

Entry Form

Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award

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Names of groups in the community that contributed to preparation of this nomination:

1. Association of alumni and friends of Université Sainte-Anne (AAAUSA)
2. General students' association of Université Sainte-Anne (AGÉUSA)
3. Caisse populaire de Clare
4. Business and entrepreneurship assistance centre (CAAE)
5. Acadian Centre
6. Clare Junior C Lions Hockey Club
7. Rendez-vous de la Baie
8. Economic and employability development network (RDÉE-NÉ)
9. SIFE Sainte-Anne (*Students in free enterprise*)
10. Université Sainte-Anne

Université Sainte-Anne www.usainteanne.ca



History

Collège Sainte-Anne was founded on 1 September 1890 by Father Gustave Blanche and the fathers of the Jésus et Marie congregation, known as Eudists. On 30 April 1892, by provincial act, the institution was incorporated and became a university, with all the rights and privileges afforded by that title. In 1971, administration of the university was transferred to lay staff. In 1988, the Collège de l'Acadie was founded with the mission of delivering vocational and technical programs in Nova Scotia's Acadian regions. In 2003, Collège de l'Acadie and Université Sainte-Anne amalgamated to become a single institution.

Université Sainte-Anne provides Acadians and students of all origins with an opportunity to continue their postsecondary education in a setting that fosters personal development in a French-language culture and upgrading of French-language skills. The student/faculty ratio allows professors to give students more attention, which promotes an enriching, personalized academic atmosphere. The institution provides business and industry with tailor-made training.

Université Sainte-Anne strives for excellence in the intellectual, vocational and personal education of its student population, and in its research and outreach activities. Université Sainte-Anne also plays an important role in the socio-economic development of Nova Scotia's Acadian population. It focuses on a personalized approach to deliver quality education in French to its Acadian, francophone and anglophone students. It has managed

to create an environment for its students that facilitates their personal and professional development, and it prepares them equally well for graduate studies or the labour market.

Democracy

Board of Governors

Although the daily management of Université Sainte-Anne is handled by a cadre of senior administrators, the final authority for making important decisions, such as the adoption of policies or approval of the annual budget, is a group of 20 people, 19 of whom are volunteers, who together form the Board of Governors. These people originate from various groups: representatives of Acadian communities and various organizations as well as student, faculty, provincial government and alumni representatives. Decisions are made on a democratic basis: each member of the Board of Governors has an equal vote in decision making.

Within the institution itself, various committees submit recommendations on decisions to be made. These committees typically have representatives of senior management, faculty, students, and in some cases, support staff.

The general association of students of Université Sainte-Anne (AGÉUSA)
AGÉUSA's social mission is to act as the official student government for Université Sainte-Anne students and to promote their educational, artistic, socio-cultural, charitable, recreational and sports interests.

A few of the Association's objectives are to: provide all Université Sainte-Anne students with a representative government through which their physical, intellectual and socio-cultural needs can be met; defend their interests and advocate their demands; provide internal and external communication links; maintain and enhance the quality of student life; and represent students at the provincial and federal levels by promoting their interests and demands.

Virtual network / Regional campuses



Given the small size of Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophone population and its geographic dispersal over a vast area, Université Sainte-Anne delivers education through its five campuses in Nova Scotia: Halifax, Petit-de-Grat, Saint-Joseph-du-Moine, Tuskent and Church Point.

To deliver its postsecondary programs and support for cultural and socio-economic development, the university makes creative and innovative use of new information and communications technology, as well as the Internet to link its many campuses and to serve each minority population within that same community.

Delivering postsecondary education in the regions provides financial and family benefits for students and rural regions. This service keeps young leaders in the



region and is an important factor in slowing the exodus of young people to urban areas and in promoting the growth of Acadian and francophone communities.

The university's campuses and their technological networks are available to the entire Acadian community. They have forged and continue to forge much closer links among the Acadian population of Nova Scotia. The computer networks allow provincial organizations such as FANE (Fédération acadienne de la N.-É.), CDÉNÉ (Conseil de développement économique de la N.-É.) and others to meet and conduct activities without travelling outside their respective regions. Furthermore, the university's campuses make facilities available to various organizations active in development of the Acadian community, such as Radio CIFA, CAAE (business and entrepreneurship assistance centre), employment assistance centres, the marine research centre, the Nova Scotia literacy team, etc.

Through its human capital, physical infrastructure, and technological tools, Université Sainte-Anne plays a key leadership role in development of Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophone community.

