandy MacDonald says Tyler will do a tremendous job: "Mackenzie Hall's unique historical and locational

positioning makes for a great opportunity for a student to practice and hone their skills. We always seek a diligent, keen student with a great work ethic. Our consideration is also someone who can work independently and troubleshoot small issues as they occur. A student with a good demeanour who can communicate well with the public and individuals involved will add to their successful summer work program. This year's student, Tyler Ross, exhibits all these characteristics and is positively considered within our department. His excellent work, both practically and academically, is widely recognized. We have great confidence in his abilities to complete this opportunity and go on to a successful horticulture career."

The horticulture scholarship began in 2016 when The Friends of the Court indicated a need for more attention to the aging property. Ivy was encroaching and overwhelming the building, and Virginia creeper was smothering bushes and trees. The issues were brought under control between existing city resources and the addition of the horticulture student, and the area has never looked better.

"We are thrilled to enable St. Clair students to get hands-on experience, while at the same time beautifying this historic landmark in Sandwich," said Windsor Port Authority's Steve Salmons. "Our partnership with the City of Windsor, St. Clair College and The Friends of the Court is another example of building community together."

Also acknowledged at today's event was Tim Hortons. The longstanding community supporter has covered the scholarship in past years, and added to the property shade with a tree planting in the fall of 2020.





# To market they did go



## Contributed by the College's Administration

During November, 21 Business - Marketing students travelled to Blue Mountain to compete in the 2023 Ontario Colleges Marketing Competition (OCMC).

The students and their faculty coaches prepared for this event for the previous eight weeks.

The students put on an impressive performance against Marketing students from 12 colleges across Ontario in the 11 events over the two-day competition.

- St. Clair College's OCMC Quiz Bowl team won the Gold award: Aziz Aziz, Roman Kovalev, Mimi Nguyen, Carter Wilkie, Faculty Coach David Garant;

- The Marketing Research team won a Silver award: Taha Labibidi, Cameron Rudy, Faculty Coach Justina Ciarlariello;

In the Sales Presentation event, St. Clair earned a Bronze award: Zach Addotey, Faculty Coach Darren Grey.

Other teams:

- Amol Sandhu and

Angela Doctor, International Marketing;

- Ariana Poisson and Mackenzie Lomax, Integrated Marketing Communications;

- Chamara Ekanayake and Michael Horrobin, Marketing;

- Elisabeth John and Vedanti Upasani, Direct Marketing;

- Ellie Hanna and Madelyn Ward, Retail;

- Ethan Lafontaine and Ryan Schiller, Entrepreneurship;

- Lucas Kiewitz and Matteo Palumbo, Prospect Pitch;

- Michael Horrobin, Job Interview.

Faculty Coaches:

- Barry Rivard, Retail and International Marketing; Darren Grey,

Sales Presentations; David Garant, Quiz Bowl and Integrated Marketing Communications; Diletta Casey, Entrepreneurship; Gino Bordignon, Prospect Pitch; Jelena Dereta, Marketing; Justina Ciarlariello, Direct Marketing and Marketing Research; Melissa Simas, Job Interview.

St. Clair College looks forward to welcoming this group next year as the official hosts for OCMC 2024.

OCMC is a student-focused learning experience that provides participants with the ability to demonstrate their essential, vocational, and employability skills before industry professionals.

OCMC serves as a stepping-stone from academia to industry by creating real-world experiences and networking opportunities.



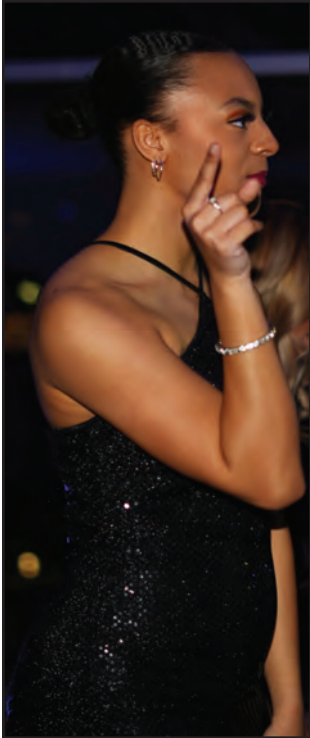
# Saints get fancy and formal



The jeans were given a night off on March 28, as Saints donned their very snazziest clothes for the formal-ish Masquerade Banquet Ball in the Skyline Room of the Centre for the Arts – a year-capping party staged by the Student Representative Council. Photos by Haritha Deepa Haridas.







# Delving into diversity with the OPP

## Contributed by the College's Administration

In a venture aimed at fostering gender diversity and inclusion in law enforcement, St. Clair College has collaborated with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in its Women Initiative.

The program, which saw the participation of 11 Police Foundation students, is designed to provide aspiring female officers with the tools, resources and support needed to pursue successful careers in policing.

Police Foundations (and Protection, Security and Investigation) Coordinator Edward Marocko emphasized the importance of this collaboration: "It has been truly positive in supporting women in policing. By fostering a partnership that values diversity and inclusion, we have created an environment where female students feel empowered to pursue careers in law enforcement."

The Police Foundation program is umbrellaed by the School of Community Studies.

The program strives for the inclusion of female students, by featuring specific courses designed to encourage women to pursue careers in law enforcement. These courses emphasize inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and hands-on training, preparing female students to navigate the challenges and opportunities they may encounter in their future careers.

Chair of Community Studies Biagio Lattuca expressed his pride in St. Clair's dedication to advancing diversity in law enforcement through partnerships with the OPP and other agencies. He emphasized the institution's primary focus on empowering and preparing female students for success, aiming to dismantle barriers and pave the way for a future where women thrive in policing.

Student Lauren McDonald shared her motivation for joining the program: "My ultimate goal is to enter into a career in law enforcement. I really enjoyed and appreciated the fact that this information session was geared towards women. I felt more of a connection with the recruiters, it felt more personable and 'laid back' than a formal information session. It was really nice to hear from a woman's point of view about a career in law enforcement, and ultimately it has inspired me even more."

Sergeant Shernett Williams, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion with the OPP, highlighted the impact of the OPP's Women Initiative: "This partnership has seen some women apply to positions such as cadet and auxiliary. We have had many initiatives over the years and have hired several women. Specifically, for the 2024 initiative, we have heard from many who have attended the mentoring sessions, and the feedback

was 'I learned so much about the OPP in just a few hours, and it helped me become more confident in my ability to apply'."

The OPP is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to active non-discrimination programs. All recruitment, hiring, transfers, promotions, training and other terms and conditions of employment are based on the qualifications of the individual, regardless of race, colour, ethnicity, age or any other basis prohibited by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Student Jasmeen Kaur said, "I was motivated to participate because I believe in the importance of gender diversity in law enforcement. The experience has deeply impacted my career aspirations by showing me that women can excel in policing and contribute positively to their communities. It has reinforced my determination to pursue a career in law enforcement and make a difference."

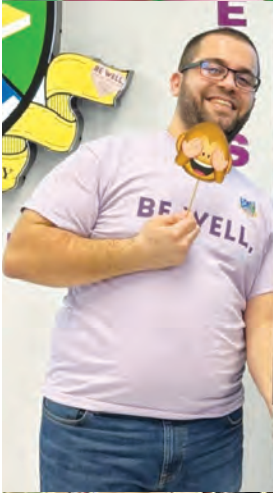
Over the past few years, St. Clair has seen more women



enrolled in traditionally male-dominated fields. Some of these programs include Paramedic, Pre-Service Firefighter Education, Police Foundations, and Protection, Security and Investigation. The support from faculty supersedes any preconceived fears women may have venturing into these fields.

St. Clair President Patti France endorsed the Women Initiative, highlighting the evolving landscape of gender equality in occupations. "Within a few years, I think it is fair to say that there will be no such thing as a 'gender-traditional' occupation because men and women will truly be judged solely on their ability to work with skill and knowledge. Our long-standing partnership with the OPP has contributed immensely to instilling that philosophy, that new reality, of equality and opportunity."

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of OPP's women in policing. The Initiative reflects the commitment of both the OPP and St. Clair College to promote gender equality and empower women in law enforcement. Through education, mentorship and support, the program is paving the way for a more inclusive and diverse future in policing.



# Saints support United Way's summer programs for kids



Contributed by the

College's Administration

The college, its Alumni Association, and its student organizations (the Student Representative Council and Saints Student Athletic Association) made donations in support of two local United Way programs during the summer: Summer Eats for Kids and Backpacks for Success.

