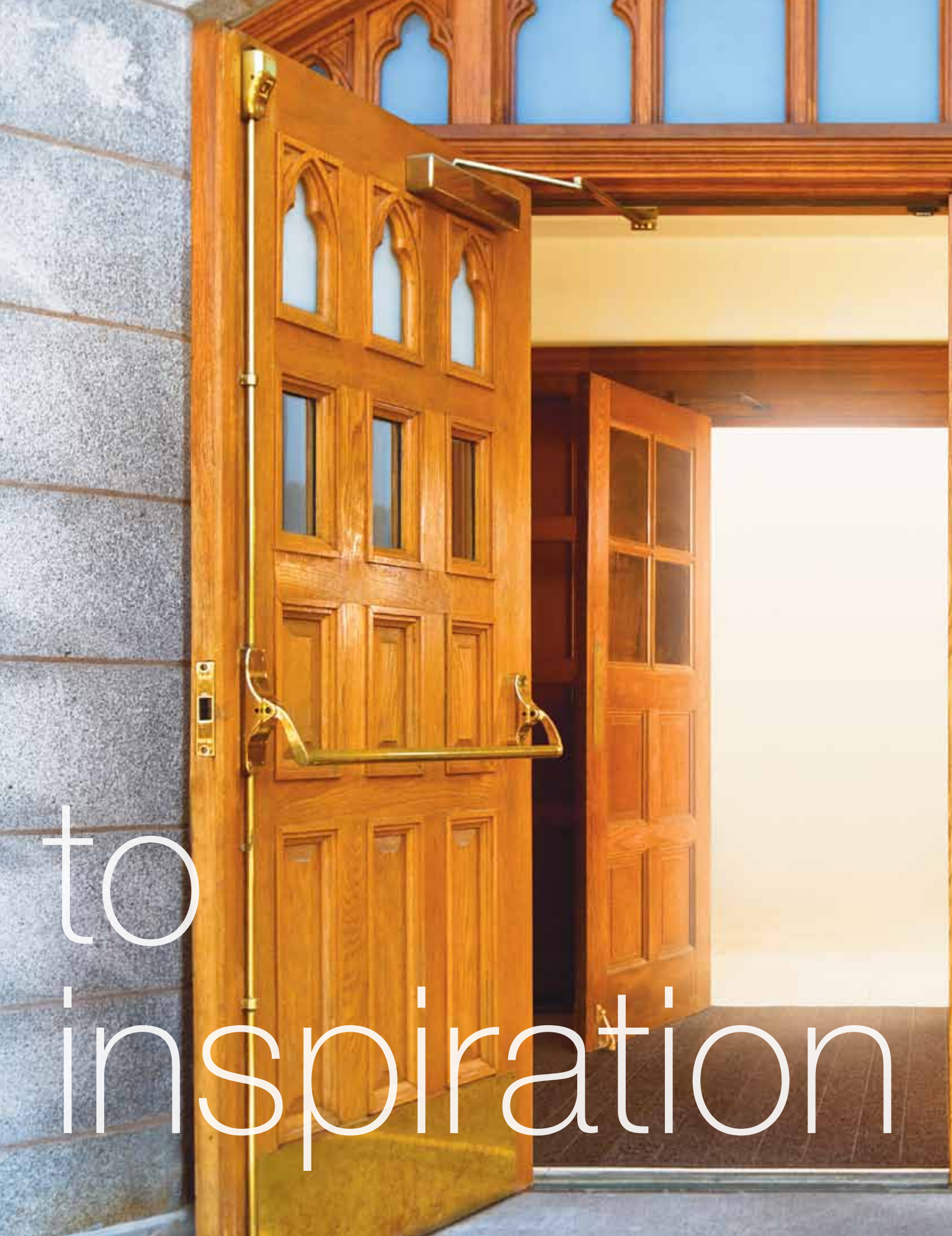


# Doorways

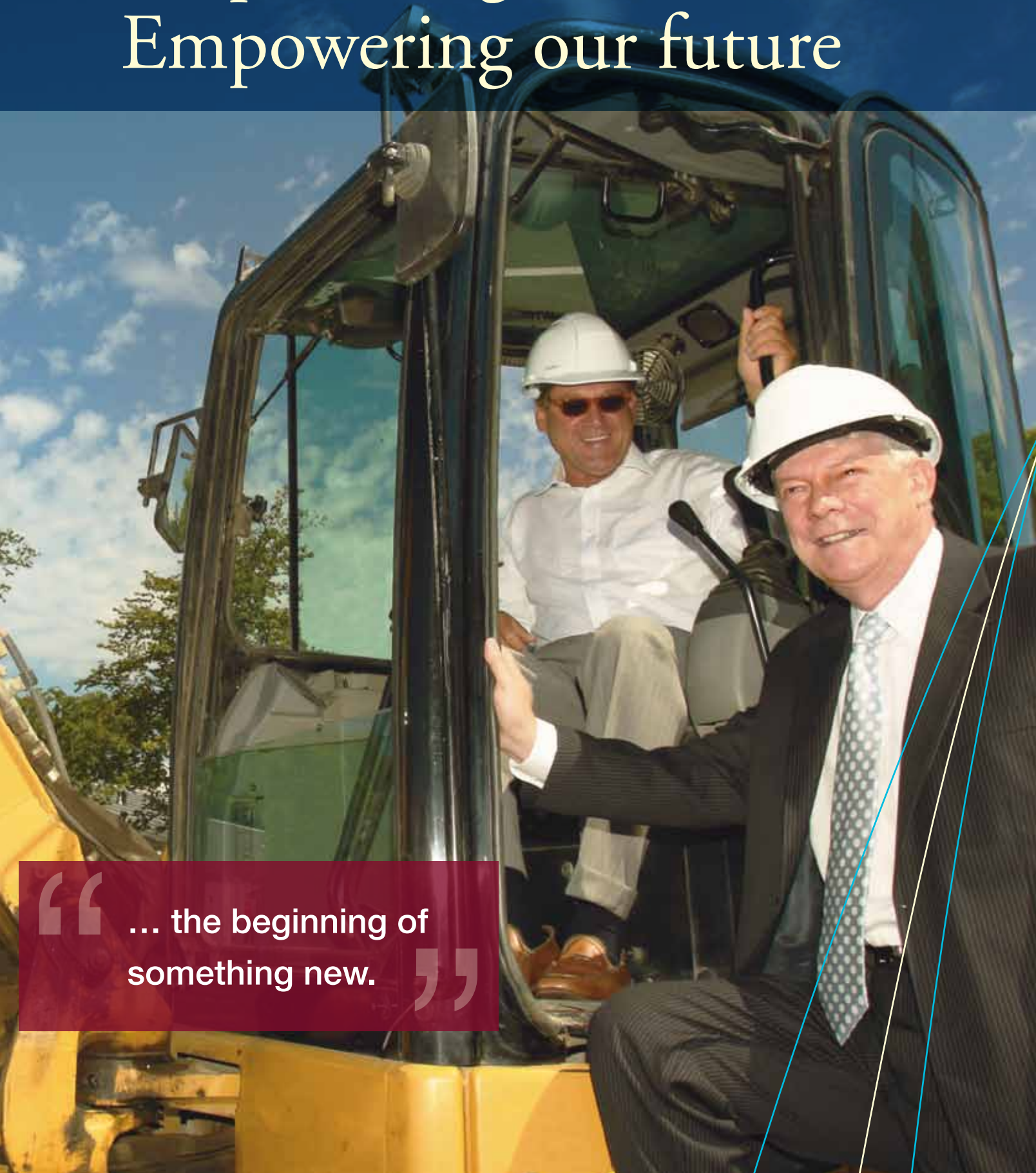
**Saint Mary's University  
President's Report 2009/10**



