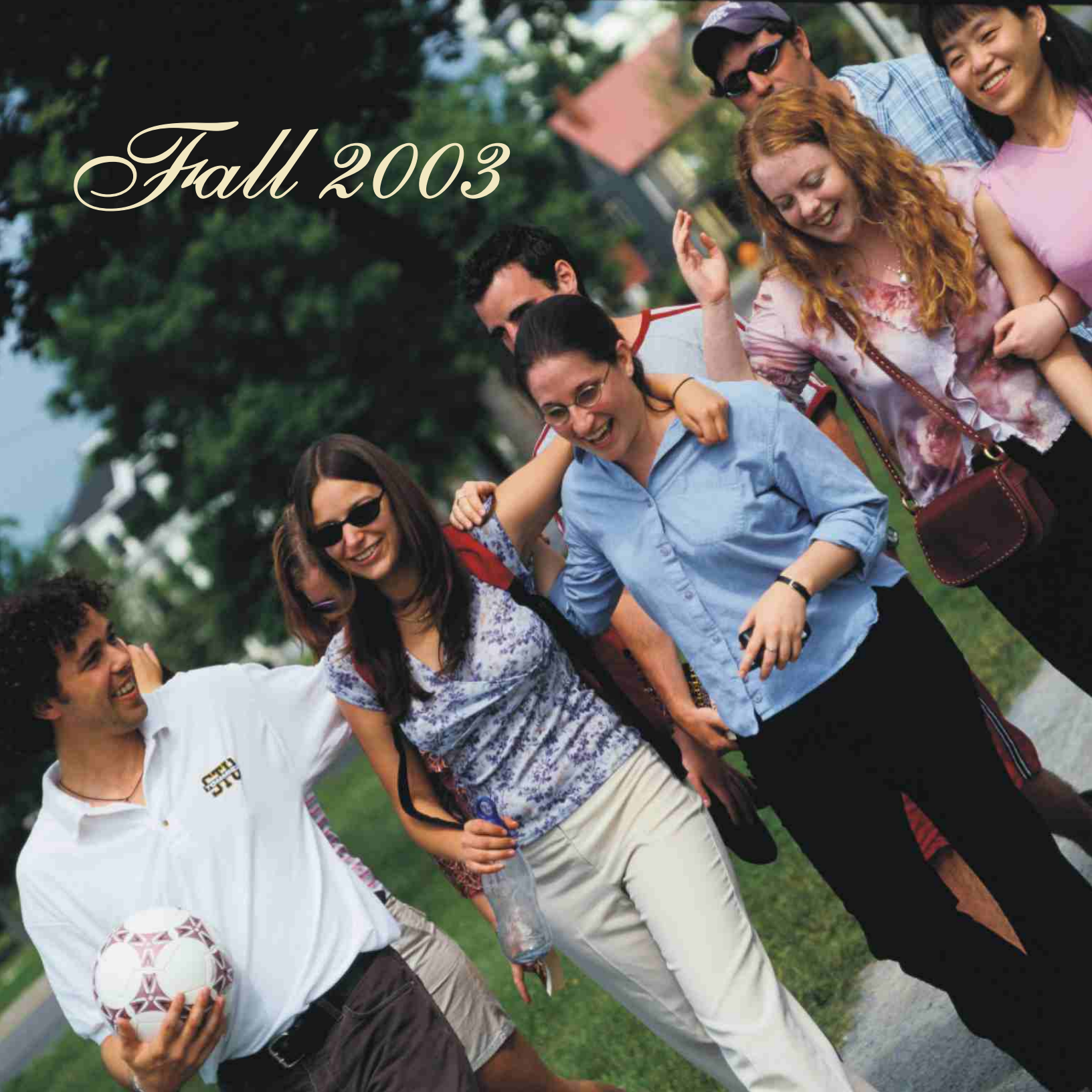




Transitions

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY NEWS

Fall 2003





Message From The President

The beginning of the Fall term is a particularly lively time in the academic calendar, and this month is no exception. New and returning students have been pouring onto the campus over the past few weeks, after settling into their accommodations for the winter, and are gearing up for a challenging year ahead.

Our major event of the summer was our convocation ceremony on 23 July, 2003. Unfortunately, rain forced us to hold our event indoors, but once again this year the event was very well-attended by our graduates and their families. We graduated 135 students and were pleased to confer the Honourary Fellow distinction on Dr. Judith Kathleen Myers Avis and Barry Patrick Lydon. They were honoured for their contribution to the advancement and standards in social work and education in New Brunswick.

The University also recognized

Sheri Lynn Coburn of Rothesay, NB and Kristen Leighann Dupuis of Saint John, NB who were awarded the University Medal for Academic Excellence, the highest academic award offered by the University. Coburn received the award for her academic excellence in the Bachelor of Social Work program and Dupuis for her academic excellence in the Bachelor of Education program.

As you will see in this issue of Transitions, this has been our busiest year ever for hiring faculty. We have added a total of ten new positions, and welcome these new additions to the St. Thomas community.

In other news, we are fortunate to be able to welcome our students into our North Wing residence on Forest Hill after a very busy Spring and Summer of construction at this site. The \$5 million, 152-bed residence will certainly ease our problem regarding residence space for our students.

In this edition you will also read about a team of front-line social workers at the department of Family and Community Services who were presented with a Children's Service Award from the Child Welfare League of Canada. I was tremendously pleased to see that all ten members of the award-winning team are graduates of our social work program. The team represents 20 years of our social work program, and is a testament to the excellence of that program.

In closing, I would like to welcome all new and returning members of the St. Thomas community. I hope you have enjoyed a healthy, active and entertaining summer and have returned to us renewed and ready to tackle the academic challenges that lie ahead.

Dr. Daniel O'Brien,
President and Vice-Chancellor



Scholarships Awarded

St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB has awarded major entrance scholarships to Mary Ann Murphy from Saint John, Ashley McCabe from Oxford, and Lauren Earle from Dartmouth.

Mary Ann is the daughter of Joseph and Veronica Murphy and a graduate of St. Malachy's Memorial High School. She received the Chancellor's Scholarship valued at approximately \$40,000 over four years.

