

You can dance if you want to

Go ahead. Robert VerEecke, Jesuit Artist-in-Residence at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, says it's okay. In fact, he encourages it. "What I have discovered in my experience as a person open to the experience of the Holy One," he told an audience gathered in Siegfried Hall to hear him speak on the connection between dance and religious expression, "is that the dynamics of religious experience are similar to the dynamics within dance itself."

VerEecke's talk, which opened the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience's 1996-97 lecture series, was the central point of a weekend celebration of theology and the arts which took place at the College in late September.

The weekend began with a dramatic re-enactment of the Gospel of St. Mark in the College's newly opened Community Centre. The one-man play was presented by Michael Corso, an adjunct professor at both Boston College and Notre Dame College in Manchester, New Hampshire, as well as co-ordinator of family liturgy at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

The following evening VerEecke gave his talk, assisted by four members of the Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble which he founded in 1979. "The dance has always been a part of my life," VerEecke began. "I don't remember a time when I didn't dance.... Some of my earliest memories are of creating dances, of making up dances."

When he became a Jesuit, he thought he would have to put dance behind him, but in 1966, when he entered the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits were in the process of rediscovering their arts tradition.

"I was delighted to find out that the Jesuits really had a strong connection to dance as an art form and also as a form of communicating the gospel," he said. "There is a particular form of dance that is called the Jesuit biblical ballet, used in Jesuit schools to communicate the gospel message."

Encouraged to learn more about both the Jesuit tradition and dance, VerEecke discovered something of great significance.

"As I learned to pray, specifically through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, I found that the dynamic of prayer, opening up to God and experiencing God, was very similar to the dynamic within the language of dance."

The religious experience, VerEecke explained, is rooted in an encounter with mystery that opens us up to what is beyond us, yet it is also rooted in our sense of ourselves as creatures. We are fascinated with and attracted to "that which is a mystery inexpressible and above all creatures," but at the same time, we feel "the hushed trembling and speechless humility of the creature in the presence of Whom or What."

"The dynamic is one of moving towards and moving away," VerEecke explained, "and that's a similar dynamic in dance, the movement out and the movement back, the stretch and contraction that's so significant to the vocabulary of dance."

"The dance has a tremendous power to express the experience of the numinous, of the holy, because of all the art forms, it is one that is rooted in createdness. Dance by its nature is grounded in the concrete; it is this body moving in space and time, and yet as the dancer knows, you're constantly moving outside of yourself at the same time that you're grounded in your concrete reality."

Yet in the Christian tradition, dance is not widely accepted as a form of religious expression. "Psalm 150 says 'Praise him with timbrel and dance,'" noted VerEecke. "We say it, but we don't do it."

VerEecke observed that early Christians tended to spiritualize worship as a way of distancing themselves from the Hebrew tradition and from pagan forms of worship, which included dance. In their writings, he notes, early church Fathers "speak about the angels dancing around the throne of God. But they had some problems with people on the earth dancing."

And yet despite such disapproval, people continued to dance. "There is something about the human person that one desires to express oneself, to express the relationship with God, through the whole body," said VerEecke. "Our liturgical prayer is not simply spiritual.... We gesture, we make the sign of the cross, we proceed - there is so much body language that we use in our ritual and liturgy."

The following evening, members of the St. Jerome's community were given a chance to experience first-hand what a powerful form of religious expression dance can be as members of the Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble joined in the annual St. Jerome's Day Eucharistic Liturgy which concluded the weekend celebration. 

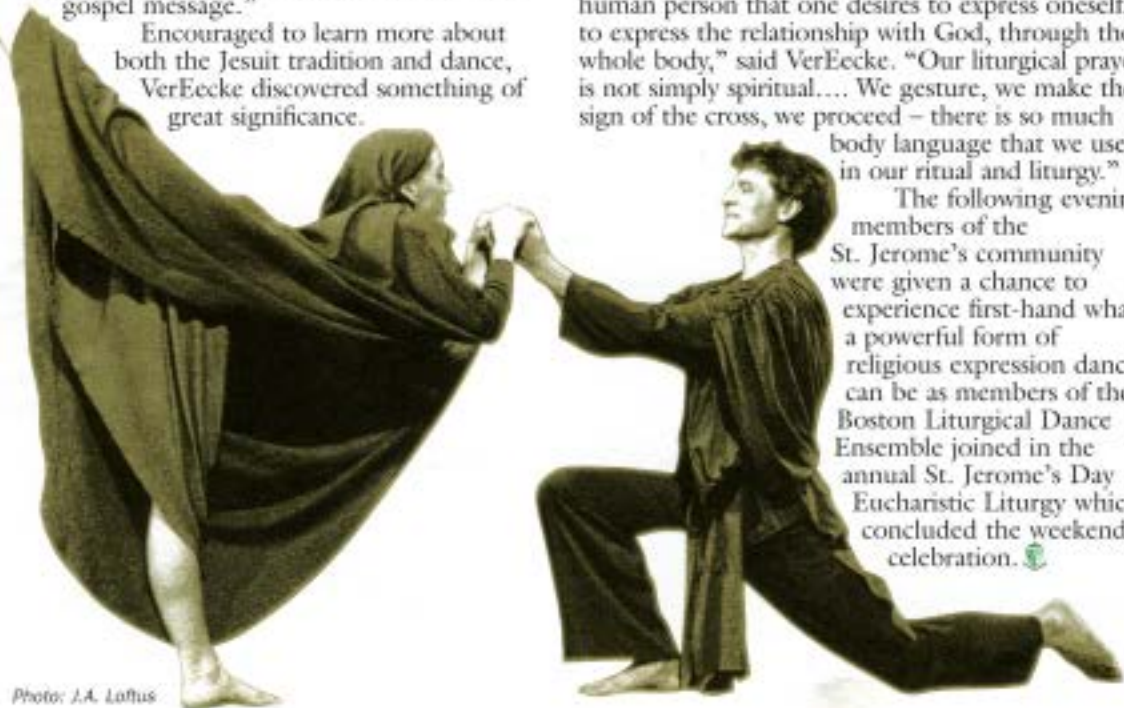


Photo: J.A. Loftus

sjc

ST. JEROME'S

University of
St. Jerome's College
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Message from the President