Entrepreneurship centre



Since 2006, there has been an exemplary partnership between the university, two levels of government, service providers and the community, thanks to the initiatives of CAAE. The Centre brings together the Department of Administration, CAAE and several economic and employability development services. People from the region visit the Centre to seek jobs, access the Internet or obtain entrepreneurial advice. During the recent closing of the *Comeau Lumber* company, several employees visited the employment service centre seeking a job or training programs. Coping with a period of uncertainty, these people were reassured by obtaining service in their region and in their mother tongue. It is not unusual for a client to make initial contact with the employment service centre (Clare), to be directed to CBDC for a program and then to CAAE for assistance in developing a business plan—all under the same roof and sometimes within the same day!

CAAE serves as a direct link between the university and the business world. Through several networking activities such as the student-entrepreneur evening, students have an opportunity to sit down and talk with local entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs come to the evening to show their support and meet with several students from various countries. CAAE organizes Expo Commerce to highlight some 40 local businesses. Students help organize and conduct this event, which gives them practical experience working with local entrepreneurs.



SIFE Sainte-Anne (Students in free enterprise)



SIFE (*Students In Free Enterprise*) is an international non-profit organization that covers 41 countries. SIFE

Sainte-Anne was formed in 2005 and is characterized by its dynamic team spirit. SIFE Sainte-Anne is a team of students who, with their partners, seek to create a better world and a more sustainable future. As part of the team, students are able to earn distinction while developing their human, managerial and entrepreneurial skills.

At Université Sainte-Anne, the SIFE student group is directly involved in the university community and in the region, conducting projects throughout the year. These include the multicultural evening, the sale of Ethiopian scarves, presentations on cultural diversity, personal financial planning sessions and energy conservation activities on campus. The SIFE student group is active on campus and encourages students to develop an entrepreneurial spirit. It sits on the executive committee of the Clare Chamber of Commerce, which allows students and entrepreneurs to exchange ideas and cooperate on various projects.

To forge links between the team, the community and the region, an administrative committee consisting of entrepreneurs from the region, representatives of CAAE, the Université Sainte-Anne administration, journalists and community development agencies meets regularly to support these organizations' respective initiatives. The team represents the university at regional, provincial and national competitions. A series of annual competitions provides students with a forum to present their projects for assessment by business leaders acting as judges. In 2008, the Sainte-Anne team ranked among the top 20 university and college teams in Canada.

Le Rendez-vous de la Baie – Acadian cultural and interpretation centre

Located on the Church Point campus of Université Sainte-Anne, the Rendez-vous de la Baie was developed through a joint initiative of the Municipality of Clare and the university community. The centre's mission is to highlight the history, tradition and cultural heritage of Acadians as well as the modern Acadian culture of Clare. The university community wanted to create a partnership with the various arts and heritage groups, local business as well as the three levels of government to maximize the use of an under-developed infrastructure. Today, the community has a modern café, an art gallery, a tourist information centre, souvenir shop, performance hall, pilot project National Film Board cinema (e-cinema) and interpretation centre on Acadians in Baie Sainte-Marie.



Université Sainte-Anne hosted this project in the hope of forging strong links between its students and the local population. Sharing of experience, accents and cultures contributes to the growth of the Acadian region of Baie Sainte-Marie and fosters an environment of erudition and respect. Since it opened, the Rendez-vous de la Baie has earned distinction in the community as the meeting point for a host of groups. Students, residents, tourists, artists and professionals gather there for social events and meetings, to initiate conversations and create lasting friendships.

The philosophy of cooperation between the university and the surrounding community constantly strives for excellence and beneficial effects for the surrounding area.

The Acadian Centre



The Acadian Centre was founded in 1972 with the intent of gathering and preserving all documents related to Acadian history and culture, especially in Nova Scotia, and then making these resources available to the university community and interested members of the public. AC documentation is unique and definitely the most complete on Acadians in this province. In addition to genealogy enthusiasts, who form a dedicated clientele, enrolment in Acadian studies programs (history, archaeology, architecture, pedagogy, literature, ethnology, theatre, sociology, art history) consists primarily of students who regularly visit the AC reading rooms to work on their theses and dissertations.

Since 2004, the Canada Research Chair in oral tradition of francophone minorities in America (COFRAM) has been attached to the Acadian Centre. The Chair offers a series of activities (courses, seminars, conferences, study days, colloquiums). This work confirms Université Sainte-Anne's commitment to the advancement of its multidisciplinary program of teaching and research in Acadian studies. Also within the forum of the Acadian Centre, Université Sainte-Anne faculty agreed to form the Acadian studies research group (GRÉA) in 2005, as a place for sharing their expertise and providing mutual assistance for the advancement of knowledge in Acadian studies and of their research in particular. These objectives emerge from Université Sainte-Anne's mission, to develop the Acadian community and promote its culture, by highlighting the history, literature, language, traditions and social behaviour of Acadians. GRÉA members carry out this mission in various ways, especially by disseminating their work in the journal *Port-Acadie*, published at Université de Sainte-Anne.