Last August, members of those campus groups doled out packages at General Brock Public School.

According to the United Way's website:

*Summer Eats for Kids provides children and families living in low-income with nutritious food during the summer months when school nutrition programs are closed. In Windsor-Essex, one in three*

*food bank users are children. Our goal is to provide 3,500 bags of food and 8,250 lunches to children and families in our community this summer. For just \$25 you can support a family with a week's worth of nutritious fruits, vegetables and snacks. To donate to the program or host a fundraiser, visit [www.weareunited.com/uwsummer](http://www.weareunited.com/uwsummer)*

*Backpacks for Success aims to provide 2,000 students in need in Kindergarten through Grade 12 throughout Windsor-Essex County with backpacks filled with grade-appropriate supplies. Providing kids with back-to-school supplies increases classroom participation, attendance and student morale. For just \$25, donors can support one backpack filled with school supplies at [www.weareunited.com/uwsummer](http://www.weareunited.com/uwsummer)*

Photos contributed by John Fairley.

# Staff group funds scholarship

## From The Saint Scene

The St. Clair College Administration Staff Association ceased its operation in March of this year, after 40 years of activity – and, as it did so, it realized that it still had a considerable quantity of cash on-hand from membership dues and donations and other sources of revenue.

What should be done with that \$17,500?

Rather than somehow return it to the association's current and previous members, the group, instead, decided to invest it in the college's students.

On August 15, a get-together in the main lobby of the South Windsor campus saw the association announce that it was donating the contents of its treasury to St. Clair's Foundation to endow new scholarships for students.

And the college's administration matched that donation, pushing the gift to \$35,000.

[Although administrators of the college (the managerial personnel of the school) still have an organization to discuss internal interests pertaining to the school, the Administration Staff Association had existed as part of a province-wide network to examine issues affecting postsecondary education in Ontario as a whole. That network no longer exists, so the St. Clair group wound down its operations this past spring.]

Thanking the former association for its donation, St. Clair President Patti France said:

*My friends, if you ever want to see the ear-to-ear smiling faces of students, I would recommend that you surf to this website: [www.stclaircollege.ca-slash-foundation-slash-gallery](http://www.stclaircollege.ca-slash-foundation-slash-gallery). That's where you'll find photos of the past several years of our banquets for the presentation of scholarships and bursaries.*

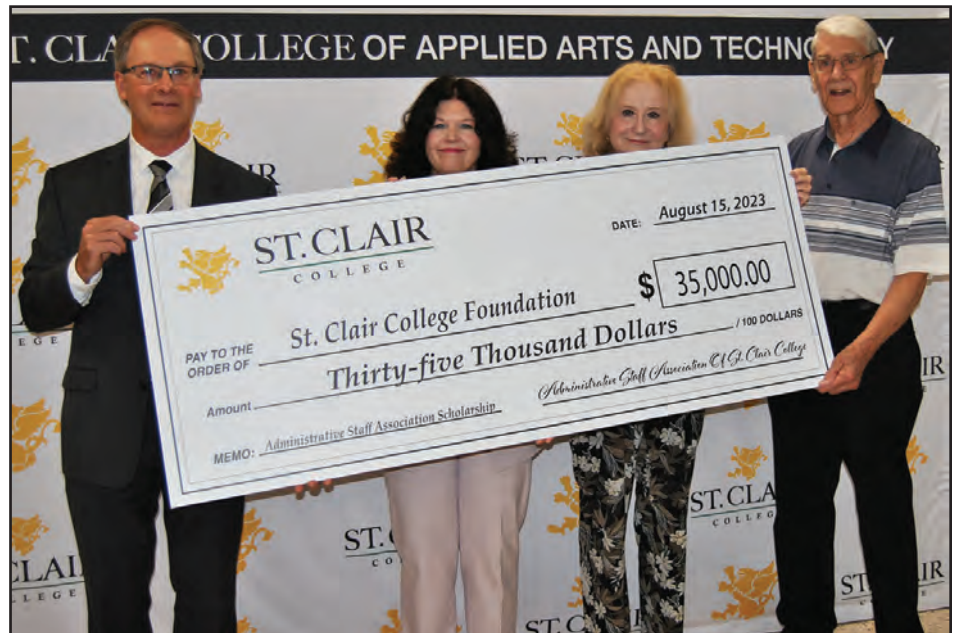
*Smiling faces? No, these are beaming faces. The photos depict the hundreds of students who, based upon academic excellence and financial need, are annually helped by all sorts of donors: individuals, corporations and organizations that have made a commitment, via our Foundation, to help St. Clair to help our Saints.*

*Campus agencies have generated some of those smiles for many years. Among the St. Clair offices and departments which have funded scholarships and bursaries for decades – many of them through permanent endowments – are the Athletics Department and Saints Student Athletic Association, the Student Representative Council, Thames Students*

*Incorporated, the Retirees Association, the Alumni Association, the Board of Governors, Ace Acumen Academy, the ownership-and-management firm of our residences, and me and several former Presidents. OPSEU, representing our faculty and support staff members, also offers a number of province-wide financial awards to students.*

*And, now, you – the college's administrative staff – will be creating those appreciative smiles too.*

*I treasure the fact that you've always been committed to our students; that every task that you carry out from day to day is tied, most fundamentally, to their well-being and suc-*



*cess; and that you have always sought to deliver on our institutional mission: to “transform lives and strengthen communities through high-quality and accessible educational experiences that support career readiness, innovation and life-long learning”.*

*Today, I suppose, we're really putting our “money where our mouth is” – because we're not just talking about accessibility, we're fostering it. In a tangible way, we're providing the financial wherewithal for students to pursue their life-changing academic journeys with us. As always, supporting our Foundation means that we're giving our students the foundation they need for their ultimate success.]*

*Just like the students on the webpage I've mentioned, you should have ear-to-ear smiles on your faces too, because you're doing a wonderful thing with this contribution.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

*In the group photo, with the giant cheque, are, left to right: Mark Benoit, Chair of the School of Academic Studies at Chatham Campus (and former association member); President Patti France; and retirees and former association members Joan Pocock and Bill Totten.*

# St. Clair Auto Design grads get a new pathway to a university degree at Detroit's Wayne State

Contributed by the College's Administration

How fitting, given that the two institutions share "school colours" of green and gold.

In November, St. Clair College and Michigan's Wayne State University (WSU) announced the expansion of their pathway/credit transfer agreements to include Mechanical Engineering Technology – Automotive Product Design. The pathway allows students to earn a diploma at St. Clair and then use those course credits toward a degree at Wayne State. This pathway expansion is critical to prepare the engineering workforce needed to design and manufacture electric vehicles.

"When one thinks about the connected, cross-border economy of southwestern Ontario and southeastern Michigan, the word that instantly comes to mind is 'automotive'. That industry has, literally, driven the economy of this region for over a century," noted St. Clair President Patti France. "With this new partnership with Wayne State, we're now building a cross-border educational component – a meeting of the mechanical and manufacturing minds – into this essential and ever-evolving economic engine. We're thrilled to offer this exciting new academic avenue to our graduates."

With the combination of both college and university courses, students receive significant hands-on practical learning in smaller classes at St. Clair, along with the theory and rigor of a top research university. Wayne State is ranked among the Best Engineering Schools 2024 by U.S. News and World Report.

Under the new pathway, students start at St. Clair and complete the three-year Ontario College Advanced Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Technology – Automotive Product Design, which provides a solid engineering base. Then, students transfer into the General Engineering – Mechanical Engineering Concentration undergrad program at Wayne State for approximately three semesters to earn their Bachelor degree.



International students on an F-1 visa can apply to legally work in the United States for up to one year after graduation through the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, while certain STEM majors can extend OPT for up to two additional years.

Internships and co-ops are crucial for engineering students who want to succeed on the job from day one. An estimated eight out of every ten students in the WSU College of Engineering completes at least one internship prior to graduating. Optional co-op positions are a key part of the St. Clair program and are highly encouraged.

The combination of attending school at two institutions in two countries yields a unique international experience. Detroit and Windsor are both renowned cities with deep history within the automotive, manufacturing and agricultural sectors. The history between both cities offers a unique learning experience for engineering students.

The new pathway is a cost-effective investment for families:

- Ontario residents automatically receive the Great Lakes Tuition Award at Wayne State, which saves thousands of dollars over the general international tuition rate;
- Flat-rate tuition means that full-time students pay the same amount for 12 to 18 credits while pursuing an undergraduate degree;
- Transfer students are eligible for merit-based scholarships valued between \$1,000 and \$6,000 per year;
- WSU is only 3.5 miles from the border, so students can live in Windsor and easily commute to the university in Detroit.