The Monsignor George W. Martin Scholarship valued at approximately \$34,000 over four years was awarded to Ashley and Lauren. Ashley is the daughter of Roger and Linda McCabe and a graduate of Oxford Regional High School. Lauren is the daughter of Robert and Nancy Earle and a graduate of Dartmouth High School.

These scholarship recipients have joined the St. Thomas community in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

St. Thomas University

LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS

St. Thomas University hires record number

by Jennifer Dunville

St. Thomas University is small, but mighty. In the past five years St. Thomas has built four new buildings, including a \$5.0 million residence. The university has hired twenty new full-time faculty for the 2003-2004 year; a record number for STU.

Dr. Rick Myers, the Vice-President Academic at STU, said "It's very unusual for a university to expand its faculty complement at this rate, but our objective was not to hire a record number. Our objective was to make a substantial investment in order to improve student/faculty ratios and class sizes and we've achieved that; record numbers or not."

Since some of the faculty will be replacing those who've left on sabbatical or retired, only ten of the positions represent a net expansion. Still, for a small University these ten positions mean 10% of STU's total faculty will be filling brand new positions.

Some of the new professors have experience teaching at St. Thomas.

"Four of the twenty that we've hired have taught for us before on a part-time basis with great success so we know we

are getting excellent instructors," said Dr. Myers. "Although the job market for university professors is becoming increasingly competitive we believe we've been able to land a number of outstanding new faculty members. Not only will they be excellent classroom teachers, but they will also be a good fit with the St. Thomas community."

Dr. Myers said STU is excited that the new professors have come from a variety of cultures. He believes this international mix will bring a richness and diversity to the university community.

"This year we have a substantial contingent of faculty members who have come to us from abroad. We're pleased to be extending the internationalization of the St. Thomas community to our faculty complement," Dr. Myers said. "Five of our new faculty grew up overseas including three from Africa."

With such an impressive expansion, STU expects another successful school year. "With more faculty we are able to maintain the small class sizes that St. Thomas is known for," said Dr. Myers. "This net expansion of ten faculty positions, on top of the expansion of the campus itself, says a lot about the direction of our university. We're very pleased."

(For a list of the new faculty professors, please see page 4.)



Joining the STU community as full-time faculty in the fall of 2003 are:

Professors:	Credentials:	Teaching at STU:
Joshua Anyangah	Completing PhD, University of Alberta	Economics
Thomas Bateman	PhD, University of Alberta	Political Science
Cynthia Boyd	MSW, Dalhousie University	Social Work
Samira Farhoud	PhD, University of Nice	French
Fikru Gebrekidan	PhD, Michigan State University	History
Michael Houlihan	PhD, University of Ottawa	Psychology
Michelle Lafrance	Completing PhD, UNBSJ	Psychology
Christian Mbarga	PhD, Johns Hopkins University	French
Mikhail Molchanov	PhD, University of Alberta	Political Science
Karla O'Regan	Master of Laws, Dalhousie University	Criminology
Craig Proulx	PhD, McMaster University	Anthropology
Angela Robinson	PhD, McMaster University	Native Studies
Kerrie Ann Shannon	Completing PhD, University of Glasgow	Anthropology
Dawne Clarke	Completing PhD, University of NB	Criminology
Sue McKenzie-Mohr	Completing PhD, Memorial University	Social Work
Stephen Pidwysocky	Completing PhD, University of Florida	Criminology
David Mercer	PhD, University of Wales	Humanities
Mary Lee MacDonald	PhD, University of Manitoba	ESL
Sara MacDonald	PhD, Fordham University	Great Ideas
Daryl Gray	BA, Dalhousie University	Journalism

Francis M. McLaughlin Scholarship Announced



St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB has awarded major entrance scholarships to Rebecca Jarrett-MacKillop and Jamie McIntosh from Dartmouth.

Both Rebecca and Jamie have received the Francis M. McLaughlin Scholarship valued at approximately \$18,000 over four years.

Rebecca is the daughter of Kate Jarrett and Kevin MacKillop and a graduate from Dartmouth High School. Jamie is the daughter of Jim McIntosh and Roberta Robertson and a graduate of Prince Andrew High School.

Rebecca and Jamie will be welcomed into the St. Thomas community as they pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

St. Thomas University

LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS

STU Professor Wins Poetry Award

New Brunswick poet Dr. Kathleen McConnell has won the National Gerald Lampert Memorial Award, which recognizes emerging new authors, for her first book of poetry, *Nail Builders Plan for Strength and Growth*. The award brings with it national recognition and a prize of \$1,000.

by Jennifer Dunville

Since the release of her book McConnell has received a Canadian Council Grant for the Arts to work on her next manuscript of poems.

"The next book will be different. It will have a more defining theme or idea. The working title is *Memoiries of a Hundefralien*. It's about the five years I spent living with an elderly woman and looking after her dogs," said McConnell.

McConnell, who writes under the pen name of Kathy Mac, hopes that her poetry compels people to read.

"I would like my poetry to be entertaining even when it's serious," McConnell said. "I want it to be intriguing and hopefully the readers will see their own experiences in there."



Dr. Kathleen McConnell

McConnell was born in Ontario, but has resided in the Maritimes since 1982. Though she said she had been writing poems since she was a young child, she only seriously began writing poetry in the early 70's.

"I chose poetry as my form because the content is very concentrated," said McConnell. "Plus it's a lot quicker to get an idea down on paper than when writing prose."

McConnell's eight-chapter book of poetry touches on many different themes including the never-ending human struggle to fit in or to understand our world, our society and ourselves. Though there is no intentional, overarching metaphor McConnell said the idea of nails and hands comes up repeatedly in the book.

"I wrote the poems and then the title. You can see how the book was quilted together," she said. "You don't usually write a book of poetry from the beginning and go to the end; you put all your material together and move it around to see how it fits. Then you stitch the pieces together."

McConnell stresses in her book the importance of writing everyday, but she said that reading as often as possible can effect your poetry as well.

"You tend to be the sum of everything you've read plus something of your own. Though maybe it's not done consciously, a writer usually takes things into their subconscious and then puts it back out again on paper," she said. "What is unique to any writer is the things they chose to repeat and the things they chose not to."

For some people poetry takes the form of personal therapy, but not for McConnell.

