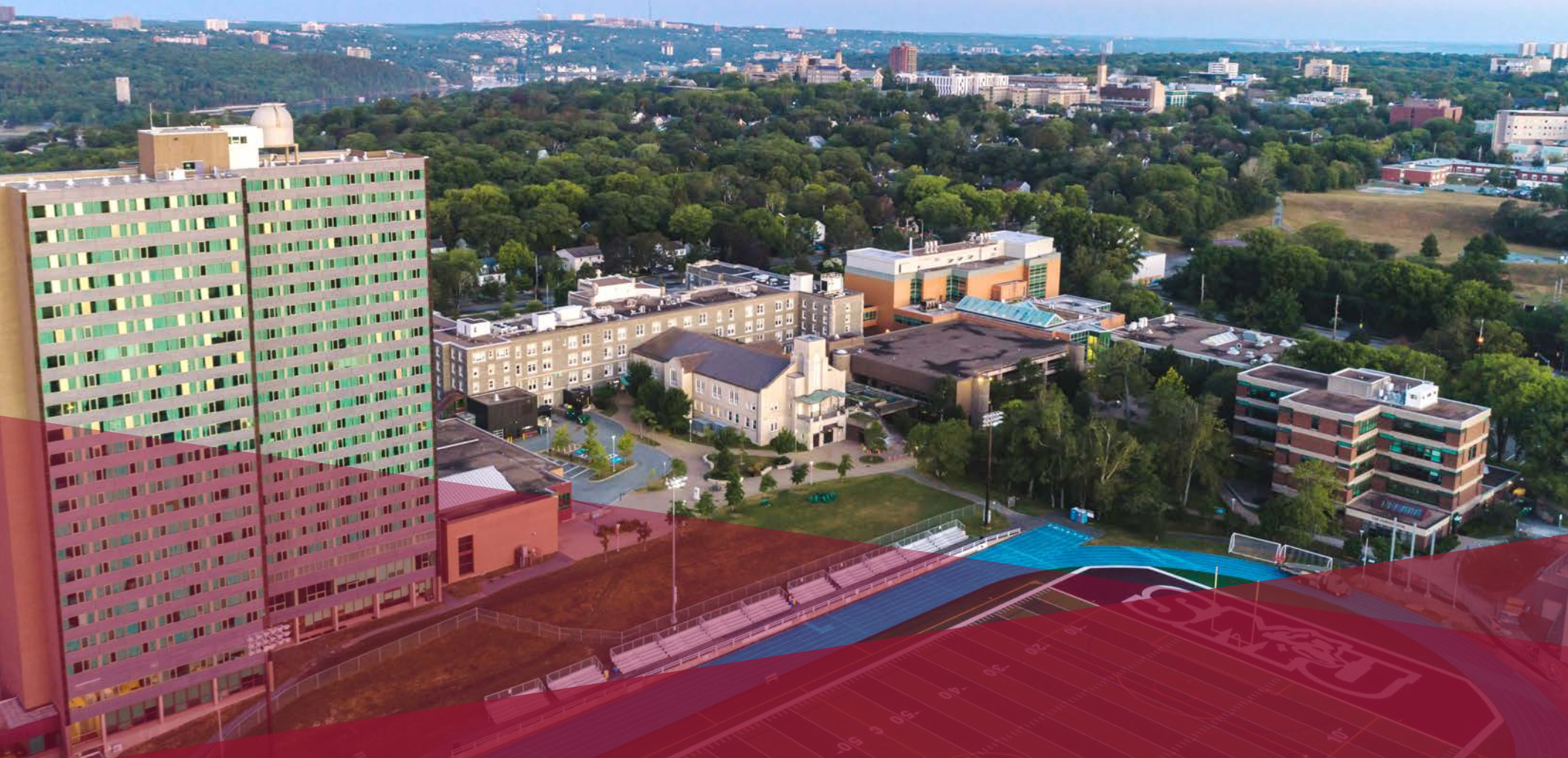


REPORT

to the **COMMUNITY** 2019





A HISTORIC GIFT TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE

On March 21, Saint Mary's University announced the largest philanthropic gift in its 217-year history: an \$18 million donation from the Sobey family, The Sobey Foundation and Sobeyes. "Our gift is a reinvestment in the Sobey School of Business and Saint Mary's University, inspired by our belief and confidence in the university, its leadership, its students and its bright future," said former Saint Mary's Chancellor, Dr. David Sobey DComm'91 (*above, centre*). "This gift will advance the Sobey School of Business for the next generation of innovators, creating new knowledge and standards that will have a ripple effect nationally and globally."



