

President's Report 2014



SJU

St. Jerome's University



President's Message

This has been an exciting year for St. Jerome's University as we celebrate new partnerships and governance structures, embark on our infrastructure renewal plan, and make advancements in research and teaching – all on the cusp of celebrating our 150 years of Catholic education.

We have come a long way from those early beginnings in a one-room classroom housed in a log cabin in St. Agatha in 1865. Today we are a growing, vibrant, Catholic university recognized both locally and abroad, for our academic excellence through open academic inquiry and our community service.

We continue to embrace the values and vision of our founding fathers of “harmonizing the education of the heart with instructions of the mind by holding up the Gospel values of the love, truth, and justice as exemplified by Jesus for young people to admire.”

Our pedagogical philosophy of educating the whole person grows from the research, teaching, and service mission of the University. We are a dynamic and diverse community that brings together academics, faith, and student life.

Our community has been an integral part of our success. We thank you for your generosity and confidence in us.

I look to the future with optimism and hope as we continue to grow our capacity through sustainable infrastructure and program renewal to deliver on our mission, for the present, and the future.



Dr. Katherine Bergman
President and Vice Chancellor



Campus Renewal 2015

Community Engagement

Beyond Borders Program Growth

A Year in Reflection

Statue of Father Funcken

In fall 2013, with the support of the Congregation of the Resurrection, the statue of St. Jerome's University's founder, Father Louis Funcken, was brought to campus. The statue was commissioned by "The Grateful Alumni A.D. 1907" and executed by Italian sculptor Raphael Zaccagnini.

New Armorial Bearings

St. Jerome's University's new coat of arms was unveiled at SJU's Annual Donor Reception on April 11th, 2014, and is legally registered to St. Jerome's University. The design incorporates our history, respects the original crest, and positions us for the future.

Collective Bargaining

St. Jerome's University has successfully completed collective bargaining with the Academic Staff Association and Contract Academic Staff Association resulting in a five-year agreement for full-time academic staff and a four-year agreement for contract academic staff.



Catholic District School Board Partnership

Academic Success

Research Breakthroughs

Math Consolidation

Consolidation of St. Jerome's University's math program with the University of Waterloo came into effect May 1, 2014. While SJU has benefited from a rich math history, the consolidation provides opportunity to build on our strengths in the liberal arts. Members of SJU's math faculty joined their colleagues at UWaterloo Faculty of Mathematics. Math courses are still offered through SJU's First Year Math Cohort.

Service Recognition

In spring 2014, St. Jerome's University established a new program for recognizing the long-service contributions of faculty and staff at the five-year milestone. SJU will donate to the employee's charity of choice based on years of service, connecting the University to the causes that mean the most to our faculty and staff.

Table of Contents

President's Message	2-3
A Year in Reflection	4-5
Campus Renewal	6-9
Academic Planning	10-11
Academics and Research	12-15
Student Experience	16-19
Public Accountability	20-21
Board of Governors	22
150 th Anniversary	23



Ana Maria Llanos, Architect

Inspired by her father's career in architecture, Llanos's passion for design began early. Together, father and daughter collaborated on various projects in Lima, Peru, before Llanos moved to Canada to continue her architectural career in Vancouver, where she worked on numerous projects for First Nations communities in Northern British Columbia. She holds a Master of Architecture from the University of British Columbia, and is a LEED accredited professional. Llanos is a senior associate at Diamond Schmitt Architects.

Campus Renewal

Reinforcing Community through Innovative Design

Ana Maria Llanos describes St. Jerome's University's new \$47-million build as a "marriage between the pragmatic elements of constructability and the pedagogical philosophy that has defined SJU's approach to learning for the past 150 years" – one of educating the whole person.

In a higher learning institution anchored in the Gospel values, community is a treasured teacher that enlightens the heart as well as the mind. Building a space that fosters relationships and social interaction is a must. This priority was key to Diamond Schmitt's architectural design choice – both in terms of creating new spaces and preserving the existing infrastructure.