"Poetry is not just therapy," McConnell said. "It's finding the universal in the personal finding things that other people are going to identify with and be interested in. There is a tendency in our culture to assume that an artist has to be consumed by their art. You're wrapped up in your art and when things in your life go wrong you use that in your work. That's not my approach," McConnell added. "Art and life are not separate. What I do and what I am are not two different things."

In September McConnell will be taking up a tenure-track position in the Department of English at St. Thomas University.

McConnell's book, *Nail Builders Plan for Strength and Growth*, can be obtained through Roseway Publishing.

"It is not necessary that one should be able to define every word and give it its principal parts and its grammatical position in the sentence in order to understand and appreciate a fine poem... Great poetry needs no other interpreter than a responsive heart."

- Helen Keller

A New Home for Students

by Jennifer Dunville

The new residence at Forest Hill is quickly being transformed into a new home for students. Construction on the 5.0 million dollar co-ed residence was completed in late August and students started moving in at the end of the month.

They are now putting their personal touch on their rooms by hanging pictures, posters and setting up their knickknacks.

The residence, which will be paid for through eventual residence revenues,

has 152 bedrooms including 36 single rooms and 58 double rooms. Each room is equipped with furniture and its own individual bathrooms.

There is a shared communal study lounge and a fully furnished lounge on each floor where students can hang out and watch T.V.

Students can choose to eat at Rigby Hall or the George Martin Cafeteria. In addition to food services, a shuttle service is being provided by Student Affairs to help student get to class.

Gayle Churchill, the Residence Coordinator, has noticed that the look of each residence is distinctive. "All

Residence halls have their own unique character," Churchill said. "as will the new residence."

Lawrence Durling, Vice-President Finances, said this residence is an important addition in meeting the demand for more residential space.

"This new residence is a great addition to the St. Thomas community," he said. "It will provide ample quality space for our students to live and also provides the opportunity to expand amenities for students at the Forest Hill site."

For more information on the new student residence contact: Gayle Churchill, the Residence Coordinator, at Churchill@stu.ca



The new residence at Forest Hill

More on Forest Hill

by Jennifer Dunville

Whether you're planning a conference, wedding, banquet or just looking for an affordable place to stay for a night or two, St Thomas University can help. The St. Thomas Forest Hill Conference Center, Rigby Hall, provides conference rooms, a ballroom, food services for up to 300 people and summer accommodation for tourists, locals and students.

Nancy Collett, of ARAMARK, is the assistant Manager of the St. Thomas University cafeteria and helps run the Forest Hill accommodations. "We cater for weddings, banquets, parties, conferences and even reunions," said Collett. "We can cater your function and then your guests can stay overnight at Forest Hill. This is very convenient, especially for out-of-towners."

Before it was purchased by St. Thomas University in 1999, the Forest Hill Center was a motel. After an extensive renovation it became what it is today. The Forest Hill center is not a hotel, motel, hostel or B & B, but a hybrid; a combination of all these things. Collett said that the second summer STU owned the

residence they decided to open it for summer guests. "We had a lot of requests to open the residence up to the public so we sent letters to the hotels explaining that we were running this operation and would take their overflow. We didn't want to cut into their business."

Collett said it's the same idea as a hotel. "We don't really have all the frills of a hotel such as a restaurant, but there are phones in every room, private bathrooms, and maid service. Every day our staff provides fresh linens and towels," she said. "Our rooms are clean and comfortable."

Rooms at Rigby run from \$40 per night for a single to \$55 for a double room, but there are also weekly and monthly rates. Rigby currently has two suites available. "A suite has two adjoining rooms; one is a bedroom and the other is a living room. There is a television, small kitchen area with a fridge, microwave and sink and a table and chair set," said Collett. "Last year we rented the suites out for the whole summer. They're very popular."

Staff at Forest Hill can provide

food services for more than 300 people. "Food services in the summer are only available to large groups of people who book the extra service," Collett said. "But we hope in the near future we will be able to offer a continental breakfast in the price of the room."

The team of students working at Forest Hill bring energy and enthusiasm to their jobs and Collett said this is what makes it successful. "Without great staff, things would fall apart." Collett also said the construction of the new residence near the Forest Hill Conference Center has everyone excited. "There will be approximately 150 additional rooms," she said.

Rigby opens to the public around the middle of May and stays open until the middle of August, but Collett recommends that people book ahead of time. "May is our most popular month for conferences and meetings. For very large groups we usually expect them to book at least a month in advance," she said. "We still take reservations from smaller groups, families and individuals and we are usually able to accommodate everyone."

For more information about summer accommodations at Forest Hill or for reservations contact Nancy Collett at 460-0329 or collett@stu.ca



President's Scholarship Announced



St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB has awarded major entrance scholarships to nine students from the Fredericton area. The President's Scholarship, valued at approximately \$14,000 over four years has been awarded to:

Wesley Furrow, son of Donna/Lewis
Brendan Glauser, son of Janelle Doan/Gary
Sarah Gordon, daughter of Debbie/Frank
Cindy Hemming, daughter of Laura Lee/Mike
Danielle Lee, daughter of Nancy/Phillip

Laura Pierce, daughter of Barb/Steve
Dave Snow, son of Kathleen/Tim
Stephen Taylor, son of Doreen/Stephen Anthony
Sarah Wallace, daughter of Anne/Marcus

These scholarship recipients have joined the St. Thomas community to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

St. Thomas University

LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS

CBC-STU Journalism Partnership

by Lori Gallagher

A unique partnership between St. Thomas University and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation gives getting back to class an interesting twist for journalism students this fall.

Because while most students are settling into life on campus, many of those in their second, third and fourth years of the journalism program will be making their way to a state-of-the-art classroom and editing suite in the basement of the CBC Broadcast Centre at the top of Regent St.

"It started with two circumstances that were essentially unconnected and we connected them," said Dan Goodyear, bureau chief with CBC Television in Fredericton.

"In this newsroom we always had interns and tried our very best to help young journalists starting off," he said. "At the same time, the operation had been cut back here from an hour to a half an hour and we found ourselves with a big empty basement."