From blueprint to reality

The construction schedules and the uncertainties of summer have finally given way to the excitement of fall – and it's not just a new year, it's a whole new look, a whole new dynamic, an unparalleled opportunity to realize our vision of a person-centred and community-driven post-secondary institution rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition. St. Jerome's Community Centre, our combined cafeterias with the multifaceted potential for the building of community, has moved from blueprint to reality. The challenge now is to pay the bills.

The new building was officially dedicated on October 4 with an episcopal blessing by Bishop Anthony Tonnos and a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony – it was an impressive affair attended by some 200 well wishers, including the Hon. Elizabeth Witmer MPP, Wayne Wettlaufer MPP, Andrew Telegdi MP, John English MP, and Mayor Richard Christie of Kitchener. Unofficially, however, the Centre was opened to the public for the first time on the evening of Thursday, September 26 when the Centre for Catholic Experience began its Celebration of St. Jerome with Michael Corso's presentation of the off-Broadway "St. Mark's Gospel: The Message Comes Alive." Thursday's interactive dramatic reenactment ably demonstrated the potential of the SJC Centre as a place to bring people together for meaningful celebration, for interactive discourse, for inventive instruction, and for good times.

We hope that many of you will take the initiative to attend a Centre event or to drop by to see our new facilities. You will not only find a new Community Centre, but you will also be

impressed by the barbecue area which we have developed with the financial support of Stan Lussa, the owner of Dust and Shine. Take a look, too, at the donor walls which we are developing in the Centre to commemorate major donors and to immortalize those who have decided to support our brick campaign by purchasing a brick on which we have inscribed the donor's name. So far that campaign, organized by the Executive Team of our Graduates' Association, has raised in excess of \$90,000 to help offset our construction costs.

In fact, as we prepare to launch our Building Together for the Future Capital Campaign, I am pleased to report that we have been generously supported by many and diverse quarters in our effort to raise some of the \$4,700,000 required to purchase Notre Dame College and to pay for the resulting construction. We have in excess of \$800,000 pledged to date, with contributions coming from such various sources as the CIBC, Beaver Foods, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, Jack Weber of C.N. Weber, Walter Fedy Partnership, G and A Masonry, and scores of others. And, as has been the practice of provincial governments over the last one hundred years and more, we have received no capital support from the Ontario Government.

In addition to the brick campaign, we have developed a number of naming opportunities as a means of honouring major donors. Notre Dame Chapel will, for example, be renovated by adding a separate entrance from the walkway, and we will be adding four stained glass windows with Marian, resurrection, and college themes. These windows can be sponsored through a minimum donation of \$10,000 each. And since the School Sisters of Notre Dame have asked that as a means of finalizing their departure from the campus we no longer refer to the women's residence as Notre Dame College, we are looking for a naming opportunity for the residence itself if an appropriate donor can be found. Similarly, lounges, guest rooms, and identifiable areas throughout the College buildings are being offered as naming opportunities for any individual, group, or foundation able to provide a major donation.

Government funding being what it is, tuition increases being what they are, the competition for students continues to increase as fewer students can afford the cost of a post-secondary education, and fewer can afford to leave home in pursuit of that education. As a result, we hope that our friends will continue to sing our praises, to tell their friends what St. Jerome's has to offer, and to help secure a sound academic education in a Roman Catholic milieu for generations to come. These are difficult times indeed, but they are exciting ones too with challenging possibilities. It is a time when new initiatives are essential if we are to build together for the future. 🍷

Photo: Ron Hewison



Doug Letson, President,
St. Jerome's College.

Well-wishers gather in
the new St. Jerome's
Community Centre to
celebrate its official
opening.



Photo: Ron Hewison

St. Jerome's students dig in

During orientation week this year, students were up to their usual fun and games, but on Saturday they got down to some serious work.

On September 7th, 88 first-year students from St. Jerome's turned out to help pull weeds and harvest vegetables in the community garden run by the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. Though the remains of Hurricane Fran rained down on them, the students worked steadily for hours, warmed by the hard work and hot chocolate provided by the College.

When they saw the rain that morning, staff members at the Food Bank were concerned that it would keep volunteers away, says Shelly Jo Holmes, a Volunteer Co-ordinator at the Food Bank. "When the Executive Director asked me who our group was and I replied, 'St. Jerome's,' he said 'St. Jerome's will be there.' Boy, was he right!"

Produce from the garden, a quarter-acre plot on the NCR property at 580 Weber St. N. in Waterloo, will help feed some of the 60,000 people the Food Bank expects to serve this year. Fresh produce, notes Andrea Aquilina, a staff member at the Food Bank, is often not available in Food Bank provisions.

"To get such a show of spirit on that sort of day was remarkable," comments Darren Becks, Director of Residences at St. Jerome's. Becks notes that the Residence Council at the College and the Student Catholic Community plan to continue to work with the Food Bank throughout the year. ☪

We're on the Web!

The St. Jerome's College World Wide Web site is up and running, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Professor Steve Furino and math student J.P. Rosevear. Though it's still under construction (have you ever visited a Web site that wasn't?), there's plenty to see and do.

