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# EXEMPLIFYING INTERNATIONALIZATION

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University  
Dean's Report to the Community



*"Saint Mary's has such a beautiful mosaic of different cultures."*

*(Student leader Barrinique Griffin, p.5)*

SpeakUp! Prom 2016

# Exemplifying Internationalization



Dr. Patricia Bradshaw is the Dean of the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University.

Did you know that Saint Mary's University is Canada's most internationalized University? That is a bold claim but one we are proud to make and which we can strongly support on the basis of a number of measures. With more than 30% of the student body coming from over 119 different countries we are remarkably diverse.

I recently spoke to a student from India who told me that he was thrilled to meet the world right here in Halifax, and his best friends are from China and the Caribbean. He says they love comparing their unique views of current issues and examining their own and each other's religions and cultures. He hopes everyone finds friends from around the world.

Saint Mary's University has been reaching out to the world for longer than most other Canadian universities. Former president Dr. Colin Dodds was a university-sector leader in recognizing the benefits of being truly global. For example, during his term we developed the Master of Finance for the market in China and offered programs in the Gambia to help create an educational infrastructure. We have more researchers who collaborate with scholars from other countries than any other university in Canada.

Internationalization means more than adding "foreign students" to the campus or creating a lot of exchange programs. It means developing policies and practices that allow our students and faculty to thrive in a global context.

From the inclusion of intercultural learning to diversification of the student body, to international partnerships and collaborations, we strive to become a truly diverse, inclusive, contemporary and integrated institution. To demonstrate: Saint Mary's was the first university in Canada to elect an international student to the role of President of the student association, in 2014. Two other international students have since held the role.

These goals require strategic change management, and Saint Mary's University is using all the best practices in organizational development. Let me outline some of the steps already taken.

**We know change management needs to start at the top.** The Saint Mary's University Board and President recognized this and set the vision. They established an International Student Success initiative with significant funding.

They set goals and established accountability and reporting mechanisms.

**An International Student Success (ISS) Committee was formed,** chaired by the Vice President Academic and reporting to the Board, with broad membership from across the University community. Its mandate included strategic allocation of funds and oversight of the change process. A project manager was hired to coordinate initiatives and the Office of International Student Success was created.

**Five critical success factors for building a global learning community were identified:**

1. Research on issues facing international students
2. Financial aid
3. Language competency
4. Cultural/social adaptation
5. Professional development (including cross-cultural communication training) for faculty and staff.

Nineteen faculty and administrative initiatives were implemented across the University to address these factors. They included academic support, peer helping, intercultural and English language support, new financial aid and enhanced career services.

An innovation fund was created to encourage faculty, students and staff to develop innovative services, activities and programs focussed on both domestic and international students.

While this change project has now been concluded, its legacy continues in a variety of services, policies and activities. It also lives on in the dynamics between

students and in the culture of the University: inclusion of domestic and international students is now consciously embedded in activities.

Attitudes have changed. For example, when students were consulted on the design of a live case competition hosted by the David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services, they told us the teams must include at least one woman and one international student. The student societies are equally inclusive, and faculty work to ensure integration of international students in all group projects. I rarely hear about the problems of working with "foreign" students, rather about how we can continue to build on our successes.

Other legacies include new courses (English as an International Language), new student tutoring centres in Science and the Sobey School, new bursaries, a coordinator of the co-curricular record, and a redesigned Welcome Week that is more inclusive of international students. Research has been conducted, videos created, the Ask-a-SMUdent Question and Answer website was created, and many other initiatives started. In this report you'll read about some.

To say I am proud to be part of this evolution of this university is an understatement. I am thrilled to tell you we are on a journey of transformation and the momentum is building. Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, I know we will continue to learn what being truly internationalized means. We can be a model for the rest of the world. I invite you to read more about what is happening and to join with us in change.