"We are excited to work with Wayne State University on this exciting new pathway for students of Mechanical Engineering Technology. Whether you are looking to graduate 'job ready' from one of our many programs or continue your postsecondary education, we are confident you should 'start here' at St. Clair College!" said John Byng, Chair, School of Engineering Technologies.



# Passion for fashion – for a decade

## Photos Contributed by the Fashion Design Technician Program

April 20 – a Saturday evening – saw a filled Student Life Centre to celebrate the tenth anniversary of St. Clair’s Fashion Design Technician program, in the form of the annual runway exhibit of students’ creations.

In her introductory remarks to a segment of the show, St. Clair President Patti France observed, “I think it is accurate to say that the Fashion Design program perfectly epitomizes both of the disciplines contained in the full name of our institution: demonstrating that St. Clair is a college of arts and technology. Its curriculum, and the mindset of both the faculty and students, combine an extraordinary level of artistic creativity with a unique technical ability – to translate a brilliant vision in the mind, into a sketch in a portfolio book, into a pattern on the sewing table, and finally into the apparel that we’re enjoying on the runway this evening.”



# St. Clair achieves largest enrolment in its history

## From The Saint Scene

St. Clair didn't just see its student-population climb at the outset of the 2023-24 academic year. It saw it soar into the enrolment stratosphere.

During the September 26th meeting of the college's Board of Governors, President Patti France and Vice-President Academic/Registrar Mike Silvaggi presented the fall semester enrolment report.

It shows admissions at all campuses (combined) up by 17 percent – for a total full-time postsecondary enrolment of 16,138 students, up 2,374 from 13,764 in September of last year.

With Adult Training and Apprenticeship enrollees added to the intake, there are 17,798 full- and part-timers at the college this year, up from 15,239 last year.

No matter which of the numbers one looks at, this is – far and away – a record enrolment for the 56-years-old college.

The accompanying graphic depicts the campus-by-campus and school-by-school enrolment breakdown. (Other pages in the report show program-by-program enrolment.)

Both campuses in Windsor (South/Main and Downtown) have 20 percent more students filling their classrooms, clinics, labs and workshops this September.

Big school hikes at the Downtown campus(es) included Media, Art and Design (up 27 percent), and the Zekelman School of Business (up 23 percent); and, at South Campus, the Zekelman School of Business (30 percent), the Zekelman School of Information Technology (32 percent), Engineering Technologies (20 percent), Skilled Trades (14 percent), and Media, Art and Design (10 percent).

Enrolment at the Thames/Chatham Campus is up four percent, with the School of Health Sciences experiencing a particularly significant nine percent registration increase.

Meanwhile, the campuses of St. Clair's "sister school" in the Greater Toronto Area, the Ace Acumen Academy, have 11 percent more students enrolled this year – 3,903 full-timers, compared to 3,470 last year.

Campus:	Downtown Campus	Fall 2021			Fall 2022			Fall 2023			% Increase of FT
		Count	FT	PT	Count	FT	PT	Count	FT	PT	
<b>Campus:</b>	<b>Downtown Campus</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<b>1. Post Secondary</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>17%</b>
Willie (Jimmy) Parsons	School of Media, Art & Design	781	762	19	670	638	32	895	869	26	27%
Biagio Lattuca	School of Community Studies	351	335	16	335	315	20	327	314	13	0%
Angelo DeMarco	Zekelman School of Business	1095	1071	24	692	654	38	854	844	10	23%
Ruth Susannah	Zekelman School of IT	581	581	0	423	422	1	412	412	0	-2%
<b>Campus:</b>	<b>South Campus</b>	<b>8,258</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>10,180</b>	<b>9,415</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<b>1. Post Secondary</b>	<b>7,507</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>7,714</b>	<b>7,239</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>9,136</b>	<b>8,724</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>17%</b>
Angelo DeMarco	Zekelman School of Business	1147	1068	79	1228	1180	48	1748	1694	54	30%
Ruth Susannah	Zekelman School of IT	1148	1115	33	838	836	2	1262	1223	39	32%
Biagio Lattuca	School of Community Studies	1088	1048	40	1141	1089	42	1264	1198	66	8%
John Byng	School of Engineering Technologies	1061	994	67	1056	936	120	1239	1176	63	20%
Stephanie DeFranceschi	School of Health Sciences	873	823	50	1007	962	45	1031	879	152	52%
Monica Staley Liang	School of Nursing	1140	1064	76	1140	1028	112	1185	1081	104	5%
Willie (Jimmy) Parsons	School of Media, Art & Design	262	244	18	284	271	13	313	301	12	10%
Lido Zuccato	School of Skilled Trades	788	752	36	965	927	38	1094	1072	22	14%
<b>Category:</b>	<b>2. Adult Training</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>67%</b>
Biagio Lattuca	School of Community Studies	166	0	166	181	0	181	222	0	222	-
T.Papac/N.Velkamp	Community & Corporate Training & EAP	30	30	0	38	38	0	228	116	112	67%
<b>Category:</b>	<b>3. Apprenticeship</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0%</b>
Lido Zuccato	School of Skilled Trades	555	555	0	573	573	0	594	575	19	0%
<b>Campus:</b>	<b>Thames Campus</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<b>1. Post Secondary</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>4%</b>
Mark Benoit	School of Academic Studies Chatham-Kent	644	612	32	604	575	29	625	597	28	4%
Monica Staley Liang	School of Nursing - Chatham	450	425	25	375	344	31	389	358	31	4%
Stephanie DeFranceschi	School of Health Sciences - Chatham	119	116	3	117	107	10	123	117	6	9%
<b>Category:</b>	<b>2. Adult Training</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-</b>
Mark Benoit	School of Academic Studies Chatham-Kent	28	0	28	30	0	30	60	0	60	-
<b>Category:</b>	<b>2. Apprenticeship</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>
Mark Benoit	Apprentices - Thames	2	0	2	1	0	1	5	0	5	-
<b>Campus:</b>	<b>Toronto Campus</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>3,024</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>3,903</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<b>1. Post Secondary</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>3,024</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>3,903</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11%</b>
Ace Acumen Academy	Ace Acumen Academy	3031	3024	7	3486	3470	16	3928	3903	25	11%

Total College by Activity	Fall 2021			Fall 2022			Fall 2023			% Increase of FT
	COUNT	FT	PT	COUNT	FT	PT	COUNT	FT	PT	
Post Secondary	14559	14034	525	14416	13764	652	16689	16138	551	17%
Adult Training	224	30	194	249	38	211	510	116	394	205%
Apprenticeship	357	535	2	574	573	1	589	575	24	0%
<b>Total College</b>	<b>15340</b>	<b>14619</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>15239</b>	<b>14375</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>17798</b>	<b>16829</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>17%</b>

BREAKDOWN OF FULL TIME POST SECONDARY STUDENT POPULATION:			
Grand Total Full Time Post Secondary	16,138		
LESS: ACE Acumen Academy	3,903		
<b>Total Full Time Post Secondary WINDSOR/CHATHAM</b>	<b>12,235</b>		
Total Full Time Post Secondary WINDSOR/CHATHAM	12,235		
LESS: INTERNATIONAL Full Time Post Secondary	5,269		
<b>Total DOMESTIC Full Time Post Secondary</b>	<b>6,966</b>		

[Ace Acumen is a private-sector school, that provides secondary school education and English-language training to immigrants (chiefly from Asia). In the mid-2010s, it began searching for a public college that it could partner with, in order to provide its students with some follow-up – and on-site – postsecondary education opportunities. After months of negotiation, in early 2014, it launched such a partnership with St. Clair. With abundant academic oversight and licensing its curriculum to the private school, St. Clair offers these programs at Ace Acumen: Business, Computer Systems Technician–Networking, Data Analytics for Business, Office Administration–Health Services, International Business Management–Logistics, Human Resources Management, and Social Service Worker–Gerontology.]

Almost all of Acumen's students are international ones. Of the full-time postsecondary enrolment in Windsor and Chatham, 5,269 (43.1 percent) of the 12,235 total students at



those campuses are international students (and 6,966 are domestic/Canadian).

If one considers that virtually all of Ace Acumen's St. Clair students are of international origin ... that is 3,903 global students there, plus the 5,269 in Windsor and Chatham. That makes for a grand total of 9,172 international students. Again, at all campuses, including Ace Acumen, St. Clair has 16,138 full-time postsecondary students. The all-campuses/all-communities percentage of international students is, therefore, 56.8 percent – demonstrating just how important international enrolment (and the Acumen partnership) is to St. Clair's registration and revenues.