to  
inspiration



# Empowering our students Empowering our future



“

... the beginning of  
something new.

”

**Letter from Dr. J. Colin Dodds  
President of Saint Mary's University**

**T**he front doors of the McNally building are probably among the most photographed features at Saint Mary's. Arguably, there may be more beautiful spots on campus, but each spring and fall, students in cap and gown line up with their friends and parents to have their picture taken in front of the big oak doors.

These sturdy entrances are formal and historic, but for students who have spent time here, they are also a gateway, a nexus point, marking the beginning of something new.

They may have entered uncertain of what their future holds, but by the time they pose for their graduation photograph, they stride with confidence, knowing they have learned the skills that will allow them to carve a place in the world.

This year there has been tremendous activity behind those doors, both physically and academically. Guided by our five-year strategic plan, we embarked on a \$26 million student-centre refurbishment of the McNally building and the north end of campus.

It has meant a lot of noise and shifting of offices and classrooms, but as the year wound down and the new brighter, wired rooms, and labs emerged, it was clear the inconvenience was worthwhile.

The Atrium and Global Learning Commons, also became operational for students this year and this central gathering place quickly became a hit with students anxious to meet with friends and professors and exchange information in a bright, environmentally-friendly setting.

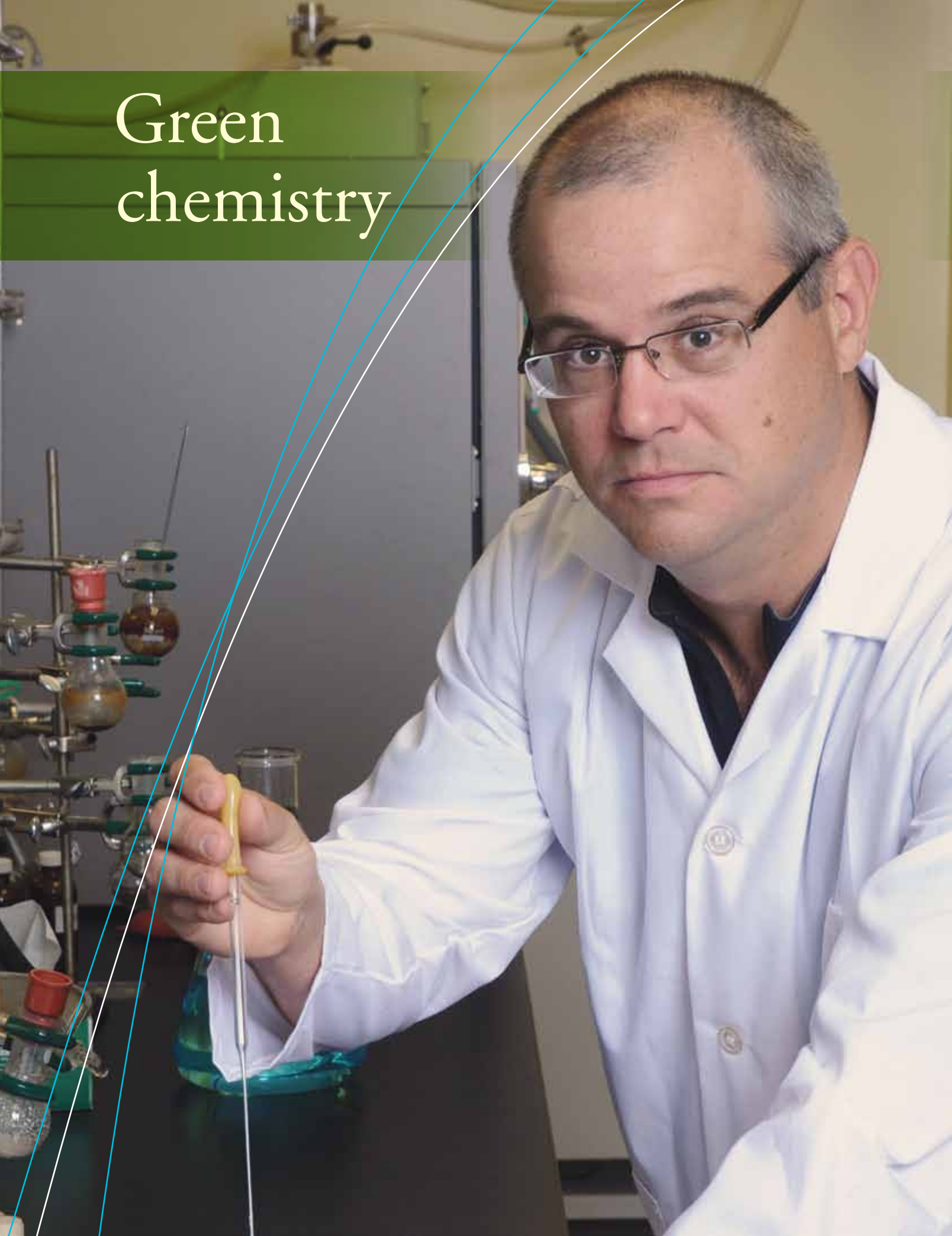
As you will see in this year's President's Report, we reach beyond our doors into the local and international communities through the research and outreach activities, and programs such as BioBlitz, the Business Development Centre, and Trashformers. The new Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness will start to take shape and will be a reminder to future generations of the university's commitment to the health and wellness of the entire community.