See video at
smu.ca/report2community



MESSAGE *from the* PRESIDENT

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

- Pursuing academic growth
- Demonstrating resilience
- Developing intercultural competence
- Engaging our alumni and community
- Exercising ethical wisdom

Values

Vision

Saint Mary's, building on its strong tradition of accessibility and community engagement, will be the university of choice for aspiring citizens of the world.

Mission

To offer undergraduate, graduate and lifelong learning programs; to engage in research and disseminate its results; and to serve the community from the local to the international level.

I am delighted to share our 2019 Report to the Community with you, which highlights exciting projects and initiatives led by Saint Mary's University students, faculty, staff and alumni over the past year.

In 2017, in collaboration with the university community, we set a new course with a bold strategic plan. I am proud of the momentum that we have established and I know we will achieve even more in the years ahead.

This report reflects key themes in our strategic plan: our shared desire to create the discoveries and innovations that address real-world problems, to foster deeper relations between cultures and provide our students with a distinct and global perspective, to instill creative and entrepreneurial mindsets, and, above all, to engage with the world around us.

In this year's report, you'll see evidence of how Saint Mary's connects with the community both locally and globally. I hope you share our pride in all that we have accomplished.

Robert Summerby-Murray, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor



PROTECTING OUR COASTS

Canadian coastlines are feeling the effects of climate change, but geography professor Dr. Danika van Proosdij (*above, right*) is working to turn the tide. Dr. van Proosdij's team received a \$1.8 million grant from the Government of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans to restore more than 75 hectares of tidal wetlands along Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy in an effort to restore habitat and to protect against flooding and coastal erosion. By using nature-based strategies and restructuring old dyke infrastructure, her team creates new tidal wetlands to absorb rising sea levels, protect nearby communities and create new ecosystems for marine life.



See video at
smu.ca/report2community

DISCOVERY & INNOVATION

At Saint Mary's University, we create and share knowledge to make the world a better place. Our faculty and students work together to bring research to life with hands-on learning and strive to solve real-world challenges.



CONTACT LENSES FOR THE COLOUR BLIND

Chemistry professor Dr. Danielle Tokarz is helping a Halifax startup create contact lenses capable of correcting colour blindness. Along with her team of undergraduate students, Tokarz helped Coloursmith Labs test its optical filtering technology in gels and develop prototype contact lenses. "Dr. Tokarz and her students exemplify the world-class talent that is available at Saint Mary's," said Gabrielle Masone, CEO and Founder of Coloursmith. "Their expert support and guidance offer us the opportunity to take swift and smart strides through our foundational research."

L-r. Student Chandika Ramful with Dr. Danielle Tokarz



ADDRESSING URGENT ISSUES FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

Displaced women are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence. Sociology and International Development Studies professor Dr. Evie Tastsoglou is leading the Canadian team of an international consortium investigating the causes and impacts of such violence, with a view to shaping policy to help reduce or eliminate it. *Violence Against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analysing Causes and Effective Policy Response* involves researchers from Canada, Israel, France, Austria, Ireland, Turkey and Norway, who will also look at how survivors navigate or resist violence during their journeys and upon arrival to a 'safe' country. Violence sometimes continues upon settlement, says Tastsoglou, making it "an urgent priority for Canada to address and ensure human rights for all its citizens."



NEW DISCOVERIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Invasive earthworms with a taste for leaf litter are spreading in Canada, and climate scientists are concerned. Dr. Erin Cameron – the first to map and study the impact of this phenomenon in Canada's northern boreal forests – used models to show that the worm incursion could release carbon from the forest floor into the atmosphere at worrying rates. Her groundbreaking work was cited in the *New York Times*. An assistant professor in the department of Environmental Science, Cameron has received five years of NSERC funding to continue studying the effect of invasive earthworms on northern ecosystems.