Sincerely,



Pat Bradshaw, Dean



Isabella Krysa teaches in the Sobey BComm (Finance) program offered at Beijing Normal University - Zhuhai.

## INTERNATIONALISM AT THE SOBEY SCHOOL

With international students making up 30 % of all students on campus, Saint Mary's is Canada's international university. At the Sobey School of Business we carry that reputation as a desired destination for international students even further. Last year international students made up 50 % of all of the students at the Sobey School. By simply strolling through the halls or sitting in a classroom in the business school you'll meet students from China, Saudi Arabia, India, Germany and the Bahamas. Having students from around the world doesn't just invite the world to a great business education, it also benefits our domestic students by bringing the world, new cultures and experiences to their doorstep.

The Sobey School of Business didn't earn its reputation as a preferred destination for international students simply by offering one of the top business educations in Canada. We also offer supports, experiences and opportunities to our students that help them adapt to their new home, fund success during and after school, and provide opportunities for them to stay in Canada and Nova Scotia after they graduate.

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## CLAIRE HOU & SPEAK UP!

Claire Hou, BComm student, tinkered with the plan she created for her business communications course to develop Speak Up!

Speak Up! is a series of workshops to encourage international students to communicate and share their ideas while bringing them together with Canadian students. Not only would students get the opportunity to practice their English in a supportive environment, they would also have the chance to make friends from other cultures and improve their interpersonal skills.

The need for a program like Speak Up! became apparent when 80 students showed up for the first workshop. The participation has remained steady with between 40

and 80 students regularly taking part. Each monthly workshop has a different theme or topic to introduce students to new experiences and to different English words to expand their vocabulary. A few of the subjects Speak Up! has tackled in their workshops include social media, entrepreneurship, recycling, drama and debates.

"Speak Up! helps you to meet friends, practice your English and have fun," Claire said. "But it also offers new volunteer opportunities, résumé building and helpful life skills."

The January 2015 Speak Up! workshop theme was dance. The attendees were split into four smaller groups and taught a different dance by instructors brought in for the

workshop. Not only did the students at the workshop learn a few dance steps they also learned a number of new English words. This included dance terminology such as pivot, salsa and 'camel walk' as well as everyday words: when the instructor told the workshop participants to balance on their "opposite" foot, it puzzled a few of the students unfamiliar with the word. This is one of the major strengths of the Speak Up! program. Not only do students meet new friends, learn new skills and interact with other cultures, they learn English words in real-world situations making them easier to add to their vocabulary.

Speak Up! is now a student-run society and continues to attract both domestic and international students.



An end-of-year prom hosted by Speak Up! allowed international students to enjoy a Canadian tradition they may have missed in high school.

# BARRINIQUE GRIFFIN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

When you're already balancing five classes and two jobs, taking on a special project and creating a conference from the ground up may seem daunting to even the most experienced event planner. When you have no experience planning large-scale events it may seem frightening. Not so frightening that Sobey School student and Bahamas native Barrinique Griffin, wasn't willing to try, although she admitted she had "never done anything like it before."

"It was a new experience for me," the fourth-year Global Business Management and Entrepreneurship student said. "I really had to step out of my comfort zone."

The first event Barrinique developed was held on January 26, 2015 at the Sobey School. She came up with the idea for the Leadership Summit after attending a similar event at Dalhousie the previous year. However, she wanted the Saint Mary's summit to be a little different.

"The Dalhousie conference was very good, but it would not have benefited anyone who had not led anything before," she said. "I wanted something that would help students who may have been nervous or shy and needed motivation and encouragement to step into leadership roles and learn to be comfortable and confident."

Barrinique's idea was made a reality thanks to the Innovation Fund. She submitted a proposal for the summit and was accepted. That was the easy part. Now, she had to put everything together.

"A two-day event with 50 participants," she says looking back on what she was facing. "It was definitely a good learning

experience for me."

Not only was the summit a great learning experience, it was also a tremendous success.

