



Annual Report
2015



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UNIVERSITY



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Looking to the Future with Confidence

Significant milestones – especially ones like the 150th Anniversary St. Jerome's University celebrated this past year – provide us the opportunity to reflect on our past with gratitude, embrace our present with enthusiasm, and look to the future with confidence.

The future is important to us at St. Jerome's University, where we remain focused on the learner and committed to the gospel values of our Catholic faith. Our vision is to steward our students' unique talents, nurture their ability to think critically, and inspire them to become life-long learners. We look to educate our students to become informed, courageous citizens with the humility to work together for the common good and the courage to lead by example in building a more just society. I am proud to say that over the years thousands of our students have taken this overarching philosophy out into the world.

This past year we paid tribute to all those, past and present, who have shared their talents and resources to make us who we are today: a thriving institution engaged with a supportive community. We look forward to the opening of our new buildings, the founding of new programs, and the partnerships we will continue to forge. We are confident that St. Jerome's University is well positioned to meet the future.

The key to opportunity for the University is the distinctiveness of our Catholic Intellectual Tradition, which distinguishes us from both secular and other faith-founded institutions. I want to thank all who give so generously for your ongoing support and commitment to your university. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated and demonstrate your devotion to a holistic education in the liberal arts, and the value you place on the mission and vision of St. Jerome's University.

Just as we enjoyed sharing this 150th year with you, we look forward to welcoming you to the grand opening of our new residence complex, wellness centre, and academic centre during the Grand Opening and Feast of St. Jerome Liturgy and Dinner, as part of the Reunion Weekend, October 1, 2016. We invite you to come home to St. Jerome's University and celebrate with us. Please also find enclosed a copy of our Strategic Plan — Building on Tradition, which has a pledge form; we hope you will engage with us as we look confidently to the future. We value your ongoing support.

Here's to our tomorrow.



Dr. Katherine Bergman
President and Vice Chancellor
January 2016





From left: Nathan Beninger, Pura Vida Shelter; Victor Rojas and Isabel Uriarte Latorre, PROASSA/Café Femenino; Dr. Katherine Bergman; Dr. Olena Huzar, Petryky Internat (orphanage), Ternopil, Ukraine.

Celebrating 10 Years of International Experiential Learning

BEYOND BORDERS

Watching our students awaken to the complexity and humanity of our world — and watching them accept the idea that with privilege comes responsibility — we see them rise to the challenges they encounter. These students are becoming global citizens and leaders who serve the community, and bring life to the St. Jerome's University mission.

This year, as St. Jerome's University celebrates 10 years of international service learning through the Beyond Borders program, we are reminded that these times abroad are not about changing the world, but rather about meeting people on their terms, and building understanding through meaningful relationships.

Beyond Borders participants complete two terms of on-campus course work followed by a 90-day placement with one of our international partner organizations. There, they immerse themselves in a diverse range of projects, including agriculture, community development, and recreation programs.

By actively engaging students in work that opens them up to new perspectives, we can help bring about greater awareness of social justice issues, such as gender disparity, education, and human rights.

Program director Glen Lombard says the trips are about helping students channel their desire to make a difference into meaningful engagement — rather than

“Through the Beyond Borders program, our students realize that they are already in a relationship with people who live on the margins of global society — it’s one outcome of economic globalization. As a result, our students are encouraged to see the pursuit of justice as a collective effort, with communities working together for a more just world.”

– Glen Lombard, Director, Office of Student Experience

having “experience seekers” parachute in somewhere just to shake things up.

“Most of them return completely humbled by how much they learn from their host families and partners,” Lombard says.

“The program’s power comes from its ability to provide a meaningful cross-cultural experience where students discover the humanity in those living on the margins.”

Beyond Borders also has a sister program known as SJU in Peru, in which students spend two weeks working with one of our two Peruvian partners. Over the past decade, the two programs have provided more than 150 students with life-changing experiences, and created positive, cross-cultural relationships that have served our communities and the partners they walked with.

Our partner organizations are many and varied. They include Café Femenino in Peru, which empowers women coffee growers to produce their own distinct brand of coffee, and Pura Vida Shelter, also in Peru, which walks alongside young women who have experienced sexual violence.

In Uganda, we partner with Reach Out Mbuya, an organization that serves people living with HIV/AIDS. In Dominican Republic, the Esperanza Project delivers supplementary and extra-curricular education to young people, while COAGRO in rural northern Ecuador helps create jobs for women by developing small businesses.

