

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY EXCELS IN

FORENSIC SCIENCE

NEW MICROSCOPE OPENS DOORS FOR STUDENTS

by Tyler J. Smith



Sorry to let you down, but don't expect to see "CSI: Edinboro" on your favorite cable channel anytime soon.

Although professors at Edinboro University are trained forensic scientists and have the necessary tools to investigate the same type of crimes as Grissom and his CSI team, in reality, the entertaining show does not mimic reality.

"The show is merely to entertain us, not educate us. It is wonderful entertainment but it doesn't reflect reality. I've never driven to a crime scene in a Hummer, for example," said Assistant Professor Theodore Yeshion, who has a joint appointment in chemistry and political science and criminal justice at Edinboro University.

While Dr. Yeshion doesn't have the shiny Hummer to drive to a crime scene, he does have something better at Edinboro University: a state-of-the-art Keyence digital microscope with the capabilities of examining forensic evidence at 175x magnification.

The microscope, which was purchased with student technology fees, cost \$45,000. His department is working toward acquiring a 5,000x magnifying lens for the microscope.

"The beauty of it is that we can observe, analyze, record and present evidence that otherwise is not available to students," explained Yeshion.

The new technology enables Yeshion and other professors to improve the way students learn about the field of forensic science.

"We are redesigning a classroom to be a forensic science classroom," said Yeshion. "Soon, we want to have the classroom set up so that the entire class will see the image at the same time. We even have the capability to freeze the images and save them to a USB port or disc."

Yeshion flipped a United States penny and it landed on tails. "I'll bet you didn't know the penny has a picture of Abraham Lincoln sitting in his memorial," he said.

He placed the penny underneath the microscope and toyed with the toggles for a few moments. The microscope promptly magnified the penny 175 times its normal size.

"There we are," said Yeshion with a hint of satisfaction. "And there are exactly 10 micrometers between his knees."

Yanking a hair from his own head, Yeshion fussed with the Keyence microscope and pulled up an image of a hair follicle. He explained that the microscope could determine if enough DNA evidence would be available on a strand of hair.

"In a criminal case, the microscope could show us a lot about whether the hair had been forcibly removed, cut or burned. It could also show us human versus animal species of hair," Yeshion said.

And if anyone knows what crime scene evidence looks like, it's Yeshion!

Prior to becoming an assistant professor at Edinboro University, Yeshion was active in the field of evidence analysis. He worked in the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation's crime lab from 1975 to 1979, moving on to the Florida State Department of Law Enforcement's crime lab, then retiring in 1999.

Yeshion holds a bachelor of science degree in pre-med biology from York College of the City University of New York, and a master's degree in forensic science from George Washington University. In 2006, he earned his Ph.D. in science education from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Yeshion's expert testimony has been used in many infamous cases across the country, including the trials of serial killer Ted Bundy and accused murderer O.J. Simpson. His services as a teacher, expert and lecturer are in great demand.

Dr. David Ferster, chairman of Edinboro's Political Science and Criminal Justice Department, sees great potential for Yeshion and the microscope at Edinboro University.

"The microscope brings an opportunity for expanded research and student involvement. We can offer our students views of evidence and materials that they would experience in a real crime scene," explained Ferster.

For Edinboro University students, understanding the "science" behind the field of forensic science brings them one step closer to meaningful, real-life careers – minus the Hummer, of course.

Tyler J. Smith is a senior print journalism and political science major.



FILM CAREER TAKES OFF FOR EDINBORO UNIVERSITY'S

JOHN LYONS

New film features Edinboro-based cast and crew.

by Caroline Schwartz

In school, John C. Lyons was the kid who wanted to make movies instead of write papers. He was always creative, even as a young boy, drawing comic books for his neighbors.

"I also made terrible home movies," he acknowledges with a laugh.

Years later, his penchant for movies worked to his advantage. Recently, he finished making his first feature length film titled *schism*. It's scheduled for immediate release.

Lyons, 30, attended Edinboro University, majoring in computer science and math. He graduated in 2000 and is

now employed in Edinboro's Technology and Communications Office.

Slowly, he found his way into feature film-making with the help of Randall McCaslin, a fellow Edinboro University employee who loaned Lyons film-making equipment.