The present courtyard, "the heart of campus," currently sits in full sunlight and is surrounded by low, two storey structures. Any adjustments to nearby buildings could fundamentally change the courtyard's size and spirit, casting this central meeting place in the shadow of other structures. "Preserving this space was important," says Llanos. "The scale of this space allows for groups of people to gather. There is an intimacy associated with it that was important not to disturb."

The triangular pods of the new 360-bedroom student residence are also a deliberate attempt to bring the doors of every bedroom as close to each other as possible and move away from traditional, apartment-style corridors.

Surrounded by classrooms, the atrium of the new academic building is divided into two floors, with the ground floor reserved for social activities.

“We look at every part of the project to reinforce community. The quality of the space is also important. Access to views and natural light are critical.”

Part of Llanos’s “contextual design approach” is enhancing what exists by utilizing similar materials. “We’ve looked at the colour and harmony of existing brick with new brick,” says Llanos. “It’s not a replica, but rather a contemporary version of what we see are the essential qualities of this space. We really do our best to understand context.”

The Campus Renewal project is slated for completion in fall 2016.

Ana Maria Llanos, of Diamond Schmitt Architects, project architect for SJU’s \$47-million Campus Renewal Build (L), »
breaking new ground with Katherine Bergman, president, SJU (R).



Campus Renewal Gains Profile

The Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) model is an innovative design process. All parties are involved in decision-making, allowing for architect, construction company, and the University to work collaboratively to map out choices from the project's infancy. Partners work collectively in mitigating problems like time delays or added expense, which is often associated with traditional construction systems. Risks and rewards are equally shared among partners using LEAN methodology – a shared approach to defining and delivering project goals to minimize waste.

The IPD framework that St. Jerome's University adopted for its Campus Renewal has garnered national media attention, as well as piqued the interest of a variety of institutions across the country. SJU has received a stream of inquiries about its selection and use of IPD as well as requests for consultations and presentations.





Presentations:

16th Annual LEAN Construction Institute Congress

"Lean Principles in a University Setting." 16th Annual LCI Congress. Lean Project Consulting . Wyndham Parc 55 Hotel, San Francisco. 8 Oct. 2014. Panel presentation.

As one of only a few educational institutions in North America, and the only one in Canada to employ a full IPD project, Darren Becks of SJU was invited to present on a panel, alongside Art Winslow of Graham Construction and Samir Emdanat of Ghafari Associates. This was an opportunity for the "LEAN design and construction community" to come together and share what organizations are doing to drive "the next generation" of LEAN construction processes and projects.

Construct Canada Conference

Build Project Management Team, St. Jerome's University. "Integrated Project Delivery (IPD): A Case Study of a Game-Changing Design & Construction Process." Construct Canada Conference. CMD. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. 3 Dec. 2014. Presentation.

Presenters:

Becks, Darren, St. Jerome's University
Dow, David , Diamond Schmitt Architects
Winslow, Art, Graham Construction



Media Highlights:

London and District Construction

Baxter, Mary. "Integrated Project Management: Taking a Collaborative Approach to Improving the Quality of Project Management." *London & District Construction* 1 Oct. 2014: 8-9. Print.

The Globe and Mail

Dixon, Guy. "Campus Renewal Project in Ontario Goes a Step Beyond Lean." *The Globe and Mail* 14 Apr. 2014, Industry News sec. Phillip Crawley. Web.

Canadian Architect

"St. Jerome's University at the University of Waterloo Adopts Integrated Project Delivery Model." *Canadian Architect* 9 Apr. 2014. Web.



Academic Planning

2014-2015

With the start of the new academic year, St. Jerome's University launched an academic planning process to provide a framework for the development of new initiatives and the enhancement of current academic programming. Today, university students interested in the liberal arts are increasingly seeking opportunities to apply their knowledge in specific fields, including the legal profession, social work, and the not-for-profit sector. As a Catholic university, rooted in the liberal arts, it is imperative that our academic programming is responding to student interests, while at the same time ensuring that we are providing a foundational education.