Through our partner in Ukraine, Ternopil National Pedagogical University, our students spend their time at the Petryky Internat, which houses young women living with disabilities. In Kenya, we have several partners: Smiles Africa, a child and youth services organization; Caring Partners Global, which deals in sustainable health care, education, life skills, and agricultural training; and Network for Social Transformation, which serves children in Nairobi.

These programs challenge students to examine their preconceived notions about the world. When they do that, important questions surface: about gender inequality, food security, ecological sustainability, international volunteerism, tourism, and traditional approaches to development.

In turn, as students try to address these questions, they tend to approach whatever they do with renewed and enlightened purpose.

We are enormously proud of both our Beyond Borders and SJU in Peru programs, and of the students who have stepped outside their comfort zones to participate in these unique learning experiences.





**Renovated
Servery**



**5 New
Classrooms**

**Games
Room**



Campus Renewal 2015: A Bright New Future for St. Jerome's University

Phase I: Completion 2015-2016

Campus Renewal Phase I will bring two new buildings to campus:

- A two-tower residence complex with plenty of space for student amenities to help foster engagement, wellness, and a sense of community.
- An academic centre with new classrooms, a large lecture hall, and an open-concept atrium.

Residence Complex

- 348 residence beds
- Community space on each floor
- Large main-floor amenity space with:
 - Private and group study spaces
 - Games and creativity room
 - Fitness studio
 - Music room
 - Community lounge space
 - Pantry
 - Flexible, open gym space

Academic Centre

- State-of-the-art, 300-seat lecture hall
- Five new classrooms (120'x50', 100'x50', 2-60'x 50')
- Atrium

Douglas R. Letson Centre (completed)

- Renovated servery
- Upgraded community centre

180
Single Rooms



84
Double Rooms





Photo credit: Ralph Haas Infrastructure and Sensing Analysis Laboratory

Phase II: Commencing 2016

Phase II will include renovations and upgrades to existing buildings:

Siegfried Hall

- New home of the permanent Notre Dame Chapel

Library

- Redesign and renewal, expanded to include a learning commons

Existing Administration and Classroom Space

- Renovations and space renewal to enhance classroom design and office areas

J.R. Finn Residence

- Space redesign and renewal

Sweeney Hall

- Academic staff offices
- Dedicated research, study, and collaborative spaces
- Student support offices including the Registrar's Office, Office of Student Experience, Campus Ministry, and the Student Success Office
- Visitors' Centre
- Off-campus student centre
- President's and executive offices
- Board of Governors and Senate Council meeting room

The renewed campus will equip the University for future growth and help us provide the best possible service to all our students, staff, and faculty.

Coming Soon: A Place of Prominence for Notre Dame Chapel

Phase I of our Campus Renewal project will be completed by fall 2016, paving the way for Phase II and renovations to existing buildings. This will include transforming Siegfried Hall into a permanent worship space, and naming it in honour of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Within the last few decades, it has become clear that our worshipping community and faith-based student population has outgrown the original Notre Dame Chapel.

A decision was made at the time to move Sunday liturgies to Siegfried Hall. This proved to work well for worship, but brought with it a new set of challenges: as the only large gathering space on campus, the chapel now had to double as a lecture hall during classroom hours, which meant a lot of set-up and tear-down each week, and ongoing wear and tear on the furniture.

It also left us without a place for quiet daily reflection, something that Campus Ministry Director Martha Fauteux describes as very important to many people in the extended St. Jerome's community.

Our Campus Renewal plan will address these issues by transforming Siegfried Hall into a permanent worship space.

Existing classroom activities and public events will move into a state-of-the-art lecture theatre in the new academic centre, and the renewed chapel will be available for prayer, reflection, and worship activities seven days a week.

"It's wonderful we have this opportunity to relocate and redesign our chapel to better reflect who we are now in our 150th year," Fauteux says. "This new space will allow us to provide programming that meets the needs of all our students." The programming Campus Ministry provides encompasses multi-faith liturgical celebrations, vibrant liturgies, and connecting our students with the larger faith community as a whole — something the students are craving. "I've had many students approach me with excitement," Fauteux says, noting that students had been wanting an area "to be still, to be quiet, a place that is theirs." As Fauteux points out, "We educate the whole person, which includes spiritual development, so a chapel is very important."

A community consultation process is now under way to ensure the reconfigured space meets the needs of both our on-campus and worshipping communities. We look forward to sharing our progress as we prepare for a new and exciting future for worship life at St. Jerome's University.