Silvaggi also furnished these demographic tidbits to the Board:

- in Windsor/Chatham, domestic (Canadian) enrolment is up 2.1 percent, and international by 51.8 percent. The domestic number was a bit of an improvement, because it has actually been stagnant or in decline for the past several years. But it is still trending so poorly that it is affecting provincial operating grant funding. While the local population is growing, much of that increase (during the past few years) has involved retirees moving here from other parts of the province to enjoy southwestern Ontario's somewhat lower cost-of-living – and those newcomers are not bringing college-aged children with them. Perhaps the influx of workers pouring into the area as employees at new factories (electric vehicles, etc.) will see younger settlers – including prospective domestic college enrollees;

- there are only 300 “returning” (second- and third-year) students at the Chatham campus. The remaining 700-plus students making up the enrolment there are brand-new first-year students. Chatham is also playing host to a record number of international students, about 200 of them;

- 81 countries have sent students to St. Clair (Windsor/Chatham) this year. India is, far and away, the leader of global scholarship: 4,548 Saints hail from that nation. Other major source countries are Nigeria (second on the list, with 138), China, Colombia, Jordan, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines, the United States, Vietnam, and Ukraine. This year, 24 Ukrainian refugees have taken advantage of the college's offer of free tuition, compared to two last year;

- 850 international students come from what are defined as “emerging markets” – large population countries, which have just recently started exploring foreign educational opportunities for their citizens. In St. Clair's case, that's a 16 percent increase in such students over last year;

- in its southwestern Ontario base, 42.2 percent of St. Clair's students come from Windsor-Essex, 4.5 percent from Chatham-Kent, 6.5 percent from elsewhere in Ontario, and 0.2 percent from other Canadian provinces. The remainder are international;

- enrolment is split almost equally (50/50) between male and female (of those who identify as such). Fifty-one percent of first-year students are under 21 years of age, 30 percent are between 21 and 25, and nine percent are over 31 years old.

## A welcome site

The newest addition to main campus – under construction throughout the year – is the two-storey, 16,000-square-foot jut-out on the front of the main building (between the front entrance and the Classic Gym).

The Welcome Centre will bring together a half-dozen of the college's most frequently used offices, to create a “one-stop shop” atmosphere for current and prospective students.

Departments settling in the Welcome Centre will include the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Student Retention and Academic Advising, Academic Counselling, International Recruitment, Parking and the One Card office.

The photos depict progress throughout the year.





2023-24

GRAD

CLASSES

ST. CLAIR  
COLLEGE

# What it all means

There is absolutely no truth to the rumour that St. Clair is the patron saint of “people standing in long lines, for long durations, waiting to pay for books that half of them will never read”.

Instead, a booklet published in 1992-93 to mark the campus’ 25th anniversary provides an accurate explanation of the college’s name and its symbol, the mythological Griffin:

Our story begins with the Norman invasion of England in 1066. The St. Claire family of Normandy was part of the offensive of William the Conqueror. For their victorious service, the St. Claires were given land in Scotland, and the Chief of the Clan was named the Earl of Caithness. As the years passed, the family name eventually evolved into “Sinclair”. The shield of the clan still bears the rampant Griffin that rode into England almost a thousand years ago.

Moving on to slightly more recent history, we find ourselves on the deck of a sailing ship owned by the Sieur de La Salle. This is the first ship to ply the Great Lakes above Niagara Falls.

The date is August 12, 1679. The ship breaks out of the Detroit River into a magnificent lake. The warm waters of the lake had never witnessed such a sight as this ship, with its mighty carved figurehead of a Griffin on the prow. The expedition’s spiritual leader, Father Hennepin, names this new lake “St. Claire”, as today is the feast-day of the 13th century St. Claire of Assisi ...

... When the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the arbiter of Scottish heraldry, was asked in 1968 to design a crest and armorial bearings for the fledgling college, he settled naturally on the Griffin as the centrepiece of the crest.

The green, white and gold herald features a rose flanked by two cog-wheels at the top, a snarling Griffin, and the Latin motto “Optimum Elige” - “Choose the best”.

The rose refers to Windsor’s title as “The Rose City”, while the cog-wheels represent the area’s industrial nature.

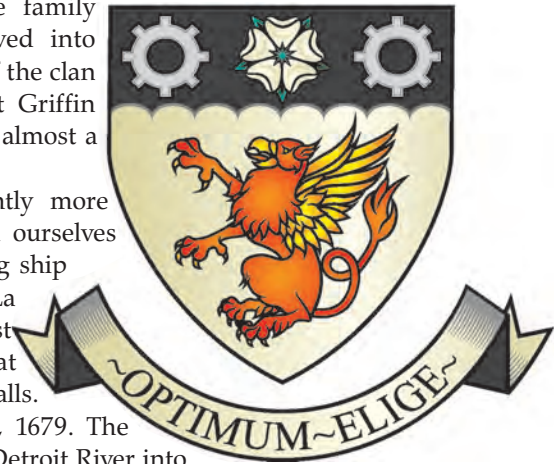
The Liripipe that you receive at Convocation - the shoulder-draping, scarf-like thing that makes it all official - also has a bunch of symbolic overtones.

It is presented to signify acceptance into the community of St. Clair graduates.

The Liripipe is a band of green velvet, edged with gold braid, with four tassels representing the four major areas in the St. Clair community: Essex and Kent Counties, and the Cities of Windsor and Chatham.

The Liripipe, a modification of the university hood, originated in 15th century Europe in the age of the great artists, scholars and explorers of the Renaissance.

Today, it symbolizes recognition of an individual who has prepared him/herself to assume a responsible and creative role in the community ... That’s you.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Just because students are depicted here does not mean that they actually and ultimately graduated. Class photos were taken throughout the year because this publication had to be assembled before the official conclusion of the 2023-24 academic year – before formal eligibility to graduate was actually confirmed by the students' final grades (as allocated by faculty, and confirmed by the Registrar's Office).

There are a number of reasons for why certain programs/classes might be absent, among them: (a) the students were on year-long work/clinical placements and (thus) were not available, and (b) faculty members did not respond to the monthly invitations which were extended to them to arrange for a photo session with their class.

## Advanced Medical Esthetics Practitioner



## Animation 2D/3D



# Architectural Technology



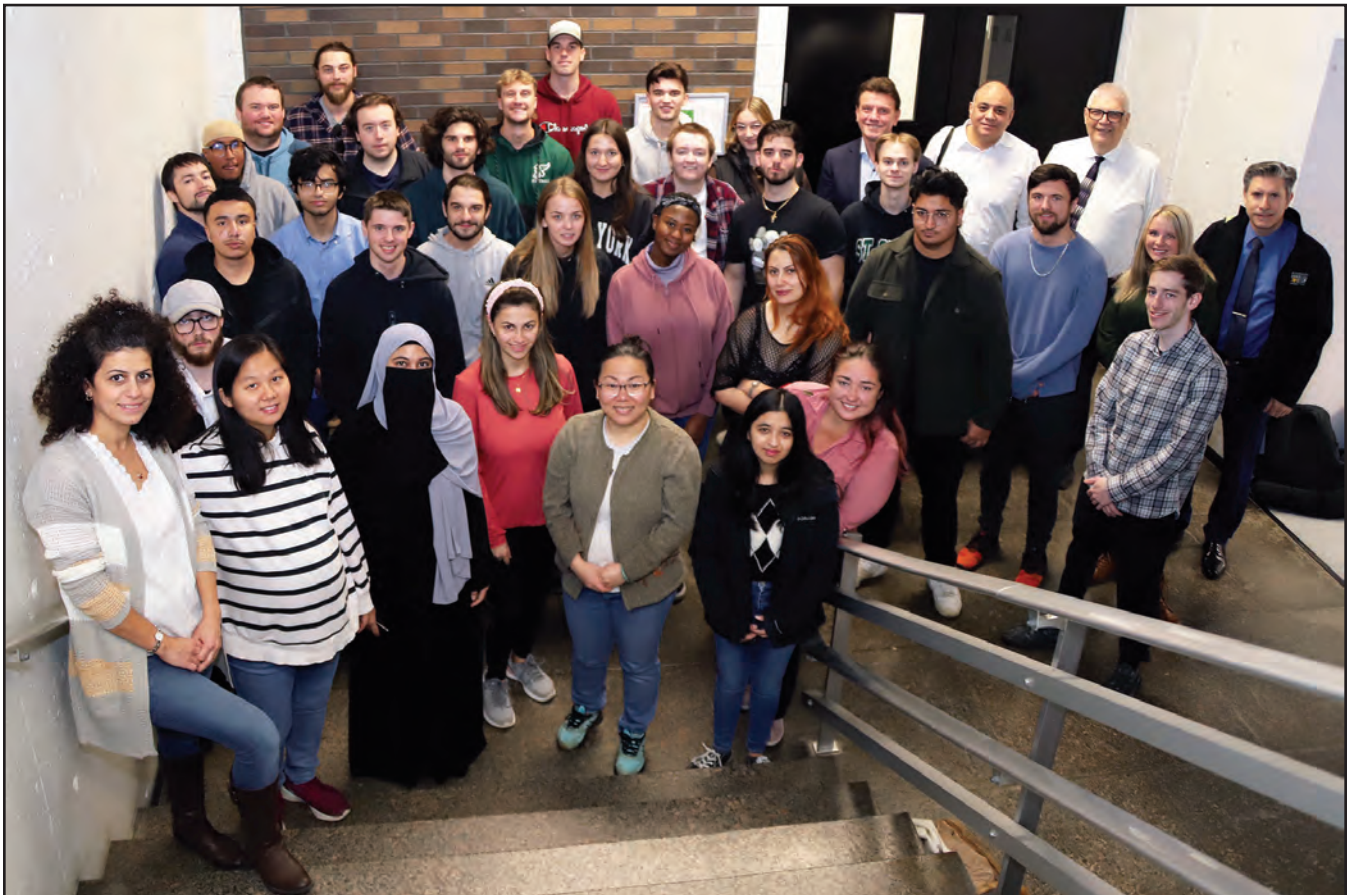
## Biomedical Engineering Technology – Equipment and Devices