As part of this process, we are engaging faculty, students, academic support staff, and key stakeholders, such as academic leaders at the University of Waterloo, guidance counselors in area high schools, and members of the broader SJU community. At SJU, we take pride in our teaching and research excellence, our role in carrying on the rich legacy of the Catholic intellectual tradition, and our commitment to partner with students as they develop intellectually, morally, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.



Dr. Scott Kline
Vice President Academic and Dean, Interim





Academics and Research

Making the Connection between Research, Teaching, and Learning

At St. Jerome's University, we embrace the connection between active research, successful teaching, and the student's academic experience. This past year, our 33 faculty members published eight books and authored numerous academic articles.* We have faculty currently engaged in externally funded, multi-year research projects that total more than \$1 million.** These research successes have not come at the expense of our commitment to teaching excellence; in fact, quite the opposite. For instance, this past year Dr. Chad Wriglesworth of the Department of English published a book entitled *Distant Neighbors: The Selected Letters of Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder* (Counterpoint Press, 2014) and received a Federation of Students Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. Research and teaching excellence is more than a motto — it is a realizable standard for SJU faculty. Moreover, our faculty make it a point to include students in their research projects.

*Publications included from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2013.

** Research dollars accounted from May 1, 2013-April 30, 2014.

Dr. Steven Bednarski

What can a lost medieval village teach us about today's climate change?

Social historian and medieval archival expert, Dr. Steven Bednarski is leading a team of researchers to unearth the remains of a lost medieval village in the south of England, hoping to find lessons about climate change.

Villagers who lived near Herstmonceux, East Sussex, abandoned their community 600 years ago when coastal floods, increased rainfall, and changing temperatures threatened their livelihood.

Under the leadership of Bednarski and his collaborator, Scott McLean, a history professor at the Bader International Study Centre, Herstmonceux, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council partnership grant, totalling \$339,000, has helped to establish a formal partnership between the University of Waterloo, St. Jerome's University, the Bader International Study Centre, and Queen's University.

The project offers a rare humanities-based contribution to the growing field of global climate change, underscoring how nature, people, and culture are inextricably linked. "To halt potentially harmful interactions with nature requires deep changes to culture and lifestyle," says Bednarski.

Students who collaborate on the project become adaptive and competitive on the world stage while finding ways to contribute to the Canadian and international discourse on climate change. This past summer, seven University of Waterloo students travelled to Herstmonceux Castle as part of the physical excavation and archival investigation. Already, a UWaterloo doctoral candidate, Andrew Moore, is conducting dissertation work that grows from the central project.



Dr. Maureen Drysdale

How does peer support impact the mental health of post-secondary students?

Dr. Maureen Drysdale of the Department of Psychology, and her graduate student, Margaret McBeath, received a 2013-2014 Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund (OHCRI) grant from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities for their research project entitled Connected Minds – Healthy Minds: The Mental Health and Well-Being of Post-Secondary Students Transitioning into the Labour Market. The aim of this project was to gather data examining the impact of peer support and sense of belonging on the mental health of post-secondary students. Drysdale reports that the findings of this research clearly reveal the importance of peer support and sense of belonging for post-secondary students, especially during times of transition, such as when students are on a work term, or when leaving university. Drysdale revealed that students perceived many barriers to accessing peer support resources.



“Because of SJU’s size, I am able to work individually with students like Margaret and serve as a mentor. When I involve students in my research, the process is very rewarding for both of us, and beneficial to St. Jerome’s University.”

– Dr. Maureen Drysdale

Dr. Chris Burris

How do video games play on our experience of ‘greater forces?’