In the end it is important to remember that doors are really just planks of wood and some hardware. It is the faculty and staff, guided by alumni with the support of the board of governors, that are the true foundation of the Saint Mary's experience.

Some of the highlights of the past year's successes can be found in the pages that follow, but for a better look, I invite you to walk through those doors and sample the Saint Mary's experience for yourself.



# Green chemistry



Assistant Professor Dr. Tim Frasier appeared in front of the International Whaling Commission last spring to explain why a genetically distinct gray whale population in coastal waters off Washington state and British Columbia should be protected from a traditional aboriginal hunt. Dr. Frasier led the commission to see the benefits of shifting the time and location of the hunt, instead of allowing the annual tradition to continue at the detriment of the species.



Collaboration opens doors, solves problems and creates possibilities. That's why opening the Maritime Centre for Green Chemistry, housed within our Chemistry Department, was one of our most exciting moments last year. It solidified our position as an environmental leader and created a place on campus where collaboration in education and research can take place. Chemists from across Nova Scotia and beyond will gather at the centre to examine, and hopefully solve, a range of troubling environmental problems.

"We are less interested in looking at ways to clean up toxic messes, and more focused on preventing them from happening in the future," explains chemistry professor Dr. Robert Singer, a co-founder of the centre (pictured at left). "It's ironic," he says, "when technology that is supposed to provide environmentally friendly solutions actually generates toxic materials. This happens during the creation of solar panels, for example."

Endeavouring to replace the use of toxic elements with safe, sustainable alternatives is a research niche that professors and students are now able to explore. By focusing on green chemistry, the centre will create proactive, rather than reactive, solutions.

Last spring, a 24-hour BioBlitz event had more than 70 of our students and professors crawling through the sand and grass fields at Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park. The event helped biology students gain a better understanding of their field of study. "Getting up close and personal with the plants and animals was such a fun way to see how diverse the planet really is," said first year biology student Christa Skinner.



We mean  
business



The Saint Mary's University Business Development Centre (BDC) is our hub of entrepreneurial thinking. It is a training ground for students, a management consulting firm, and a well-respected coach for entrepreneurs. In the 2009/10 academic year, 1,360 students experienced the benefits of hands-on learning at the BDC, 739 clients from the business community were served, and 23 articles identified the BDC as an expert in business know-how.



A trio of geoscience experts at Saint Mary's are contributing their talents to a \$15 million effort to stimulate increased interest in Nova Scotia's offshore petroleum resources.

Drs. Georgia Pe-Piper, Jacob Hanley, and Andrew MacRae are members of an international team trying to develop a detailed atlas of the region's offshore geology as a way of enticing exploration companies to return to Nova Scotia to drill. Funded by the province through an independent research group, the project will help oil companies figure out where to spend their exploration dollars, and will reduce exploration risk by filling knowledge gaps.

The resource potential in Nova Scotia's offshore has been estimated by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) to range from 12-39 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and between 1.3-4.5 billion barrels of oil, but in spite of what appears to be an attractive resource base, exploration drilling success has been extremely low.

Our team is drawing on their geological and hydrocarbon expertise to provide key information to make the project a success.

Our industry outreach work in science isn't limited to the offshore. Professors are working with the mining industry to improve safety and sustainability, pharmaceutical companies to develop anti-cancer drugs, and agricultural firms and water utilities to develop ways to remove heavy metals from waste water.



An international think-tank dedicated to best practices in corporate social responsibility once again named philosophy professor Dr. Chris MacDonald one of the most influential people in business ethics this year. He was singled out for his leadership and critical analysis, which he publishes on his blog ([businessethicsblog.com](http://businessethicsblog.com)).

Dr. MacDonald is in impressive company – notable names on the list include U.S. President Barack Obama, Pope Benedict XVI, and Microsoft CEO Bill Gates.

# Digging up dirt



## “ Saint Mary’s – reaching beyond our doors. ”

For more than a decade, archeology professor Dr. Jonathan Fowler and his students have been helping Acadian descendants connect to their roots. By leading excavations in the fields around Grand Pre, Professor Fowler is working to preserve experiences and facts from an important time in Nova Scotia’s history – pre-deportation Acadian life.