You can learn a little about the College's past (did you know that St. Jerome's had its beginnings in a rather small log homestead situated about a quarter mile east of St. Agatha?) and a lot about its present. The site provides access to such things as descriptions of courses offered at the College, information about faculty and staff, facts about the residences, and news of upcoming events. Of particular interest to students is a complete listing and description of scholarships and bursaries available at St. Jerome's, as well as a page maintained by the Student Union at the College.

Perhaps the most fun thing about the site is that you can take Quick Time Virtual Reality tours of the College and main campus from the "Tell me more about SJC" page. By moving and clicking your mouse, you can make your way from the quadrangle at the College over the bridge to main campus, then to Hagey Hall, the Dana Porter Library, the Davis Centre, and the Math and Computer building, enjoying panoramic views along the way.

And of course the *SJC Update* page is pretty interesting, too! The site address is <http://www.usjc.uwaterloo.ca>. ☪



Photo: Waterloo Chronicle

Krista Weatherdon and Casey Kretz, just two of the 88 first-year St. Jerome's students who spent Saturday of orientation week working in the community garden run by the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, put their backs into their work.

Next stop: Union Station

Now that the new St. Jerome's Community Centre has become the place to gather over lunch or coffee, the Student Union Coffee Shop has taken on a new role.

"Students still hang out here before and after class, and we still sell things like chips, pop, and juice," says Jonathan Waterhouse, an upper-year Honours Sociology student who is currently treasurer of the St. Jerome's Student Union, "but the Community Centre is the number one place to meet."

To reflect this change, the Student Union Coffee Shop has been renamed Union Station, and as is the case with the famous train station in Toronto, many people pass through it every day, stopping for a cold drink or to chat for a few minutes, or to browse in the new Student Union shop.

Over the summer, part of the old coffee shop has been transformed into retail space, complete with large windows and racks on the wall to display St. Jerome's athletic wear.

"Our number one seller is the forest green sweatshirt with the College name embroidered on it in white," says Waterhouse. "The ash sweatshirt with green lettering runs a close second."

A comfortable cotton golf shirt and a selection of caps, all carrying the College name, are also popular items. As well, the shop sells such things as SJC beer mugs and thermal mugs, pens, highlighters, and clipboards.

Asked what his favourite item in the Student Union shop is, Waterhouse replies, "I don't know! I have one of everything!" ☪



If you're interested in purchasing something from the Student Union shop at St. Jerome's (wouldn't you look great in an SJC sweatshirt?), the shop is open from 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. during the academic term. To arrange a mail order, call (519) 884-8111, ext. 249.

Double your money

For a limited time, when you make a donation to any trust fund at the College designed to assist students in financial need, the provincial government will match your donation dollar for dollar.

Under a new provincial government initiative established to assist academically qualified individuals who for financial reasons would not otherwise be able to attend college or university, from now until March 31, 1997, the provincial government will match all donations - including pledged donations made by March 31, 1997 and paid up before March 31, 1999 - to either the newly established St. Jerome's Student Opportunity Trust Fund or any existing scholarship or bursary at the College designed to assist students in financial need.

And if you work for a Matching Gift company, you may be able to quadruple the impact of your gift!

For more information, contact Jack Griffin, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs at the College, at (519) 884-8111, ext. 255.

SJC student honoured for leadership

Brad Kelly, a fourth year Honours Political Science student at St. Jerome's, was awarded the Federation of Students Faculty of Arts 1995-96 Student Leadership Award in March of this year in recognition of his "outstanding contribution to the overall development of student life at the University of Waterloo."

The award came as a surprise to Kelly, who was pleased that an organization on main campus chose to recognize the achievements of a student at one of the colleges. Kelly has served as President of the St. Jerome's College Student Union, as a member of the College Board of Governors, as Co-ordinator of the St. Jerome's Student Catholic Community, and as a member of the University of Waterloo Athletics Advisory Committee, to list just a few of his many accomplishments.

"I've always been involved," comments Kelly. "In this day and age, students need a voice, need some sort of representation. St. Jerome's is the kind of place that encourages you to get involved. I've very much enjoyed my time here."

Kelly plans to do a Masters degree in Public Administration once he graduates. His long-term goal is to get involved in politics, but in the short term he's concentrating on finishing up his undergraduate degree: an Honours BA in Political Science, with a Legal Studies Option, an Administrative Studies Option, and a minor in Philosophy. ☪



Photo: Dave Augustyn

Psst. Want to buy a brick?

Thanks to the efforts of the Executive Team of the St. Jerome's College Graduates' Association, many graduates and friends of the College are making a solid contribution to the St. Jerome's Building Together for the Future Capital Campaign.

The group of volunteers, who strive to keep the more than 6,000 graduates and friends of St. Jerome's involved in the life of the College, initiated the Brick Programme earlier this year by sending letters to graduates and friends of the College inviting them to "buy a brick." For a

donation of \$450 or more, they will engrave your name on a brick and include it in a donor wall in the foyer of

the new Community Centre at the College.

To date, the Brick Programme has raised over \$90,000 in donations and pledges, which can be paid in installments over three years. For more information, contact Dave Augustyn, Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs, at (519) 884-8111, ext. 230, before November 30th. ☪

Coming soon to a College near you

The St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience launched its 1996-97 programme with the spectacular weekend of theology and the arts described on the cover of this issue of *SJC Update*.

"The focus of this year's programme," says J.A. Loftus, S.J., who succeeds John Theis as Director of the Centre, "is on theology and artistic expression. I hope each evening can be an experience of thoughtful re-commitment to the dream that continues to shape us all as believing persons."

The following lectures are scheduled for late fall and winter:

Friday, November 29, 1996

Psalms of the Children: Their Songs and Laments
Dr. Ursula Anderson

Friday, January 24th, 1997

Philosophy of Catholic Education
Caroline DiGiovanni

Friday, March 21, 1997

Women and the Church of the '90s
Janet Fulgenzi, O.P.

