

UPEI's Twenty-third Recognition of Founders Ceremony

UPEI Performing Arts Theatre and Residence

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 2:00 pm

Citation for the Saint Dunstan's University Board of Governors

Read by Myrtle Jenkins Smith

Good afternoon,

It is my great pleasure to present to you the Saint Dunstan's University Board of Governors, a much-valued supporter—in numerous ways—of the University of Prince Edward Island.

Saint Dunstan's University, one of two predecessors of UPEI, carries the role of Founder by its very being. In 1969, Saint Dunstan's University closed when UPEI was established by the government of the time as the provincial university.

From that time forward, the SDU Board of Governors generously supported the new university—through the early growing pains to the present—and indeed into its future. Many SDU faculty and staff—Dr. Liu among them—made the transition to UPEI, sharing their knowledge and talents with generations of our students.

The SDU Board has contributed over \$7 million to UPEI directly and indirectly—through scholarships, awards, bursaries, educational programming, and capital campaign contributions.

The SDU Board strives to foster Christian educational ideals exemplified in the motto of Saint Dunstan's University—From the same source comes faith and knowledge. To that end, it supported the establishment of the University's Catholic Studies program, which offers an academic and scholarly exploration to students of all backgrounds of Catholicism's rich heritage and its contemporary engagement with both Western and global issues. It also supports students through scholarships and bursaries, helping them to become well-rounded citizens through personal growth and new avenues of thought, and it contributes to the University's athletics program and ministry initiatives at the UPEI Chaplaincy Centre.

As well, with funding and encouragement from the SDU Board, the Robertson Library launched its University Archives and Special Collections digitization program in 2004, which expanded the accessibility of the province's published heritage for researchers and scholars.

The SDU Board has generously donated to UPEI's capital campaigns, including the 2019 Inspire! campaign and the current \$15 million Love Our Library campaign to revitalize the Robertson Library. It has contributed to the renovation of iconic Main Building—the oldest building on the campus—as well as the Dr. Steel Recital Hall in historic Steel Building. The stage in the recital hall now bears the name The SDU Stage.

Other areas on campus that have benefited from the SDU Board's generosity include the SDU Engineering 1954 Lecture Hall in the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering Building and the Performing Arts Centre.

For its very generous support of and contributions to UPEI, we are so proud to name the Saint Dunstan's Board of Governors a Founder of the University of Prince Edward Island. I ask Mr. Bob Pierce, Chair of the Board, to come forward to accept this award on behalf of the SDU Board of Governors.