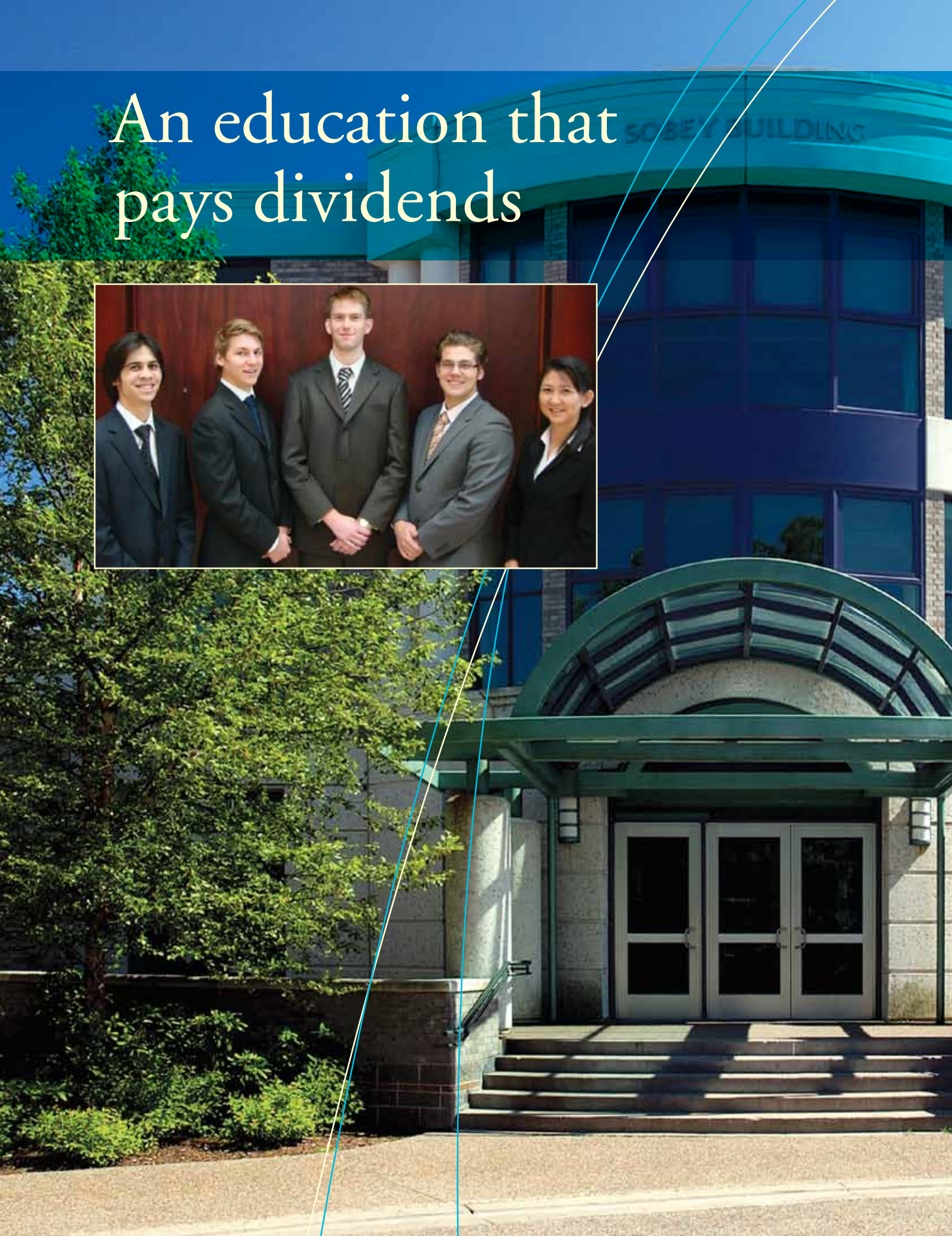
His discoveries are not limited to items extracted from an Acadian bog. While working at the Nova Scotia archives recently, Professor Fowler made one of his most notable discoveries yet. He came across the transcript of a small but important diary that he and a research partner quickly realized shed new light on the event.

“It has a very rudimentary style, but the entries provide us with a view of events from lower down the chain of command. That’s something we haven’t seen before,” said Professor Fowler. The diary belonged to Jeremiah Bancroft, a soldier who was present at the capture of Fort Beausejour and stood on the front lines of the deportation of the Acadians from Grand Pre.

Saint Mary’s was front and centre as the community marked the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Not only did we host a week long series of events during which academics and artists shared their views on how the event has changed the world, the university brought two sections of the wall to the front lawn of campus. Dean of Arts, Dr. Esther E. Enns, says having the imposing sections of the largely unadorned concrete standing mere feet from the front door of the school provided a touchstone that added significance to the event for both students and community participants. Significant events during the week included a reception involving the Consul General of Germany, an art show, a film series, a presentation by Dr. Oliver Schmidtke – an eminent scholar on Eastern Europe since the fall of the wall – and a gathering to watch the Nova Scotia participation in the 20th anniversary celebrations in Germany via live feed.



# An education that pays dividends



## “ Our students – carving a place in the world. ”

Last spring, a team of Sobey School of Business students went spreadsheet-to-spreadsheet against students from around the world, and nearly came out on top. As part of the Sobey IMPACT program, which leads a group of 10 students to become savvy investors over a two-year period, the team placed third in North America at the CFA Institute Investment Research Challenge. Teams from 28 universities gathered in the stock exchange mecca, New York City, to present financial analysis on public companies they had studied leading up to the competition.

“The IMPACT program offers practical, real world experience in money management,” says Dr. Bill Bobey, academic director of the program. “The competition in New York isn’t just about winning. With industry professionals and senior representatives of publicly traded companies also in attendance, it can be an important networking opportunity and learning experience for the students.”

Earning one of only five spots in the competition final – beating out teams from Ivy League schools and being the only Canadians to do so – our team put themselves and the Sobey IMPACT program on the map.

Economic outreach programs created by our Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team last year benefited 2,000 high school students, 21 at-risk youth, and countless Saint Mary’s University students. This remarkable achievement did not go unnoticed. When the ventures were judged by top Canadian executives at the ACE National Exposition, the team captured several Top 10 spots and SIFE President Nicholas Tingley received the ACE Student Leader of the Year Award. More than 40 universities across Canada have SIFE teams.