All lectures take place at 7:30 p.m. in Siegfried Hall. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. For more information contact Helen Heimpel at (519) 884-8111, ext. 259. ☪

DAVID & PAT
GRAHAM

They write books

Three faculty members at St. Jerome's have new books out this fall. Fred Desroches of the Sociology Department has published another book on bank robbers: *Behind the Bars: Experiences in Crime*. Based on eight years of research with hold-up squad detectives and convicted bank robbers in Canada and the U.S., his new book provides thematic and theoretical overviews of specific issues followed by excerpts of interviews with individual offenders.

"The interviews," Desroches notes in his introduction, "give readers insight into criminal value systems, rationalizations, thinking processes, and the vast range of situations these men have encountered.... This book is about crime and criminals, but the detailed analysis and the varied stories within help to shed light on human social behaviour in general." The purpose of *Behind the Bars*, Desroches comments, "is to apply theory and research to the cases presented in order to illustrate the diverse and complex factors and processes that influence criminal behaviour and lifestyle."

Also hot off the press is *Frames and Resolvable Designs: Uses, Constructions, and Existence*, co-authored by St. Jerome's math professor Steve Furino. "Frames, together with a modified Fundamental Construction," note the authors in the book's preface, "provide a powerful recursive mechanism with which to construct resolvable balanced incomplete block designs. The study of frames and their application to the construction of resolvable BIBDs are the unifying themes of this book." Aimed at readers familiar with the rudiments of design theory, the book will be useful both as a textbook for further studies in design theory and as a reference book for students and researchers.

And Don DeMarco of the Philosophy Department at St. Jerome's has recently published *The Heart of Virtue: Lessons from Life and Literature Illustrating the Beauty and Value of Moral Character*. "The virtuous person," DeMarco explains in his prologue, "is a person of character, a whole person, a fully realized person.... It is virtue more than anything else that fills a person with a sense of himself, his vitality, his purpose, and his happiness." But, he warns, there is more to becoming virtuous than simply excluding vice from your life. "Trying to become virtuous merely by excluding vice... is as unrealistic as trying to cultivate roses solely by eliminating weeds."

Virtues, DeMarco observes, must be pursued, and *The Heart of Virtue* is a good place to begin. In it, he presents twenty-eight virtues "in the context of stories taken from life or from literature," as well as "a philosophical commentary that helps to sharpen and refine the identity and complementarity of the twenty-eight virtues presented."

Grail scales the heights again

Under the co-editorship of Michael Higgins, Dean of St. Jerome's, and with the involvement of many members of the College community, *Grail: An Ecumenical Journal* won several Canadian Church Press journalism awards again this year.

Dean Brackley's article "Fire on the Earth: Christian Commitment and the Ignatian Exercises," which appeared in the September 1995 issue, won first prize in the Theological Reflections - Inspirational category. The judge commented, "The journey of a soul in the modern world, this article is personal and touching. It is especially poignant for those who struggled in the upheavals of the 1960s and perhaps still need to resolve their spiritual difficulties."

Other awards included first prize for layout and design and honourable mentions for general excellence and for black and white photography.



Photo: Ellefsen

This photo by Ellefsen, which appeared in the March-1995 issue of *Grail*, was given honourable mention at this year's Canadian Church Press journalism awards.

It's how you play the game...and what you wear

Waterloo Minor Soccer team had two College-related things going for it this summer: Professor Gabe Niccoli, Chair of Italian and French Studies at the College, was one of its coaches, and the team, called the SJC Saints, looked very professional sporting College-sponsored jerseys.

"It was a 500 season," says Niccoli. "We won as many as we lost." But winning isn't all that matters to Niccoli, who has played soccer since he was a kid. "I do it for the love of the game and because I love kids," he says. "I get tremendous satisfaction out of helping them discover their individual talents and how they can use them to help the team." His son, Pascal, about whom anyone who has taken a class from Niccoli will have heard, was one of the team's top scorers.

Coaches Gabe Niccoli and Kevin Lucas give the SJC Saints a pep talk.



Photo: Ron Hewson

Remains of the journey

by Leisa Wellsman

Last winter, Leisa Wellsman, then Assistant to the Registrar at St. Jerome's, travelled to the Dominican Republic for a week with a group of university and high-school students from the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Six months later, we asked her what image remained most clear in her mind. Here are her reflections.

It took me a long time to figure out the answer to your question since so many images come flooding back when I really start thinking about the trip again. (I think about it almost every day, believe it or not, but it's not necessarily specific events/images that come back on a daily basis, but rather realizations and feelings, and other such nebulous stuff.)

But I guess I would have to say the sight of the barrios (Spanish for neighbourhood) the day we went to the capital, Santo Domingo, remains most clear in my mind.

In order to build the monument to Christopher Columbus (500th anniversary in 1992) in Santo Domingo, thousands of people were displaced from their homes in that area (with the promise, incidentally, of something better). It was very important to the government to give an illusion of well-being in the capital, so around the monument, which is huge and

surrounded by beautifully landscaped parkland, a ring of lovely homes was built. For the average tourist (and for the Pope and visiting dignitaries during the anniversary celebrations) it is impossible to see that just beyond the lovely homes, just beyond the illusion, tens of thousands of people are piled into one-room shacks built on the side and bottom of a sort of valley (this is too pretty a word to use) approximately one square kilometre in size.

Because of the upcoming presidential election, it would have been too dangerous for the people who should have been our tour guides to actually take us through the barrios, so we merely drove past in the little tour bus and at one point stopped, got out, and looked down among the shacks.