If you'd like more information, or to make a gift to the campaign supporting the new chapel, please contact Martha Fauteux, Director of Campus Ministry, at mfauteux@uwaterloo.ca or 519-884-8111 x28215. Thank you for your support.



Gary Abbott, recipient of the inaugural Sister Leon White, SSND, Distinguished Graduate Award.

New Award Recognizes Distinguished Young Alumni

Since 1986, St. Jerome's University has honoured its most distinguished alumni with the Father Norm Choate Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes an alumnus celebrating a long and distinguished career.

We are pleased to announce a new honour, one recognizing alumni who have distinguished themselves at the beginning of their careers. The new award is named for Sister Leon White, who was a beloved member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a strong leader at St. Jerome's University, and exemplified the act of compassionate community service. Acting as a bookend to the Father Norm Choate Lifetime Achievement Award, the Sister Leon White, SSND, Distinguished Graduate Award will recognize graduates who have made a difference in communities and workplaces in the first 15 years of their careers.

The inaugural award was presented this year to engineering graduate Gary Abbott. Abbott graduated in 2010, and now works as a Senior Systems Engineer for Waterloo's tech powerhouse Desire2Learn (D2L). In 2013, he was named one of Waterloo Region's Top 40 Under 40, and in 2015 he was named to D2L's Achievers Club for his stellar sales record.

Abbott is also a tireless community volunteer who has coached minor hockey, volunteered as a Big Brother, and championed local arts through his work with local community theatre groups. He currently serves on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region, where he has successfully managed their annual golf tournament for the past several years.

Abbott was both moved and humbled to receive the inaugural Sister Leon White Award, saying "SJU absolutely made me who I am today, instilling in me a desire to grow and develop as a person, and giving me the tools and opportunities to get involved."

We are proud to honour this fine young man, who so actively lives the values of hard work, excellence, and community service. Congratulations Gary!

Administration of this, and other awards at the University, is partly supported by gifts from our generous alumni and donors. Thank you for your ongoing kindness and generosity.

"So much credit for my success goes back to SJU and its dedication to helping people become everything they can be. St. Jerome's University absolutely made me who I am today."

— Gary Abbott, BSc, Systems Design Engineering, 2010
Currently Senior Systems Engineer, D2L
Recipient of Sister Leon White, SSND, Distinguished Graduate Award
Waterloo Region Top 40 Under 40

Intelligent Essays Get Their Due

It's not every St. Jerome's University alumnus who decides to launch a writing prize that celebrates both in-depth analysis and creativity, but Sally Headley is not every alumnus. After all, she completed her BA in English Language and Literature at St. Jerome's University sometime, as she puts it, "after my 60th birthday."

Perhaps it was this delayed start in academia, combined with a life rich in experience, that helped Headley develop a profound appreciation for the intellectual stimulation of her studies. She was certainly impressed to find the art and craft of persuasive essay writing being carefully nurtured at the University.

"Unless you count the op-ed in the New York Times, the intelligent essay is now almost a lost art," says Headley today.

To mark her 2004 graduation, she established an essay-writing prize recognizing upper-year writing distinguished by eloquence, originality, and persuasive power. She named the award after her mother, Betty, who, while not a writer, was a voracious reader and passed on her love of language and literature.

The Betty G. Headley Senior Essay Award presents two prizes each year: \$1,500 for a traditional academic essay, and a \$500 award for a personal, reflective piece. Over the years, winning pieces have explored topics ranging from slavery to Taser technology.

"The Headley award is an excellent example of St. Jerome's University alumni supporting current students, and of our commitment to a liberal arts education. It's a wonderful way for us to recognize and celebrate those who have produced excellent work," says Scott Kline, interim Vice President Academic and Dean.

In 2015, Janina (Ninka) Bielak's essay examining work by First World War poets Mary Borden and Isaac Rosenberg won the traditional essay prize, while Dakota Pinheiro won for his piece exploring America's founding values as reflected in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

"I was thrilled to discover such a generous award dedicated to English, because it adds an extra layer of value to something I care deeply about," says Bielak, who also received an honourable mention in 2014. "It really inspired me to go that extra mile in my writing."

A deep appreciation of the written word, combined with critical analytic skills, prompted St. Jerome's University alumnus Sally Headley to establish the Betty G. Headley Senior Essay Award in 2004. It's still inspiring writers to tell intelligent stories that matter.