The CBC wanted to rent the basement and heard the STU journalism program was looking for space, so the two groups met and plans got underway to create the new facility. Once CBC provided the space, it was up to the university to figure out how they wanted to equip it, said Dr. Richard Myers, vice president Academic with STU. "The main room was essentially vacant at that point and we had to equip it so it would be an appropriate classroom," he said.

The 24-seat room now has computers for every student right at

their seats, he said, while what was once a television editing suite has been transformed into a space for students to work on projects, hold meeting and do interviews.

But the benefits of the partnership between STU and CBC go beyond just the physical facility, said Philip Lee, lecturer and director of journalism at STU. "There is also an opportunity for students to do job shadowing in the newsrooms upstairs, sit in on story meetings and follow reporters when they do their jobs," said Lee.

"The partnership also allows us to ask CBC journalists to come and talk to classes, resulting in an exchange of ideas and information," he said.

Being able to give students this exposure to a working newsroom gives STU the opportunity to become the best small journalism program in Canada, said Lee.

"CBC is producing really high quality journalism on radio, television and on the Internet, and this allows us to remain current and stay on the cutting edge of what's happening in Canada."

The CBC receives its share of benefits from the partnership as well, said Goodyear. "The major benefit for us is that we are doing what we really do well. We are using our ability to help students," he said.

The partnership also maximizes the value of the two publicly funded institutions, he said, meaning it makes good economic sense on both sides.

"And I think it's good for CBC staff," said Goodyear. "It's always good to have young people around.

It forces you to question the way you think."

It is also important for CBC to actively participate in raising the bar for journalism, he said. "We think we can have a direct and dramatic impact on helping raise the standard of journalism students, raising their abilities," said Goodyear.

"And whether they work for the CBC or not is not important to us. What we think is important is to have more good journalists working everywhere."

Though the project is still relatively new, with students and faculty only moving in after the winter break in 2003, both partners are optimistic about future results.

"We're in the early stages of it but our first term together last year seemed to be reasonably successful," said Goodyear. "I think it will take a couple of years to really start to find our stride."

The faculty and staff who are using the new space are pleased with the project so far as well. "It's a really great place to teach," said Lee. "We have good technology at St. Thomas as well on campus, but these classrooms are equipped specifically for journalism students."

Jennifer Watson is going into her last year of journalism at STU and can't wait to get back to class in the new facility, she said. "The facility is great, the technology is great, the instructors are great," said Watson. "Philip (Lee) has done a wonderful job transforming that program into something that is just amazing for students to be a part of."

Part of the draw is that she feels like she is a journalist when she's at the CBC, she said. "When you're at St. Thomas you feel like you're a student, but when you're at CBC you actually feel like you're contributing to your own learning because it is so close and so tied to what real journalists do in a daily setting," she said.

STU Sports – Raising the Bar

by Jennifer Dunville

St. Thomas University's athletic teams got top marks for success last year. Seven of STU's ten athletic programs won league championships and three of those teams were sent on to the nationals. STU also hosted the Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association (ACAA) Men's and Women's Volleyball Championship; capturing both titles.

"Anytime you are successful you certainly get noticed especially if it's at the national level," said Derryl Smith, the STU athletics director. "I think back to 2001 when our hockey team went to the nationals – the exposure that the university got was incredible. More

people are becoming aware of St. Thomas, where it's located and what it is all about. They are starting to see we are a small campus with good athletic and academic programs."

STU had three Canadian Colleges Athletic Association Athletes of the Month, two Academic All-Canadians, and one National All-Rookie Team. At the Annual Athletic Banquet forty awards were handed out including the John Frederick Walls Award and two outstanding athlete awards.

Smith believes a student who strives to achieve success academically will also have the same drive for success in athletics. "It's very comparable how one is representative of the other; if you do poorly in school, you do poorly in athletics. That's why I stress that you be a student first and an athlete second. All of our coaches are committed to ensuring that our students understand the academic component is just as important."

Though a lot of great players have graduated, Smith expects the 2003-2004 school year to be just as successful, with a broader fan base, enhanced programs and great recruits. "The teams have raised the bar this year, winning seven out of ten championships. This will have us striving to live up to it in 2003-2004, but it's achievable."

For more information on the athletic programs at STU contact Derryl Smith at dsmith@stu.ca or view the website at <http://www.stu.ca/athletics/index.htm>



Friendships that will live through history

by Joel O'Kane

It's summertime on the St. Thomas campus and not just the flowers are blooming. Six of the university's top history graduates have been accepted into UNB's Master of Arts program for History with prestigious awards. The real reward for all involved, however, is the seeds of friendship that were cultivated along the way.

"It's a considerable achievement to get into graduate school," says Dr. Sheila Andrew, a professor of Canadian history. "When your students come into your office to say they got into graduate school, you just want to give them a big

hug. Then you get on the computer and email your fellow professors, letting them know who got into what school, and what award they got. This is a major achievement for our students."

Many of the students receiving awards to study History at UNB credit the close relationship between students and professors at St. Thomas as one of the main reasons for their success. Katie Ferrar of Saint John, New Brunswick says that it was the personal

help that professors give their students that helped them to realize their full potential.

"One of my best memories at St. Thomas was being taught by the late Dr. Juergen Doerr," says Ms. Ferrar. "For the last class I took with him, some students and I brought a bottle of wine to class to celebrate his retirement. He had a surprise for us, too. He took us all home to his house to have class while his wife served us refreshments. After class we all shared Dr. Doerr's birthday cake with him. It was little things like this that your professors did for you, either academically or personally that they didn't have to do."

Ms. Ferrar's fellow student Steven MacPherson will also be going to graduate school. Mr. MacPherson is a St. Thomas alumni who returned after study here in 1981.