# Border Services



## Business Administration – Accounting



# Business Administration – Finance



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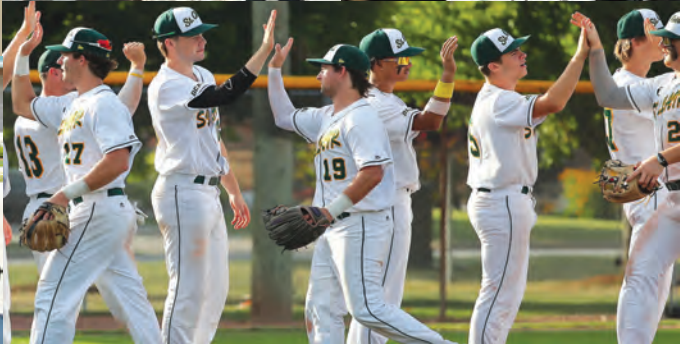
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# Business Administration – Human Resources



# Business Administration – Marketing



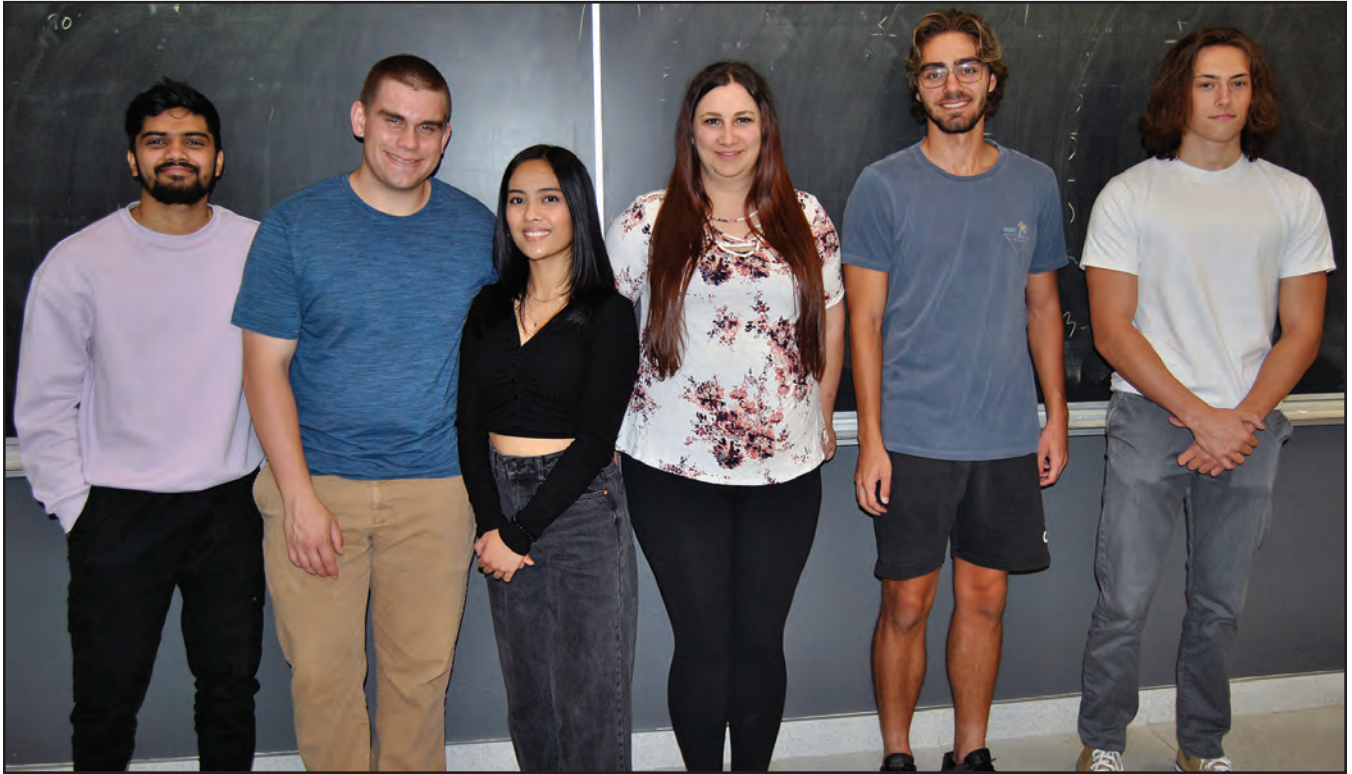
# Business – Marketing



# Cardiovascular Technology



# Chemical Laboratory Technology



## Child and Youth Care

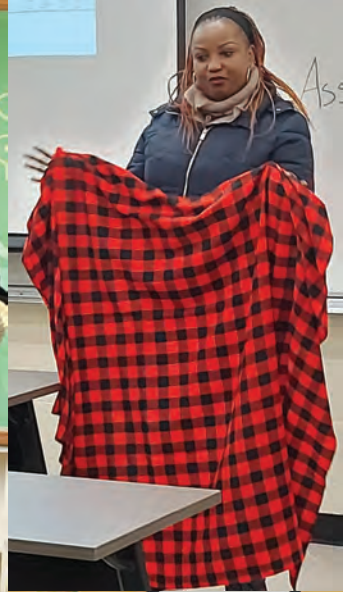


# Civil Engineering Technology



# Community and Justice Services





# Community Integration Through Cooperative Education



# Construction Engineering



# Construction Project Management



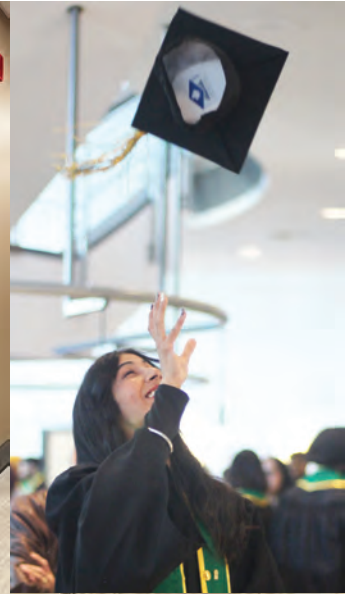


# Cook (Apprenticeship)



# Culinary Management





# Cybersecurity





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# Data Analytics for Business