"I wasn't sure how it was going to go ... I was so nervous and so busy," she says remembering the opening day of the summit. "It went really smoothly though."

Thanks to good planning, keen volunteers and great speakers and guests, the summit attendees were treated to keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a lively discussion panel and fun icebreaker activities that made everyone more comfortable and eager to take part.

The wide range of attendees from the Saint Mary's community, including students from Arts and Science Faculties as well as Business, also highlighted the university's integrated internationalization.

"In a breakout session we had 10 people in the group who spoke a different language and English was



In March 2016, Barrinique Griffith hosted the second Leadership Summit with 60 students attending.

not their first language," she says. "Saint Mary's has such a beautiful mosaic of different cultures."

Barrinique organized the second Leadership Summit in 2016. It was held in March with 60 students attending. Next year she will pass on the responsibility to another student and take on a mentoring role. She does have one piece of advice for any student who would like to tackle the event, or a similar event, that is out of their comfort zone.

"It's okay to fail," she says. "In failure there's still growth, so always look at the positive outcome in every situation."



*Barrinique Griffin notes, "Saint Mary's has such a beautiful mosaic of different cultures."*

Your donation to Saint Mary's and the Sobey School of Business will support success for all our students.

Be a part of the international fusion and entrepreneurial collision of ideas and energy that our business school fosters.

To learn how your resources of time, money and / or energy can help, contact Senior Development Officer Barbara Haley, at [b.haley@smu.ca](mailto:b.haley@smu.ca), or call 902.491.6488.

# MENGQING CHEN, CULTURAL STORY BANK



Everyone is different. But, in many ways we're all the same. Using those similarities to bring people from different cultures together was the goal of Saint Mary's first Cultural Story Bank.

The idea for the Cultural Story Bank came from Sobey Commerce student Mengqing Chen, from Zhengzhu, China. She developed the idea out of a Dream Circle, shared by a guest speaker she saw in Toronto. In the Dream Circle, you tell your dream to a small group of people and each provides suggestions on how you might take a step toward accomplishing that dream. Chen says she was impressed with the idea of sharing and the positive reaction and feedback it led to, even among total strangers.

The Cultural Story Bank model focuses on the international language of love. Chen found 12 volunteers from the Saint Mary's community from different countries. Each would engage in a conversation with a walk-in participant, offering a story, anecdote or poem about love and their culture. The walk-in participant would in turn share their own story about love. In each instance, cultural sharing was achieved, but at the same time each participant was able to see how love bridges cultures and was a point of connection.

At the event, there was a mingling of languages and cultures that transcended international borders. Students from India,

## Did you know?



In addition to China, in recent years, Sobey School students have travelled for study to countries including Norway, France, Vietnam, Poland, Cuba, Italy, Peru, and Uganda.

*"Love is one language we all speak."*

France, China and several African countries shared their stories. While each conversation remained private, Chen got feedback from participants and volunteers, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were enthusiastic to try it again with a different topic.

Just a small selection of the feedback included: "It's very helpful to learn about other cultures," "We all have human experiences to share," and, "Love is one language we all speak."

## SPENCER WIECHERT, SMU HOW TO VIDEO SERIES



Spencer Weichert's video production hobby turned into an opportunity to support his fellow students.

With a third of the students on campus from countries around the world, communication at Saint Mary's can sometimes be difficult. With different languages and cultures, learning something that is simple for Canadians, like getting your ID card or doing your laundry in residence, can be hard to figure out for someone who's just arrived in the country. If you're beginning to get a grasp of the English language, the words "laundry detergent," "washing machine agitator," or "laundry card reader" may be completely foreign. Spencer Wiechert removed the language barrier with his innovation project, the SMU-How 2 Video Series.

Wiechert, from Dartmouth, is a Sobey School Bachelor of Commerce student, majoring in Accounting. His busy schedule also includes playing receiver for the Huskies football team, managing a University First Class Painters franchise, and making films to post on his YouTube channel.