Janina (Ninka) Bielak, pictured at her graduation with parents Roberta and Alex, won first prize in 2015 for her exploration of First World War poets Mary Borden and Isaac Rosenberg.



Dr. David-Antoine Williams, Professor of English, recently received an award usually granted to science and technology projects. The Government of Ontario's Early Researcher Award will help fund Williams' ongoing work with the digitized Oxford English Dictionary.

Bits, Bytes, and a Book Garner Research Award for English Professor

Is it possible to glean poetry's influence on the development of the English language by attaching meta-data to dictionary entries? Dr. David-Antoine Williams certainly believes so, and now the Ministry of Research and Innovation has awarded this English professor an Ontario Early Researcher Award (ERA) so he can eventually give the final word.

The \$190,000 grant, delivered over five years, will support this fascinating work, which examines the intertwining connection between poetry and the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), which was first digitized in 1989 by computer scientists at the University of Waterloo.

Call it an endeavour straight out of lexicon valley.

His project, titled "The Life of Words: Poetry and the Oxford English Dictionary," will harness the power of big data to better understand how English poetry has had an impact on the English language. For instance, according to the OED, the first recorded use of the word "real" was found in William Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* in 1607 and is now part of our everyday speech.

The ERA provides funding to early-career scholars, and the money will be used to build up a research team, and for student training and outreach to schools. Not only does the project extend research capacity, but it also gives undergraduate and graduate students collaborative research experience and skills.

"This grant comes thanks to a strong and supportive research culture at St. Jerome's University, and I'm thrilled our project was compelling enough to win this important funding," says Williams.

He has reason to be proud. Of the more than 800 ERAs awarded since 2005, this is the first to support a topic in the field of literary studies.

"This grant comes thanks to a strong and supportive research culture at St. Jerome's University, and I'm thrilled our project was compelling enough to win this important funding."

SSHRC Grant Allows Women Scholars to Connect

Priest, philosopher, and theologian: Canadian Jesuit Bernard Lonergan may not be well known outside scholarly circles, but for those who are acquainted with his life and work, Lonergan is regarded as one of the 20th century's most important thinkers.

Credited with integrating traditional Christian thought with modern scientific, social, and historical knowledge, he has dedicated followers and academic researchers who study his contributions to philosophy, theology, and even macroeconomics.

Despite Lonergan's wide reach and importance, most scholars attending and presenting at Lonergan conferences have historically been men. That is, until Dr. Cristina Vanin, Professor of Religious Studies at St. Jerome's University, decided to change that. She reached out to friend and fellow Lonergan scholar Dr. Cynthia Crysdale for help.

What if, they wondered, there was a small conference dedicated solely to women studying and engaged with Lonergan's work?

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council agreed, and provided a \$24,822 grant to fund the first ever Women Scholars and Lonergan conference. The conference brought 46 new and experienced female academics from as far away as Australia to the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, in May 2015. It was a perfect blend of networking, academic community-building, and scholarship.

Considering that Lonergan's own motto was *vetera novis augere et perficere*, or "to enlarge and complete the old with the new," he most certainly would have approved.

"Work is still needed in many academic communities to ensure women's voices are heard. This conference was an important first step in helping an up-and-coming group of scholars find both voice and community."



Professor of Religious Studies and Associate Dean, Dr. Cristina Vanin, recently received a SSHRC Connection Grant to fund a conference dedicated to women studying 20th-century Canadian theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan.



Cold War Out of the Cold: Renowned Arctic Expert Wins SSHRC Grant

When history professor Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer isn't busy with his academic duties, you can find him trekking in the Arctic or advising government bodies about Arctic security, sovereignty, and governance.

As a recognized authority on Arctic history, Lackenbauer has a long list of books and publications to his credit, not to mention a busy portfolio of high-level advisory and consulting work. Yet, the most recent feather in Lackenbauer's toque is a three-year, \$107,700 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant to support a three-book research program exploring Canada-U.S. Arctic relations in the early years of the Cold War.

The project means collaborating with three emerging scholars as well: Peter Kikkert (PhD candidate, Western University), Adam Lajeunesse (Postdoctoral Fellow, St. Jerome's University), and Daniel Heidt (Postdoctoral Fellow, Trent University).

Lackenbauer says an updated examination is needed, as much of the existing Cold War scholarship was written without the benefit of sources and archival materials that have come to light since the era's end. The resulting work could give us insight into how countries might find common ground in the Arctic today.