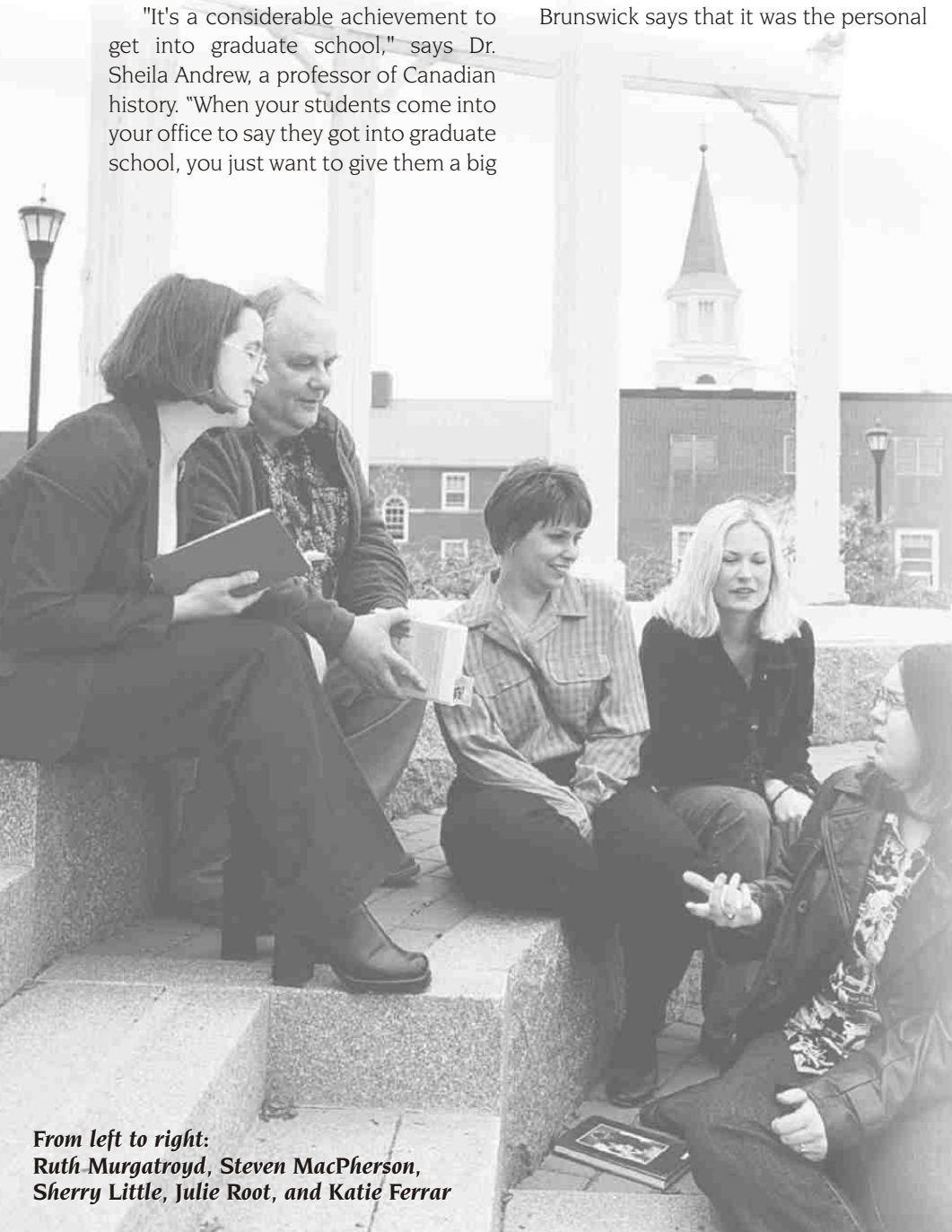
"I had great experiences at St. Thomas, and it seemed only right to come back to do my history degree," says Mr. MacPherson. "They have a great faculty who are committed to their students and their students to them. They never limit your potential or your interests. When I needed help with my study, my professors were there every step of the way."

Although graduation has come and gone and her students are leaving, Dr. Andrew looks forward to seeing them again, and seeing what they have accomplished.

"These are great students, and it's a pleasure to see them later in life at conferences and such, seeing what they are doing now, and there is a certain pride in knowing you helped to get them there. It's something that lasts as the years go by. It's a family feeling."

The following St. Thomas students have been accepted into the Masters degree program at UNB: Katie Ferrar, Julie Root, Steven MacPherson, Ruth Murgatroyd, and Sherry Little.

Both Katie Ferrar and Steven MacPherson have been awarded the only two Hugh John Flemming Fellowships in Maritime History, valued at \$2,500 each.



From left to right:
Ruth Murgatroyd, Steven MacPherson,
Sherry Little, Julie Root, and Katie Ferrar

Remembering Mark Ireland

by Jennifer Dunville

There was a bittersweet moment during the convocation ceremony at St. Thomas University on Monday May 12. Faculty, friends and fellow students were remembering Mark Ireland, 28, who was awarded his degree posthumously. Ireland died in January 2002 after being murdered in Belize. His killer has not yet been found.

Ireland grew up in a home for orphaned and disadvantaged children in Belize, a small country in Central America. He was brought to Fredericton by John Evans, who visited the country as part of a volunteer group providing free dental service to the disadvantaged in Belize. Evans remembers being struck by Ireland's maturity and intelligence.

"I'd never seen him before in my life. We just had a brief encounter, but right away I found out he was one bright kid," said Evans.

Ireland had graduated from high school at 14, and had a strong desire to continue his education. With a lot of hard work, and help from a number of service clubs in Fredericton, Evans was able to bring Mark to St. Thomas to study.

"The tuition for Mark was a setback," said Evans. "We got the money for the majority of Mark's expenses from the Fredericton Rotary Club, but we didn't have enough for Mark's tuition. Fortunately St. Thomas waived the tuition so that Mark could join us in Fredericton."