"It really just started as a hobby," Wiechert says recalling his journey into the world of film. Wiechert's new hobby got started when he discovered how easy making movies could be using applications like iMovie. He started making fun family movies before he came to Saint Mary's. Once on campus he became

# SMU-HOW2

## Apply for Awards

by Spencer Wiechert



Spencer's production crew in action.

a hit in residence with his Vanier B2 videos and highlight videos he produced for CFL draft eligible teammates on the football team.

"I really pushed my new passion for film to the group in residence and we had a lot of fun making our own little videos," he says. "On my YouTube page, Wiechert Films, we shared music videos, sportscasts and other videos that created a fun atmosphere on the floor."

As Wiechert's YouTube films began to receive more views and admiration from the Saint Mary's community, he was approached to consider submitting a video project proposal into the International Student Success Innovation Fund. After thinking about how he could use his interest and talents in film to improve campus life, Wiechert developed the plan for the SMU-How 2 Video Series.

"I really wanted to make something that would be beneficial to international cultural engagement in a visual way," he says.

Wiechert wanted to visually

*"I really wanted to make something that would be beneficial to international cultural engagement in a visual way"*

demonstrate how to do things on campus and smooth the transition to campus life for new students. The visual medium made it accessible to a much wider audience.

"Visuals are internationally transparent," Wiechert says. "To actually see someone doing it, going through the process, is a great way to learn."

After researching frequently asked questions with housing and residence services, Wiechert developed five topics for the first series of SMU-How 2 videos: Use your SMU ID, Find Useful Tips, Do Laundry, Get Places and Find Help.

Over three months Wiechert, scripted, filmed and edited the videos. He placed ads around residence and found 35 students willing to act in the productions. Saint Mary's internationalism was on display as 48% of the actors were international students.

The series has been a tremendous hit since its launch on the SMU Residence YouTube page, garnering hundreds of views in just the first week.

Having Saint Mary's diversity displayed prominently in the videos was important to Wiechert who says the abundance of different cultures at Saint Mary's needs to be promoted more.

"Everything is here, the world has been brought to campus," he says. "You have the chance to meet different people, learn different views, just different everything. This is something we should acknowledge and celebrate."

# INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## PORT OF HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP

*"This will make it easier for international students to transition into the Nova Scotia workforce."*

Experts agree that increasing the number of immigrants making their home in Nova Scotia is key to building and strengthening the economy. With the large number of international students studying at the Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's addresses this concern by

doing all it can to help graduates stay in the province, including a recent partnership with the Halifax Port Authority.

In February 2015 the Sobey School and the Port Authority announced a program designed to help keep international students in Nova Scotia.

Under this program international students at the Sobey School gain valuable experience through paid internships with the Halifax Port Authority. The Port Authority has committed to hire two interns per year for three years. The duration of the internships may be four months to eight months depending on the requirements of Saint Mary's, availability of students and work requirement at the Port Authority.

Jia Li, an MBA student, was the first

student hired by the Port Authority. Li is from Weihai, Shandong Province, China and hopes to stay in Halifax when she graduates. Working at the Port Authority allowed her to gain valuable Canadian work experience, learn new skills and use her international experience and cultural understanding of China in a local setting.

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association Atlantic Section helped to put this partnership together. Local chapter president Bill Bu calls the program a great opportunity for international students.

"This will make it easier for international students to transition into the workforce and contribute to the growth of our economy," he said. "We believe this is a beneficial program for everyone."



Sobey MBA student Miguel Bautista spoke about the importance of Canadian work experience for international students at the announcement of the Halifax Port Authority internship program.