"How we understand past relations frames how we see the present and the future," he explains. "We expect this research will show how Canada and the United States became premier partners in the early Cold War, finding practical ways to co operate, even when they didn't see eye to eye on some sovereignty issues."

"Ultimately, we hope these three new books will contribute to academic debate, while also paving the way for deeper collaboration and constructive co-operation in the 21st-century Arctic."

Building a Record of Co-Curricular Experience

Thanks to the creative thinking of a hardworking team of University staff, students, and faculty members, St. Jerome's University has a new co-curricular record program that is distinct from every other university in Canada.

The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) is a relatively new idea in Canadian academic circles, but one that is growing in popularity. It gives students a valuable addition to their resumes, and an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on the co-curricular learning and skills they gain throughout their experiences.

The CCR is an official record of student participation in meaningful learning experiences that either complement an area of study or contribute to personal development.

Examples at St. Jerome's University include participation in international service learning, the Residence Don program, or student leadership opportunities.

"Our approach to leadership development is an essential part of what we offer our students," says Glen Lombard, Director, Office of Student Experience. "We wanted to see the full value of this programming reflected in a St. Jerome's University CCR, which is why we've developed rigorous learning objectives for each qualifying experience."

Lombard says the student reflection piece of the CCR at St. Jerome's University sets it apart from those used by other universities.

"Our CCR program requires students to examine their own learning and personal growth during each experience," he explains. "This isn't about 'collecting experiences' or 'adding up hours.' It's about giving students a platform to articulate the impact of their experiences and begin the process of making sense of how their experiences shape who they are and who they want to be."

Those involved are also excited to have developed the CCR on a custom-developed software platform with partners at Involvio. Traditional software platforms were not flexible enough to capture the breadth of leadership opportunities, nor did they allow students to reflect on how their experiences helped them in both mind and spirit.

The program was launched at the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year, and has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Students especially enjoy the mobile-application component, which allows them to manage CCR activities from their smartphones.

"Our staff did a phenomenal job putting this program together. This unique, customized co-curricular record now provides a scaffold on which students can engage in meaningful reflection about their experiences in a way that centres on our mission to educate the whole person."

— Glen Lombard, Director, Office of Student Experience



*L to R: Dr. Myroslaw Tataryn, Kristina Bartold, Erika Toffelmire, and Paige Doherty.
Missing from photo: Bess Mitchell*



*The Honourable Bruce J. Young and Gail Young,
former students and valued donors.*

A Legacy of Kindness

Back in the early 1960s, a new St. Jerome's University student named Bruce Young was thinking about going to law school. He wondered if his arts degree would be sufficient preparation, or if perhaps he should switch to a business program.

"I wrote to one of the best lawyers in Canada; a fellow named John Robinette," remembers Bruce today. "He told me this: the most important thing for a lawyer is to be able to communicate. 'So go and get your arts degree,' he said. 'It will be the best preparation in the world for studying law.'"

The advice was sound, for Bruce — nowadays known as the Honourable Justice Bruce Young — who went on to enjoy a long and rewarding career as a Crown attorney, before being appointed a judge with the Criminal Law Division of the Ontario Provincial Court.

St. Jerome's University holds a special place in Bruce's heart for more than the solid liberal arts education it gave him. During his undergraduate years he met the woman destined to be his wife: a bright young sociology student from Toronto named Gail MacDonald.

Gail was considering universities in London or Windsor but chose St. Jerome's University after visiting the campus and meeting with Father J.R. Finn, C.R., and Sister Leon White, SSND. "I was so impressed by how interested they were in each student," she remembers. "The classes were small and intimate, and the professors gave such personalized guidance and advice — it really made you feel they cared about you."

Gail continues to enjoy the friends she made at the University, including the roommate she lived with for all three years of her program. "Bruce and I both met such wonderful people there, and many of them are still an important part of our lives," she says.

Married since 1969, Bruce and Gail have remained connected with St. Jerome's University, as alumni, volunteers, and donors, while building their careers. Their re-engagement began when Gail was invited to serve on the Board of Governors. After two terms, Gail moved on to the University of Waterloo's Senate and later its Board of Governors.

As the Youngs became established in their careers, they began to think of how they could help students who might not have the financial resources to pursue university. Bruce and Gail decided to establish the MacDonald-Young Scholarship/Bursary — the named endowment was also to honour their parents who had supported them through their education.

