



Troy Mrazek is one in a long line of family members to attend StFX; as such, the 2015-2016 President of the Students' Union is especially well-positioned to note changes on campus. Each year brings its own challenges, but Mrazek has reason to be satisfied with the SU's accomplishments, as well as optimistic about the future. "The university is going in a really good direction," he notes, particularly in terms of the new Consultation Agreement, which formalizes the Students' Union role in university decision-making. It is based around principles of transparency, accountability, and mutual respect, and is the result of a process rooted in those principles.

Mrazek points to the work of Andrew Beckett, Vice-President of Finance and Administration, on this task: "He goes above and beyond his job. This administration is fresh, controlled ... purposeful." And, Mrazek is decidedly enthused about the next phase of development at StFX: "By 2018," he notes, "this campus will have completely changed, for the better. Via new buildings and programs, StFX will be ... on the map, academically."

"By 2018, this campus will have completely changed, for the better."

Troy Mrazek

The campus rejuvenation of which Mrazek speaks is being led by Leon MacLellan, the Director of Facilities Management. Although the plans have not been finalized, the ideology driving their design has: "We're trying to build neighbour-

hoods," MacLellan claims. The team behind the project is centrally concerned with the manner in which physical space augments teaching and learning practices, and how it can positively shape campus life.

"Accessibility is a priority," MacLellan notes, and the project's focus on interconnectedness will never lose sight of that. The removal of the heating plant (currently located between Morrison Hall and the Physical Sciences Building) has the potential to open up a broad swath of land in the heart of campus. And, the university has plans to become a leader in environmentally-friendly energy solutions – ones that will also be financially prudent. StFX continues to work with the Federal Government and other partners, and we hope good news can be shared in the coming months!

"We're trying to build neighbourhoods,"

Leon MacLellan

"StFX does not tolerate sexual violence." This is the bold opening statement of the university's proposed sexual assault policy. Stemming from recommendations from the two-year project funded by Status of Women Canada and led by Annie Chau, the new policy is being crafted by a committee of key community members, in lockstep with the StFX community code. Margie McKinnon, Director of Health, Counselling, and Accessible Learning, is clear about the policy's mandate: "we wanted to articulate the university's stance on sexual violence" and in doing so, "empower survivors." Sexual violence is pervasive across all university and college campuses, a fact highlighted by the documentary "The Hunting Ground," which was screened twice on campus in 2015 to capacity crowds. The StFX policy emphasizes the university's role in ensuring the health and safety of our population; addressing sexual violence in a direct manner will help ensure that students, in particular, feel safe coming forward. "Access to support is paramount," McKinnon notes, and StFX is overt in its commitment to survivors.



When Marie Wright and her twin, Meaghan, went on a trip to New Zealand, their father snuck a video camera into their luggage. What started as a father's desire to "see" his daughters' travels soon turned into a passion – making short videos and sharing them, at first with family and friends, then with the StFX community, and now through their company, Mirror Image Media. For her work on their video production company, Marie has recently been named the Regional Champion in the Enactus Student Entrepreneur competition.

"At StFX, you have the freedom to initiate anything you want"

Marie Wright

In May, she'll compete for the national title against the five other regional finalists. She credits much of her success to her sister: "We have a brain trust – we give each other respectful criticism. There are no hard feelings, and it's helpful because when we anticipate each other's comments, we work hard to make sure things are perfect." But, she is deeply grateful to the StFX community for fostering her talents and her ambitions: "At StFX, you have the freedom to initiate anything you want," she says. "And there are so many resources to be successful." Wright has felt supported in project she's undertaken – from Get Real, which raises awareness about homophobia; to the XV(ideo)T(eam); to Mirror Image.

After graduation, the Wrights will move to Halifax; as newly-anointed Venture for Canada Fellows, they will spend two years with a start-up, learning the business of entrepreneurship. Marie notes that she was having dinner at the Wooden Monkey, in Halifax, when one of her professors called her to congratulate her. When she tried to pay the bill, though, she discovered that her professor had called the restaurant and taken care of the tab. At StFX, she claims, "your work gets recognized."