Cooperation with the Acadian community

The university community includes several facilities such as the C@P Site and a sports centre with gymnasium, pool and skating rink. These facilities also allow community use and support the delivery of several services. The university community also hosts a summer music program for young people, *Rock le bot*, which for three years has provided music workshops for young musicians in the region and an opportunity to perform in public. The *Télé Clare* television station carries advertisements by businesses and individuals, who can participate in local broadcasts. The university community also supports several projects in the region, such as *Relais pour la vie*, which runs each year in June, *Shinerama*, a national fundraising activity of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, in which students take part. Sainte-Anne also sponsored the finals of the *Jeux de l'Acadie* held in Halifax in 2008. The Clare Junior C Lions hockey team has existed for five years and allows local hockey players taking courses at Sainte-Anne to compete in a provincial league, while also gathering many participants at the skating rink.



International students



For the past few years, Université Sainte-Anne has hosted various ethnic groups, most from Africa. The vast majority of international students live on the Church Point campus. The small size of the institution, its warm atmosphere and humanist values create an environment suitable to the integration of newcomers. Classes as well as residences have an average of about 20 students; it therefore is easy and quite normal to be able to know everyone. Here, the student is a name, not a number, and the professor is a resource much more than an authority.

The Department of Student Services largely manages the orientation structure as well as tracking of international students. When students arrive, various people strive to create a climate of comfort and trust that will make the newcomers feel secure. This type of mentoring continues throughout the year. Integration is forged and solidified as well through the various cultural as well as sports activities. These include the multicultural dinner that allows international students to cook dishes typical of their country of origin. In addition, the traditional hockey game in which two teams of staff members as well as international students compete before many excited spectators. With few technical skills, players regale the crowds with slips and falls! The facilities available on campus provide the perfect platform for international students to unveil their many talents. Dances, songs, sports prowess and various jobs are just a few examples of the contribution made by international students to life on their university campus and to the local community.

With respect for its differences, the institution's extended family constantly appreciates the wealth emerging from its diversity.

Testimonial: Rodolphe Adikpéto – Immigrant student

During my studies at Université Sainte-Anne, I received a welcome and support not always present in all other universities. From administration to faculty, as well as other staff members, the entire administration is dedicated to providing each student with personalized care. The excellent student/professor ratio provided me with support after class hours from all my professors. My participation in several activities organized by the university and my involvement in various associations helped me meet new people and learn new skills. Although Université Sainte-Anne is one of the smallest universities in Canada in terms of student numbers, I think it is one of the places where you make the most friends in the shortest time. Former students give you a very warm welcome and their presence helps with better integration into structures and the university and off-campus communities. Everyone knows each other very well. How many students in Canada can say they had several opportunities to share a drink, a meal, play or watch a game with the vice-presidents of their university? I do not think this is done elsewhere. At Université Sainte-Anne, these are all the little things that made my time there a fabulous experience.



When you study at Université Sainte-Anne, you're not just a student, you're also and especially a member of a large family.

Alumni and friends of Université Sainte-Anne association (AAAUSA)

The Association des anciens et amis de l'Université Sainte-Anne (AAAUSA) is a non-profit organization of former students and friends of Université Sainte-Anne. The association's goals are to impress upon alumni the value of the education they received at the university, maintain a feeling among members of recognition toward their alma mater, and provide members with ways to participate actively in development of the university and forge close links with the student population. In recent years, the association's lead activity has been Homecoming Weekend when the annual general meeting is held, which all members of the association are invited to attend. This is the opportunity for the association to announce its alumnus of the year. This is a person who has stood out from his or her peers, who participates actively in the life of his or her community and reflects the francophone community in his or her environment, work and achievements.



This weekend also provides an opportunity to organize various activities such as a hockey tournament, a banquet and social evenings. The association organizes an annual golf tournament each summer and cooperates with alumni groups who want to organize a class reunion. In addition, in conjunction with the president's office, it organizes a social event each year the evening before convocation to introduce the association to new graduates. Each year, it also presents two scholarships to students of Université Sainte-Anne.

To ensure closer links between the university community and its alumni and friends, the association made a commitment in 2009 to establish local chapters in regions where the university has a campus: Tusket, Church Point, Halifax, Petit-de-Grat and Saint-Joseph-du-Moine.