"Edinboro's always been good to me. They let me film a previous movie called *Shakespeare's Dilemma* during my lunch breaks," Lyons explained.

His new film, *schism*, explores the gut-wrenching world of Alzheimer's disease and the devastating effects of the progressive neurological disorder on those suffering with the disease.

Much work went into the production of *schism*. Lyons wrote the 104-page story, and a good portion of his script came from personal experiences with Alzheimer's patients.

"A lot is true and what I saw," said Lyons, now turning somber. "You write what you know about."

After writing the script, Lyons recruited the cast. He reviewed scores of videotaped auditions, then contacted those individuals he wanted to appear in the film.

Lyons included his family in the film's cast, including his grandmothers, his father, his brother, and his wife, Dorota Swies-Lyons, who's his toughest critic.

The cast also includes Edinboro University students and faculty, including Dr. Kathleen Golden, Dr. Andy Lawlor, Bill Vitanyi, Carla Behr, Randall McCaslin and Tom Bennett, as well as Edinboro alumni Andy Flatley and Kurt Daniels.

Working out the actors' and crew's schedules was perhaps the most difficult part of filming for Lyons.

Rehearsing and filming took four-to-five hours nightly on weekdays, then



Scene from the film *schism*.

stretched from 6 a.m. until 2 o'clock the next morning on weekends.

The entire process was a lesson in patience for Lyons. Editing, for example, took Lyons and his production company, Lyons Den Productions L.L.C., from November 2006 until August 2007 to complete.

"There are times when you just want to give up, but just stay positive, make sure other people are positive and make sure they don't see you freak out," advised Lyons for those considering film-making.

Lyons hopes the film will be ready for submission to the Sundance Film Festival.

Caroline Schwartz is a junior print journalism major.

Editor's Note: Edinboro University is pleased to host the premier of *schism* on April 17 and 18 in the Louis C. Cole Auditorium.

Kate Bender: A Journey into the Light



Editor's note: Edinboro University graduate Kate Bender, who suffered from severe depression, spoke at Stairways Behavioral Health in Erie recently, describing her mental illness and the role Edinboro University played in her healing process. The following is excerpted from her address.

1995 was the year of the loss of my husband, loss of home, loss of reality and self-esteem, isolation, depression, months of persistent impulses to die, my daughter's ordeal of not knowing if she would find me alive everyday when she came home from school, hospital stays, and not eating enough. These brought me to the brink. I was standing on the edge looking down deep into the nothingness when my sister, Barb Hauck, and my brother-in-law, the late Rick Claffey, gathered me up and took me in. They brought me to Erie and opened their home and made me part of their lives.

I was without words. I had forgotten how to live. The light had gone from my eyes. It was like I was not alive in my being. This time, this encounter with mental illness undid all of who I was.

For my family it was hard to know how to live with someone with severe depression. My sister went to classes to try to understand mental illness. The gratitude I feel toward my sister and brother-in-law is immeasurable. They were the first essential part of my reintegration into community.

When I came to Erie I found a community ready to deal with my mental illness and also uphold my personhood. After 35 years the disorder I had been dealing with was identified and, with great effort, proper medications were found.

One day, while still very depressed, I went with my sister to Edinboro University where she was a graduate student. While in an art building, I noticed an etching press just like the one I used to work on in my undergraduate experience. A spark ignited in my being, and I asked the professor in the room if I could get access to the press. I didn't want a

degree; I just wanted to do some art. After a number of days of deliberation, the University let me in as a special student. Later it was determined that I could progress on the road to an MFA degree. I still just wanted to do art.

Through Edinboro University I had connected up with one of my very old dreams of being an artist. When I would work on my art, my mind would focus and I would receive relief from mental torment. The more art I did, the more focused I became. The more focused I became the more my self-esteem and confidence improved and the more I was able to talk. My art chronicled my progress over the years.

My mentor, professor John Lysak, challenged me as did the vibrant community of students. Edinboro faculty and students did not treat me differently although they could tell I was struggling. I was now part of the Edinboro University community.

Throughout the three years of study, I had a very close friend, Nelson Smith, who, 10 years later, I would marry. His steady friendship and support was invaluable then and still is today. Over the years we learned about managing mental illness together.