No limits





## Saint Mary's is committed to the health and wellness of the entire community. ”

On our campus last spring, alumnus Steven Estey joined politicians, administrators, members of the disability community, President Dr. J. Colin Dodds, and the interim president of Mount Saint Vincent University Alexa McDonough, to celebrate the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD.)

After graduating in 1993 with a Masters in International Development Studies, Mr. Estey, who is deaf, took a position with Disabled Peoples International – a decision that sent him all over the world and involved him in talks leading up to the CRPD. When the talks intensified, the Canadian government asked him to join its official UN delegation, which led to more than four years of ardent negotiations.

“Steve made a huge contribution and continues to do so,” said Dulcie McCallum, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy review officer for Nova Scotia. “This is the first time that the people most affected by a UN document were intimately involved in the process.”

They wear pink. They collect used books. They build homes. Our students and staff prove, in various extraordinary ways, that they don't just live in this community, and in this world... they are an active part of both. Just read about some of the impressive work they've done.

Last fall our Huskies football team proudly wore pink tape, set up an information booth, and sold t-shirts to raise awareness and funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. We call that real team playing!

An in-residence effort called Book Drives for Better Lives raises hundreds of dollars each and every semester. Through the sale of used A-list books that have been donated and collected by our students, the university food bank and a charity called Invisible Children benefit greatly. That's thinking outside the book!

Reaching far beyond familiar streets and country borders, more than 30 of our students spent their reading week in Mississippi building homes as part of Habitat for Humanity. Lending a hand, by lifting a hammer.



# A world of contrasts



Erin Garner was one of three students who journeyed to the small West African nation of The Gambia. The trio were making a documentary and interviewed people about climate change and how it has been impacting them. Called Together by 2015, it's about ensuring environmental sustainability. "This was an amazing opportunity, and not something I'd be able to do without the support of Saint Mary's," said Erin. The trip was made possible by a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency's Public Engagement Fund.



When 16 students travelled to Northern Ireland last February, they didn't see the violence that rocked the area for decades, but they could see the scars. "It is clear that, although weapons for the most part are silenced, the conflict still occupies the hearts of the citizens of this troubled region," says Dr. Hetty van Gorp, President of Peaceful Schools International (PSI). Our university is the first to earn recognition from PSI for our students' peace efforts.

This was the fifth year that a group of our students visited Catholic, Protestant, and integrated schools throughout Belfast to offer conflict resolution workshops. Bridget Brownlow, Conflict Resolution Advisor at Saint Mary's, says the goal is for our students to experience having a hand in creating a more peaceful world in which everyone can learn in a safe environment.


Hundreds of students in schools across Northern Ireland have received training in anger management, de-escalation, prospective-taking, and empathy-building in workshops conducted by our students.

The fifth annual Chinese Language Competition held last March drew 24 competitors from our Chinese language program. Dr. Colin Dodds opened the session, encouraging students to keep up their studies, noting that Chinese is becoming an increasingly important language in the world of business. The event was organized by Professor Ping Lu, of the Modern Languages and Classics Department and the Asian Studies Program. It received support from the Chinese embassy in Ottawa and the Chinese Language Council International in Beijing, China.




# Working with bare bones





Astronomer Rob Thacker gazes at stars and now he talks to them too, thanks to the launch of his own Internet radio show earlier this year. Called Universal Ideas, the show is a series of 20-minute interviews with some of the most interesting people in science about topics that Dr. Thacker hopes listeners will find fascinating. Dr. Thacker hopes that he can use the power of the Internet to re-ignite interest in the joy of discovery.



At 27 years old, Tricia Fernandes has seen more dead bodies than most people will ever see in their lifetime. That's because Tricia is earning her Master's degree in an area of applied science that includes an eight-month work term in a medical examiner's office.

"I have been taught the smell of death," the forensic anthropology student says proudly. "I have been on search and recovery missions with the police and have worked on cases that helped identify bodies and give families closure. It's been an amazing ride."

