

## Media Release

April 8, 2015

### **“The Tales that Bind: A Narrative Model for Living and Helping in Rural Communities” Faculty Book Launch April 10**

A book dealing with practitioners in helping professions living and working in rural communities will be launched at St. Thomas University on April 10 at 2:30 pm in the Brian Mulroney Hall Rotunda.

Every year, thousands of new practitioners in professions such as social work, education, medicine and religious ministries leave the large urban centres where they received their training and go to work in small towns, remote hamlets and other rural settings. Often they find themselves unprepared for professional life in these communities.

*The Tales That Bind: A Narrative Model for Living and Helping in Rural Communities* draws on in-depth interviews conducted with more than 40 practitioners working in a range of professions and communities throughout rural New Brunswick.

The book presents a narrative approach to facing these challenges. Using fictionalized vignettes and autobiographical sketches, the authors—William Randall, the late Rosemary Clews and Dolores Furlong—argue that success as rural practitioners requires “knowing the story,” whether that is personal, communal or regional.

“Human life is storied through and through, which is to say that we deal far more in terms of stories (perceptions, interpretations) than of facts,” the authors wrote in the preface of the book. “In small communities, storytelling can be pivotal to daily life – for better or worse, given both the compassion and the gossip that can link their members together.

“We have sought at every turn to let stories and not theories take the lead throughout the book. Listening to stories and learning from stories, we believe, lies at the core of effective rural practice; this has been our conviction from the start.”

*The Tales That Bind* is an accessible, practical guide to using narrative techniques in practice and will be useful to students, teachers, and professionals working in rural settings.

William Randall is a professor in the Gerontology Department at St. Thomas University. The late Rosemary Clews was a professor in the School of Social Work and Assistant Vice-President (Research) at St. Thomas University. Dolores Furlong is a professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick.

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**Media Contact** – Jeffrey Carleton at 452-0522 or [carleton@stu.ca](mailto:carleton@stu.ca).