FOSTERING RECONCILIATION AND RESPECT

Saint Mary's is working with the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (MNFC) in Halifax to promote respect and understanding. A new agreement signed in 2019 opens the door for shared programming, projects and research, and will see the university work with the MNFC on how to enhance support for Indigenous students, faculty and staff. The partnership also makes it possible to have an Elder on campus – Elder Debbie Eisan.



See video at
smu.ca/report2community

L-r: Pam Glode-Desrochers, Executive Director, MNFC; Elder Debbie Eisan; and SMU Indigenous Student Advisor Raymond Sewell MA'14

GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS

In a world that is increasingly interconnected and complex, global perspectives and intercultural skills are key to success. Instilling these values is a part of our history and our present as we prepare the leaders of tomorrow.



A LEGACY OF GLOBAL EDUCATION

2019 marked a special anniversary: 20 years since the first convocation of the Saint Mary's University Extension Program (SMUEP) in The Gambia, West Africa. Launched in 1995, SMUEP produced nearly 300 graduates and helped pave the way for the country to establish the University of The Gambia. Though the program closed in 2000, today many SMUEP alumni hold influential roles in The Gambia's workforce. Saint Mary's maintains an active connection to the country, with a geography field school visiting every other year.

Above: Students in the Geography International Field School make fans with the residents of Tabanani, a rural village in The Gambia, during their 2018 trip.



LEADING IN CROSS-BORDER EDUCATION

Since 2002, a trailblazing partnership between Saint Mary's University and Beijing Normal University-Zhuhai (BNUZ) has benefited hundreds of students and faculty from Canada and China. Case in point: in 2019, the second cohort of the joint Bachelor of Commerce program (SMU and BNUZ) graduated in China. Holding dual degrees, the business graduates are highly sought-after for their global perspectives. Also in 2019, the first cohort of BNUZ students graduated from the 2+2 Arts program at Saint Mary's – the first of its kind in Canada.

L-r: Prof. Qingyun Tu, President, Beijing Normal University-Zhuhai and Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray confer degrees in China.



BUILDING BRIDGES AMONG CULTURES

Cultivating global perspectives is a strategic priority for Saint Mary's. The launch of the Intercultural Studies program underlines that commitment. Unique in Canada, the program is attracting students like 22-year-old Rhonda Kaassamani of Scarborough, who says she wants "to be that person who can help mesh all the worlds together." Developing intercultural competence is essential for all Canadians, says Dr. Jean-Jacques Defert, French professor and program coordinator for Intercultural Studies, and "critical in forming healthy and productive relationships with members of our global community."

L-r: SMU Intercultural Studies students Rhonda Kaassamani and Luis Hernandez Basulto



SAINT MARY'S DOWNTOWN

Saint Mary's is the only university to have a dedicated workspace at Volta, Canada's East Coast Innovation Hub. Dubbed the Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Connector, the new space provides our students and faculty direct access to Volta's community of innovators and resources, helps create new experiential learning opportunities, and is another connection for the Saint Mary's community to local businesses. "Universities play an important role in driving innovation in Atlantic Canada" said Jesse Rodgers, Volta's CEO. "This partnership will infuse Volta's community with the creativity, enthusiasm and innovative thinking that Saint Mary's students exemplify."

L-r: Saint Mary's University students Mubdu Alali, Rawan Salame, Vimbayi Handara, and Rashik Haque in the new space at Volta

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As national leaders in business education at our renowned Sobey School of Business, we mentor innovators and entrepreneurs in every discipline. All of our students develop entrepreneurial mindsets and embody a desire to create value in the world.



THE SOBEY GIFT: JUST THE BEGINNING

The celebration of the historic Sobey gift is just the beginning of a transformational journey for Saint Mary's and the Sobey School of Business. Whether it's launching exciting new scholarship and research opportunities to attract the brightest faculty and students or celebrating new entrepreneurship programs and courses, Saint Mary's looks forward to stewarding the Sobey family's important legacy in the months and years to come. To learn more about this landmark gift, its impact, and the extraordinary story of the Sobey family connection to Saint Mary's University, visit smu.ca/report2community.

Pictured above: Michael Medline, President and CEO, Empire Company Ltd. and Sobey's Inc.