# Data Analytics for Business



# Data Analytics for Business





# Dental Hygiene



# Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography





# Diagnostic Medical Sonography



# Early Childhood Education



# Early Childhood Education



## Early Childhood Education – Accelerated



# Educational Support



# Esports Administration and Entrepreneurship





# Esthetician



# Event Management



# Fashion Design Technician



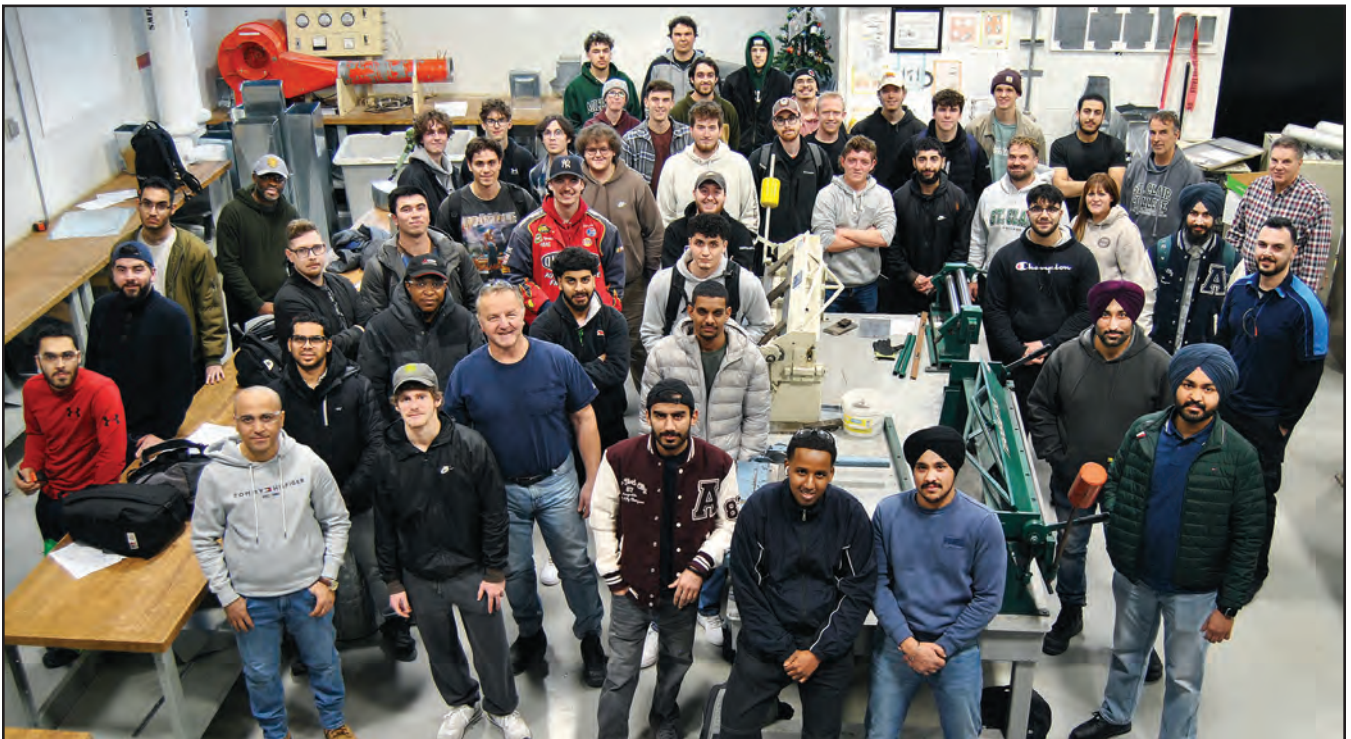
# Graphic Design



# Hairstyling



# Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Technician



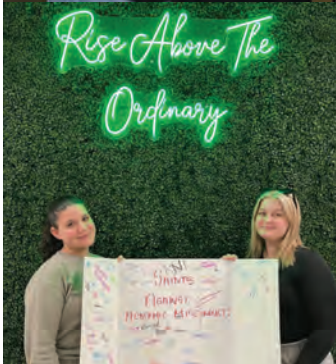
# Honours Bachelor of Applied Arts in Social Justice and Legal Studies



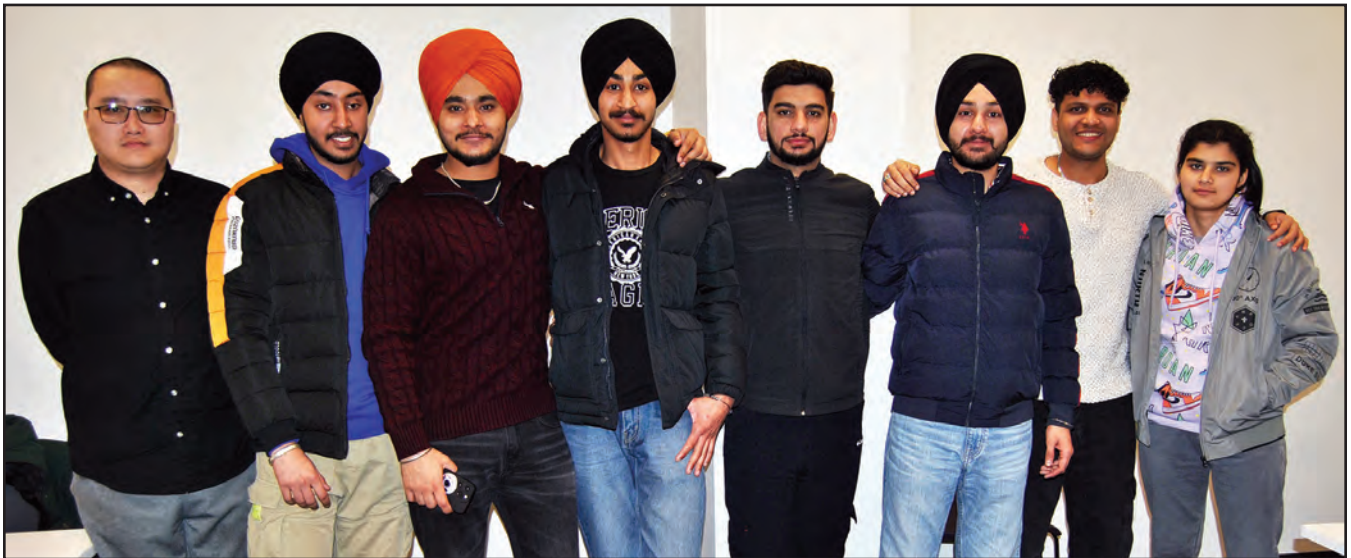
# Honours Bachelor of Business Administration, Information Communication Technology