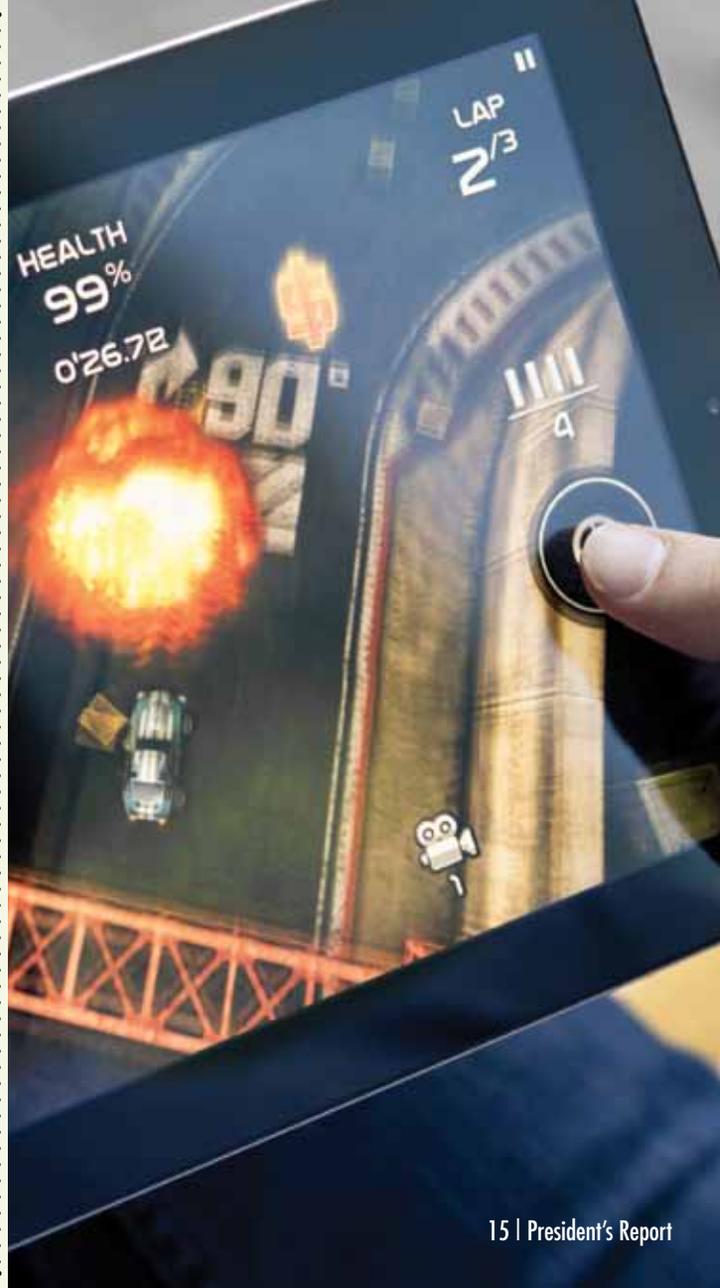
Since coming to St. Jerome’s University in 1997, Dr. Chris Burris, of the Department of Psychology, has co-authored 12 peer-reviewed journal articles and 17 conference presentations with his honours students and research assistants. Topics have included religious experience, sexuality, and powerful motivational states such as love and hate, all of which intersect with Burris’s teaching interests.

One recent article published in the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* was the basis for an online story entitled *Gaming vs. God* in the highly regarded *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The question at the core of the article, co-written by Burris and UWaterloo psychology undergraduate Traci Dow, was whether playing video games suppresses numinous experience – that is, the feeling that there is a force beyond ourselves and the physical world.

Burris and Dow found that a game’s format is at least as important as its content. Contemporary video games tell stories audio-visually, and therefore place less demand on the player to keep the game’s story “in the head” – where the unseen of spirituality and religion is ultimately experienced. This game format seems to suppress religious/spiritual experience. On the other hand, old-style computer games with narratives in a text-only format can have the opposite effect.

Burris reports that many student co-authors have gone on to graduate-level training. “Sharing a publication or presentation with them,” he says, “is the most tangible means by which I can assist them with their plans for graduate studies.”