What we saw were some little boys – maybe between eight and ten years old – playing outside among the shacks with some sticks. Now it's important to say that it was blazing hot that day, and the stench of the garbage rising from the "neighbourhood" was incredible – completely nauseating. As you looked up the hill as far as the eye could see, you noticed that the shacks – made of a combination of tin, cardboard, and thin bits of wood – were just piled one on top of the other. It wasn't difficult to realize that when it rained, all the garbage, excrement, etc. must wash down from the top of the hill to the bottom. A good rain would probably wash parts of these "homes" away.

And what I saw when I looked back to the bottom of the barrios were these little boys smiling up at us with huge happy grins, waving and yelling greetings, and with a start I realized what they were seeing: a group of healthy, well-fed, light-skinned young people, well dressed and clean, with watches, jewellery, and cameras. And though the boys didn't know it, we were on our way to our second, and likely not last, full meal of the day. And although when we arrived in Consuelo we had been told that we should not wallow in guilt for the privilege of simply having been born where we were born, I can tell you that it was pretty damn hard to reconcile how I live my life in Waterloo with the reality of how these little boys and their families and neighbours live theirs in the barrios of Santo Domingo. 🌱

This fall, Wellsman left the College to accept a position as Supervisor of Law Processing at the Ontario Universities' Application Centre in Guelph. For more information, see the classnotes section of SJC Update.

What I saw when I looked back to the bottom of the barrios were these little boys smiling up at us with huge happy grins, waving and yelling greetings



Photo: Dana Wulko

Be it ever so dusty...

Though her work takes her deep into the College archives, Carolyn Dirks feels at home at St. Jerome's.

When you work in a small library," says Carolyn Dirks, who joined the staff of the library at St. Jerome's in 1990, "you do a little bit of everything."

On any given day, you might even find her cataloguing a few books, which is what she was originally hired to do. A cataloguer, Dirks explains, decides what information goes in the catalogue and where a book will be shelved.

"I love books," Dirks admits, "so it's like Christmas to me when we get a parcel of new books. It's my job to look at them all!"

But her work begins long before the parcel of books arrives. "Everything from selecting them to getting them on the shelves pretty much falls under my jurisdiction," Dirks says. She also takes her turn on the public service desk and does her share of committee work at the College. For the last four years, she's served as chair of College Council.

Somehow, she has also managed to find time to complete a Masters degree in Library and Information Science at Western, where she was awarded a gold medal for academic achievement. "It was quite an honour," she says with a smile.

Her degree from Western is her second Masters degree. After completing an undergraduate degree in Latin and ancient history at Manchester University in England, Dirks came to Canada and did an MA in classics at Carleton. She worked in the library at Carleton, then in a government library for a while, before taking a job as supervisor of the cataloguing department at the Kitchener Public Library, which is where she worked before she came to the College.

"In between all that, I had some children," she says wryly. Her elder daughter, Melanie, started a special interdisciplinary programme in arts and science at McMaster this fall, and her younger daughter, Meghan, is in grade 10.

Dirks was working at St. Jerome's when she began her studies at Western and knew what skills would be most useful to the College. "I chose to do the records management and archive programme. The College archives need a lot of attention."

And they'll be getting that attention, as will the archives of the Congregation of the Resurrection, which the College recently acquired. Dirks has been assigned the responsibility of organizing both archives.

What will she do first? "Have a really close look at what's there," she says. "This is where being a cataloguer is really helpful. It's a matter of analysing what's there and fitting it into groups that make logical sense. For example, all the documents that belonged to St. Mary's College in Kentucky will form a little sub-group within the Congregation's records."



Photo: Ron Newson

The next step is to write a description of the material, including dates and subject matter, and noting anything of particular interest. "All the time the material in the archives is not catalogued and organized," Dirks notes, "it's inaccessible. But it's not the kind of thing you can do in an odd hour here and there. What I'd like is a month with nothing else to do, but it's difficult to find that kind of time."

So far, Dirks has come across some pretty interesting things in the archives, including a university degree from the mid-1700s which belonged to a member of the Congregation, stored in a hand-made leather box lined with silk.


Dirks acknowledges that there are many rewards associated with her work at the College, not the least of which has been learning about the Catholic tradition. "You can't not learn about it once you're here," she says. "In my job, I'm collecting Catholic documents, books on Catholicism. I'm helping students with questions about Catholicism."

But Dirks has gained more than just an intellectual understanding of Catholicism during her time at the College. Earlier this year, Dirks was received into the Roman Catholic Church.

"If you'd said to me ten years ago that someday I'd be a Catholic, I'd have said 'absolutely no way.' There's a lot of prejudice against the Catholic Church in England," she admits, "so I had these negative views."

"But there are a lot of people here who really try to live out their faith, and it really shows. I gradually found myself being drawn to that and liking the fact that everything here is underpinned by that value system."

She decided to begin the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at her local parish, Blessed Sacrament, in Kitchener. "It was an enormously rich and spiritually enlivening experience," she says.

"Easter was when I joined, and it was one of the real high points of my life. The support from the College and from the people in the church was just amazing. It feels like home to me." 

From the archives

General Regulations

- The Students are continually under the supervision of the Fathers, and are subject to mild but firm and parental discipline.
- All correspondence with the pupils is subject to inspection by the College Authorities.
- Particular attention is paid to the moral and physical welfare of every Student.
- No immoral or habitually intractable youth will be retained in the College.

—St. Jerome's College
Calendar, 1887/88

At spring convocation this year, another friend of St. Jerome's College was awarded a University of Waterloo honorary doctorate. Jean Forest, recently appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, was awarded her doctorate *honoris causa* "in acknowledgment of her outstanding service to her church, the Canadian educational community, and our political society."

Senator Jean Forest awarded honorary degree

"A one-time teacher," the citation read, "Jean Forest has remained the ideal educator all her life. The arena may have changed; the circumstances may have changed; but her commitment to an educational process or continuum that honours the value and dignity of the individual has remained constant and determinative in her life."