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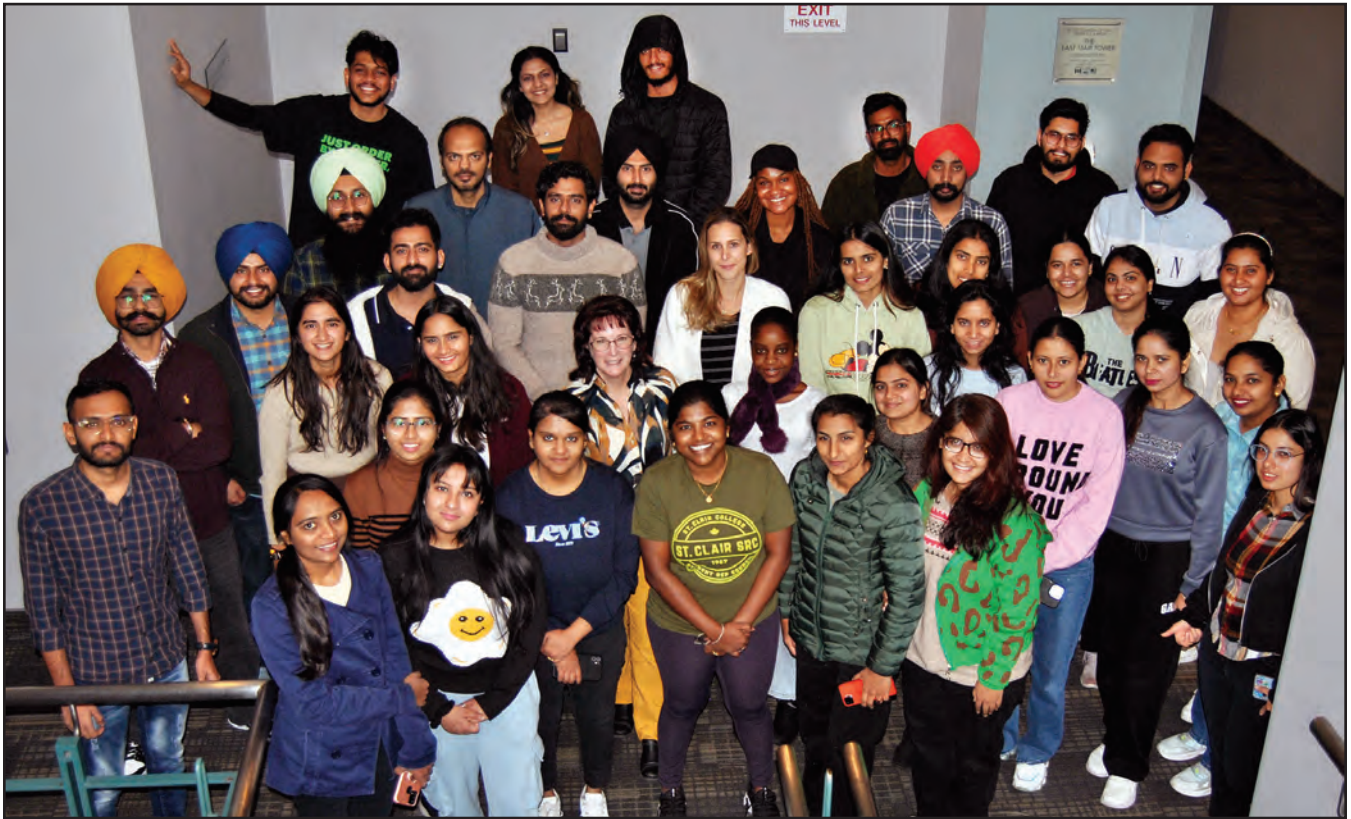
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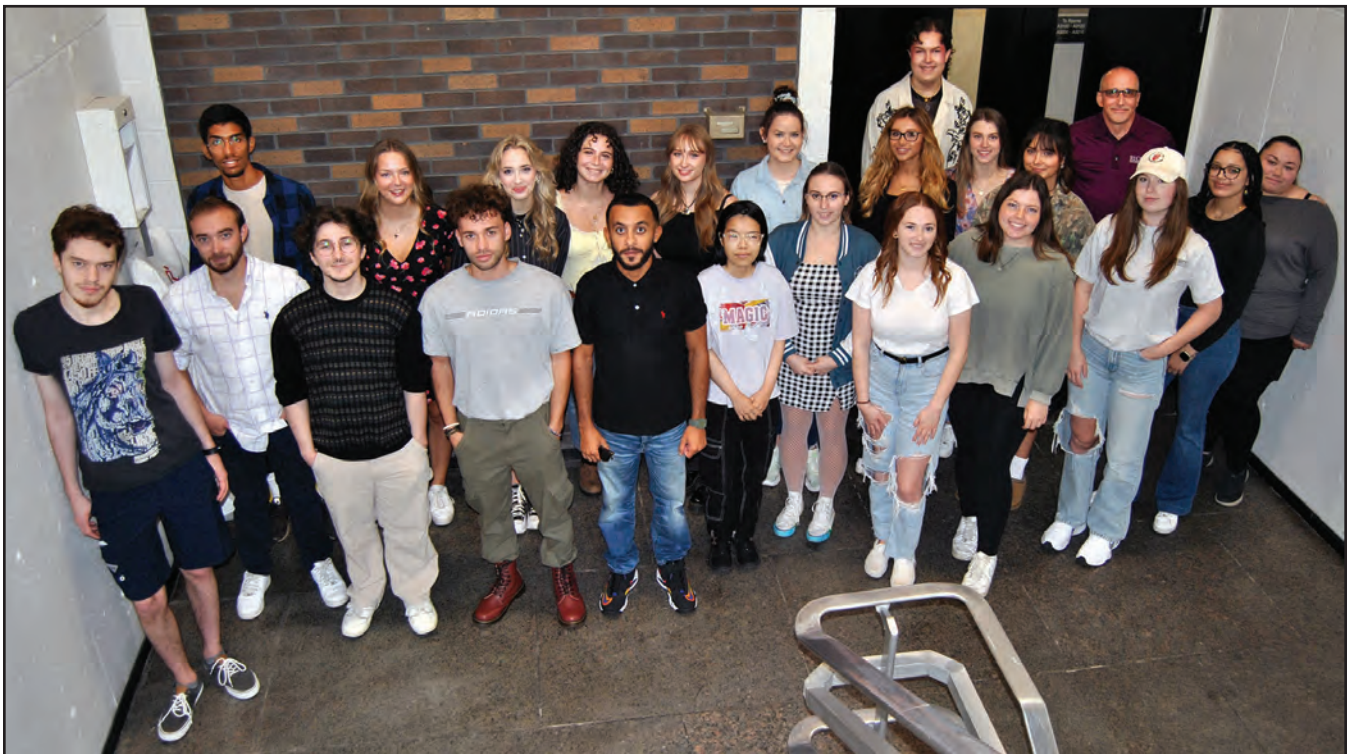
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# Human Resources Management