Student Experience

New House System

St. Jerome's University's Student Commons Program, more commonly known as the house system, debuted fall 2013 in a soft launch to the student body. The house system is based on the Oxbridge model of student engagement – where students are placed in houses upon arriving on campus. After extensive consultation and collaboration between students and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, Kenneth McLaughlin, four houses were named. Visual identities were built to create a sense of spirit as students participate in activities around health and wellness, education, social engagement, and community outreach. The response for the first iteration of the program has been overwhelmingly positive from students.

Program goals:

- Enhance the sense of connection that students feel towards the University and their overall engagement in curricular and co-curricular life
- Provide avenues for students to receive informal mentorship and coaching from both academic and non-academic staff
- Enhance students' connection to, interest in and engagement with SJU's historical place on campus and in the community
- To stimulate the holistic development of students through mission-driven and values-based programming that strives to foster a sense of responsible citizenship, both at the University and after graduation.



Leon House



Spetz House



Taylor House



Zinger House



Students' Union Invests in Campus Renewal 2015

Students are the driving force behind any great campus venture, and never has that been more important at St. Jerome's University than it is now. With the new Campus Renewal 2015 project in full swing SJU is fostering a real sense of community. The Students' Union at SJU has made a significant financial contribution to Campus Renewal.

"Building the SJU spirit is what the renewal project is endeavouring to do," says Students' Union President, Paula Colaso. Through student consultation and funding the Students' Union has ensured that SJU's student needs are a first priority.

The Students' Union – which is funded by student membership fees each term – donated \$10,000 to Campus Renewal and solicited financial support from the Arts, and Math Endowment Funds, which brought an additional \$11,000 to the project.

"Our funding is solely for the benefit of the larger student community," Colaso said, "which in this case will go towards upgrading spaces in the existing buildings on campus."

One of these spaces will be the Student Hub, which will be dedicated to student social/study space, including activity and group study areas. "What's great is that a variety of student services will be located within steps of the new Student Hub," Colaso noted.

The very spirit of the Students' Union's contribution is students investing in students and, as Colaso adds, "trying to fuel that feeling of community and spirit of green and gold pride."

International Service Learning

Beyond Borders

Beyond Borders is St. Jerome's University's international service learning experience program designed to challenge students to be actively engaged in the world and foster their understanding of diverse cultures, poverty, education, and human rights and freedom. This past year, the program has thrived in terms of building viable partnerships and increasing participation.

Spring 2014 introduced the largest student cohort for the Beyond Borders program to date. In 2014, 21 students travelled to six different countries – Kenya, Uganda, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Peru, and Ecuador – bringing SJU's total number of students volunteering and working abroad to nearly 50, for the 2013-2014 academic cycle. Beyond Borders will expand to allow for two cohorts in 2015, bringing in an even larger number of students who will travel in the spring and fall.

Partnership with Waterloo Catholic District School Board

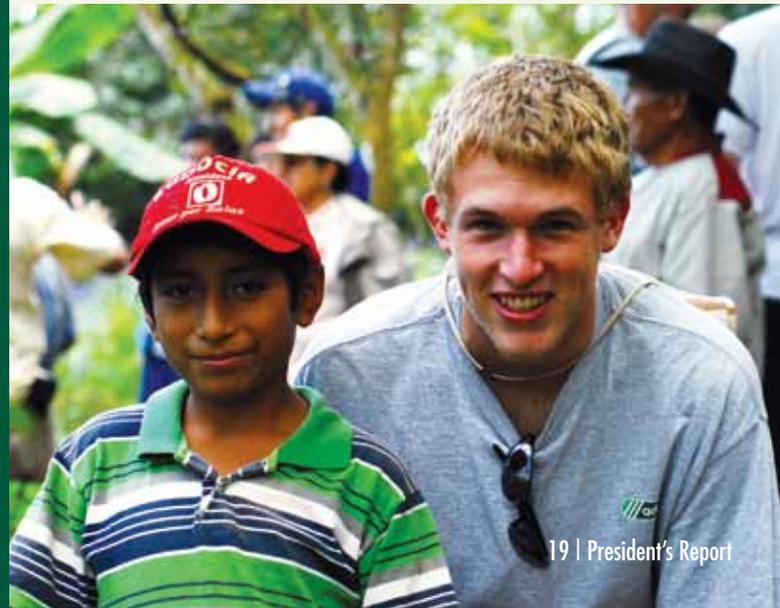
In the spring of 2013, SJU initiated a number of projects in conjunction with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB). As part of the partnership, six WCDSB high school students joined SJU's Go Guatemala trip for the first time in February of 2014. Students from St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School, Saint David Catholic Secondary School, St. Mary's High School, and Resurrection Catholic Secondary School joined ten SJU Students in service and solidarity.