Since 1986, the MacDonald-Young Scholarship/Bursary has supported many St. Jerome's University students, making an extraordinary difference in the lives of many deserving young people.

"We've been very fortunate," says Bruce, "and we're happy to do what we can to help today's students graduate without a heavy load of debt." Gail goes on to say, "Knowing we have been able to provide a scholarship to students who would be unable to afford university gives us great satisfaction. You read the thank you letters the students send and the stories they tell about how important the award is in their lives; well, that makes us feel good we are able to help."

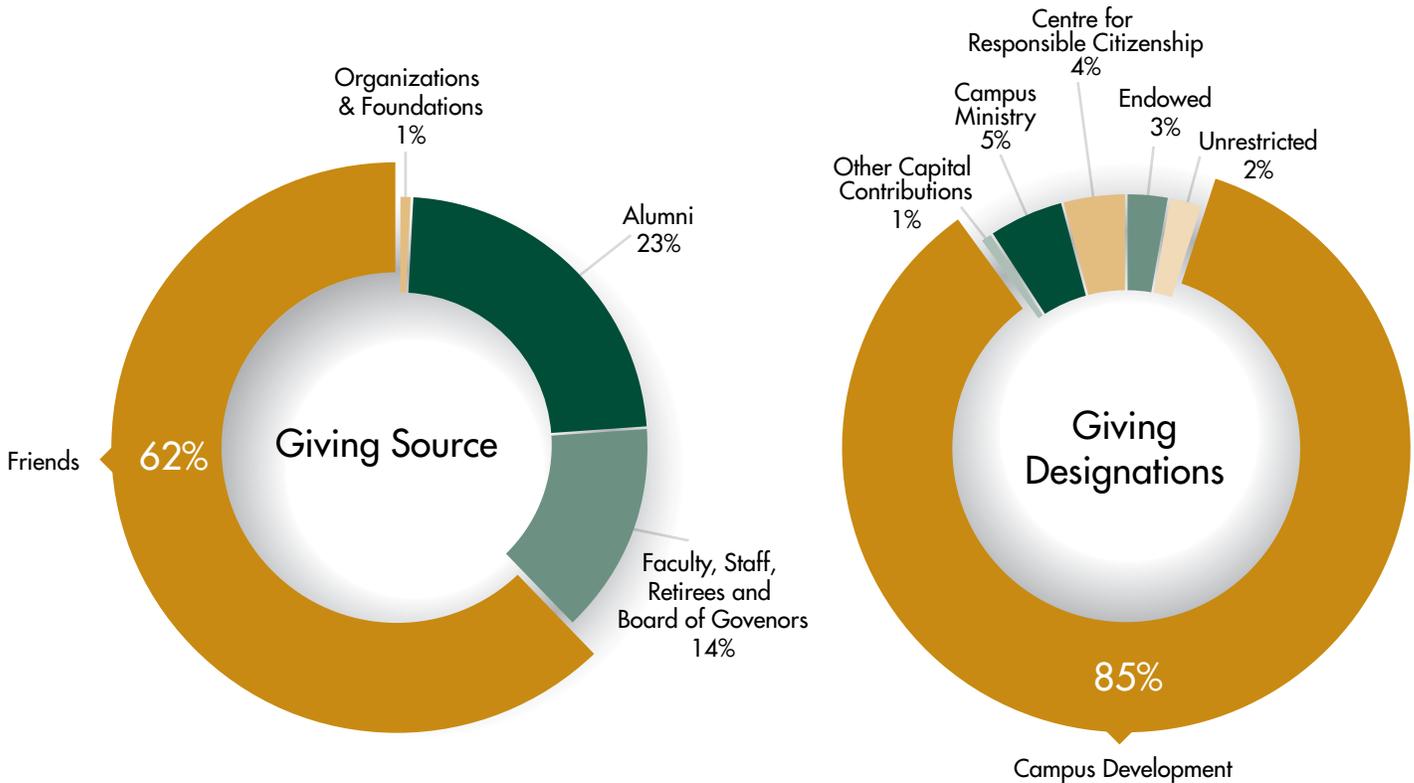
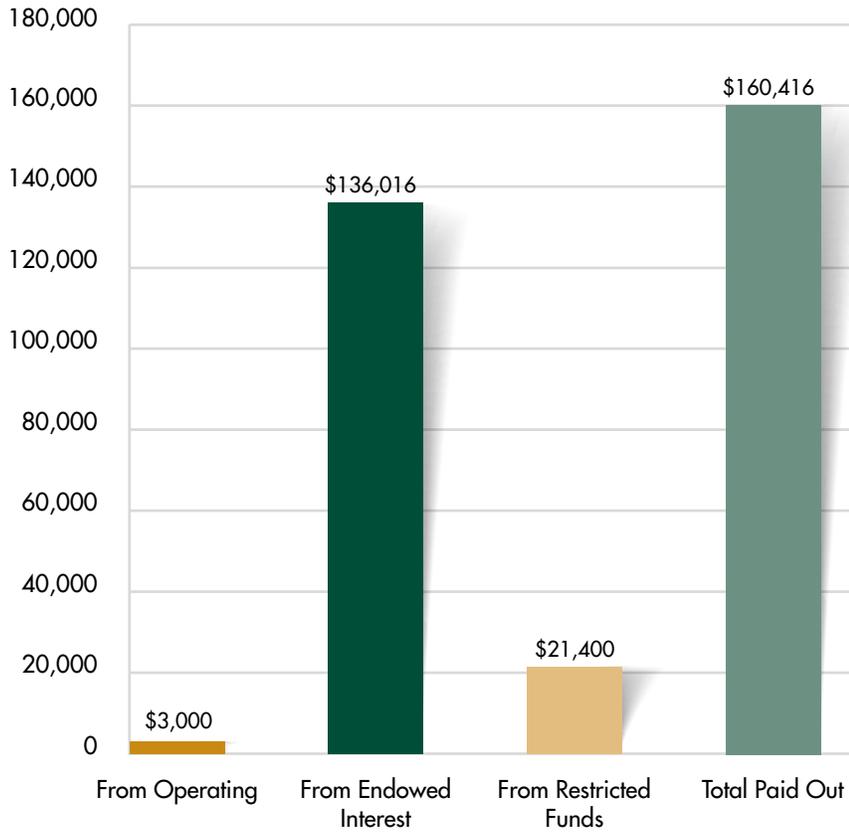
In 2015, Bruce and Gail made another impact with their philanthropy. They chose to name the 100-seat classroom being built as part of the St. Jerome's University Campus Renewal, 2015, through the Building on Tradition Capital Campaign. When asked the reason for the support, Gail simply said, "We believe in Catholic education".