After graduation, I entered a program designed for abuse victims called Relationship Solutions. I took three and a half years of classes. Silence, listening, pain, growth, learning and finally telling the stories that were the source of such pain led me to emotional healing. I had to go back and purge the pain that affected my life so profoundly. I had to deal with the emotional traumas. I had come to grips with the tormented world of my father, who, as a former POW, struggled with post-traumatic stress syndrome at the very least. It was very, very hard. I learned what to do with the

pain and how to have good relationships with myself and others.

After graduate school and while still taking life skills classes, I found a job I could handle. I was alone in a greenhouse trimming bonsai trees. When I had problems functioning, no one knew it. I could not have handled a job out in the public. I worked for 5 years and made enough money to be on my own.

My job enabled me to find a room in a home by the ponds in Edinboro. The intense beauty of nature there was so very soothing and healing. I was now part of the Edinboro community.

It was nature. It was the self worth of making it on my own. It was medications. It was reframing my distorted thinking. It was the caring of my family and other people. It was people's prayers. It was participation in the community. It was Edinboro University allowing me to continue to do my art as a volunteer after I had graduated. It was all these things in combination that helped promote recovery for me.

While still working in the greenhouses, I was offered a position teaching a printmaking class at Mercyhurst College. And with all the confidence I could muster I tried to teach what I knew. The first semester was very hard. I was scared and did not do the best job. Continuing to teach at Mercyhurst for five years led to other adjunct teaching positions. My self-esteem grew immensely through these experiences. I now had to talk and communicate effectively for a living. I also began showing and selling my artwork.

I went from being isolated and non-verbal to doing art. I went from working to teaching. Now, finally, I am working at Stairways Behavioral Health as a Peer Specialist at the Center for the Arts

and Humanities. As a Peer Specialist, I am working with what I have learned about myself and mental illness and the potential of dreams coming to fruition to help others recapture their dreams. As a Peer Specialist I see the bravery of many of my peers trying to manage and overcome their disabilities. As a Peer Specialist I share my trials and triumphs with my peers to hopefully stimulate the idea that dreams and goals can be reached despite the insidious entropy of mental illness.

The process of recovery itself is not a formula of meeting societal benchmarks, but it is any meaningful engagement with the community on any level. Recovery ebbs and flows and is very different for all individuals.

The more we help people build on their dreams the more surely people can start to move from isolation to participation and ultimately into fulfillment.



Kate Bender Print



EDINBORO ALUMNUS RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



PROFESSOR MUSIEK LEADS AUDIOLOGY RESEARCH



Dr. Frank Musiek
Photo credit: Kim Bova Photography

By Adam Campbell

Dr. Frank Musiek of the University of Connecticut is one of the foremost audiology researchers in the country.

A distinguished scientist, practitioner and author with 200 publications and a curriculum vitae spanning more than 50 pages, his spectacular academic and professional journey began at a humble institution once known as Edinboro State College.

Musiek's discipline - audiology - is the study of how the brain understands auditory signals, or simply, the study of hearing. His research has provided valuable insight into the nature and function of the human auditory system.

Born and raised in nearby Union City, Musiek graduated from Edinboro in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in biology and speech. His Edinboro education laid the groundwork for his future prominence.

Musiek would further his education in Ohio, receiving a master's degree in

audiology at Kent State before going on to complete a Ph.D. in audiology and neurophysiology at Case Western Reserve University.

His career in academia began at prestigious Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. Musiek taught, practiced and researched there for more than 20 years before assuming his present position at the University of Connecticut in 2001.

At Connecticut, Musiek serves as a professor of audiology and the director of auditory research. He is also a professor of otolaryngology, the study of the ear, nose and throat. His job takes him to both the clinic and the classroom.

"Sometimes I see patients who have complex hearing losses," said Musiek. "I also teach twice a week and run the neuroaudiology lab."

Musiek's work includes developing clinical testing procedures in audiology. Three of his procedures have become standard in clinical auditory testing. For example, Musiek developed the dichotic digits test, an instrument used to assess the integrity of the central auditory nervous system.

In the classroom, Musiek has educated undergraduates, post-doctoral students, and even medical students.

