

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New President to lead St. Mary's University College

Award-winning writer and educator Dr. Gerry Turcotte to take the helm on July 1, 2011

Calgary, AB (November 24, 2010) – St. Mary's University College is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Gerry Turcotte as the institution's third president. The Board of Governors today endorsed Dr. Turcotte, current Associate Provost and Executive Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Notre Dame in Australia, as the next president, effective July 1, 2011.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to make this announcement today and have the utmost confidence that Dr. Turcotte will continue the tradition of strong and visionary leadership at St. Mary's," said Joe Ladouceur, Chairman of the St. Mary's University College Board of Governors and co-chair of the Presidential Search Committee. "Today is the culmination of an extensive international search for a new leader at St. Mary's, which has resulted in the selection of an ideal candidate, a man with impeccable academic credentials, outstanding leadership qualities and a bold and creative vision to take St. Mary's into a new era of growth and development. On behalf of the entire St. Mary's community, I take great pleasure in welcoming Dr. Turcotte to our remarkable institution."



In its consideration of candidates, the Presidential Search Committee sought individuals who were visionaries and strategic academics, dedicated to excellence in teaching and research, committed to enhancing St. Mary's Catholic mission and able to guide the overall affairs of the institution.

Originally from Montreal, Dr. Turcotte spent the past 25 years in Australia in a number of academic and administrative roles, most recently as Associate Provost and Executive Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Notre Dame, the only private Catholic university in Australia.

He is an award-winning educator who has received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence from the University of Wollongong in New South Wales, Australia; the New South Wales State Government Award for Higher Education; and a prestigious Federal Government Carrick Citation for teaching excellence. He has been nominated a further eight times by two universities for teaching excellence in the last 16 years and was nominated several times for Supervisor of the Year for guiding some 50 PhD, MA and Honours level students to successful completion of their programs.

Dr. Turcotte holds degrees from McGill University and the University of Ottawa. In 1986, he travelled to Australia where he completed his PhD on a Commonwealth Scholarship at the University of Sydney. He is past president of the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts and Social Sciences, two-time president of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand and was secretary of the International Council for Canadian Studies for two terms — the first person in the Asian Pacific to sit on the executive. He was also the foundation director of the Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies at the University of Wollongong where he also served as head of the faculty's largest school.

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Dr. Turcotte has authored some 200 publications including 15 books. These works include a novel, *Flying in Silence*, shortlisted for the prestigious *The Age Book of the Year* and Canada Reads. He has also published four collections of poetry and a multimedia work called *Border Crossing: Words and Images*, based on a photographic exhibition held at a major Australian gallery and a live work he wrote and performed at Sydney, Australia's famed Opera House.

Dr. Turcotte's articles and creative writing have appeared in journals throughout Australia, Canada, the United States and Europe. His most recent critical works include *Peripheral Fear: Transformations of the Gothic in Australia and Canada* and a co-edited volume entitled *Unsettled Remains: Canadian Literature and the Postcolonial Gothic*, which was shortlisted for the Gabrielle Roy Award for Literary Criticism. Additional publications include the first collection of works on the Aboriginal playwright Jack Davis entitled *The Maker of History, Canada-Australia: Towards a Second Century of Partnership* with Kate Burridge and Lois Foster, *Compr(om)ising Postcolonialism(s): Challenging Narratives and Practices* with Greg Ratcliffe and *Diasporic Spectrality: Minorities and Cultural Assertions in Canada, Australia & Beyond*, with Gaetano Rando.

He has produced articles, reviews and feature programs for *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and for ABC Radio respectively and managed the extremely successful Writer's Choice series in Sydney for seven seasons. He has performed his work and presented academic papers, including 30 keynote addresses, on indigenous and multicultural issues, comparative Canadian and Australian literature and postcolonial pedagogies, throughout the world, including Russia, Spain, France and the United States.

Dr. Turcotte will take over from Dr. Terry Downey, president of St. Mary's since 1999, who is completing his third term at the end of June. Dr. Turcotte is married to Dr. Kellinde Turcotte, a medieval literature specialist and lawyer. They have two children, Gérard, 13, and Sophie, 8. The family is delighted to be moving to Calgary.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to return home after so many years abroad," said Dr. Turcotte. "And it is a particular pleasure to be able to do so in the context of a city I know well, and in the context of Catholic education which has been a focus of my most recent work and ongoing interests."

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution open to all faiths and traditions. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree and university courses in 33 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ca

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For media inquiries, contact:

Marcelina Johanson
Communications Coordinator
St. Mary's University College
Direct: (403) 254-3705
Cell: (403) 852-2067
marcelina.johanson@stmu.ab.ca