THE EXTRAORDINARY

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It must be any team's worst nightmare: to compete for the national championship in an arena packed with 10,000 screaming, zealous, deeply loyal fans who are all willing you to lose. By the time UNB faced off against StFX in the CIS final, the two teams had played four regular season games (StFX went 1-3) and two playoff games (StFX swept the three-game series, 2-0). StFX held the AUS championship banner, but UNB cruised to the final fueled by the sting of the conference loss. Down 3-1 heading into the third period, Coach Brad Peddle wasn't worried: they'd been down before, and "didn't melt." His "confident, not cocky" players were used to grinding down their opponents. They'd battled back after St. Mary's scored three quick goals in a regular season game – in the first three minutes – and just the day before, they'd gone to triple overtime with the University of Saskatchewan. Senior forward, Brad Cuzner, notes that the Saskatchewan game felt "like we were playing on a pond. They were the team most like us, in terms of work ethic and attitude. It was a lot of fun." And so in the final – facing off against a team that had ended their regular season with a 14-game winning streak – they kept their cool. They were, as Peddle says, "battle tested."

"I try to be a sparkplug ... and get energy for the team."

Brad Cuzner

From the beginning of the season, each player understood his role on the team. Cuzner, whose fiery play galvanized the team in hard moments, certainly knows his part: "I try to be a sparkplug ... and get energy for the team." Although UNB's uncharacteristically defensive play in the final third period of the championship prevented StFX from staging one of their now-trademark comebacks, Peddle is proud of the team. "The best part of my job is watching boys develop into men," he notes. "Coming second stings right after, but then you look back and can be satisfied with a great season." Cuzner corroborates: "the boys are happy" with the season, and already eager for what next year will bring. They're back in the gym, and both Peddle and Cuzner expect 2016 recruits to do the same thing this year's class did:

"Coming second stings right after, but then you look back and can be satisfied with a great season."

Brad Peddle

"rejuvenate the old guys." Peddle relies on the hattrick principle of recruiting: "good kid, good player, good student. You've got to stock the cupboards." For now, they're proud to have brought the AUS championship banner back to Antigonish, a community that embraces the team wholeheartedly. The atmosphere in the Scotiabank Centre, Cuzner says, "was unbelievable. They knew we had a good chance and believed we could win. And so did we."



StFX

 UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S COLLOQUIUM

POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH & RESILIENCE

The President's Colloquia have afforded the campus community several key opportunities to engage in intellectual and social justice topics outside of the classroom. On a Monday evening in late March, students, staff, and faculty gathered in Riley Hall to hear from Stan Kutcher, a mental health researcher and expert in adolescent mental health. The imperative for this event stems from the administration's recognition of the many valuable endeavours that have taken place on campus surrounding mental health; there is now a desire to coordinate those efforts further by taking a more cohesive, collaborative approach. Colloquium organizers obviously recognize the power and value of social media in destigmatizing mental health and increasing awareness; with the "XLet'stalk" hashtag, people were able to contribute funds to mental health work in our community. It is the aim of the committee that this event will help further a framework and strategy in which StFX is a leader in the field of mental health. The Colloquium was attended and supported by the StFX Safety and Security team, led by Robert Proctor '91. Proctor views his department as the "hub" of StFX; his well-trained staff (including students) embrace the team philosophies that emphasize healthy relationships and community-building. "Everything we do," Proctor notes, "is about setting people up for success." The team's participation in the Colloquium demonstrated their view that success is holistic and multidimensional.



Jackie Mackay and her elder sister, Melanie, fell in love with StFX when they first visited the campus. Mel's passion is for the theatre, but Jackie was disappointed to learn that her chosen program – actuarial science – wasn't offered at StFX. She enrolled anyway, and "decided to do something about it." Her father, an actuary himself, put her in touch with some colleagues, who quickly galvanized to help Mackay in her quest to stage the first-ever Atlantic Canada Actuarial Student Conference. With support from Joe Apaloo in the Math Department, Mackay visited more than a dozen business and math classes at StFX to tell students about the conference, and about actuarial science in general. More than 40 students registered to hear speakers that Mackay had recruited, using funds from the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Society of Actuaries, and the Casualty Actuary Society. "I wanted to find speakers who were genuinely interested in making an impact on students,"

**"Everybody has big ideas, especially this generation.
It's just hard to take the first step to actually make it happen."**

Jackie Mackay

Mackay notes. She travelled to the annual conference of the Actuarial Students' National Association of Canada in January, where she found an incredibly supportive community that was eager to break into the Atlantic Canadian pool of students. Becoming an actuary is labour-intensive: it requires 10 exams, and

each exam represents 100 hours of study per exam hour – all of which is undertaken after the student has begun working. This work, though, does not

daunt Mackay (who is 18): "It means I never have to stop learning. I always want to know more, to be more." Her next project is to work towards implementing an actuarial science program at StFX. When asked if she considered herself unusually accomplished, Mackay demurred: "Everybody has big ideas, especially this generation. It's just hard to take the first step to actually make it happen."