SJU in Peru marks its Fifth Year of Partnership

In the five years since the program has existed, over 40 students have shared in this experience of solidarity and service. Our reach has extended across Peru and we are exploring new partnerships with Catholic universities and other service organizations.

“Our students today are civic-minded, concerned about the environment, believe that their education should lead toward positive social transformation, and want to be leaders of new institutions and organizations that make the world a more just and peaceable place to live. As we look ahead I see a tremendous opportunity to attract these students to St. Jerome's University. With our roots in the Catholic social tradition, social justice is core to our identity and the foundation for transformative leadership.”

— Dr. Scott Kline,
Vice President Academic and Dean, Interim



Public Accountability

Your Philanthropy

Working together as an integrated community allows St. Jerome's University to deliver on our mission. The generosity of our supporters helps to prepare the next generation of change-makers through our mission of educating the whole person.

Support From Our Community

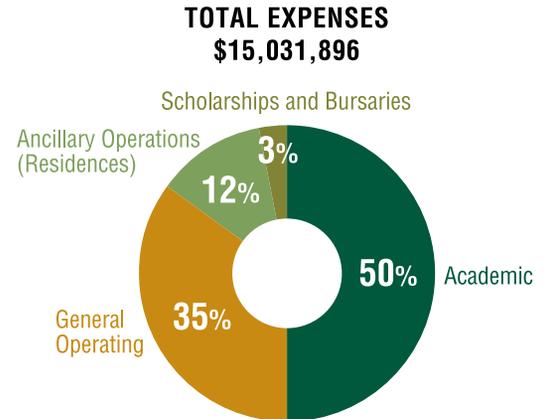
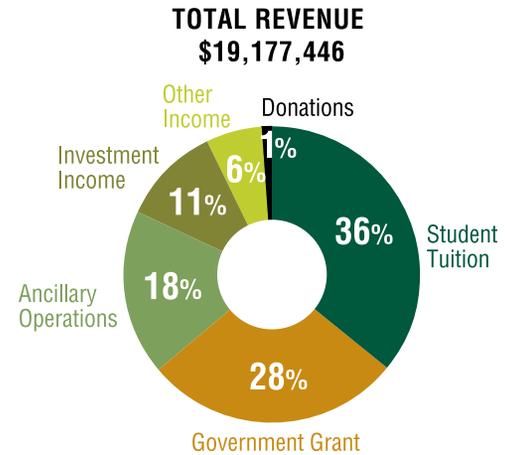
Your donation is an investment in student success. It provides SJU students with opportunities for a holistic education grounded in academic excellence. We could not provide an unparalleled undergraduate Catholic liberal arts education without your support.