Forest has served nine years as a Trustee on the Edmonton Catholic School Board, three of these years as the Board's first female chairperson. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association, as well as on the Board of Administrators of Newman Theological College in Edmonton. She pioneered the introduction of Family Life and Sexuality into the Roman Catholic schools of the Province of Alberta.

Forest has also been active in the business world. After acting as a partner in her husband's

business for several years, she is now President and Managing Director of her own company, Jas-Day Investments Ltd. As well, she has served on the boards of Northern Transportation Co. Ltd. and CN.

The honorary degree from UW is not the first distinction Forest has been awarded. She is the recipient of the DeSmet Medal, the highest award of Gonzaga University in Washington State; an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta, where she was elected chancellor in 1978; and the YWCA Women in Public Affairs Award. In 1987, Forest was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Forest's association with St. Jerome's dates back to the 1980s, when she was invited to the College to speak on the role of women in the Catholic church in Canada. She has been profiled in a book written by Doug Letson, President of the College, and Michael Higgins, Dean, entitled *Portraits of Canadian Catholicism*.

"She is certainly a very estimable person," comments Higgins. "I think the fact that Jean Chrétien chose her to be a member of the Senate for Alberta was a clear sign of the high regard in which she is held in circles across the country, political and otherwise."

Last year at fall convocation, long-time friend of the College Mary Jo Leddy, a social activist associated with Romero House in Toronto and an adjunct professor at Regis College at the Toronto School of Theology, was awarded an honorary doctorate from UW. ☺

Honorary degree recipient Jean Forest, centre, flanked by (from left to right) John Sweeney, Chancellor of St. Jerome's; Michael Higgins, Dean; Mary Malone, then Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the College; and Jean Forest's husband, Rocky Forest. Jean Forest was the second friend of the College to receive a University of Waterloo honorary doctorate during the 1995-96 academic year.



Photo: Ron Hirsman

Meet David Seljak

A specialist in religion in Canada, especially Catholicism in the Quebec context, joins the College faculty

Teaching is nothing new for David Seljak who recently joined the Department of Religious Studies at St. Jerome's. For the last three years, he's been teaching full time while finishing up his doctorate at McGill University.

It wasn't easy, he admits, but he and his wife, Katryn de Salaberry, have two small children – Daniel, who's now five, and Michaela, two and a half – and as Seljak notes, "Once you get the kids used to eating three times a day...." He smiles, then shrugs.

Seljak, who was born and raised in Toronto, did his undergraduate work and MA at the University of Toronto, where he wrote a major paper entitled "Freud on Religion: A Jew Writing in Anti-Semitic Austria." He continued to explore his interest in the meeting of culture, identity, and religion at McGill, under the direction of Gregory Baum, one of Canada's foremost theologians and sociologists of religion.

Seljak wrote his doctoral dissertation on the Catholic Church's reaction to the secularization of nationalism in Quebec between 1960 and 1980. Before 1950, Seljak explains, nationalism and religion were closely tied in Quebec. "To be French Canadian was to be Catholic, and to be Catholic was to be French Canadian," he says. But in the late '50s and early '60s, a purely secular nationalism began to emerge. Inspired by this new nationalism, the Liberal Party of Quebec transferred responsibility for education, health, and social services from the church to the state.

"I was interested in the church's reaction to that shift from religious cultural nationalism to secular political nationalism," says Seljak. "In many countries where the church found itself pushed out of the centre to the periphery, it condemned the new nationalism. But in Quebec, that didn't happen.

"My conclusion, basically, is that it didn't happen because the new nationalism was emerging just at the time the church was redefining its position in society in reaction to the Second Vatican Council. People could be critical of the old Catholicism and the old nationalism, which were very closely linked, and still remain good Catholics, still remain part of the Catholic cultural world."

During his first year at the College, Seljak will be teaching Religion in the Canadian Context, Introduction to the Roman Catholic Tradition, and History of Christianity. The history department at UW is also interested in having him teach a course on modern Quebec history.

"David is one of the most interdisciplinary hirings we've made in years," comments Michael Higgins, Dean of St. Jerome's. "His interests include psychology, particularly the history of psychology as it relates to religion, and the sociology of religion. With his knowledge and

his background in Quebec society and Quebec religion, I think he will make a fine contribution to the history curriculum as well."

Preparing and teaching new courses will take most of his time for a while, but Seljak has some ideas about what he'd like to do once he's settled in at the College.

"I'd like to teach a course on the growth of fundamentalism in the modern world," he says. "It's an exciting new field because it's a window into the study of world religions – you have to understand Hinduism to understand fundamentalist Hinduism. I also think understanding fundamentalism is important to understanding modern society, because what fundamentalist groups are really about is resisting modern society."

When time permits, Seljak would also like to do some work on the theology of Jacques Grand'Maison, whose work is well known in Quebec, France, and Rome but virtually unknown in English Canada, just as the work of many English Canadian theologians is unknown in French Canada.

"There has to be discussion across the great divide," Seljak says, "and the more of it the better, these days. In the wake of the referendum, it's too easy for everyone to head back to their bunkers and dig in."

He's not just talking about the study of religion when he makes this observation. Recently, Seljak notes, the national debate in Quebec has taken a serious turn for the worse. "Moderate anglophones and moderate francophones are staying home. They've deserted the field. You have anglophone extremists (called angryphones now) debating with Québécois national extremists."

Though he continues to keep close track of what's going on in Quebec, Seljak and his family are settling nicely into Waterloo. They've found a house in the Park and Union area, Daniel has started kindergarten, and Michaela goes to preschool one day a week. "Everything here is on a much more human scale," Seljak observes. "They even pick up your recycling right at the door!"