## Did you know?

We are currently engaged in a search for a Canada Research Chair in International Business

# BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR BUSINESS WITH CHINA

In September 2015, Saint Mary's signed a memorandum of understanding with Beijing Normal University – Zhuhai (BNUZ) to develop a China Competencies Training Program. Under the program, business and government executives would receive training in Chinese cultural literacy, language and business education to make it easier to do business in China. The memorandum was signed by Saint Mary's University President Robert Summerby-Murray and BNUZ President Tu Qingyun.

"Saint Mary's has had a long relationship with BNUZ that has led to some great educational opportunities for our students and faculty as well as the students and faculty from BNUZ," said Dr. Summerby-Murray. "With this new program those opportunities will extend to the Nova Scotia business community."

The training will be provided by faculty from Saint Mary's and BNUZ. Not only will the training help local business explore the differences that make the China business community unique, but it will also introduce Nova Scotia businesses to potential

Chinese business partners through relationships established by Saint Mary's and BNUZ's partnership.

"China doesn't need to be seen as big and scary for local business," said Lynn Coveyduck, Senior Director of Business Outreach at the Sobey School of Business. "We have experts on China across all faculties at Saint Mary's and at BNUZ, so we thought, why not share their knowledge and connections to help local business expand their reach."

The training program will be broken down into two stages. The first part will be a pre-study component at Saint Mary's where participants will learn about the Chinese culture, language and business practices that may differ from Canada. The second part will take place at BNUZ, where participants will receive immersive experience in business and academics.

The program will support increasing Nova Scotia exports as outlined in the One Nova Scotia report. This program is one way to build new connections and export both local products and knowledge.



*"China doesn't need to be... big and scary for local business"*

*- Lynn Coveyduck*

"China is a marketplace with a great deal of potential for Nova Scotia," said Premier Stephen McNeil. "This agreement between Saint Mary's and Beijing Normal builds on their 13-year relationship and will provide Nova Scotia companies with valuable skills and knowledge as they grow their business in China."

## BNUZ PARTNERSHIP:

# THE TEACHING CONNECTION

For a number of years the Sobey School has had a connection to China through the so-called “2 +2” programs, meaning students take the first two years of their degrees in China, and then complete the final two years here. Under a new agreement between the Sobey School and Beijing Normal University–Zhuhai (BNUZ), instead of the Chinese students coming to us, Saint Mary’s will go to China.

Starting in February 2016, the Sobey School is sending pairs of professors for a five-week stay in Zhuhai to teach 88 Chinese students. The Chinese students receive the same instruction as a student studying in Halifax and graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in Finance from the Sobey School of Business.

“It’s unusual for a business school to take on this kind of partnership at the undergraduate level,” said Dr. Patricia Bradshaw, Dean, Sobey School of Business. “It’s a very ambitious, innovative partnership and it establishes the Sobey School as a significant international player.”

This partnership extends the opportunity to study Commerce at Saint Mary’s to more Chinese students who may not be able to afford to come to Canada to study. The new partnership with BNUZ also helps raise the profile of Saint Mary’s and Nova Scotia in China.



Beijing Normal University–Zhuhai



In 2015, Dr. Patricia Bradshaw spent time in China getting to know our BNUZ cohort.

Did you know?

About 80% of our faculty are born or educated outside Canada.

# BNUZ PARTNERSHIP: THE FACULTY EXPERIENCE

## Isabella Krysa reports on teaching at BNUZ



Isabella Krysa in her classroom at the Beijing Normal University-Zhuhai

There may not be anyone as qualified as Isabella Krysa to talk about internationalization at Saint Mary's and the Sobey School of Business. She has seen how Saint Mary's focuses on internationalism both as a student and as a teacher.

Isabella arrived at Saint Mary's in 2004 as an exchange student from Germany. She completed her B.A. in Anthropology in 2007 and the following year worked in Student Services. She continued with an M.A. in International Development Studies, after which she entered the Sobey School's PhD (Management) program and has recently defended her thesis.

She transitioned from international student to international teacher earlier this year by becoming one of the first Saint Mary's teachers to journey to China and teach at Beijing Normal University - Zhuhai (BNUZ) as part of the partnership between the two institutions.