A high point in Musiek's career came in 2007 when he was awarded the James Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology.

The award is the nation's top audiological research award and is given by the American Academy of Audiology, an organization Musiek co-founded in 1987. The award not only recognizes Musiek's research, but his significant contributions to the practice and the teaching of audiology.

When not in the lab or classroom, Musiek enjoys spending time with his wife, Sheila (Knuth '71), and sons, Erik and Justin. He loves exercising, especially running and weight-lifting, along with listening to music from the 1960s.

Musiek still makes regular visits to the Edinboro area.

"I come back to the area once a year to see my brothers, but I don't get to come back as much as I'd like," he said.

Edinboro University awarded Musiek its Distinguished Alumni Award in 1995.

From humble beginnings, Musiek is proof that Edinboro University of Pennsylvania alumni go on to national prominence, recognition and great things.

Adam Campbell is a senior communication studies major.

"People take hearing for granted, but it's the most complex of all the senses," said Musiek.

"Many people think 'hearing loss' means you can't understand volume. It's more complex than that."

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY -
WHERE GREAT THINGS



Dr. Bill Jacobs

Bill Jacobs recognized by *Esquire* Magazine as "Genius."

We've always known that Edinboro University produces bona fide geniuses, and now that's been validated by a national magazine. *Esquire* magazine published an in-depth feature story on alumnus Bill Jacobs in its annual "Genius" issue in December.

Jacobs is a professor of microbiology and immunology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. *Esquire* chose to feature Jacobs and

other microbiologists because of their dedicated work in seeking a way to eradicate the bacterium that causes tuberculosis.

Jacobs, married to Edinboro graduate Linda (Roth) Jacobs ('77), received his bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1970 and began studying microbiology at the University of Alabama. At first, he focused on the microorganism that causes leprosy, *Mycobacterium leprae*, which is closely related to the tuberculosis bug. He moved to New York in 1985 and shifted his focus to TB. For the past 20 years he has been genetically engineering bacteriophages - bacteria-eating viruses - and injecting them into the TB bug to learn how the microbe works.

"Jacobs, at 52, is just hitting his stride," said the *Esquire* article. "In the past ten years - often working with his longtime collaborators Graham Hatfull at the University of Pittsburgh and James Sacchetti at Texas A&M - he has built the 'Bronx Box,' a cheap machine that uses a firefly gene to test for drug resistance (resistant bugs light up); helped discover what he believes is the exact chemical target of the drug isoniazid; and learned how the bug can become resistant in the first place. His

and *Geniuses* HAPPEN!

By Brian K. Pitzer

newest project is a comprehensive library of mutants, each with a single gene deleted.

"As for new vaccines, Jacob's got eight or ten of them in various stages. 'When we get one that really kills...'"

Jacobs thinks he is very close to finding the vaccine that works. And because he is a graduate of a University where great things - and geniuses - happen, we are betting that day will come soon.

"JACOBS, AT 52, IS JUST HITTING HIS STRIDE."

- *Esquire Magazine*





THE DAWNING OF THE FUTURE

Dr. Jeremy D. Brown inaugurated Edinboro University's 16th President



During an investiture ceremony brimming with all the pomp and circumstance of Edinboro University's 150 years of rich customs and traditions, Dr. Jeremy D. Brown was inaugurated November 30, 2007, as Edinboro's 16th President.

President Brown was inaugurated before an audience numbering nearly 1,000 well-wishers – including faculty, staff, students, administrators, college and university presidents, and officials of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education – who gathered at McComb Fieldhouse for the formal investiture.

During the ceremony, Dr. Brown, who began his presidency on July 1, 2007, declared: "We must be ever mindful that our central and overriding mission is to educate and to advance knowledge."

Among those in attendance were members of Dr. Brown's family, community and civic leaders, past Edinboro Presidents Frank G. Pogue and Foster F. Diebold, and five PASSHE University presidents.

The Inauguration ceremony came just 15 days before the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Edinboro Academy, historic forerunner to the University, on December 15, 1857.