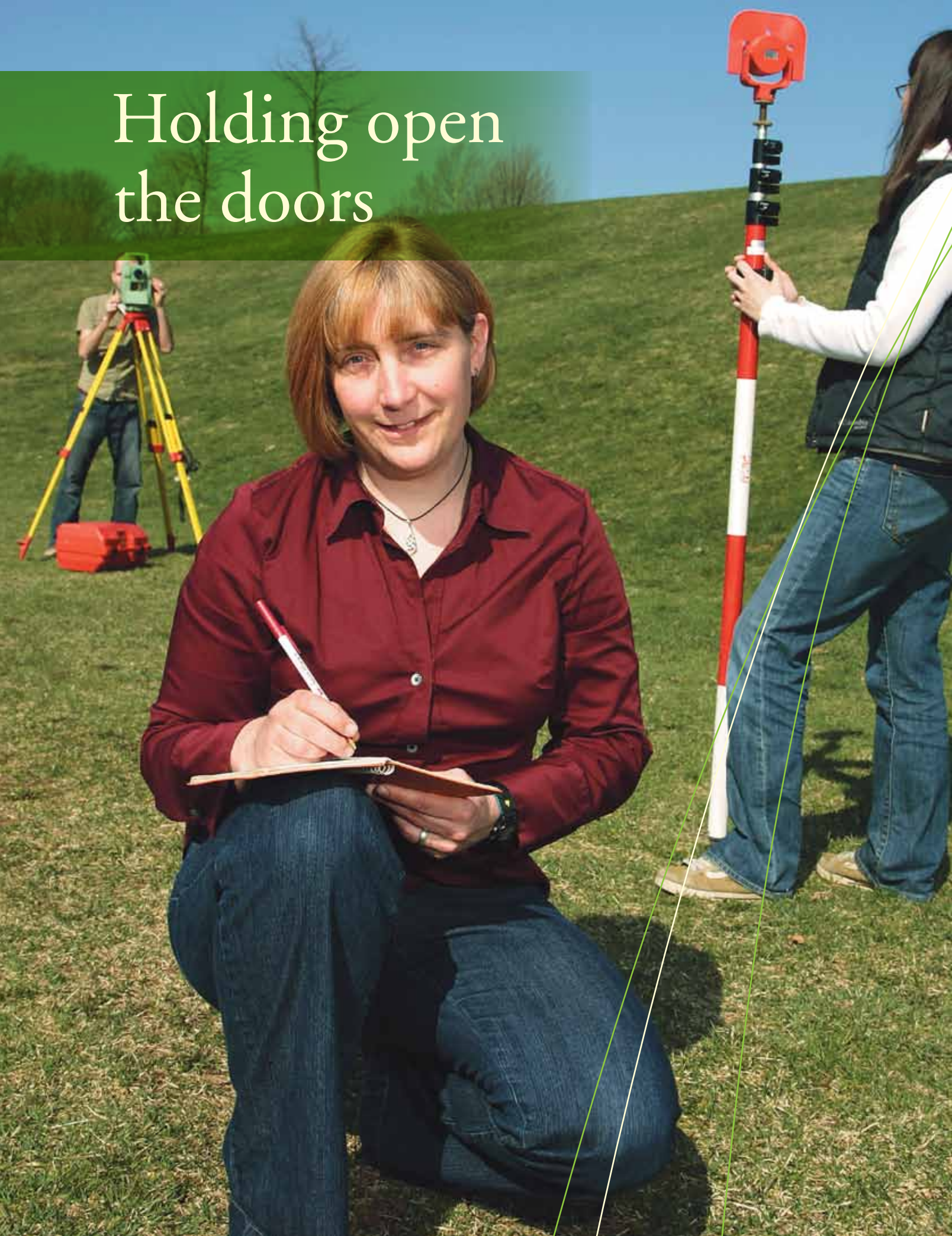
Popularized by hit television shows like CSI, forensic anthropology is the evaluation of changes in a body from the time of death to the time of discovery. Thanks to Dr. Tanya Peckman, our university is one of few in the country that teaches forensics at the graduate level.

"We're hired as Forensic Anthropology Technicians from day one," Tricia says about her program. "We attend autopsies and crime scenes, perform skeletal analysis and help write reports. With the skills I've developed and contacts I've made, the opportunities for my future are endless."

Can we grow our own gasoline? That's the question Saint Mary's biology professor and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Dr. Kevin Vessey has been tackling for the past three years. As he prepares to move his research on sugar beets from the lab and the greenhouse into commercial trials in the field, he continues to believe the answer may be yes. Corn was once considered the crop most likely to prompt a commercially viable bio-fuel industry, but it has fallen out of favour because it takes a lot of "old" fossil energy to make it – diesel to run tractors, natural gas to make fertilizer, and fuel to run the refineries that convert corn to ethanol. Sugar beets are a viable alternative. There is surplus production capacity and the plant's sugar concentration can be 25 per cent higher than sugar cane with yields that can be 10 times greater than corn and wheat. "This won't be the silver bullet that solves the energy crisis that is barreling down on us, but it could be part of the solution as we transition to more environmentally sound options replacing fossil fuels," says Dr. Vessey.



# Holding open the doors



For the third consecutive year, one of our philosophy professors has been recognized as one of Atlantic Canada's best teachers. When the Association of Atlantic Universities announced the recipients of their awards for excellence in teaching and instructional leadership, Dr. Shelagh Crooks was among them. She received the 2009 Distinguished Teaching Award in honour of her outstanding teaching over a number of years.



**D**r. Danika van Proosdij has been studying salt marsh ecosystems in the Bay of Fundy for 13 years and has been active in the restoration and monitoring of salt marshes since 2001. This commitment to helping governments and community groups understand the impact of climate change on the location of the world's highest tides was formally recognized last year. Dr. van Proosdij received the prestigious international honour of the 2009 Gulf of Maine Council Visionary Award.

"Her demonstrated commitment to research, her students, and the broader community, shows her to be an excellent scientist, professor, and an all around good person to have on a salt marsh with you," says Tony Bowron, president of CB Wetlands & Environmental Specialists (CBWES), and a colleague of Dr. van Proosdij's for many years. She and her students have worked closely with CBWES to examine the vegetative, sedimentary, and hydraulic conditions on the Fundy and Atlantic coasts.

A coastal geomorphologist with 17 years experience, Dr. van Proosdij's dedication and expertise are major assets to her students and our university.

A \$125,000 investment by the federal government is ensuring our researchers can access the best genetic information to develop management strategies for wildlife and endangered species. Funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation will allow a new genetic testing facility to open on campus. It will become a regional centre of excellence for genetic profiling, giving students hands-on experience and allowing them to fully integrate genetic analysis into their research projects.



# Good sports



Coach Steve Sumarah was the 2009 recipient of the Frank Tindall trophy as the coach of the year in CIS football, presented by Coaches of Canada. A first-time winner, Mr. Sumarah was honoured last fall during the CIS Coach of the Year breakfast in Montreal, Quebec. A former receiver on the Huskies football team, Mr. Sumarah has been part of our coaching staff for 12 years. He has four Vanier Cup appearances and two national championships on his impressive record.



An overtime victory led the Huskies hockey team to capture their first ever Cavendish University Cup last March. Rookie Brad Smith scored the winning goal to lead our third-ranked team to a thrilling 3-2 win over the top-seeded Alberta Golden Bears in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Men's hockey final.

But hockey wasn't the only sport where the Huskies outshone their competition this past year. In fact, it was a banner year for the university, with four Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships.