She had never been to China, so when the opportunity to teach at BNUZ arose, Isabella immediately knew she wanted to go.

"I was very curious to teach in a different culture," she said. "Besides loving to travel, combining teaching with getting to know a new culture

*"I was very curious to teach in a different culture"*

was a perfect match for me, both at the personal and professional level."

At BNUZ Isabella taught two macro behaviour courses to second year Commerce students. She says her in-class experience is very similar to Saint Mary's, with the main difference being paying special attention to the language level of students to make sure everyone is fully understanding and comprehending the lesson. She employs an active teaching style and attempts to give her students the opportunity to engage with the subject matter as much as possible.

"I truly enjoy the intercultural exchange between the students and me," she says. "We are discussing workplace behaviour, and interesting discussions arise between workplace strategies in China versus Canada. I really value the input and opinions students give. Both the students and I gain from this type of learning experience."

Through her experiences as an

international student and teacher, Isabella has gained a keen insight into international partnerships and collaboration and an appreciation for their importance.

"For Saint Mary's faculty, such an experience is eye-opening and enables us to step out of our 'usual' perspective and to think differently about students," she says. "At the same time, this partnership is a great opportunity for BNUZ students to connect with professors from SMU. It's an opportunity they would otherwise probably not have."

Isabella believes partnerships like the one between Saint Mary's and BNUZ are important not only to the institutions, but also to the students who can gain valuable experience, as conducting international business and having international connections becomes more important in the business world.

"It is a very positive development that universities engage in partnerships with each other and offer such unique opportunities for students," she says, "From personal experience I know that each international collaboration I have experienced has left a very deep impression on me."

## VALERIE CREELMAN

### Connecting with international students in the classroom

At the Sobey School of Business, nearly 50 % of all students are international students. Not only does that make it a diverse environment for the students, but also for the teachers. At times, communication can be a challenge due to language barriers, cultural barriers and even life experiences. But, what if you're teaching communication? It's a challenge that faced Dr. Valerie Creelman, who teaches a business communications course in the Sobey School.

"You're trying to teach the whole class – English is a first language for some students, and for others, English is an additional language," Dr. Creelman said. "If students don't understand the instructor, or how to read the instructions, then nothing really positive can move on from there."

To find ways to make sure her international students were getting the instructions and help they needed to find success, Dr. Creelman partnered with one of her colleagues, Dr. Karen Grandy to develop a survey called *In Their Own Voices*. The survey looked at international students' experience

with academic writing and some of the challenges they faced.

"A lot of what we knew before starting the survey was anecdotal. Sometimes students were said to have weak writing, but it may not be their writing. It may relate to the whole set of academic literacy skills, whether it be analytical thinking or reading skills."

They are still collecting data from the survey but have already found some interesting results. For many students it wasn't that they couldn't write well but that they were unable to understand the task, the instructions, or the expectations of their professor. They also found many Chinese students were reluctant to approach instructors for clarification of assignments. Instead they would try to work it out for themselves, often to their own detriment.

One of the best techniques Dr. Creelman found to assist both international and domestic students with their writing and assignments is peer review. Not only does peer review help students improve their writing and language, but it also verifies that they understand the assignment.

Dr. Creelman remembers how peer review helped one student simplify his writing and get his point across much more clearly.

"Throughout a one page assignment on fundraising, a student kept changing the word used for fundraising and getting more and more obscure. I asked him if he would use these other words in conversation and he explained that he had found them in his thesaurus and that good writing wasn't repetitive."

Addressing this concern helped the student with that assignment and with future assignments as well, helping him take a step forward in writing with clarity.

Creelman and Grandy are continuing with the survey and will analyze the data to find ways to improve the classroom experience for international students.

"You can't put all international students in one category," explains Creelman. "But there are techniques and methods, such as peer review, that can assist with problems for both international students and students from right here in Halifax."