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, Bruce and Gail will take part in the Grand Opening celebrations — part of Reunion Weekend — as they celebrate the official opening of the renewed St. Jerome's University campus.

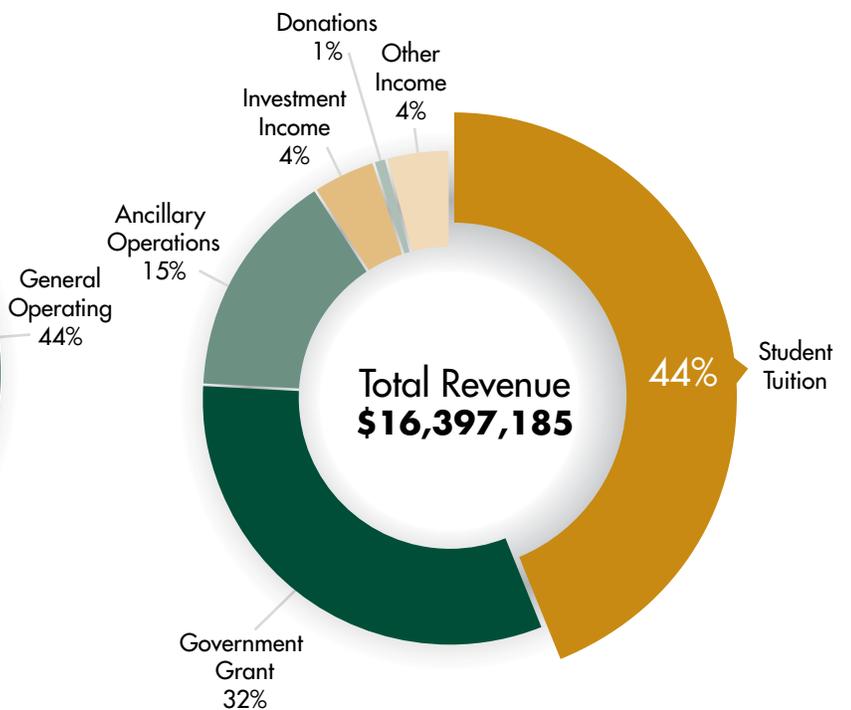
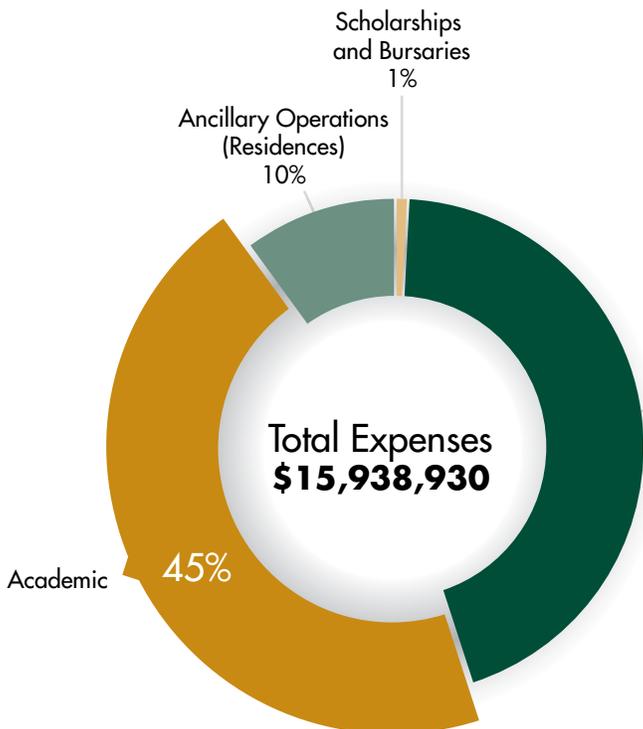
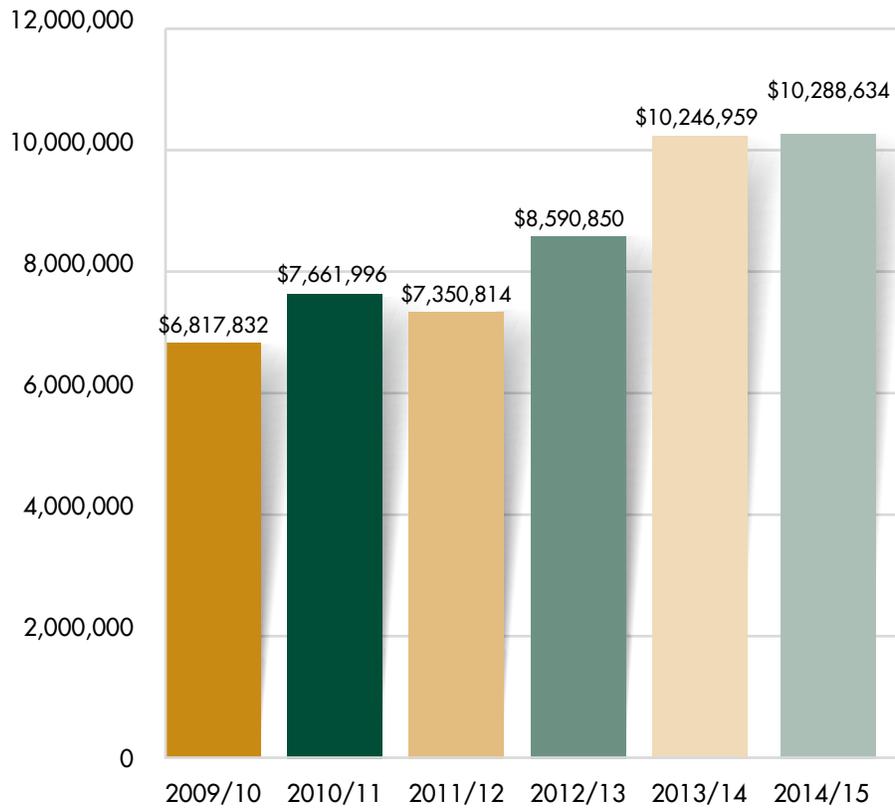
"We were happy to help. Although we don't have children of our own, we wanted to give other young people a chance to experience everything that St. Jerome's University has to offer. It was an easy decision once we saw how much the students needed and appreciated our help."

— Gail Young, BA Sociology 1966

Scholarships & Bursaries



Endowment Investment Portfolio





ST. JEROME'S
UNIVERSITY

290 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada | N2L 3G3

Phone: (519) 884-8110

Fax: (519) 884-5759

www.sju.ca