Our football team started off the winning tradition by capturing their third consecutive, and record twenty-third, AUS football title. The women's volleyball Huskies followed suit, by winning all their matches on the way to the AUS Championship title, hosted right here at Saint Mary's University. Next up was the women's hockey Huskies who won three straight games to capture the team's fourth AUS title and skated into the CIS Championships where they posted the first ever win at CIS Nationals by an AUS women's hockey team.

We also had tremendous individual success stories: 31 student-athletes were named AUS All-Stars, four received major AUS awards, eight were named CIS All-Canadians, 32 were Academic All-Canadians, and Chris Morrison of the Men's Hockey Team made the CIS Top Eight All-Canadian.

Steve Sumarah from the football team, Dawn MacDonald from the women's rugby team, and Sharon Rajaraman from the field hockey team all won AUS Coach of the Year Awards with coaches Sumarah and Rajaraman going on to win CIS Coach of the Year honours as well.

Coach Lisa Jordan has visited the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto many times. On her next visit, she'll have a new face to look for: her own. Ms. Jordan was an assistant coach for the Canadian team that captured gold at the IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship last April. Ms. Jordan has been working with Hockey Canada for six years and has been head coach of our Huskies women's hockey team for 13 years. She now has a gold medal, world championship ring, and a place in history for her dedication to Canada's favourite sport.



# Vital signs

## **Our Core Values**

- Academic integrity, the pursuit of knowledge, responsiveness to community needs, openness to change, concerns for a just and civil society and a commitment to environmental and fiscal responsibility.
- Accessibility, diversity and the provision of a positive and supportive learning environment through the effective integration of teaching and research.
- Promotion of critical inquiry, leadership, teamwork, individual growth and global awareness.
- Preparing students for responsible and rewarding lives.
- Creating mutually beneficial partnerships and strategic alliances with all levels of government, with other educational institutions, non-governmental institutions, and the private sector.
- Recognizing the contributions and supporting the growth of all members of the Saint Mary's community.

## **Staff and Students – By the Numbers**

- 7,200 students (full- and part-time)
- 420 faculty (full- and part-time)
- 525 staff (full- and part-time)
- 22% of our students are international students who come from 106 different countries.  
The largest contingents hail from China, Germany, and the Bahamas.

## **Course Registration by Faculty**

- Commerce 38.9%
- Arts 33.2%
- Science 27.9%

## **Tuition**

- Tuition with mandatory student fees: \$5,357 (after \$1,022 tuition reduction for Nova Scotia students).
- Sponsored research topped \$8.5 million, up slightly from 2008/09.
- Spending on scholarships, fellowships, and bursaries was \$4.8 million.
- More than 900 students employed on campus.

## **Library**

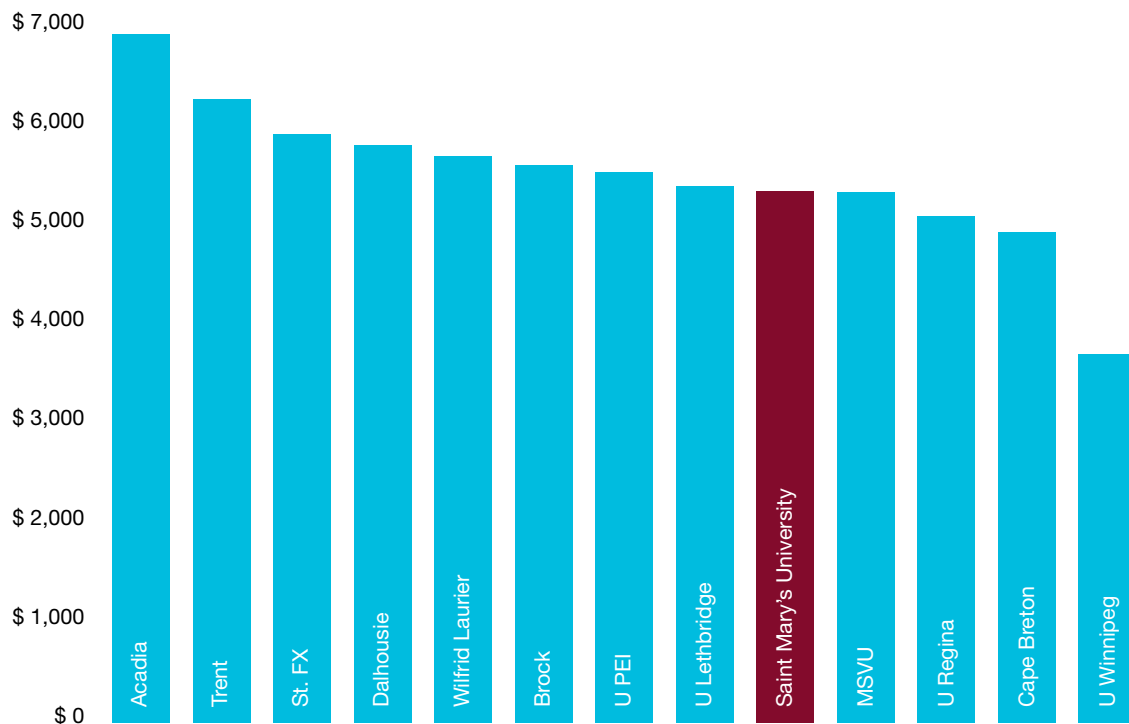
- 434,551 print volumes
- 590,557 micromaterial
- 20,127 non-print holdings
- 443,000 students, faculty, and community visits

## Financials

- Expenses \$112.5 million (salaries and employees benefits are the largest categories)
- Total expenditure per student \$17,126, up 1.3% from the prior year
- Operating revenues \$105.2 million
  - Student fees 49.4%
  - Nova Scotia grants 32.7%
  - Sales 14.9%
  - Other 3%
- Current assets \$72.9 million
- Long-term investments and receivables \$48.9 million up \$8.8 million from the prior year. Investment income of \$4.6 million and gifts of \$3.2 million make up most of the increase.
- Capital assets (book value) \$127.3 million. Buildings comprise 77% of net capital assets.
- Debt \$58.9 million
- Debt per student \$8,966