Seljak's wife, Katryn, who was baptized into the Montreal Mennonite Fellowship at Easter of this year, is busy investigating Mennonite churches in the area. "There's a wealth of Mennonite churches here," David exclaims, "an embarrassment of riches!"

Michaela, however, still says she prefers Montreal to Kitchener. "When I ask her why, she says, 'It's more better.'" He smiles. "I think she's missing her friends." ☺

"There has to be discussion across the great divide... In the wake of the referendum, it's too easy for everyone to head back to their bunkers and dig in."



Photo: Steve Furino

Do you know a distinguished grad?

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1997 Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award. Named in honour of one of the College's Past-Presidents, the award was established by the St. Jerome's College Graduates' Association to recognize SJC graduates who have made an outstanding contribution to their career or field of endeavour, their community, province, or country, their church, or the College. Please forward your nomination to Dave Augustyn, Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs at the College, by March 1, 1997.

SJC grads honour Father Mark Curtis

Known as "Canada's Singing Priest," Father Mark Curtis (BA'78) has been selected by the Executive Team of the St. Jerome's College Graduates' Association to receive the 1996 Father Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award.

Over the past six years, the Hamilton-born priest has performed countless benefit concerts, raising tens of thousands of dollars for a wide range of community organizations. In concert, Curtis is often backed by the Paul Bulla Band, which includes St. Jerome's graduate Andy MacPherson (BMath'88) on drums.

"Music allows us to experience the life of God in each one of us," Curtis says. "It allows us to touch emotions that we haven't touched, allows us to rejoice, allows us to respond, and helps us to remember."

Since his ordination in 1985, Curtis, currently pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church in Dundalk, Ontario, has ministered in churches across southwestern Ontario. While he was associate pastor at Holy Rosary Church in Milton, he was named Milton's Citizen of the Year for 1994.

"It would be nigh impossible to recount the number of times that Mark has given of himself and his time to perform at charitable fund-raising events for the benefit of the community of Milton and the Region of Halton," comments Michael Bourgon, President of the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

In April of this year, he released his sixth recording, *Under the Same Sun*. All the proceeds from this recording – over \$35,000 to date – are being donated to the Canadian Epilepsy Research Fund to help send epileptic children to summer camp.



Photo: Dawn McClellan Photography

The Father Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award will be presented to Curtis on Friday, November 8, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Jerome's College. Following the presentation, Curtis will deliver the 12th Annual Graduates' Association Lecture, entitled "Holiness, Wholeness, and Authentic Spirituality for Today." Admission is free and everyone is welcome. ☪

First you pick the grapes...

This fall, sixty grads and friends of St. Jerome's College learned about winemaking during SJC's First Annual Wine Tour. In this photo, the group learns how a "bladder press" works at Stonechurch Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo: St. Catharines Standard



CLASS notes

'68 Vivian Zoller, SSND (BA'68, History) sends greetings from West Africa. Sr. Vivian is working at the Notre Dame Senior Secondary School in Sunyani, Brong Ahafo, Ghana.

'72 On October 9, 1996, Jim Link, CR (BA'72, Psychology), SJC's Chaplain, celebrated the 20th anniversary of his ordination. Congratulations Fr. Jim!



'77 Mary Ellen Friday-Liebheit (BA'77, English) and her family have moved to Pokhara, Nepal. While her husband, Rony Liebheit, works as a city planner, Mary is "happily at home" with their children: Rosa, 5, Jesse, 3, and Vincent, 1. Mary left the Waterloo County Separate School Board in 1988 to work at International Schools in Frankfurt and Wiesbaden, Germany. Mary and Rony were married on July 29, 1988. She writes, "Hello to all colleagues, students, and friends."

'79 In March, 1996, Rev. Robert J. Héту (BA'79) became the parish priest for Paroisse St-Philippe in Burlington, ON, transferring from Paroisse Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens in Cambridge.

'83 Cathy Clifford (BA'83, Religious Studies) works and studies at St. Michael's College in Toronto. When she is not working as the part-time Coordinator of Certificate Programs in the Division of Continuing Education, Cathy works on her doctorate in Systematic Theology.

'84 Sheri Meginnis (née Demeter, BA'84, Psychology) and husband Dale (BMATH'84) celebrated the birth of Kory on January 23, 1996. Sheri teaches with the London-Middlesex Roman Catholic School Board and the entire Meginnis family, including Holly, 5, Scott, 4, and Brandon, 2, resides in Aylmer, ON.

'85 Jennifer Donaghy (BA'85, English; MA'87, English) successfully completed her PhD from the Department of Performance Studies at New York University. Dr. Donaghy is a specialist at Fannie Mae, a source of home mortgage funds in the US. Jennifer and husband Patrick Lorenz live in Washington, DC.



'86 Mary Reinhart-Fallis (BA'86) married Garreth Fallis on August 20, 1994. Mary works as a communicative disorders assistant at the Waterloo Rotary Centre and Garreth is an investment counsellor with Private Investment Counsel Inc. The Fallis family, including son Keagan, who was born on September 8, 1995, lives in Waterloo.

'88 After spending a year in Scotland, Joanne (née Brown, BMATH'88, Mathematics) and Greg Milligan (BMATH'89, Combinatorics & Optimization), along with their children, Ian, 5, and Callum, 1, have moved to warmer climes in Plano, Texas. Greg works at Frito Lay Inc.

Andrea (née Noonan, BA'88, History) and Ken Spriet (BA'89, Honours) welcomed a second son, Tommy Gregory, on July 18, 1996. Andrea teaches history at Assumption College in Brantford, and Ken teaches business at St. John's College, also in Brantford. Together with three-year-old son Michael Patrick, the Spriets grow ginseng on their 100-acre farm in Scotland, ON.