GROWING STUDENT TALENT

Thanks to the generosity of the RBC Future Launch Program, students from all faculties will have more opportunities to experience entrepreneurship first-hand. A donation of \$695,000 established the RBC Talent Hub at the Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre. The gift funds co-op placements, high-quality experiential learning opportunities and skill development such as the Entrepreneurial Mindset Success Certificate. It also created two Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) positions, which give students and local business direct access to nationally recognized entrepreneurs. Gregg Curwin BComm'90 is the inaugural EIR.

Pictured above: Chris Ronald, RBC Regional President, Atlantic provinces and Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray



ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR EVERYONE

Meet the new ENbassador team! These undergraduate and graduate student ambassadors engage fellow students from all academic faculties in entrepreneurial activities on campus. Last year alone the program led to more than 3,100 student engagements. The team is eager to ignite an entrepreneurial mindset in all Saint Mary's students and help them to develop important life skills such as critical thinking, resilience, creativity and problem solving. You can find these ENbassadors promoting entrepreneurship events on campus throughout the year.

Back, l-r: Aaron Graham, Commerce; Jake Chambers, Science; Emaaz Amjid, Science; Guillermo Villerreal De Lara, Arts. Front, l-r: Solana Purdy, Commerce; Amina Khan, Arts; Sambridhi Trikhatri, Commerce



AWARD-WINNING ENGAGEMENT

Seniors designing software may sound unlikely, but a service learning project from Saint Mary's proved otherwise. Fourth-year students from professor Terry Goldsmith's software engineering class worked with residents of the Northwood continuing care facility in Halifax to create five prototypes for personal assistance apps. Using voice and facial recognition technologies, the apps empower people with physical challenges. Residents and students learned from each other and were delighted with the process and the results. The project was recognized with an Innovation Award from the Northwood Foundation.

L-r: Northwood resident Judi Quann, professor Terry Goldsmith and student Elias Abiadal



See video at
smu.ca/report2community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Working with and for our community is at the heart of who we are at Saint Mary's. Whether on campus, in our local community or in the global village, the desire to serve and make a positive impact beyond the university walls permeates all we do.



CARROT ALE REDUCES FOOD WASTE

Square Roots, a social enterprise created by Enactus Saint Mary's to reduce food waste and food insecurity, found a delicious way to keep imperfect produce out of the landfill. The student team paired up with Boxing Rock Brewing Company to create 14 Carrot Gold, a pale ale made from locally supplied 'ugly' carrots. Sold at Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation stores across the province, it became Boxing Rock's fastest-selling specialty beer, with over 90% of the bottles sold in just under three weeks.



CODCO REUNION

Saint Mary's hosted an unforgettable evening in March for the 2019 Cyril J. Byrne Memorial Lecture. Thirty years ago, the legendary cast of CODCO trailblazed a renaissance in Canadian comedy. Often controversial, occasionally furious, but always hilarious, CODCO took gleeful pleasure in lampooning the powerful. Nearly 500 fans flocked to campus to see Andy Jones BA'69, Cathy Jones, Greg Malone and Mary Walsh – reunited for one night only – as they revisited their best work in a panel discussion on the art and politics of satire.



ENGAGING YOUNG MINDS

Dr. S. Karly Kehoe, professor of History and Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities, and Dr. Alexander MacLeod, professor of Literature and Atlantic Canada Studies, are bringing research concepts and skills in the Arts and Humanities to high-school students in rural Cape Breton. Now in its fourth year, the SMU Emerging Researcher Program sees Grade 12 students learning the basics of university-level research by investigating local history through topics like migration and settlement patterns, Indigenous land dispossession, global trade and religious identity.

MORE EXCELLENCE



DR. ALEXANDER MACLEOD WINS INTERNATIONAL LITERARY AWARD

In May, Alexander MacLeod's short story *Lagomorph* was announced as a 2019 winner of the O. Henry Prize. Centred on a family's pet rabbit, the story highlights the ideas of time, change and the mysteries of care and affection. The award is a career highlight for MacLeod, who teaches English and Atlantic Canada Studies at Saint Mary's. With past winners like Alice Munro and William Faulkner, "it's unreal company," he said. *Lagomorph* appears in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 100th Anniversary Edition*.