The key moment of the ceremony occurred when Harold Shields, Chairman of Edinboro University's Council of Trustees, formally presented Dr. Brown to Dr. Judy Hample, Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Shields, who earlier this year served as chairman of the University's Presidential Search Committee that endorsed Dr. Brown's candidacy, said committee members were impressed with

Dr. Brown's past accomplishments, his present efforts and his ability to share his vision for Edinboro's successful future.

"Jeremy Brown's efforts during the initial months of his administration have served to reinforce and confirm the committee's mandate of a leader who is grounded in the past, delivers assertively in the present, and has a clear view of the successful future of Edinboro University," Shields said.

Following formal investiture by Dr. Hample, Mr. Kenneth Jarin, Chairman of PASSHE's Board of Governors, administered to Dr. Brown the oath of office.

Addressing the large Inauguration audience, President Brown said, "Clearly, our task is to prepare our students for life beyond college, to instill in them not just rote knowledge, but also lifelong learning skills that will prepare them to adapt, not only for their first jobs, but also jobs beyond – some of which do not yet exist."

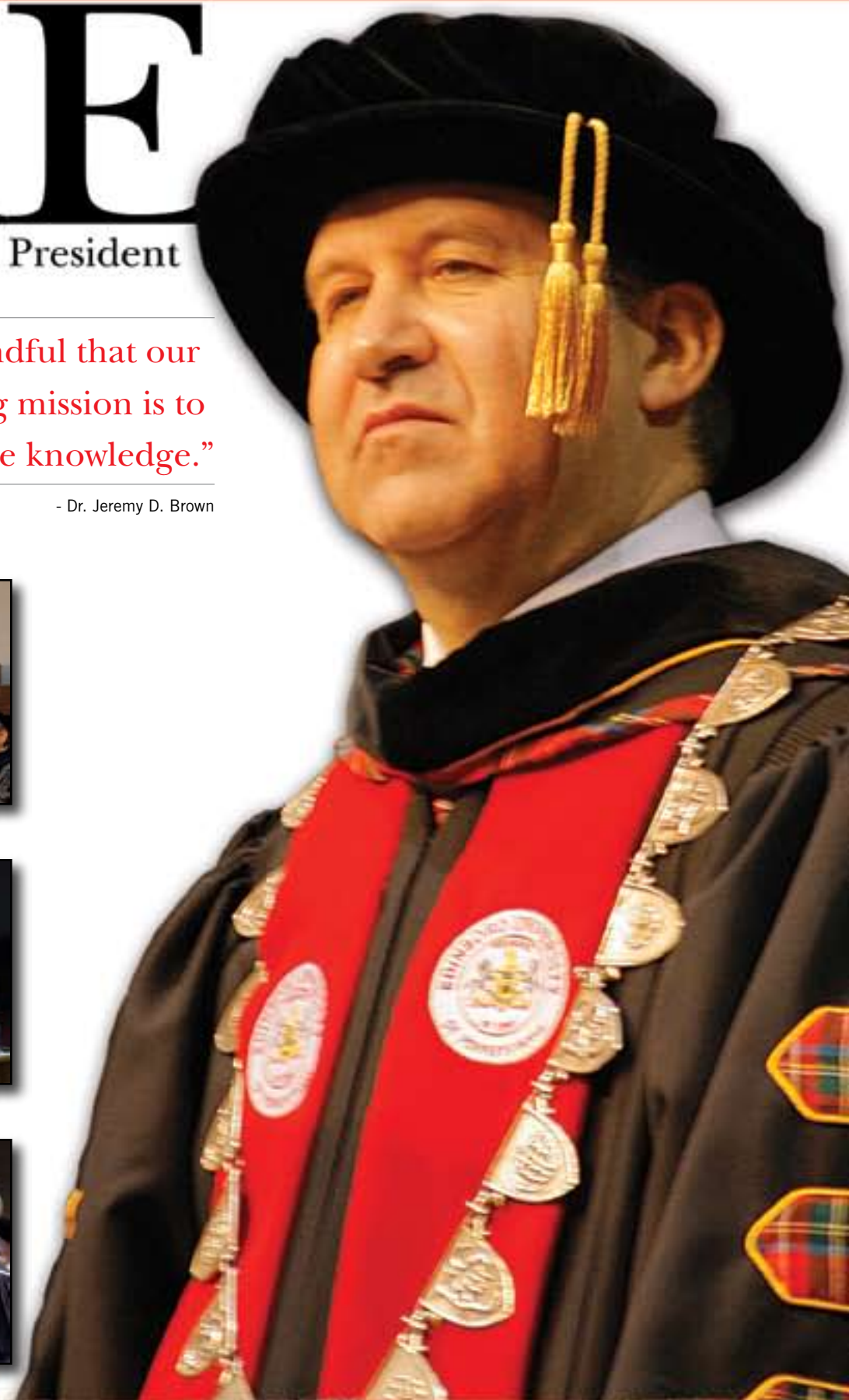
President Brown and his wife, Rebeca Acuña, came to Edinboro from SUNY-Canton, where Brown served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs since 2003.