'89 "Everything!" is new in Mary-Jo Schropp's (BA'89, Psychology; SMF Dip.'90) life. After teaching for four years at St. Augustine's School in Cambridge, MJ married Dave Thomas (MSc'94, Hydrogeology) on August 19, 1995, and moved to Kelowna, BC. Mary Jo teaches grade 5 full-time at St. Joseph Elementary, and Dave works as a hydrogeologist at the engineering firm Golder Associates.

'90 Colinda Clyne (BA'90, English & History; MA'94, History) earned her BEd from U of T in 1992 and works as the Assistant Head of Special Education at Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute in Scarborough, ON. Colinda lives in Kitchener.

'91 Frank Freitas (BA'91, History) was ordained a deacon for service in the Diocese of Hamilton on April 29, 1996. Frank is completing his final year of studies at St. Peter's Seminary, London, and will be ordained a priest in May, 1997.

Karen Hitchman (BA'91, Recreation & Leisure Studies) keeps busy with two jobs - she's a recreation therapist at Sunnyside Home in Waterloo and the Director of Victoria Park Senior Centre in Fergus. Somehow, she manages to "travel and see as much of the world as possible." Karen would love to hear from anyone she has lost touch with. Send e-mail to hitchman@mgf.ca.

World-traveller Rebecca Reed (BA'91, Religious Studies) is back in Dundas, ON. After attaining her BEd from Memorial University, NF, Rebecca taught in Kiribati (a group of islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean) for two-and-a-half years, and took four months coming home through Fiji and Australia. Rebecca wishes that the "Sire Bobs" would give her a call.

'92 In July, Mark Duffy (BMATH'92) was married to Teresa Huebl of St. Paul, Minnesota. This September Mark began a new job teaching mathematics to grade 9 and 11 students at Totino-Grace Catholic High School in Fridley, MN. Duffy says hello to all of "Dave's World" and the "Threenesses."

Hey SJC grads!

Have you moved? Changed jobs? Married? Any additions to the family? Help us keep your fellow grads informed by filling out and returning this form. We'll publish your news, along with a photo, if there's room, in SJC Update.

Name (Please include birth name) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail/WWW _____

Degree/Programme/Year _____

Are you working?

Job title _____

Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail/WWW _____

Are you married?

Spouse's name _____

Degree/Programme/Year _____

What's new in your life?

(Enclose additional sheet if necessary)

Please do not publish this info in SJC Update.

Please return this form to:

Dave Augustyn
 Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs
 University of St. Jerome's College
 Waterloo Ontario N2L 3G3
 Phone: (519) 884-8111, ext. 230
 Fax: (519) 884-5759

You can also send e-mail to:
 daugusty@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca



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Since January, 1996, **Julie Johnson (BA'92, English)** has been employed as the Young Adult Librarian at the Kitchener Public Library. Julie lives in Kitchener.



Leaving SJC's Registrar's Office in August, **Leisa Wellsman (BA'92, French)** became the Supervisor of Law Processing at the Ontario Universities' Application Centre in Guelph. In this bilingual position, Leisa is responsible for the control and processing of all the law school applications for Ontario's six law schools. Leisa thanks the faculty and staff for her departure gifts and says, "The rollerblades are great fun, but I think I'll need to become a bit more proficient before I attempt the trip to Guelph!" Leisa lives in Waterloo.

'93 **Lianne Archambeault (BSc'93)** is "still a student!"; she has one year left of clinical rotations (internship) before she becomes an optometrist from Boston College. Lianne lived at NDC from 1990-93.

For the last two years, **Mary Hurley (BA'93, Sociology)** has been working as a constable with the Ontario Provincial Police. Currently stationed in Bracebridge, ON, Mary "just loves living and working in Muskoka!"

Josie (née Tuttolomondo, BA'93 History) and **Joey McIntyre (BSc'94, Health Studies)** were married on August 19, 1995 and are living in Brampton. Josie teaches special education and Joe works as an operations manager at TIP, GE Capital in Mississauga.

'94 This past spring, **Alison Hitchens (BA'94, Anthropology)** completed her Masters of Library Science from the Faculty of Information Studies at U of T. Working as a cataloguer at the Information Systems Management Library Technical Services, Alison has moved to Winnipeg.

After helping to organize SJC's First Annual Wine Tour, **Nora Porszt (BA'94)** moved from Niagara Falls to Waterloo and began working for Revenue Canada in Kitchener.

Paula Wilhelm (née Petsche, BA'94, English) has hiked "500 miles" since leaving SJC and Notre Dame. She stopped in Toronto for a Public

Relations Certificate, in Burlington to be creative with Concept Marketing, and in Waterdown to marry Mark, her highschool sweetheart. Paula wants to thank everyone - faculty and friends - who taught her to "reach for the moon and appreciate the quality time hanging with the stars!"

'96 Instead of heading west, **Julie Bielik (BA'96, Political Science)** decided in August to go east to Halifax, NS. Julie is in Law School at Dalhousie University and lives two blocks from the northwest arm of the ocean. During Dal's orientation week, she enjoyed a harbour cruise, a lobster dinner, and watching for whales while deep-sea fishing!

In Memoriam

We regret to report the death of:

Roger De Decker (BA'71, Economics),
February 12, 1996.

Upcoming Graduates' Association events

12th Annual Graduates' Association Lecture

"Holiness, Wholeness, and Authentic Spirituality for Today"

Fr. Mark Curtis

Friday, November 8, 1996

7:30 p.m.

Siegfried Hall, St. Jerome's College

SJC Skating Party

Friday, November 22, 1996

8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Rink in the Park, Waterloo Park

SJC Benefit Concert by Fr. Mark Curtis

Sunday April 13, 1997

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Siegfried Hall, St. Jerome's College

SJC Community Day

Mass, barbecue, and games

Sunday, June 1, 1997

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

St. Jerome's College



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