## University Tuition and Mandatory Fees Across Canada

Assumes five full Arts credits



# Learning in action



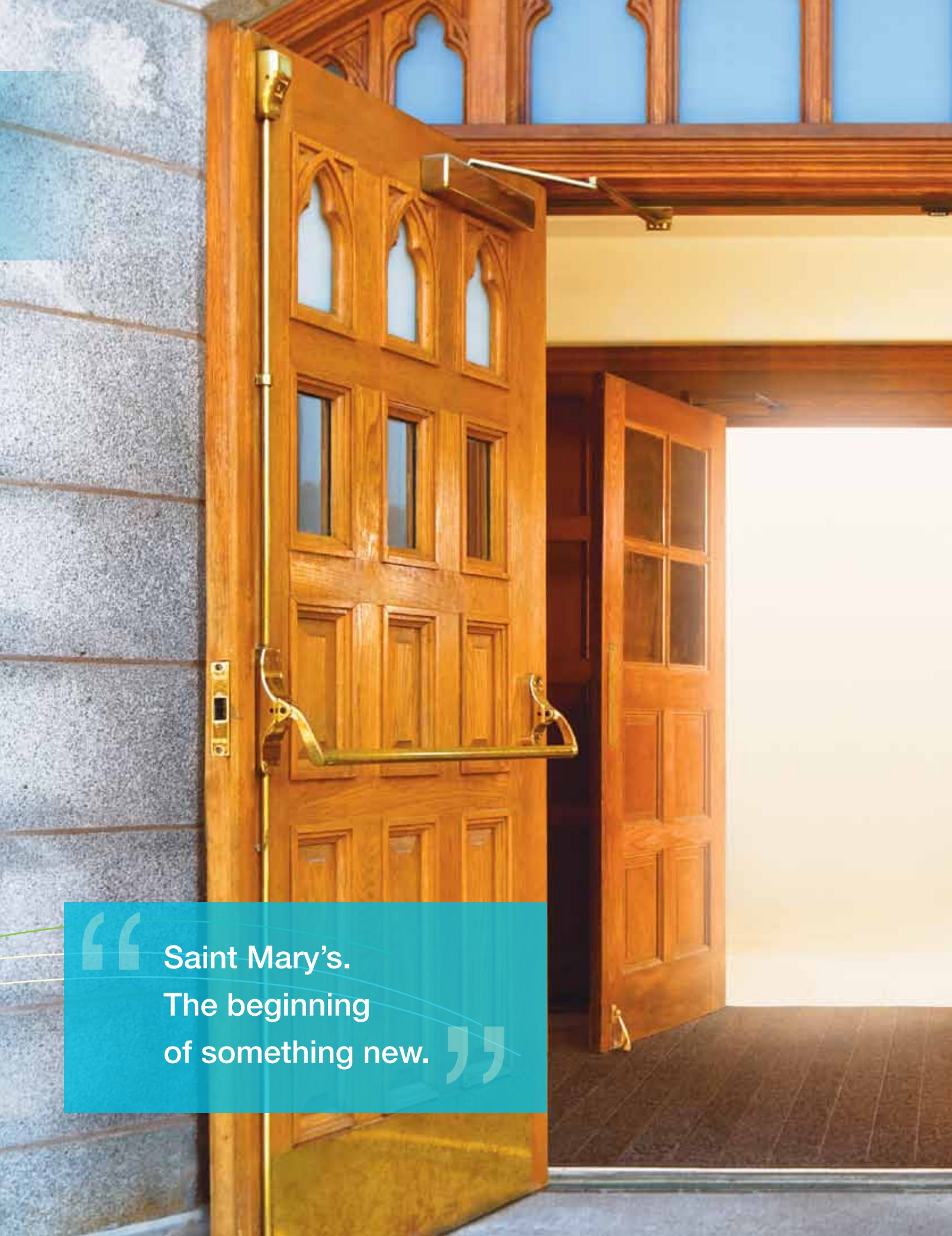
“This experience has put me one step closer to where I want to end up. Thank you so much.”

Established in 2007 to draw the brightest of Canadian students to the distinguished Sobey School of Business, the annual Sobey Scholar Award gives one commendable high-schooler an educational opportunity unlike any other. While completing an undergraduate degree, the deserving recipient works as a summer intern for Sobeys Inc., allowing them to test, stretch, and build upon their skill set in both real-work and academic settings.

Andrew Morash was one of these chosen few. Presently a second-year commerce student from West Dover, Nova Scotia, Andrew said the decision to attend the Sobey School of Business was easy – its stellar reputation being an irresistible incentive. Andrew did his interning at Sobeys’ head office in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. “It was an amazing experience. I really enjoyed my day-to-day assignments and I was able to work with a fantastic network of people.” It was through this work that Andrew realized accounting was his calling, and has now chosen it as his major. “Winning the Sobey Scholar Award has had a tremendous impact on my life. It opened a door and is giving me the opportunity to apply what I’m learning, while I’m learning it.”

Last summer, Andrew helped organize Sobeys Employee Appreciation Day, and he looks forward to all challenges and opportunities of his next internship in 2011. “This award is so unique because of the internship, and I am so thankful to have been chosen for this experience.”

Andrew is right. The Sobey Scholar Award is unique. And so is Sobeys’ steadfast commitment to our students. Unique. Extraordinary. Meaningful. Sobeys understands that our students benefit from financial support, but they also believe that they can learn a great deal from doing... from self-discovery and participation. So the hands-on, experiential component of the award becomes a key ingredient in producing confident, astute, and fully rounded graduates. Through the generosity and forward-thinking of our Sobey benefactors, Sobey scholars leave us ready to take on whatever the dynamic business world throws at them. They, like the Sobey School of Business itself, have earned excellence.



“

Saint Mary's.  
The beginning  
of something new.

”



One University. One World. Yours.

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