SAINT MARY'S RETIRES CHRIS FLYNN JERSEY

In April, Saint Mary's announced that it would retire the jersey of former Husky and celebrated Canadian university football legend Chris Flynn BA'97. Originally from Quebec, Flynn was a star quarterback at Saint Mary's from 1987–1990. He played professionally in Canada and Europe, and in 2011, he became the first-ever Canadian Interuniversity Sport player to be inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. "To be the first player to have their jersey retired by Saint Mary's, where I have made so many memories, is truly an honour," said Flynn.



STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR NAMED NATIONAL CHAMPION

Current Master of Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MTEI) student Ross Arsenault BComm'17 and co-founder of Ashored Inc., won \$10,000 and beat out hundreds of competitors to be named Student Entrepreneur National Champion at the Enactus Canada National Exposition 2019. Enactus Canada is the largest student leadership development organization in the country, and runs the competition to boost the success of full-time students operating thriving businesses. Ashored Inc. aims to provide innovations for the commercial fishery, including a ropeless fishing system that reduces whale entanglements.



Wanda Robson, sister of Viola Desmond, attended the bursary announcement.

HONOURING VIOLA, HELPING STUDENTS

Saint Mary's was proud to announce the Viola Desmond Bursary on November 8, the date of Viola's heroic anti-segregation action in 1946. This endowed bursary will be given out every year to full-time African-Nova Scotian students at Saint Mary's University. To highlight the year of this historic action, 1946, recipients of the Viola Desmond Bursary will receive \$1,946. The award was established through the generosity of The Honourable Wilfred P. Moore QC BComm'64 LLD'07, and Ms. Jane Adams Ritcey.



Nate Martin of Shadow Security with student employee Jessie Rector.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Launched this year, the Student Employment Initiative from Career Services and *The Fred Smithers Centre of Support for Students with Disabilities* helps eligible students find summer jobs by providing resume help, interview workshops and workplace accommodation assistance. The program also offers wage subsidies, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education. "The direct job experience gives me the ability to be independent while working with a team," says 4th year psychology student Jessie Rector. "I'm developing work-related skills and building a resume."



MICHAEL DURLAND NAMED CHANCELLOR OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

"We are incredibly honoured and proud that Michael Durland accepted the role of Chancellor of the University," said Saint Mary's President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray. "His long and successful career in corporate Canada and as an entrepreneur and investor positions him as an excellent role model and inspiration for our students and our community. This appointment builds upon his loyal and generous support of our students as a mentor and university champion and through the Durland Innovation Fund and Durland Scholarships."

Durland is the former Group Head and CEO, Global Banking and Markets, for Scotiabank. He retired from Scotiabank in 2016 to pursue a variety of business, philanthropic, and academic interests. Today, he is the CEO of Melancthon Capital.

"Every time I walk through the front door of Saint Mary's, I see a group of passionate students and professors thinking beyond the problems of today to what is on the horizon. The university's innovative, interdisciplinary approach to learning, teaching and research places them on the forefront of educating the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs."

To serve as Chancellor at this special university that has played such a critical role in my life and for my family is an honour."

-Dr. Michael Durland, BComm'87 DComm'10

SAINT MARY'S

BY THE NUMBERS

► SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Scholarships, fellowships and bursaries: **\$8.4 million**

Philanthropic support: **\$23.1 million**

► ENGAGED ALUMNI

2nd highest alumni engagement level in the country

4,200+ participants attended **80** alumni events locally and internationally

► SERVICE LEARNING

2018 2019

Service learning links community-based experience with course content providing rich learning experiences for students and valuable assistance to community partners.