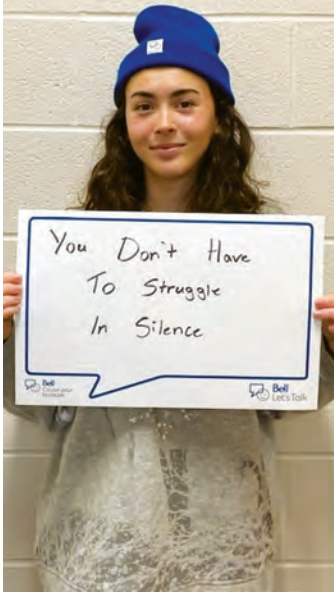


## Interior Design

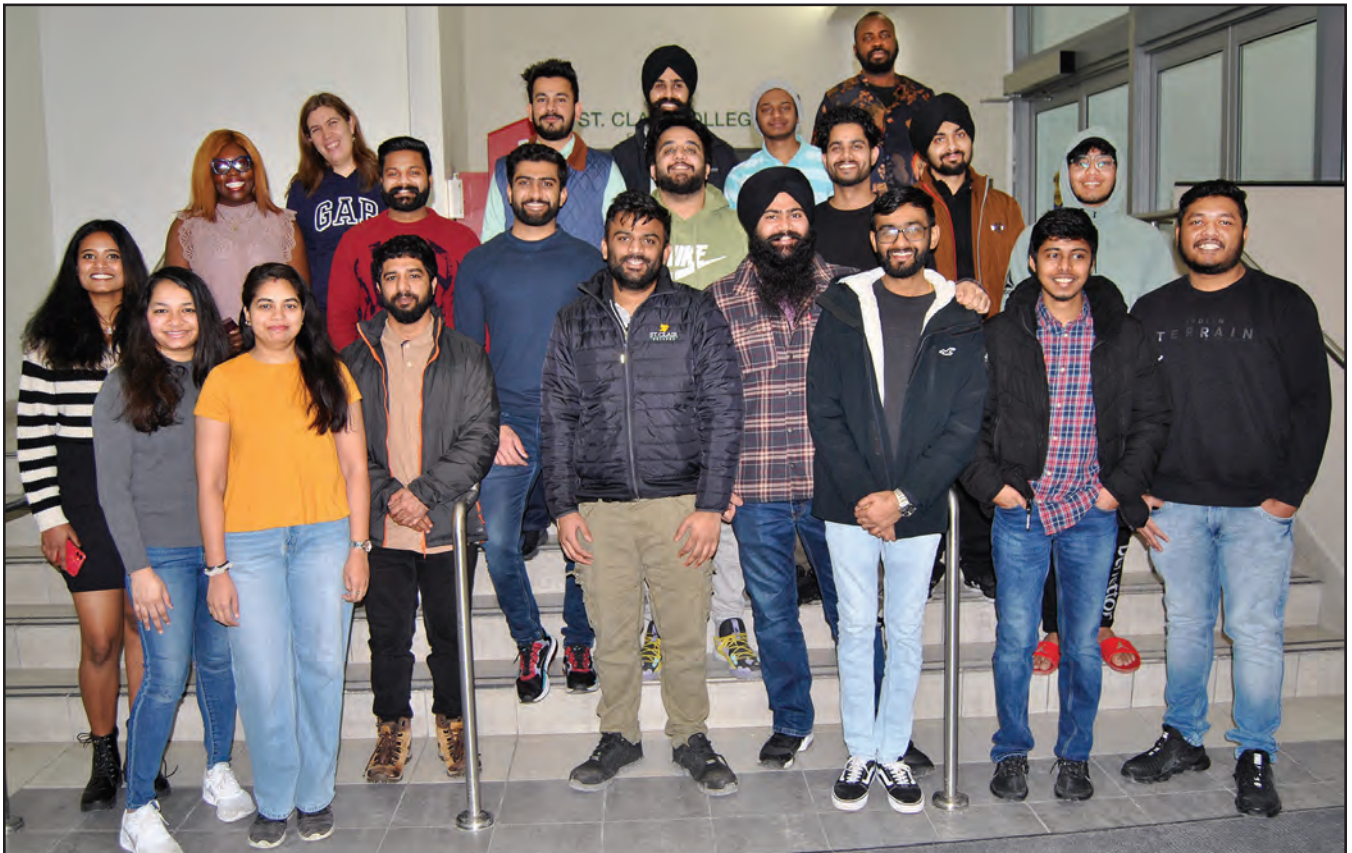


# International Business Management – Logistic Systems





# International Business Management – Logistic Systems



# International Business Management – Logistic Systems



## Journalism





# Landscape Horticulture



# Liberal Arts



# Mechanical Engineering Technician – Industrial (Millwright)





# Mechanical Engineering Technology – Automotive Product Design



# Medical Laboratory Science



# Medical Laboratory Technician



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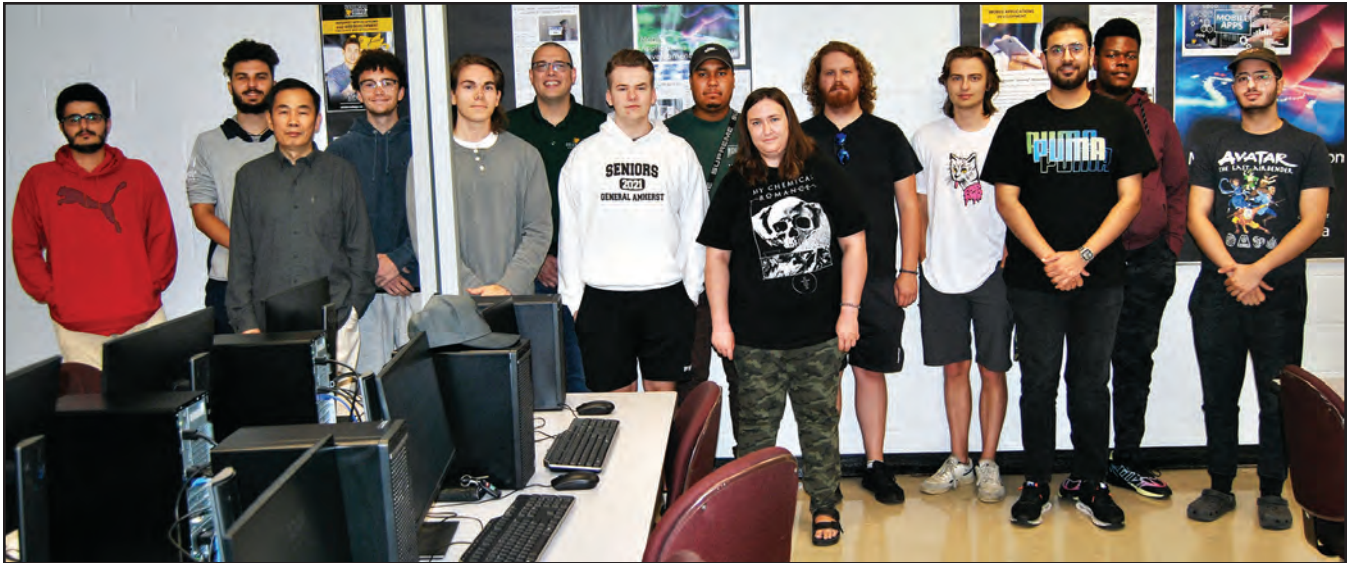


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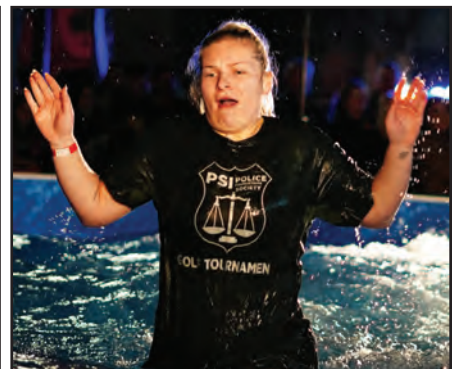


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# Mobile Applications Development



## Motive Power Technician



# Music Theatre Performance



# (Bachelor of Science) Nursing







# Office Administration – Executive



# Office Administration – General



# Office Administration – General



# Office Administration – Health Services



## Paralegal



# Pharmacy Technician



# Police Foundations





# Power Engineering Technician



## Power Engineering Technology – Mechanical



# Practical Nursing



# Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training



# Protection, Security and Investigation



# Public Relations





# Social Service Worker – Gerontology





# Sports and Recreation Management



# Tourism – Travel



# Veterinary Technician



# Woodworking Technician



# Chatham: Business



# Chatham: Child and Youth Care



# Chatham: Developmental Services Worker



# Chatham: Early Childhood Education





# Chatham: Electrical Engineering Technician



# Chatham: Electrical Techniques





# Chatham: Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant



# Chatham: Office Administration – Health Services



# Chatham: Paramedic



# Chatham: Personal Support Worker



# Chatham: Police Foundations



# Chatham: Powerline Technician





# Chatham: Practical Nursing



# Chatham: Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Advanced Diplomas and Degrees



# Ace Acumen: Business



# Ace Acumen: Business



# Ace Acumen: Human Resources Management



# Ace Acumen: Human Resources Management



# Ace Acumen: International Business Management – Logistic Systems



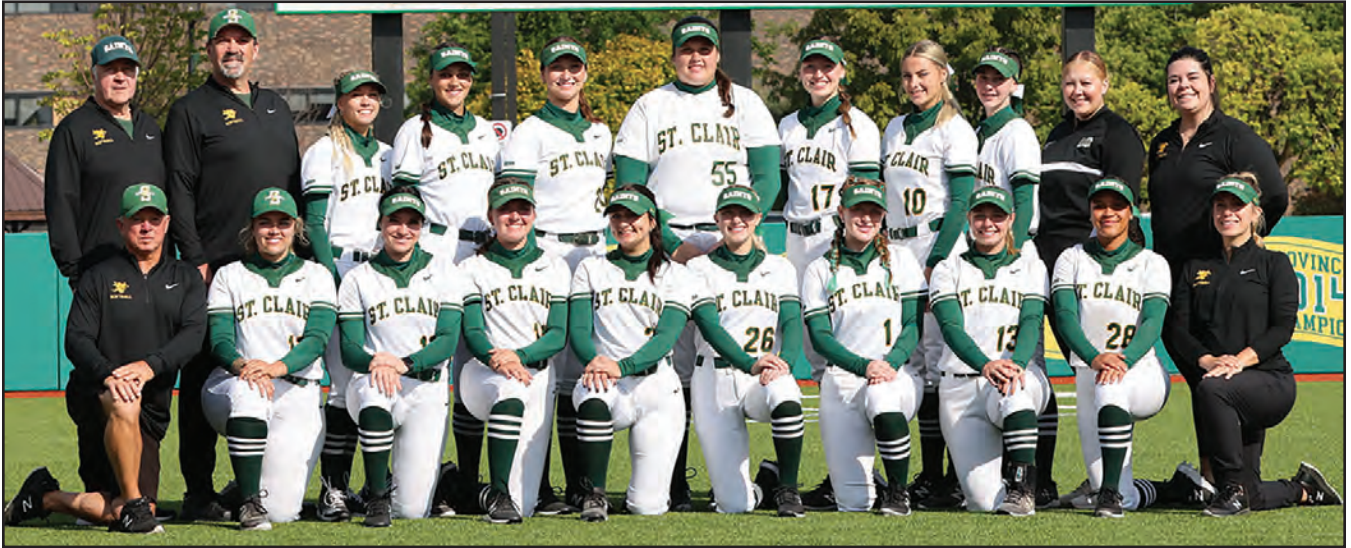




# Saints Varsity Sports Teams







**#HISTORYMADE**

**BRONZE MEDALIST**

**MEN'S SOCCER**

A group photograph of the St. Clair men's soccer team. The team consists of approximately 30 players and coaches. They are posed in two rows on a grass field. The front row is kneeling, and the back row is standing. Most players are wearing black jackets. One player in the front row is holding a bronze medal. The background shows a soccer field. The text "#HISTORYMADE" is written in large, bold, yellow letters at the top. The text "BRONZE MEDALIST" is written in large, bold, white letters at the bottom. The text "MEN'S SOCCER" is written in bold, white letters on a yellow background at the bottom.





# And Varsity eSports (Saints Gaming)











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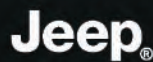
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