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2006**2005****2004****2003****2002****2001****2000****1999****1998****1997****1996****Media Release****For Immediate Release****February 2, 2006****Saint Mary's Industry Liaison Office Launches New Seminar Series Related to Research and Commercialization**

Halifax, NS – Today, Saint Mary's University announced the launch of a new seminar series which will be hosted by the Industry Liaison Office (ILO).

The event, which was held this afternoon in the Sobey Lounge (fourth floor, Sobey Building), attracted a number of faculty and staff of Saint Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent University as well as members of the public and private sectors.

The new seminar series will focus on Research and Commercialization in the following areas: Intellectual Property, Contract Management, Science & Entrepreneurship and Lab-to-Market – all of which will be a unique benefit to those active within the fields of research/academics.

Additionally, today's event also marked the one year anniversary since the opening of the ILO via the University's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Office.

The ILO, which formally opened its doors in January of 2005, is directly supported by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and NSERC, and is also a member of Springboard Atlantic INC., an organization which links university research (14 universities and colleges in all) with the private sector in Atlantic Canada.

"The ILO office at Saint Mary's has been working diligently to boost economic capacity in our region," says Dr. Dodds.

"This is one area of our University that promotes everyone working together - government, universities and the private sector – in bringing research and development from the academic setting to the marketplace, creating win-win opportunities for researchers and entrepreneurs. The new seminar series being offered through the ILO is yet another step in helping accelerate the transfer of technology and knowledge from our University to commercial ventures in the region."

Dr. Kevin Vessey, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, who was in attendance at today's event, indicates that the ILO is an important part of a new era for Saint Mary's, an institution that clearly wishes to maximize research capacity through partnerships with the private sector.

"The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research is certainly proud to support the activities of the ILO and we are excited about the launch of our new seminar series that addresses important industry-related topics," says Dr. Vessey.



From the left to right: Gina Funicelli, Saint Mary's Industry Liaison Officer; Jennifer Pinks, Saint Mary's Industry Liaison Coordinator; Tony Purchase, Development Officer with ACOA; Jennifer Raoul, Associate and Technical Advisor for Borden Ladner Gervais LLP; and, Kathleen Marsman, Partner and Patent Agent for Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

The ILO at Saint Mary's is also responsible for Mount Saint Vincent University's ILO activities and works in association with Dr. Anthony Davis, Associate VP of Research.

The ILO at Saint Mary's serves as a service provider to facilitate collaborative research, development and commercialization activities with commercial and non-commercial partners who have a vested interest in the practical applications of this research. This area also works to foster joint research initiatives so that it can provide more opportunities to: market and license technologies to industry and entrepreneurs; meet and work with external partners and offer support to start-up companies based on technologies researched and developed at Saint Mary's University.

For more information on the ILO and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, please visit <http://fgsr.smu.ca/>.

Saint Mary's University is known for its community outreach projects, both in Canada and around the world. Saint Mary's, founded in 1802, is home to one of Canada's leading business schools, a Science Faculty widely known for its cutting-edge research, a comprehensive and innovative Arts Faculty and a vibrant Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

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