Student participants:

300+

Hours worked:

7,000

Community partners:

85

Service learning courses:

21

► RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Fellowships and research grants:

\$9.85 million

Home to **9** Canada Research Chairs

60-70

industry-sponsored projects per year, valued at

\$4.73 million

Sponsored **29** undergraduate research awards valued at **\$230,000** for internship positions in Science, Arts and Business

3M National Teaching Fellows: **5**

Members in the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists: **4**

► STUDENT-ATHLETE EXCELLENCE 2019 Varsity Sport Teams

61 Academic All-Canadians (2018/19)

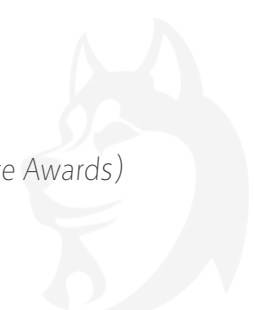
19 AUS All-Stars

10 AUS Major Awards (5 Student Community Service Awards)

4 U Sports All-Canadians

2 U Sports All-Rookie team members

1 U Sports Major Award winner (Student Community Service Award)



FAST FACTS

6,734

Full-time and part-time students

599

Full-time and part-time faculty

546

Full-time and part-time staff

112

Countries represented by students

1,400+

Degrees and diplomas awarded annually

51,000+

Alumni world-wide

83.7

Average entrance grade

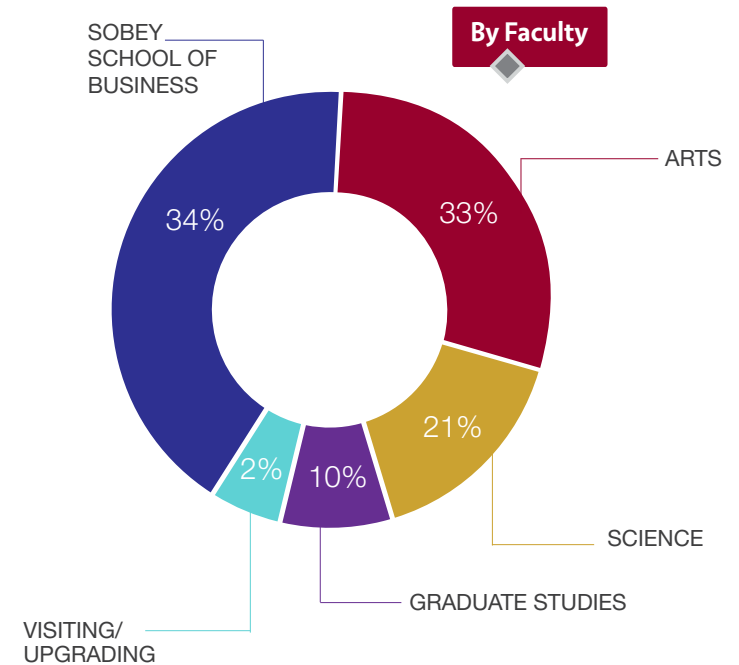
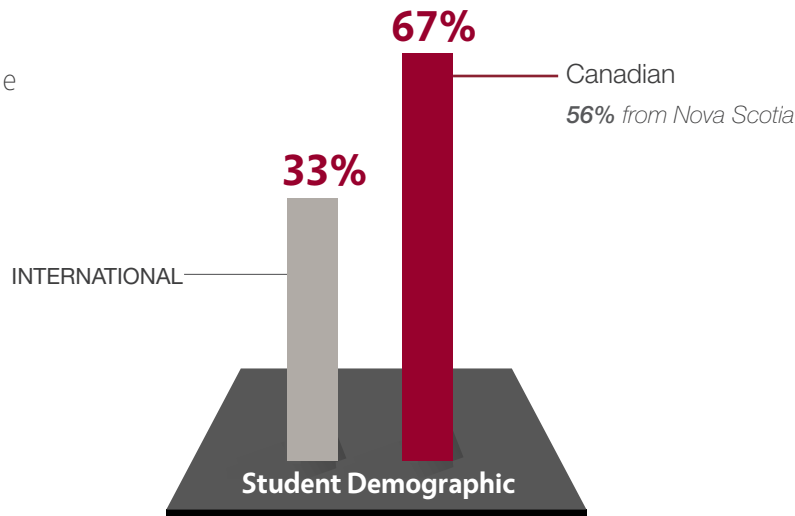
Founded in 1802, we are
the 2nd largest
university in Nova Scotia

\$329 million dollars contributed
annually to the Nova Scotia economy by the
internationally accredited
Sobey School of Business

Home to the **most powerful telescope in**
Atlantic Canada and the only Twitter-controlled
telescope in the world (@smubgobs)

Only Canadian university to offer a
B.A. in Entrepreneurship

Only **Forensic**
Science program
east of Ontario



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