A native of Manchester, England, President Brown is a nuclear physicist who previously served in academic and administrative positions at Princeton and Yale Universities, as well as Rector of Florida State University-Panama.

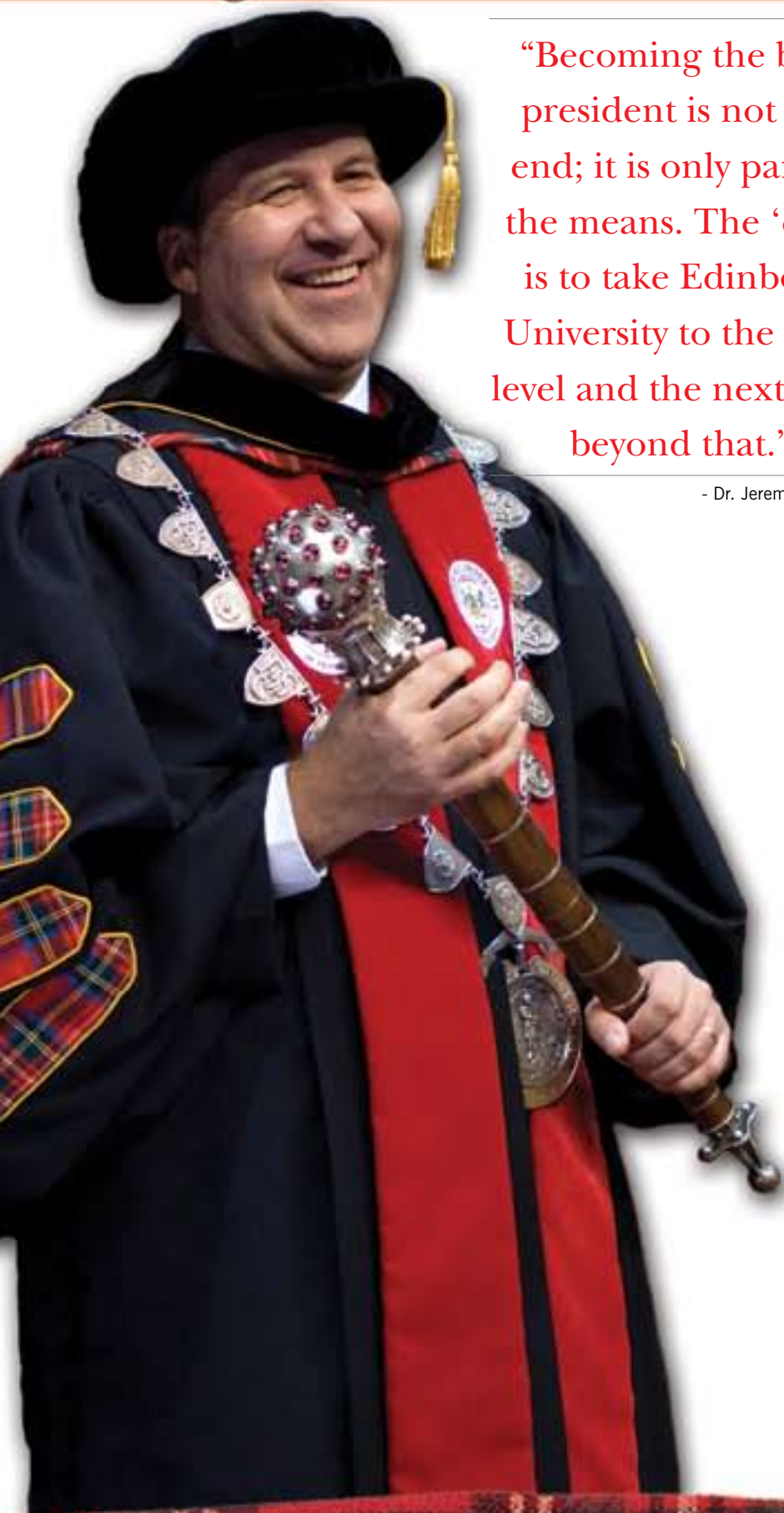
During his Inaugural address, Brown emphasized, "Becoming the best president is not the end; it is only part of the means. The 'end' is to take Edinboro University to the next level and the next level beyond that."

