



St. Thomas University
LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS

Media Release

February 9, 2007

St. Thomas University Names Dr. William Sweet Vice-President (Academic)

Fredericton – William Sweet, professor of philosophy at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, has been appointed to a five-year term as vice-president (Academic) at St. Thomas University beginning July 1, 2007. He succeeds Dr. Patrick Malcolmson who has been in the position since 2004.

“Dr. Sweet has an impressive resume as a scholar and teacher with demonstrated capability as an academic leader. He will be a tremendous asset to St. Thomas University and to New Brunswick,” said Dr. Michael Higgins, St. Thomas University president and vice chancellor.

“St. Thomas has progressed dramatically in recent years with new faculty, new programmes, new buildings, and a torrent of students coursing through our halls of learning. To build on our success, Dr. Sweet will look for opportunities to strengthen our mission and make a contribution to an enriched New Brunswick,” added Higgins.

Higgins said that students will be the beneficiaries of Sweet’s focus on academic programme development. As chief academic officer, he will be responsible for ensuring high standards of academic quality, managing enrollment, supporting faculty in achieving excellence in teaching and research, and fostering a learning environment organized for student success.

“I am very pleased to be joining St Thomas. I have long been impressed by its mission and record of service to the community, students, and the academic profession,” said Sweet. “I see the position as an opportunity to promote innovative programmes of teaching and research, to encourage the distinctive contributions of faculty members and the academic excellence of students, and to be attentive to the mission of the university. I look forward to working with students, faculty, and staff in building on St Thomas’ established reputation as a national leader in liberal education.”

Sweet has been a professor of philosophy at St. Francis Xavier University since 1990. He has been chair of university graduate studies, the department of philosophy, and several university bodies including the senate and faculty of arts. He has led the strengthening of academic programmes in arts and sciences as well as faculty research and teaching innovation. He served on senior committees of the university including academic planning, budget, and research, and was president of the faculty association.

As a scholar, Sweet's areas of interests are ethics, social and political philosophy, and the philosophy of religion. He is the author of four books, published or pending, has edited numerous collections, and published articles in referred publications. He is president-elect of the Canadian Philosophical Association, serves as an executive member of a number of international professional organisations, and chaired committees for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. He has also been active in his community, particularly in the field of health care.

“Dr. Patrick Malcolmson's desire to return to teaching and research means that while we lose a valuable member of our leadership team, the discipline of political science and the students at St. Thomas will regain an award-winning teacher and scholar,” said Higgins. “His dedication to St. Thomas University is obvious and he is held in widespread esteem by his colleagues and those beyond our campus.”

Founded nearly a century ago, St. Thomas is a Roman Catholic university where excellence in teaching is the highest institutional priority. Exclusively undergraduate, St. Thomas offers a core liberal arts programme complemented by professional studies in education and social work. Professors are distinguished teachers, researchers and scholars, and the university holds two Canada Research Chairs in Rural Social Justice and Qualitative Analysis. In addition to one of the highest-ranked learning environments in the country, 2,600 students enjoy a beautiful, intimate campus and close-knit community which unites alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends.

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