Endowment Investment Portfolio

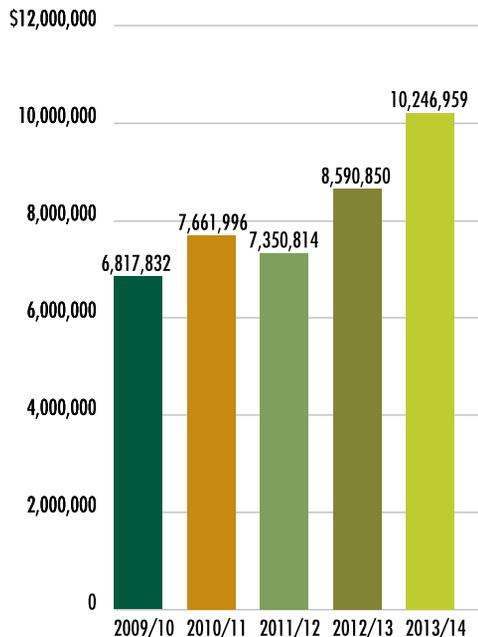
Our endowment funds provide ongoing resources for scholarships, lectures, and the Master of Catholic Thought program.

Thank You

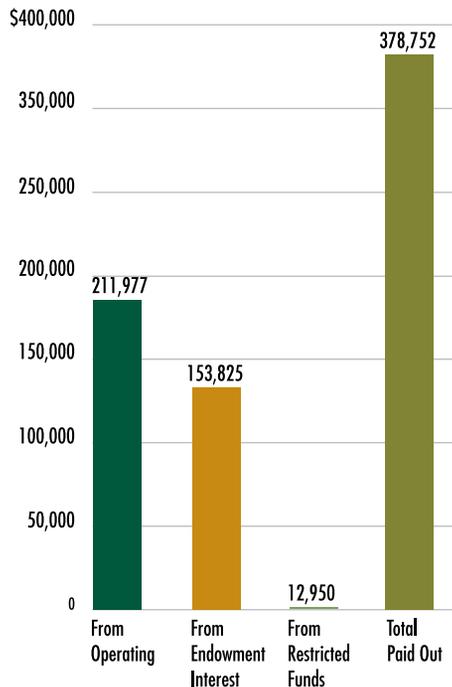
We are extremely grateful for your generosity and investment in our future leaders. Thank you for believing in St. Jerome's University, where ideas inspire action.



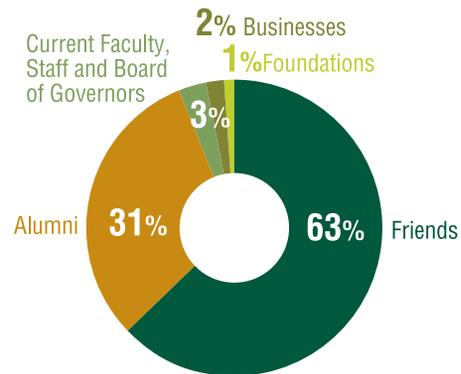
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO



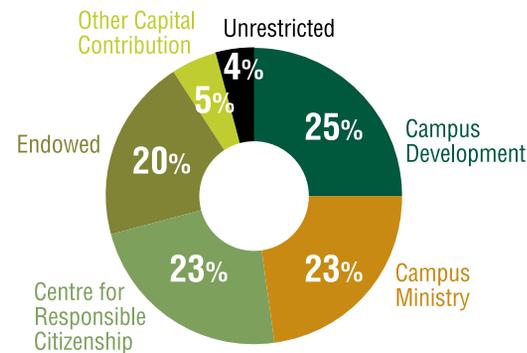
SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES



GIVING SOURCE



GIVING DESIGNATIONS



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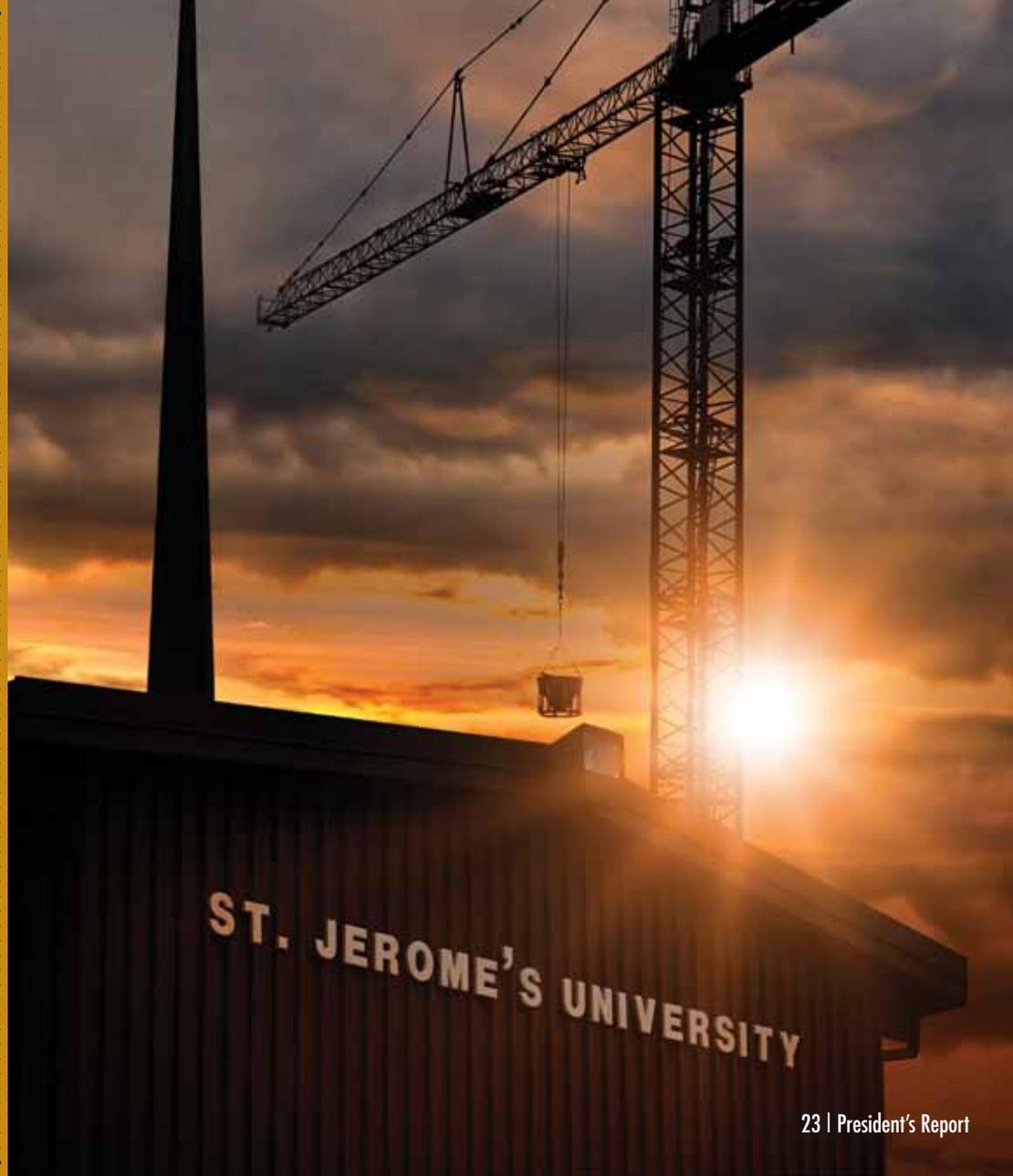


150th Anniversary

Starting in the fall of 2015, St. Jerome's University will be commemorating our commitment to Catholic education by celebrating our 150th anniversary of excellence in teaching, research, and student experience. To celebrate our successes over the last century and a half, the University will be hosting a variety of events, targeting those involved in our various communities, including donors, alumni, faculty, students, and many more.

Collaboration with the University of Waterloo's affiliated colleges and other community partners will bring new and innovative programming to SJU. Celebrations will begin with the start of the academic year in September 2015 and run until June of 2016. If you have questions, or are looking for more information, send us an email at 150@sju.ca.

We look forward to seeing you on campus!





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