"We must be ever mindful that our central and overriding mission is to educate and to advance knowledge."

- Dr. Jeremy D. Brown



DR. JEREMY D. BROWN, EDINBORO UNIVERSITY'S 16th PRESIDENT



“Becoming the best president is not the end; it is only part of the means. The ‘end’ is to take Edinboro University to the next level and the next level beyond that.”

- Dr. Jeremy D. Brown



As Edinboro's chief academic officer, Dr. Pearl Bartelt, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, presided over the Inauguration ceremony.

Leading the formal inaugural procession and carrying the traditional ceremonial Mace was Dr. Renata Wolyneć of the History and Anthropology Department. Wolyneć, President of the Edinboro University Senate, represented the University's 800 faculty and staff members.

The procession featured delegates representing 40 colleges and universities, as well as 25 current Edinboro students carrying the flags of their native lands. Two additional students carried flags representing Scotland, in honor of Edinboro's founders, and Great Britain, in honor of President Brown's native England.

A video, filled with heartfelt congratulations from Dr. Brown's brother, Dr. Martin Brown of Cape Town, South Africa, was viewed by the audience. Also, a poignant congratulatory letter from Mrs. Barbara Brown Curbishley, President Brown's mother in Manchester, England, was read by Dr. Bartelt.

The Inauguration represented the first in Edinboro's history that was video-streamed to the world via the Internet. It was viewed by Dr. Brown's family in Manchester and Cape Town, as



well as thousands of alumni and friends worldwide.

Following the Inauguration ceremony, President Brown hosted invited guests at a luncheon in Van Houten Dining Hall, during which Dr. David Montefiore, a world-renowned AIDS researcher and 1978 graduate of Edinboro, delivered the keynote address.

A highlight of the luncheon occurred when a delegation from China's Jinan University, headed by Vice President Dang Mingde, presented President Brown with a watercolor painting from Jinan created specifically to honor Dr. Brown's presidency and mark Edinboro University's 150th anniversary.

At the luncheon, during which Marketing and Development Vice President Bruce Whitehair served as emcee, President Brown praised the University Inauguration Committee's co-chairs for organizing an event showcasing Edinboro's excellence in academics and service.

He said Dr. Jerra Jenrette, Dr. Erinn Lake and Ms. Julie Chacona "used strong organization skills to bring together scores of those serving the Edinboro community to create a week that told the world Great Things Happen Here!"

The Inauguration capped a week-long celebration, including a three-day Academic Symposium, fund-raising



events for the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Dr. Jeremy D. Brown Millennium Leader Scholarship Dinner, which raised more than \$45,000 to provide financial assistance to student leaders.

Inauguration week, during which students, faculty and staff were encouraged to wear plaid, concluded with a Scottish Heritage Festival at McComb Fieldhouse.

“Clearly, our task is to prepare our students for life beyond college, to instill in them not just rote knowledge, but also lifelong learning skills...”

- Dr. Jeremy D. Brown



The Dr. Jeremy D. Brown Millennium Leader Scholarship Dinner



The Dr. Jeremy D. Brown Millennium Leader Scholarship Dinner raised nearly \$45,000 to benefit the new scholarship initiative. The event, held at the Crawford Center, was attended by more than 200 Edinboro University supporters including faculty, staff, administrators, students and friends. The new scholarship will be available to students who demonstrate academic prowess and leadership in University extracurricular activities.