### Did you know?

In 2015, the Sobey Executive MBA class welcomed a visiting cohort of University of Texas at Dallas EMBA students who were in Nova Scotia examining the *Now or Never* report.



## DR. SONJA NOVKOVIC helps connect co-operative professionals around the globe

With its diverse student body, the Sobey School of Business has long been bringing the world to its campus. But the Sobey School isn't just bringing international students to Nova Scotia; it's also bringing a Sobey School education to the rest of the world through ground-breaking programs.

Among these unique offerings are the Co-operative Management Education programs, including the Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions (MMCCU). These programs are, apart from an orientation session, offered online.

Sonja Novkovic is a professor of Economics at the Sobey School and the Academic Director for the program. She says the program offers a professional degree for those working in co-operatives anywhere on the planet.

"In different pockets of the world, co-operatives have a very different history and culture. This allows students to learn from each other's different experiences," she says. "No matter where you go in the world, what co-operatives are supposed to do does not differ."

A majority of the students in the program are based in Canada, the US and the UK, but the recent cohort also has students from Australia, the Caribbean, Kenya, South Africa and Cuba.

With the program being offered online, it stands to reason that faculty can similarly be located anywhere.

*"You have to be international in a world that is so open and culturally diverse."*

The program's faculty comprise not only Sobey School professors but also instructors and co-operative experts based in other parts of Canada, the US and the UK.

Sonja says the Sobey School's enthusiasm to embrace internationalism has not only provided valuable experience to students but also positioned the school as a world leader in this field.

"The flexibility the university has shown adopting this program has been invaluable because you have to be international in a world that is so open and culturally diverse,"

she says. "We've become a global leader in management education for co-operatives, and because of that, we are in a position to collaborate with other programs who want to do something similar."

By addressing international issues at the educational level we're preparing business leaders of the future to be equipped for the international world they are going to have to live and work in.

"If you want to run a global business you have to be very culturally aware that certain practices are not the norm in different societies," she says. "It's critical in co-operative business today and what we are teaching for the future."



A cohort of Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions students gathered in August, 2014 at the Sobey School for their in-person orientation to kick off the program.

## DR. YIGIT AYDEDE Explores the Economy Abroad



Saint Mary's is Canada's international university due to its large number of international students, international partnerships and countries represented on campus. Saint Mary's has also made a name for itself in international research. In 2014, Saint Mary's was recognized by Research Infosource Inc. and ranked first in Canada for international research collaboration.

The Sobey School of Business plays a large part in this ranking.

One of the Sobey School professors with far-reaching research is Dr. Yigit Aydede. Dr. Aydede is an associate professor of Economics and has been at the Sobey School since 2007. He has helped put Saint Mary's and the Sobey School on the map internationally with his research related to the European Union and Turkey.

His latest research, funded by the Turkish Scientific Council in association with the European Union, looks at why the Turkish economy is growing quite rapidly while the employment rate remains practically stagnant.

"I have been requested to investigate a number of economic issues in Turkey and make this information available to policy makers," Dr. Aydede says. "That's one example of the great research going on here at the Sobey School, making an impact and gaining recognition internationally."

Dr. Aydede also does a lot of research on economic issues in Canada. He says even work on Canadian economics can draw attention from around the world.

"You can investigate issues in Canada, and as long as your findings

are published by well-known journals, they are shared by the whole scientific world," he says. "The European journals are very good at disseminating information."

One of these journals from the IZA Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn will soon be publishing one of Dr. Aydede's joint papers with Dr. Atul Dar on Canadian economics. Dr. Aydede believes he's just one of many success stories coming out of the Sobey School.

"I'm just a simple researcher," he says.

### Did you know?

119 countries are represented on the Saint Mary's campus. At the Sobey School alone, we have students from 86 countries.



# CONNECT WITH US

## How would you like to be involved?

To discuss, please contact:

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