Testimonial: Dr. Gisèle Dugas – Rural physician

After graduating from high school, I chose to earn a Bachelor of Science degree at Université Sainte-Anne, the only French-language university in Nova Scotia. Continuing my postsecondary education in French was very important since French is the language in which I feel most comfortable. After my three years at Université Sainte-Anne, I continued my education at Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec where I earned a doctorate in medicine, and then moved to Moncton, New Brunswick for my residency in family medicine.



After completing these studies, I decided to return to practise family medicine in my area of southwestern Nova Scotia. This is partly thanks to Université Sainte-Anne and the links I formed during my time there as a student. I must confess that I consider myself

very lucky to have had the opportunity to complete part of my postsecondary education in French and, at the same time, remain in my native region.

Université Sainte-Anne is once again playing an important role in my life. As a family physician practising in a rural area in a province with a francophone minority, I know that it takes much hard work to recruit francophone physicians. Here in Baie Sainte-Marie, we see several students who come here to study science at Université Sainte-Anne and this allows us to forge links with the potential of recruiting them to join our team in future.

I have very fond memories of my time at Université Sainte-Anne and I am proud to have the opportunity to return there each Wednesday to offer my services as French-speaking family physician to the students and staff of this institution.

Renewable energy: One of Canada's greenest universities!

Since September 2009, Université Sainte-Anne has earned distinction for its renewable energy infrastructure projects. As a partner in implementing the *Clare Community Energy Master Plan* pilot project in 2007, the university forged ahead with its own \$2.5 million “combined technology project.” Installation of a water heater fueled by wood chips will allow replacement of the current oil-fired boiler, while solar heaters will supply hot water



to student residences, and installation of a windmill will reduce the institution's electrical bill. It should be noted that the solar system includes 118 solar panels, making it one of the largest installations of this type in Atlantic Canada.

This project will have several long-term benefits. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 90 percent, contribute to local economic development through use of a renewable fuel source available in the region, and substantially reduce the university's operating costs, freeing up additional funds for new programs and student services. Through this three-pronged project, Université Sainte-Anne is probably the most environmentally friendly university in Canada. The resulting feeling of pride and inspiration is quite evident in the video produced by a group of students, which can be viewed at: <http://www.mediafire.com/file/tge2nhmvjyt>.

This commitment to environmental sustainability and proven leadership in the field will certainly serve the university, the community of Clare, Nova Scotia and the planet well! To cap off this unprecedented year of transformation, at the May 2010 convocation, the university will bestow an honorary doctorate on Dr. David Suzuki for his outstanding contribution to the protection of nature and the environment.

French immersion

The French immersion program at Université Sainte-Anne has existed for more than 30 years and has earned a solid reputation. Anglophone students can come here to learn, refresh and upgrade their French throughout the year. They can study for just one week



or spend a year and a half with us and continue their university studies in French.

The ultimate goal of staff working with an annual clientele exceeding 500 students is not only to teach the French language but also and perhaps primarily to introduce students to a French-speaking world. For a language to be living and “teaching,” people must use it and identify with it. Those who want to learn it must also discover the sources behind the machinery. French immersion therefore is a trampoline of sorts for anglophone students from across Canada and even the United States, as well as francophones and Acadians living in the Clare region. We also try to introduce students to the broader francophone world. Staff include a diversity of francophones and francophiles from all areas of the French-speaking world.

Testimonial: Hughie Batherson – Our university, our family!



When I had to decide at age 18 what career I wanted to pursue, I was undecided. I chose to learn French at Université Sainte-Anne. Since I had never taken a French course in high school, I was looking for a place that accommodated absolute beginners and many people said that place was in Baie Sainte-Marie.

I am not ashamed to admit that I have become the person I am thanks to this institution. This “immersion” is more than a linguistic reality for me, but also a social and emotional reality. The environment in which students grow is very, very, very much like a family. A certain Acadian charm prevails at Université Sainte-Anne; you smell it, you feel it, and it is demonstrated in people’s simple gestures.

Imagine a campus on the ocean shore, populated by students not only from the Atlantic Provinces but from the global francophone community! This is a small university so it is almost inevitable that attachments are formed to the people and the place thanks to the nature of the people who make up this family. I remember that when my father came to get me barely two months after my arrival, he observed that I had found a second “home,” another family!

The passion I discovered for the French language and culture resulted in a longer stay than planned! After completing the French immersion program, a Bachelor of French was awaiting me, followed by a Bachelor of Education and then a Masters, all at Sainte-Anne! After teaching in the immersion program for several years, I am once again in the Sainte-Anne clan with a position in student affairs where I strive to share my enthusiasm with future and present students.