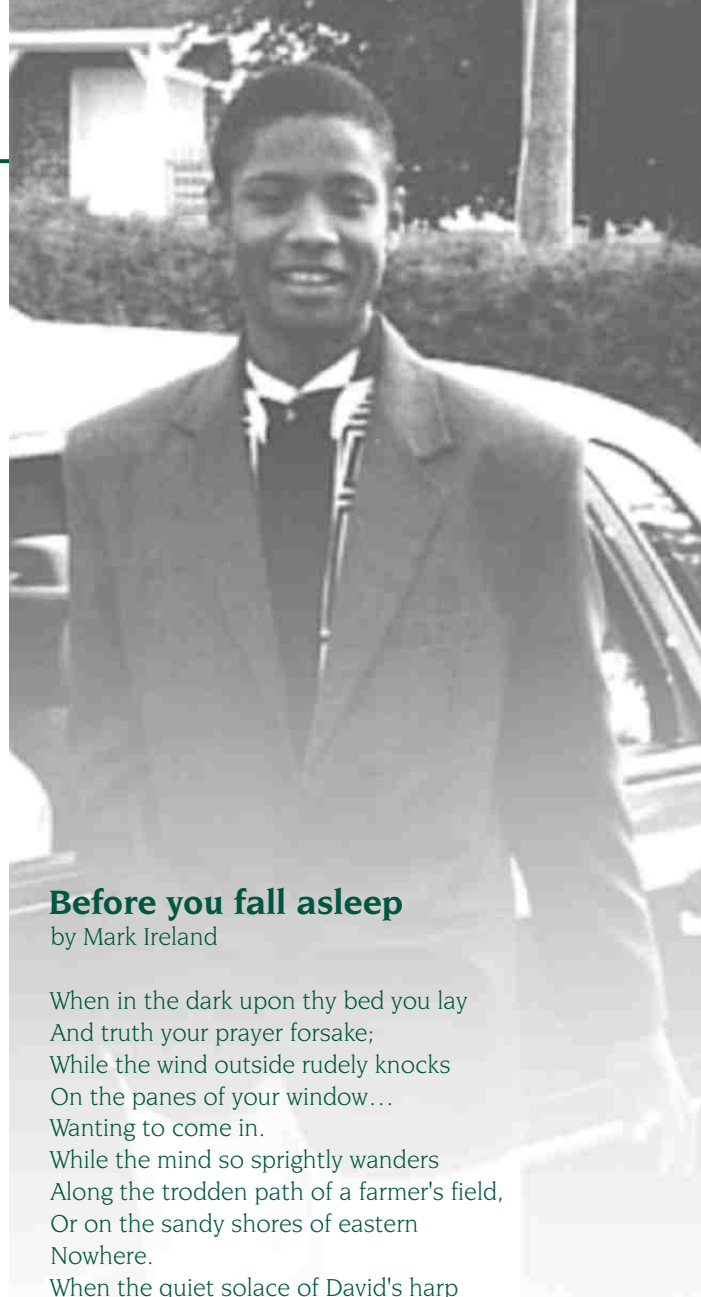
At St. Thomas, the only problem was lack of residential space. Evans contacted Harry Rigby, who at the time was the dean of residence. "I called Harry and explained the situation. As soon as I told him what Mark's last name was – because Harry is Irish – he put Mark in a room across from his office," Evans said. "It was all settled. Mark was at STU to study."

Prof. Joan McFarland, a professor of economics at St. Thomas University recalls that Ireland quickly made friends and was welcomed into the university community.

"He was an independent thinker and very intelligent. Though he was shy and quiet, he was a very appealing young man and he certainly came into his own. He was a success story," said McFarland.

Evans also noticed the impact Ireland made, and he was not surprised. "Here was a kid straight out of nothing, accomplishing his goals and making great achievements; of course he had an impact on people," said Evans.

continued on page 9



Before you fall asleep

by Mark Ireland

When in the dark upon thy bed you lay
And truth your prayer forsake;
While the wind outside rudely knocks
On the panes of your window...
Wanting to come in.
While the mind so sprightly wanders
Along the trodden path of a farmer's field,
Or on the sandy shores of eastern
Nowhere.
When the quiet solace of David's harp
Floats idly by without a word;
And on the darkened clouds of night
Your mind is put to rest;
The sleepy taste of cool red wine
As it soaks into the tongue, into the mind.
When, for once peace prevails
In the unseen shadows of the wall,
As it melds smoothly into the air;
And Philly, the cat, makes a soft, soft purr...
It reaches your ear
From beneath the bed where he lay
When in the dark, upon your bed you lay
And the sands of sleep are sprinkled
Upon your eyes,
Remember
That on a crowded street
Under a tattered cardboard box,
No shoes, no hat; under the rain
There a poor man lies.

continued from page 8

Evans says Ireland was a diligent student with a drive to achieve top marks. "If he didn't like a mark that he got in a class, he'd take the course again," noted Evans.

"His visa was running out. He took a chance that he would get his Honours in economics, but he ran out of time. He went back to Belize in 1994, without his degree."

Evans and McFarland kept in touch with Ireland after he left St. Thomas. He was immediately hired as chief appraiser for the Development Finance Corporation, a government development bank.

"He built himself a nice house in Belmopan, the capital, and was planning his wedding. It's just sickening what happened to him," Evans said.

McFarland said the degree will serve as a memorial.

"We wanted to do this for his family; for the place where he grew up. We wanted to commemorate Mark's time with us in some way."

"I will remember how much he developed in his time at STU. I feel proud that, in some small role, I may have made a contribution to his intellectual development, all of us in the Economics Department will remember him," McFarland said.

"He was highly regarded, a role model, and someone who proved that you can make it. I will remember his quiet, gracious humour. He was a really close friend," Evans said.

"He was part of my family for five years. It's tough, but life goes on. We'll remember the fun things and all that Mark accomplished."

Modern Day Cowboy

by Jennifer Dunville

Bob Edgett, Director of University Advancement at St. Thomas University has a wife, a family, and an unusual hobby, long distance endurance motorcycling.

"A lot of us in this sport see ourselves as modern day cowboys, the motorcycle replaces the horse," said Edgett. "There is freedom, solitude and a sense of escape that you can't get with a lot of other activities."

In June 2003 Edgett participated in two long-distance motorcycle rallies, Trans Canada Quest (TCQ) and Hyder Seek. In TCQ participants must travel across Canada from coast to coast in ninety hours or less documenting the trip with receipts from certain checkpoints. Hyder Seek is a meeting of long-

distance motorcyclists who travel from all over North America to the small town of Hyder, Alaska.

This year Edgett and his riding partner, David Prebble, who is also from Fredericton, went on their first trip to Alaska. "David and I left Halifax, on May 24th, for our coast to coast trip at six o'clock that morning, 88 hours later we arrived in Vancouver. We went to Alaska from there."

This year two hundred people registered for Hyder Seek. Out of those participants only two participated in the Trans Canada Quest.



Edgett said he was filled with an immense sense of accomplishment on his arrival in Alaska. "Something like this takes a lot of planning. It's a lot like long distance running; you're trying to manage time, distance, speed and the physical and mechanical aspects to reach a goal," said Edgett. "You've got to be prepared physically and mentally for such long trip, in addition to ensuring your route is planned out, that you've got all the necessary safety equipment, and that you're prepared for any emergencies or things that could happen along the way."

The precautions paid off; all 200 riders got to Hyder, Alaska safely. Edgett said he wears a full-faced helmet, synthetic armored suits, and reflective materials.

"I even have electric clothing," said Edgett. "You could easily get hypothermia on a motorcycle and you've got to be properly prepared – you can't afford to have something happen while you're riding."

Even with his protective gear Edgett said he wouldn't have finished the trip if it weren't for his family. "Taking off for two weeks to go on a motorcycle rally is a selfish thing to do when you have a family because you're leaving them behind. The only way this trip was possible for me was with the support and encouragement of my family," said Edgett.

Edgett also credits his riding partner. "David is a great riding partner. We trust each other and on the road we have a non-verbal connection," said Edgett. "We know that we can count on the other if something happens. I think it's a relief not only to us, but to our families."

There are many reasons why people choose to participate in long distance motorcycling and Edgett has a few reasons of his own. "I know when I tell people I went to Alaska on a motorcycle it boggles their minds, but as motorcyclists we see the vastness and diversity of the country that you can't see from driving in a car," said Edgett.

"On a motorcycle you smell the aroma of spring flowers, the fresh cut grass or the storm that's coming. You hear sounds and see things that you just couldn't in a car. We saw elk, bear, foxes, eagles and we really felt a part of the environment," Edgett said.

"We were on a motorcycle for over a hundred hours which gives you time to think about a lot of things. Some people say it's a life changing type of activity; you can spend time weighing decisions that maybe you don't take time to do normally. I find it all very relaxing."

Edgett's family understands his love of riding, in fact he says they ride too. "I was, like a lot of other guys, interested in motorcycles at a young age, but when I was nineteen I got into an accident and didn't ride much until I was married with kids," said Edgett.

"My wife and I took a motorcycle safety course and we both started riding. We've gone on trips to Maine, New York State, Nova Scotia and PEI. Our daughters ride with us now so we've also gone on trips as a family and like to go camping. It's nothing unusual – other families go tenting – we just take motorcycles."

Edgett said he was a bit weary after his trip, but he would do it all over again in a second.

"I've seen more country than most people will ever see. I have a flavor of all the small towns we stopped in and I've seen some incredible sights along the way. For many of us it's not the destination, it's the ride."

Transitions is prepared by the Office of Communications and Media Relations and is about the faculty, staff and students of St. Thomas University. Your comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome. If you have story ideas or articles to contribute please contact either Mary McIntosh (452-0522) or Tami Hill (452-0645) in the Office of Communications, Room 105, George Martin Hall, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5G3.

A very special thanks to 3rd year journalism student Jennifer Dunville. Jennifer was employed by the Office of Communications and Media Relations this summer as a Communications Assistant and she wrote many of the articles and was the Associate Editor of this issue of Transitions.



Aussie Exchange

by Jennifer Dunville

Chance brought Alana Smith to St. Thomas University, but choice has kept her here. Lana is an exchange student from the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, Australia.

"I've always wanted to go on a student exchange to Canada," Smith said. "I hadn't given it much thought until one day one of my books dropped open at a page describing the exchange program. It said St. Thomas University, Canada. So, I ended up here six months later."

Exchange programs give students the opportunity to study abroad for one year and to learn about other people and cultures. St. Thomas University has a number of exchange agreements which give international students a taste of STU and St. Thomas students the opportunity to study elsewhere.

Shauna Stennick, Coordinator of Student Academic Advising, is responsible for international exchange students.

"My first impression of Lana was that she was quiet and shy," said Stennick. "She's not though; she's very outgoing, intelligent and easy to get along with. Most of our exchange students are only here a year and you really don't get a chance to get to know them. Not Lana though, she's extremely sociable."

Smith, 21, said that some of the people she met in Fredericton will be her friends for life. "I met my best friend here in residence," said Smith.

Besides meeting great friends, Smith said the exchange itself has been such a good experience that she decided to extend her stay.

"I've finished my Bachelor of Arts Degree, but I decided to stay here to

study another year," Smith said. "It's very different from Australian University; first of all, the students here wear STU on their clothing, no one does that in Australia. Here, you're much more connected with the University. Australian Catholic University doesn't have residences or very many student services, so at STU I noticed right away the constant contact between the students and the St. Thomas community."

Another difference for Smith is the climate. Canada is much colder than Australia, but Smith said it doesn't bother her. "I love the snow," she laughed. "Seriously though, I don't mind the snow."

Smith completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in history and theology in 2002-2003. She lived at Rigby and participated in the leadership program and peer mentoring.

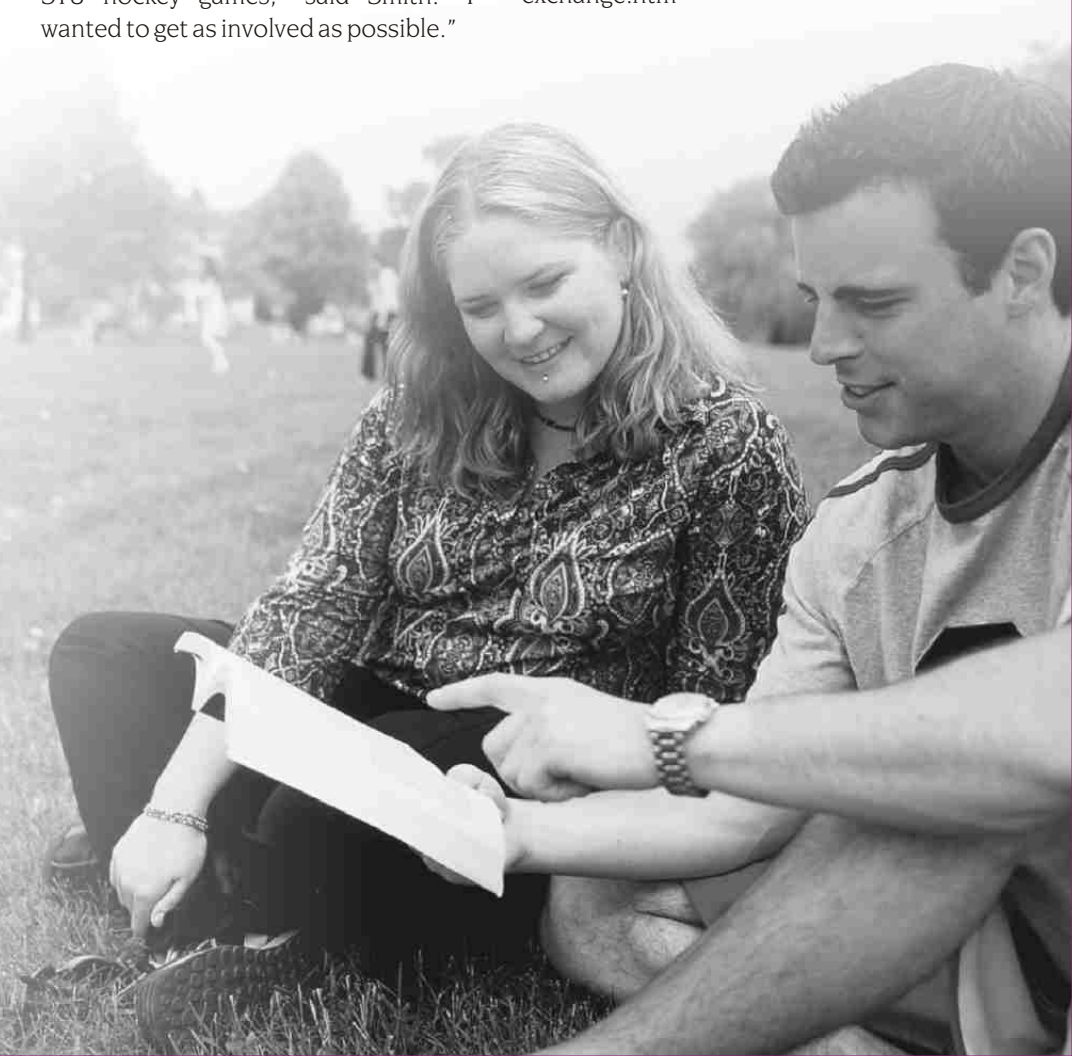
"I also made sure I went to all the STU hockey games," said Smith. "I wanted to get as involved as possible."

This summer she was employed as an assistant for Student Affairs and is going to be a proctor for Harrington Residence this fall. Stennick said Smith has fit right into the community.

"She makes great decisions and has a good head on her shoulders," said Stennick. "She's been a great asset to our community and has blended in well. I think right down to her accent, everyone likes her."

Smith said her personality could be summed up in three words. "Adaptable, optimistic and Australian," she said. "But I don't think it was just my personality that helped me fit in, I think it was also that everyone at STU goes out of their way to make international students feel welcome. Everyone is involved in the St. Thomas community; it's small, but friendly and the atmosphere is just great. I love it. It's great how close knit everyone is at the University; that's what I'll remember most."

For more information on exchange programs visit the STU website at: www.stu.ca/prospective/programmes/exchange.htm



From Left to right: St. Thomas students Alana Smith and Pat O'Connor

Learning about Human Rights

High school and elementary school teachers attended a summer course at St. Thomas University from July 13-18 that covered topics ranging from the Holocaust to discrimination.

The three-credit university course, entitled "Teaching For and About Human Rights", was designed six years ago by the Summer Institute at St. Thomas University to help educators learn about human rights.

"The course teaches them how they can take the material discussed in class and apply it to their own classroom, whether it be a history, social studies or literature class," said Dr. McGowan, Faculty Coordinator of the Institute.

The students were housed in the Forest Hill Residence and attended lectures in Brian Mulroney Hall. The

lecturers included Dr. Israel Unger; Dr. Michael McGowan; Dr. Noel Kinsella; Leo Adler; Avis Fitton; Judge Graydon Nicholas; Professor Don Fleming; Dr. Joseph Masciulli; Greg Forestell; Alison Vaughan; Dr. Rick Myers; Francis Young; Richard Blaquiere; Korla LaVorge; Dr. Heather Richmond; Dr. Gerry Clarke; Dr. Frehiwot Tesfaye; Varma-Joshi Manju; and Chris Whalen from the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

The participants, from left to right, are: (front) Cheryl Storey; Heidi Whipple; Diane LeBel-Michaud; Tommy Dawson; (middle) Wayne Mullin; Elizabeth Price; Kyle Peters; (back) Dr. Michael McGowan; Susan Brannon; Paula Trueman; Patrick Campbell, Hon. Noel Kinsella; Dr. Heather Richmond; David Mombourquette and Annette Henry.

For information on the 2003-2004 program contact:

Dr. Michael McGowan – (506) 452-0486 – mmcgowan@stu.ca

Dr. Heather Richmond – (506) 452-0416 – richmond@stu.ca

Website: <http://www.stu.ca/~ahrc/>

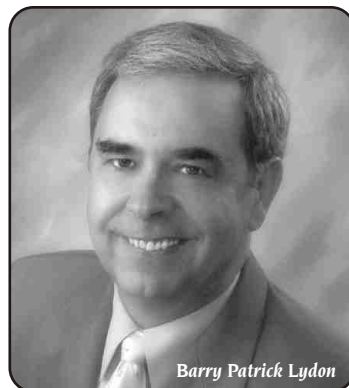
Honorary Fellows



St. Thomas University honoured two New Brunswickers, Dr. Judith Kathleen Myers Avis and Barry Patrick Lydon, for their contribution to the advancement and standards in social work and education by conferring them with the Honourary Fellow distinction at its summer convocation in July.

Dr. Myers Avis was being recognized for her academic and professional contribution to the advancement of social work knowledge and practice.

Barry Patrick Lydon, M.Ed. was acknowledged for his longstanding contribution to the educational system in New Brunswick through his work in the development of the curriculum for the public schools in this province.



STU
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*Andrew and David Robson,
BA 2004*

Dean's List

*Tommies Basketball,
ACAA Champions,
2002-2003*



St. Thomas University
LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS