

English majors at work

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WATERLOO, ONTARIO

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You don't have to convince Dana Woito of the value of a liberal arts degree. She's done some pretty interesting things since she graduated from St. Jerome's College with an MA in English, including working as a speech writer for the Liberal government of Ontario and as manager of promotions for Vision TV.

"My ability to communicate, not just in writing, but verbally as well, has been the backbone of all of my jobs," says Woito, who is now putting these skills to good use as Registrar at St. Jerome's College. "But my liberal arts education also taught me how to think, how to find my way through a problem."

One of the biggest problems Woito is currently facing is a sharp decline in applications to Arts programs at the College in recent years. "There has been a 17 percent decline in applications to Arts programs at Ontario universities over the last five years," observes Woito, whose responsibilities as Registrar include student recruitment. "Attempts to determine the cause of the decline point to a recurring theme: the perception held by many students that a liberal arts education will not adequately prepare them for the workforce."

Woito decided that the best way to overcome this perception was to somehow communicate the practical value of a liberal arts education to potential students. "At St. Jerome's, we believe our graduates are one of our greatest assets, and their success in the workplace speaks for itself," says Woito, "so we decided to develop a series of posters and a brochure that present a number of graduates talking about the usefulness of their Arts degree in their chosen career."

Because the term "liberal arts" is confusing to many high school students, who often confuse liberal arts with fine arts, Woito decided to begin the campaign by focussing on one particular discipline.

"We chose English for three major reasons," she comments. "First, the English department at St. Jerome's is one of our largest departments, so we have many English grads doing interesting work. Secondly, every Ontario secondary school student must take English in order to earn a high school diploma, so our target audience is familiar with the discipline. Finally, we wanted the posters displayed in classrooms, and we believed that mailing the posters to English teachers, who have a real understanding of the value of a liberal arts degree, would ensure that the posters would be hung in classrooms where English is actually taught."

In January of 1997, four posters profiling English grads from St. Jerome's were mailed out to English teachers at high schools across Ontario. One of the grads profiled is Sonia Bjorkquist, who recently began working with one of the biggest law firms in Toronto. "I had no idea when I started my degree that I would become a lawyer," she says, "but my studies in rhetoric, the art of persuasion, attracted me to the profession.... Studying English is good for people who know what they want to do, but it's also good for people who don't know what they want to do."

Another is Rob Donelson, former director of development and graduate affairs at St. Jerome's, who is now executive director of an organization that raises funds for the capital needs of a major hospital. "This job requires a lot of creativity," Donelson observes. "It also demands good writing skills. Studying English gave me an appreciation for the written word, which is particularly important in the work I do."

Dan Bortolotti, whose work involves assigning and editing articles for *Today's Parent*, occasionally writing for the magazine, and handling the on-line edition, is featured on another poster. "It surprises my friends who graduated in computer science that I can design a Web site and edit in HTML," Bortolotti says. "You can do whatever you want with an English degree."

And Kelley Teahen, an editorial writer at *The London Free Press*, is featured on the fourth poster. Technical training can be obsolete by the time you graduate, says Teahen, "but the world will always need people who can think critically."

Each poster includes tear-off cards that can be returned to the College to request a brochure that provides more information about the grads profiled and about studying English at St. Jerome's.

"We're receiving lots of tear-off cards from students," reports Woito, "and many from teachers, as well, requesting more information. We've had a lot of positive feedback from teachers, comments like, 'This is exactly what I have been trying to tell my students. This is exactly what I need.'"

Though increasing enrollment is, of course, Woito's primary objective, she has other reasons besides professional ones for wanting to spread the word about the value of a liberal arts education.

"My liberal arts education has opened up the world in a way that I could not possibly have imagined," she says. "I watch movies differently, I read books differently, I respond to advertising differently. I take in the world through a different lens because of my education. I just think it's enriched me." 🍀

Sonia Bjorkquist, one of the St. Jerome's graduates profiled in the College's English Majors at Work recruitment campaign: "The court is one of the best places to practice rhetoric."



LIBERAL
ARTS
DEGREE

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

Embracing the challenge of change

Like every university in Harris' Ontario, St. Jerome's has been struggling mightily but optimistically to adapt to government cut-backs which have reduced our operating grants by some 23 percent over the past few years. And like the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo, St. Jerome's has also been worrying about the decline in our student population which has been decimated by the dramatic increase in tuition rates over those same few years, increases in tuition which on a percentage basis have been even more staggering than the decrease in our operating grant.

Despite all of this, one cannot but be optimistic. The new facilities we have built over the past year have been enthusiastically received by virtually all users, and the

Community Centre has attracted people to the College who are finding it for the first time. At the same time, the number of people willing to offer their time and their services to help bring the resulting fundraising campaign to a happy conclusion continues to grow.

The University Catholic Community is well on its way to raising the \$250,000 it set as its goal in the *Building Together for the Future* capital campaign, an effort directed by the industry and commitment of Doug Fisher, Tom Murawsky, and their families. In addition, Kay Donovan has joined with Father Bob Liddy, C.R. to approach the local parishes and the religious communities to solicit their support; meanwhile, Gary Foran and Ted Farrell are carrying our banner into Cambridge and Brantford, respectively, with the enthusiastic assistance of Joyce Stankiewicz. Another of our graduates, Father Don Wilhelm, has had some of his own enthusiasm for St. Jerome's ignite the Knights of Columbus throughout the diocese to help raise funds for the College's campaign.

One of the most ambitious undertakings in the *Building Together for the Future* campaign is that directed by John English, Joyce Stankiewicz, and Tony Truscello to raise \$500,000 for the renaming of Notre Dame College to Sweeney Hall. As I reported earlier, the decision of the School Sisters of Notre Dame to leave St. Jerome's was both a personal loss and a practical challenge to St. Jerome's. Since the Sisters wanted to take the name Notre Dame College with them as a sign of the finality of their departure, and since they were not anxious to see the building named after any individual member of their community in that so many of their sisters had served there, St. Jerome's was left with the challenge not only of raising some \$4,700,000 to cover immediate expenditures and another \$500,000 for

renovations to the women's residence, but also with the challenge of finding an appropriate name.

The women's residence, therefore, became one of a series of naming opportunities in our capital campaign. A group of prominent local professional people seized the opportunity and decided to commemorate Kay and John Sweeney as an exemplary local couple who embody the spirit of Catholic wedded life which we have been trying to capture throughout the campaign by having it co-chaired by Pat and David Graham and sponsored by a number of local couples committed to one another, to the College, to the community, and to the Roman Catholic tradition. Kay and John represent just such a couple, and the naming of the residence after them as Sweeney Hall is a public statement of the values for which St. Jerome's stands, an expression of Christian love in its various manifestations: towards one another, towards their family, towards their wider community. Both are widely recognized as such, and both are greatly respected within the local community and beyond.

As part of the renovations to the College, Notre Dame Chapel has been provided with a separate entrance off the colonnade walkway as well as being aesthetically and symbolically enhanced with the addition of four new stained glass windows. The windows were designed and installed by Caz Bentley, a UW graduate in fine arts and owner and proprietor of Verre Borealis, a company specializing in artistic works in glass. Caz dedicated his time and talent to the project. The end result is four gorgeous stained glass windows which are additional naming opportunities in the *Building Together for the Future* capital campaign, but, much more than that, they are works of art which bring to life in imaginative fashion the history and purpose of the College. There is a window dedicated to St. Jerome in recognition of the College's patron saint; there is a Marian window representative of the nourishment provided by Mary, the Church, Catholic education, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame; there is a Resurrection window designed to recall the Congregation of the Resurrection as the founding order of the College; and there is a window embodying various symbols of the educational apostolate.

I think we all recognize that change can be a difficult experience for many of us, but at St. Jerome's we have decided to accept the challenge and to embrace change as an opportunity to plan for the future; to do otherwise would be to jeopardize that future. And what we have at St. Jerome's is too important to put at risk. We are grateful, indeed, that so many have elected to join with us as we build together for an exciting future filled with challenge, filled with change, but also clearly filled with promise. ☪

Photo: Ron Hewson



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

The number of people willing to offer their time and their services to help bring the resulting fundraising campaign to a happy conclusion continues to grow

Raffle raises major money

When the St. Jerome's College Student Union started planning a raffle last fall, the idea was to raise money for the College's Capital Campaign. But then the provincial government offered a deal that was hard to refuse: every dollar raised for student bursaries would be matched by the province. So a fundraiser for the Capital Campaign quickly became a fundraiser for bursaries.

Spearheaded by Jonathan Waterhouse, work on the raffle began in December, with St. Jerome's students, faculty and staff all involved. Two dollars here, two dollars there, and before you know it \$3,200 was raised, which, with provincial matching funds, becomes \$6,400 for bursaries for St. Jerome's students demonstrating financial need.

Waiting in hope for the next century

The New Advent: Waiting in Hope for the Next Century" is the theme of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience's 1997-98 presentations and lectures. "Pope John Paul II has spoken repeatedly of the 'New Advent' into which these years before the turn of the century can lead us," says J.A. Loftus, Director of the Centre. "It is - or should be - a time of reassessment, of renewal, of reflection. He speaks of offering each other an invitation to celebrate our faith through the images of our past, our present, and our yet undetermined future. This year's presentations are designed to do just that."

The new season will begin on October 17, 1997 with "The Second Advent: Waiting for the Return," an exploration of icons and their significance to our lives, presented by Father William Hart McNichols, Jesuit Artist in Residence at Boston College.

On November 14, 1997, Sister Clare Fitzgerald, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and one of the most well-known

and well-respected authorities on the nature of Catholic education in the United States, will present a lecture entitled "Catholic Education at the Millennium: Memories, Murmurings, and the Mission."

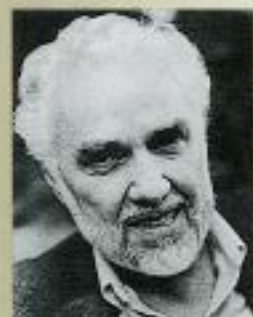
Sister Margaret Brennan, a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters from Munro, Michigan and Professor Emerita at Regis College of the Toronto School of Theology, will visit the College on February 6, 1998 to present a lecture entitled "Jesus: At the Heart of the Struggle to be Church."

And on March 6, 1998 the season will conclude with a lecture entitled "Encountering God: Scripture and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola," in which Bishop Terrence Prendergast will revisit the late David Stanley's widely influential book on the use of scripture in the Spiritual Exercises.

For more information on the Centre's 1997-98 programme, contact J.A. Loftus at (519) 884-8111, ext. 211, or Helen Heimpel at (519) 884-8111, ext. 259. ☪

A Likely Story: The Writing of Robert Kroetsch

From June 12-14, St. Jerome's College will host a symposium on the work of novelist, poet, essayist, and teacher Robert Kroetsch, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.



The symposium will open with a reading by Robert Kroetsch, sponsored by the Canada Council, in Siegfried Hall on Thursday, June 12 at 8:00 p.m. Two other Canada Council readings on Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14, will feature Canadian writers George Bowering, Dennis Cooley, Aritha van Herk, Rosemary Nixon, Gerry Hill, and Rudy Wiebe. All three readings are free, and open to the general public.

The symposium itself will feature lively critical papers and readings by new and established voices from Canada, the United States, and Europe. A banquet and a Saturday evening birthday party round out the festivities. The party is open to the public as well, and will feature an impressive line-up of short readings by conference participants and local writers.

Registration rates are \$75 (regular) and \$35 (students/underemployed).

For more information call Charlene Diehl-Jones at (519) 884-8111, ext. 223, send e-mail to likely@usjc.uwaterloo.ca, or visit the conference web site at <http://www.usjc.uwaterloo.ca/likely>.

Sister Leon White honoured



Photo: David L. Hunsberger

At fall convocation, Sister Leon White, a well-loved member of the College community, was awarded the title Honorary Member of the University of Waterloo. Sister Leon, who was a member of the English department at St. Jerome's from the opening of the College until her retirement in July of 1980, is remembered for her lively presentation of the works of Doris Lessing. As director of Notre Dame College during its early years, she contributed much to both the physical and social development of the women's residence. In this photograph, Sister Leon is shown examining a blueprint with, from left to right, Father J.R. Finn, C.R., President of St. Jerome's College; Wyn Rees, Principal of Renison College; Alan McLachlan, Principal, St. Paul's United College; and J. Winfield Fretz, President of Conrad Grebel College.



English professor Eric McCormick will be reading from his latest novel, *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*, at the Harbourfront Reading Series in Toronto on June 4th at 8 p.m. For more information, contact Laura Cornello at (416) 973-4760.

Wings, virtue, and a monstrous regiment of women

Recently, Steve Furino, Floyd Centore, and Eric McCormick returned from sabbatical leave. Their reports of what they accomplished provide us with a glimpse of the wide range of research activities at the College.

While on sabbatical from July 1995 to June 1996, mathematics professor Steve Furino saw the publication of a book, *Frames and Resolvable Designs*, and chapters in two other books: the *CRC Handbook of Combinatorial Designs* and *Constructive Combinatorics*. As well, Furino had an article on near resolvable designs accepted by the *Journal of Combinatorial Designs*, and made good progress on an article on uniform frames.

Furino was also involved in two ornithology projects during his sabbatical year. One of these was the development of Wings, a database used to track records associated with birds, "though it can easily be extended to other species," Furino says, "or used to track any biological information." At Algonquin Provincial Park, for example, it is being used to track insects.

Furino also oversaw the collection, entry into a Wings database, and verification of bird records within the Regional Municipality of Waterloo from 1920 to the present, which resulted in the publication, through the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists, of the first thoroughly verified checklist of birds in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Residents might be surprised to learn that house finches, now a common backyard bird, were unknown in the Region as recently as 20 years ago, and that until the 1970s, there were few Canada geese in the area.

Philosophy professor Floyd Centore's sabbatical year was spent reworking a rough draft

of a manuscript into two manuscripts. "At the beginning of the summer of 1995," he reported, "I had a rough draft of a manuscript that I had been working on for several years." By December, he had transformed the manuscript into two smaller works: a monograph concentrating on the meaning of extremism, especially in political terms, entitled *Educating for Extremism: Why Contemporary Culture Condemns Us to Conflict*, and a review of different theories of virtue, called *Four Views of Virtue*. Both works are currently being considered for publication.

English professor Eric McCormick had two major projects in mind for his sabbatical year. One was to write a screenplay for a movie based on his novel *The Paradise Motel*. "Regrettably," he reported, "owing to financial problems of the movie's producers, that project is still, as they say, in limbo."

He had more success with his second project: the completion of a novel he had been working on for the past few years. *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*, which will be published in May by Penguin Books Canada, has received much media attention, including a full-length review in the May issue of *Saturday Night* magazine.

"McCormick's admirers," wrote the reviewer for *Quill and Quire*, "will recognize many elements from his much-praised earlier novels and stories: an Oliver Sacks-like fascination with malfunctioning human wiring, a deep sense of the interconnectedness of love and death." McCormick is scheduled to read from his new novel at the Harbourfront Reading Series in Toronto on June 4th. ☪



Sign up now for the 3rd annual St. Jerome's College Golf Tournament

Monday July 7, 1997, at the New Dundee Golf and Country Club

- Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. sharp
- Green fees, cart, and dinner: \$95 (a tax receipt will be issued for \$40) • Dinner only: \$30

Come out and meet faculty, staff, grads, business associates, and friends of the College. It's a best-ball tournament, so the only pressure is to have fun! There will be prizes for everyone. Book your place by filling out the form below and returning it to the College before June 20.

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ Postal code _____

Are you interested in sponsoring a hole? A donation of \$100 will allow you to support student education while profiling your business to other golfers. Yes No Will you donate a prize? Yes No

You may arrange your own foursome, if you'd like to. Just list the names and telephone numbers of the members of your group below:

Fax or mail this form to: Rhonda Flewelling, Office of Development, University of St. Jerome's College
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G3 Fax: (519) 884-5759 Phone: (519) 884-8111, ext. 254

Trout Lily springs up

Poetry and short fiction aren't big sellers in Canada. So when Coach House Press of Toronto, one of the few publishers of poetry and short fiction, went off to join the big remaindered pile in the sky, it left a void.

In their own small way, Charlene Diehl-Jones, Gary Draper, and Tom Bishop are trying to help fill the hole. Last fall, the three launched Trout Lily Press at a "spectacular" wine and cheese party at St. Jerome's that drew almost 100 people.

The idea for the venture came from Draper, the College's librarian, and Diehl-Jones, an English professor at St. Jerome's who specializes in Canadian Literature. "We sort of dreamed about it together," says Diehl-Jones. "Then it was a 'Could?' and then it was a 'When?' and then it was 'Are we nuts?'"

The two had a couple of writers in mind: Linda Kenyon, a Kitchener editor and writer of short fiction, and Tom Eadie, a poet who used to work at the Dana Porter library at UW and is now chief librarian at the University of Calgary.

"We wanted to make small, beautiful books," says Diehl-Jones. "We like the feel and look of books, the experience of reading."

"We were lucky enough to tap into a designer, Tom Bishop of Waterloo, who's got a great sense of matching the text to the visual presentation," says Draper.

If your idea of what a work of fiction looks like begins and ends with the *Globe and Mail* bestseller list, think again. Trout Lily Press has three publications in print: two chapbooks and a broadsheet.

A chapbook, says Draper, is simply a short book. Kenyon's book, *You Are Here*, is tall and skinny like a restaurant wine list. It contains just nine stories, ranging from two to eight paragraphs. Photography, white space, the title page, author bios, and publication information stretch it out to 20 pages in total.

Eadie's book of poetry, *Dead Letters*, is a completely different shape, looking like a book of



College librarian Gary Draper and Charlene Diehl-Jones, a professor of English at St. Jerome's, are making "small, beautiful books."

tear-off postcards. And Diehl-Jones' own contribution, a broadsheet titled *Lamentations*, is printed on a single sheet of very special 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper, which is slit so it can be rolled up like a shell.

Dead Letters and *You Are Here* have both been favorably reviewed in the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, which is great, but the best sign of things to come is that "income has matched outflow," says Draper. "We are finding a satisfactory audience for what we are doing," he says, "and we're committed to doing this for the long haul."

The books (\$7.50 each) and the broadsheet (\$3) are available at better bookstores in Waterloo, Guelph, and Stratford, or can be ordered (add \$2 for shipping) from Trout Lily Press, 87 Front St., Stratford, Ontario, N5A 4G8. ☎

DEAD LETTERS

You
are

They're off and... running?

On a warm Friday afternoon in September, students and friends of St. Jerome's College set off on the symbolic first lap of the St. Jerome's Charity Run. This year, the 48-hour continuous relay around the ring road raised \$5,000 for K-W Counselling and Interfaith Counselling. The annual event, which was initiated in 1976 by two St. Jerome's students, gives College students a chance to give something back to the community they call home for eight months of the year. Over the years, students at the College have donated over \$90,000 to a wide range of local charities. ☎



Sooner or later, y

Though he's never robbed a bank himself, St. Jerome's sociology professor Fred Desroches knows that, in the end, bank robbery doesn't pay.

by Tony Reinhart

I HAVE A GUN. GIVE ME THE MONEY. The words lunge from the scrap of paper and grab the bank teller by the throat. The masked man doesn't need to show proof of his threat. His note, stark and sinister, does the dirty work for him. In less than a minute, the bandit is gone, leaving behind

his trademark note and a roomful of jangled nerves. In a couple of weeks, when his \$1,500 runs out, he'll do another one. He might even hit the same branch if he's feeling lucky. Luck, after all, has gotten him this far. What's to stop him now?

Plenty, as Fred Desroches will tell you. After eight years of research, including interviews with 80 robbers and numerous police officers from across North America, Desroches knows why men rob banks and why they get caught.

Desroches, an associate professor of sociology and criminology at St. Jerome's College, has published two books on the subject. *Force and Fear: Robbery in Canada*, published in 1995, contains his findings and is

what he calls "largely a book about cops and robbers." *Behind the Bars: Experiences in Crime*, published in 1996, contains excerpts from the interviews with robbers which "bring the findings to life."

In a recent interview at his rural home west of Kitchener, Desroches said he was attracted to the topic of bank robbery after meeting Roger Caron, a veteran Canadian bandit who published his exploits in a book, *Go Boy*. Desroches supplied material for Caron's second book, *Bingo*, about the 1971 riot at Kingston Penitentiary, and Caron became a frequent speaker at Desroches' classes.

"One day I asked him to talk about bank robbery," Desroches recalls. "I found it was a topic that nobody had really researched."

In the early 1960s, Desroches set out on a mission in which he "ended up interviewing inmates in nearly every federal penitentiary in Canada and a few in the U.S." After meeting robbers such as an ex-RCMP officer, a travelling salesman, and a university student as well as some career criminals, he quickly learned there is no such thing as a typical bank robber.

But he also found some common threads among this diverse and intriguing group. "The motive for the first robbery is usually a specific need," such as an overdue rent payment, student loan, or even an upcoming wedding, he says. "But then, after they meet that need, usually the robbery was so easy and so fast that they start thinking, 'Maybe I'll do one more.' Need is the initial motive and greed is the motive to continue."

So what leads these men, some with no criminal history, to act on that need the first time? About a third of the robbers Desroches interviewed got the idea from their local newspaper. From brief news accounts of robberies, prospective bandits make several assumptions:

- Bank policy is to co-operate with robbers.
- No one interferes or sees what's going on during a robbery.
- A robber doesn't need a gun: a hold-up note will suffice.
- No one gives chase or "plays hero" trying to catch you.

After eight years of research, including interviews with 80 robbers and numerous police officers from across North America, Fred Desroches has concluded that bank robbery is not a smart crime.

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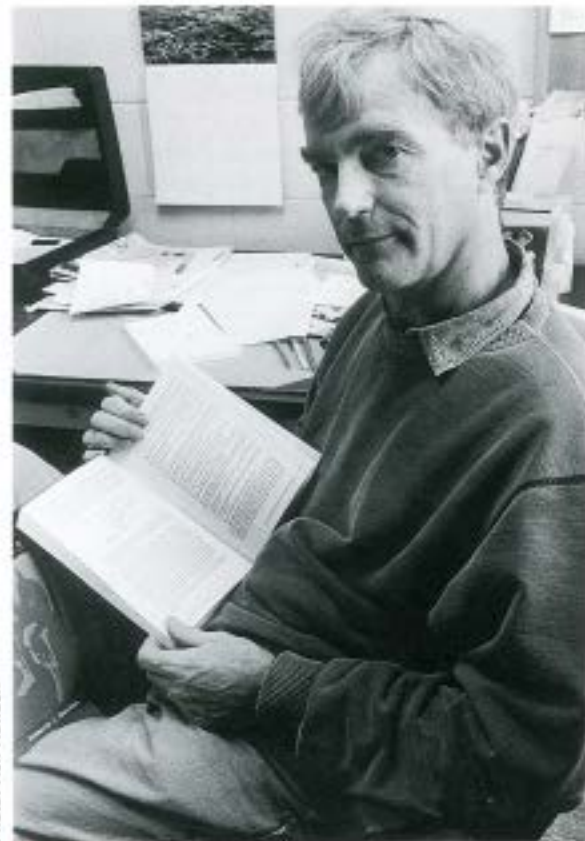


Photo: Ron Hewson

ou'll get caught

"They view the crime as really pretty easy, straightforward, and non-violent, and they also assume it's low-risk," Desroches says. Many of those assumptions are valid, except the notion that robbery is low-risk, he says. While many bandits get away with eight or nine heists, "eventually they all get caught, because they don't quit."

The apparent ease of the first robbery lures most robbers back again, Desroches found. Though many tell themselves that each robbery is their last, they get used to the extra income. And the confidence gained from each successful heist only makes it easier to continue.

As a result, many robbers see no reason to change their *modus operandi*, or M.O. They will use the same disguise and even the same wording for their hold-up note time after time. What they don't realize, though, is "how distinct their M.O. is and how the police use it to link all their crimes."

In *Force and Fear*, Desroches cites the case of the "Relax Bandit." That's the name police assigned to a man convicted of 13 bank robberies, who always passed a note misspelling "relax" as "relaxe" or "relaxes."

"In prison, he expressed amazement that the police knew so much about his robberies," Desroches writes.

The delusion that they won't get caught also leads to complacency, sometimes in the extreme. Desroches encountered one bandit who, on the way to a bank near his home, realized he had forgotten his usual disguise of a hat and sunglasses. Too lazy to go back home, he robbed the bank without the disguise and was captured after security cameras photographed him. Another wore a hockey jersey with his own name on it; another signed, then half-heartedly crossed out, his own name on the withdrawal slip he used as a hold-up note.

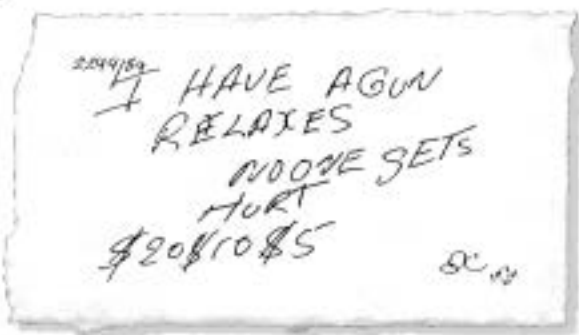
"A lot of these guys get caught by stupid or lazy actions," Desroches says.

And when they do, many are surprised at the harshness of police and, later, the courts, which hand out relatively stiff sentences for robbery. The 80 robbers in Desroches' study were serving sentences averaging more than nine years. The reason is that robbery is confrontational, which implies violence even when the robber makes no explicit threat.

"Robbery is in-your-face, so society takes it very seriously," Desroches says. "You pass a bum

cheque, you can get several thousand bucks. If you pass a teller a note that says, 'Give me the money,' you get a lot less money and a lot more jail time."

Larger cities like Toronto and Montreal have special hold-up squads which, in keeping with society's view of robbery, have a reputation for toughness and a prestige among police that rivals the homicide unit. Several of Desroches' subjects alleged they were beaten by hold-up squad officers, usually for being unco-operative



during interrogation. While publicly downplaying this image, "the hold-up squad, in a sense, cultivates that reputation" on the street to deter criminals, he says.

Despite such treatment, many robbers told Desroches they didn't mind taking their lumps, saying it goes with the territory. Indeed, there is a resigned respect among robbers for cops, and bank tellers for that matter, who are just doing their jobs.

That feeling is not extended to "heroes" – citizens who would try to foil a robbery. "There's almost a unanimous contempt for anyone who would play hero," Desroches says, adding robbers are often willing to use violence on those they consider glory-seekers. "They think the hero's motive is illegitimate, and if they want the glory, they're going to have to pay the price."

In the end, however, it's the robber who usually pays more dearly. That's why Desroches has declined a few invitations to do robberies with them. Even Caron, who recently returned to prison at age 55 after being clean for 15 years, once joked about the idea. Desroches says he "didn't think he was serious, until he got caught."

With everything Desroches has learned about bank robbery, he has come to realize that "it's not a smart crime. It's low-money and high-risk. It's a stupid crime." ❧

This article, reprinted here with permission, originally appeared in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Robbery is confrontational, which implies violence even when the robber makes no explicit threat. "Robbery is in-your-face, so society takes it very seriously," Desroches says

Alice adapts

These days, we all have to be resilient, just to get by. For some of us, it's a struggle, but for Alice Lemieux, whose many duties include serving as secretary to the president of St. Jerome's College, it comes pretty naturally.

Not that the current president, Doug Letson, is particularly demanding. "Doug does a lot of his own work, on his computer," says Lemieux, as do

most administrators and faculty members at the College. But it wasn't always that way.

"When I came to the College in 1986,"

says Lemieux,

"we had word-processors, and the professors were not word-processor literate, so I did everything – everything! From letters to course outlines to exams. You name it, I did it."

She often had to work evenings and weekends, just to keep up with the demand. But Lemieux took it in stride. "I was overwhelmed, sometimes," she says. "I was still learning all the programs. But I did okay. In fact, I loved every minute of it."

Adapting to a new situation was nothing new for Lemieux. At the age of five, Lemieux, who was born in Rouyn-Noranda, a small mining town in Quebec, was sent to a convent to be educated. Her father, who died when Lemieux was six, was an invalid,

so her mother had to work to support the family. "Mom had a hard time," Lemieux comments. "However, she's a strong lady, and overcame a lot of adversity."

She returned home at the age of 13 and finished high school, then found a job as a telephone operator/supervisor at Northern Telecom. "As all good girls did," she says, "I worked for a few years, then began to think about getting married and having children."

Lemieux began dating Bob Tapper, a civil engineering co-op student from the University of Waterloo who was working in one of the mines in Noranda.

"It was really hard," she remembers,

"because I would see him for three months, and it would be great, then he would be gone for three months."

But eventually they married and began what Lemieux describes as

"a life of travelling." They lived in Sudbury, where their son Andrew was born, then Montreal, then Cobalt, where their daughter Marjaliisa was born, then British Columbia, then Sudbury again. "It was good for the children," Lemieux comments. "They became very adaptable, and I became an expert packer."

The family lived longest in Red Lake, north of Kenora, where Tapper, a mining engineer, managed a gold mine, and Lemieux stayed home with the children. "I was very fortunate that I was able to be a stay-at-home mom," she says. "I enjoyed every minute of it. There were always cookies in the cookie jar, and I had a huge garden."

But the idyllic life didn't last. Her husband had a nervous breakdown, and Lemieux found herself alone with two teen-aged children. "It's amazing where you find the strength," she says. "I didn't have time to break down." Fortunately, Lemieux had been taking secretarial courses, and though she had no experience, she managed to find a job.

Eventually, Lemieux and her daughter moved to Waterloo. "I knew that there were good universities and colleges here," she recalls, "and my brother lived in Waterloo." In the fall of 1986, her daughter started university at St. Jerome's, and by November, Lemieux was working at the College.

Lemieux enjoyed working for Father Norm Choate, who was president before Letson. "We became good friends," she says. "He was a nice person to work for. He was such a kind-hearted man, and he had such a presence about him."

But over the years, she has had to adapt to many comings and goings. "Our psychology department was almost decimated by the special early retirement program, and I lost a lot of good friends. I miss John Orlando – he never missed a birthday lunch with me, even when he was very sick. And I miss Peter Naus, John Theis, Judy Van Evra. I actually curse the SERP program. But we are seeing more and more new faces at the College as we begin to rebuild certain departments."

Lemieux has also noticed a change in the students in recent years. "They haven't got time to linger in the halls any more," she observes. "Students these days are so busy trying to go to school and work at the same time." But quite a few come back after they graduate to say hello and to let her know how they are doing, says Lemieux. "It's always nice to know you had an impact on their lives. We try very hard to make their experience as students here as pleasant as possible. My daughter, Marjaliisa (known as "the Pudds"), enjoyed her time here, and I'm very grateful for the scholarships and bursaries that helped her along."

Though many things have changed over the years, one thing hasn't changed. "I still love my job," she says. "I like paperwork, I like computer work. I was born shuffling papers, I swear!"

Alice Lemieux has seen some pretty major changes take place during her 11 years at the College. Fortunately, she's had lots of experience adapting to new situations



Photo: Ron Hewson

Tribute to John and Kay Sweeney draws 400 people

Long-time friends of the College hailed as models of commitment and love

by Catherine Thompson

It was billed as a fund-raiser for St. Jerome's College, but the tribute dinner to John and Kay Sweeney ended up being about love, commitment, and family.

About 400 people paid \$100 each to attend the dinner at the Waterloo Inn Thursday, May 15th, honouring the former MPP and Liberal cabinet minister and his wife of 45 years.

The evening launched the \$500,000 fund-raising campaign to renovate the women's residence at St. Jerome's College, which is to be renamed Sweeney Hall.

But in an evening studded with standing ovations, obviously sincere tributes, and emotional embraces, it was clear the central point was to hail the Sweeneys as a couple who typify the values of teamwork and commitment to community.

"I don't think I've ever been in a room where I've felt so much warmth," commented St. Jerome's president Doug Letson, who added that "time and again I've heard that we've picked the right couple" to name the student residence after.

The best part of the entire event, said John Sweeney, when he rose to thank the crowd, was that the tribute included his wife Kay.

They say behind every strong man is a strong woman, he said, then went on. "Kay has never been behind me. She has never walked in front. She has walked beside me. She is the reason why I've had the opportunities I had.... We're a team."

A self-described homebody who stayed out of her husband's limelight, Kay Sweeney carried the lion's share in raising their 10 children.

"She was the one who could do seven different levels of homework," said her daughter Cathy Sweeney Caron, who gave the most poignant speech of the evening.

In an evening studded with standing ovations, obviously sincere tributes, and emotional

"She was the one who was at every game, who listened to every choir, even when they sang the same songs every year," she said, her voice catching with emotion.

Nothing could be more fitting than to name a residence after her parents, who will probably become foster parents and models to the 160 young women who live there each year, she said.

"They modelled what commitment and love means. They taught us about honesty and integrity. They gave us roots.... Then they gave us wings and told us to fly away and become what we were meant to be," she said.

Eight of the couple's children were able to attend the event, as were several of their



The women's residence at St. Jerome's College has been renamed Sweeney Hall, in honour of the former MPP and Liberal cabinet minister John Sweeney and Kay Sweeney, his wife of 45 years, shown here in the backyard of their Kitchener home.

Photo: Peter Lee, Kitchener-Waterloo Record

17 grandchildren, including the two youngest, each only a week old. The eldest grandchild, Caron's daughter Heather, 16, paid tribute to her grandparents with the Celine Dion hit (I Am Everything I Am) Because You Loved Me.

Notables who attended included former Liberal leader Lyn McLeod, MP John English, Conservative MPP and Labour Minister Elizabeth Witmer, and MPP Sean Conway, who saluted "the sainted John Cardinal Sweeney and his

embraces, it was clear the central point was to hail the Sweeneys as a couple who typify the values of teamwork and commitment to community

wonderful, long-suffering, endlessly supportive wife Kay."

Best wishes also came from Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Anthony Tonnos, bishop of Hamilton diocese, and former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who like John Sweeney has worked for Habitat for Humanity. ☪

This article, reprinted here with permission, originally appeared in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Give her full marks for participation

The biggest problem Christina Ronzio faced when she came to St. Jerome's in 1993 was that she left at night to return to her home in Kitchener.

"It's hard to get to know people if you're not in residence," says Ronzio, who graduated this year with an Honours BA in religious studies, with a minor in church music and worship. But Ronzio wanted to get involved in the student community, so she started joining things, like committees and choirs and bodies and groups.

"I really like the sense of community and the richness of opportunities to participate in College life at St. Jerome's," she says.

And participate she has. Ronzio has served on many College committees, including the St. Jerome's Awards Night Committee, the Orientation Committee, the Student Union Council, and the Library Committee. She has been a writer for *Across the Creek*, president of the Student Union, a choir member, and co-ordinator of the Charity Run Spaghetti Dinner. She has also served on UW Senate and UW's Canada Day Steering Committee.

"It does look good on a resumé," Ronzio admits, but resumé-building wasn't the idea. She says the reason she served on Senate, for example, "was I loved being a representative of

the students, and I liked being able to get knowledge of the issues, like government funding. I also discovered I could get up and talk to my peers, and to faculty and administrators."

It's little wonder Ronzio was awarded the 1996-97 Student Leadership Award from the University of Waterloo Federation of Students. The wonder is that she was able to handle so much while still maintaining high academic levels.

"I had time to eat and sleep," she says, laughing. "I found that the more involved I got, the better my marks got. I learned time management a lot better."

Those time management skills came in handy this year when, with three hours' notice, she was asked to sing a libretto before 700 people at the Hagey Lecture. The words were from *Voltaire's Bastards* by John Ralston Saul, the 1997 Hagey lecturer. There was no music.

"What I did was think about all the songs I knew. Then I took the text and sang it to a vocalization (song without words) I knew. Voice teachers would be familiar with the music."

Her performance lasted less than a minute. "Saul thought the idea was fabulous, to have someone sing part of his text," says Ronzio. "It was quite an experience." ☺



Photo: Ron Hewson

Christina Ronzio, who won the 1996-97 Student Leadership Award, is heading off to St. John's University in Minnesota on a major scholarship.

Meet this year's Ralston Award winner

Ronan Quinn, who graduated this year with a degree in history, has been named the 1997 Ralston Award winner.

"I was very happy to get it," says Quinn, who is working at St. Jerome's this summer doing maintenance while he waits to see if he's been accepted into Ryerson Polytechnic University's Media Studies program. The award consists of a plaque for the administration building, a plaque for Quinn, "and two very nice books."

Dean Michael Higgins says the Ralston Award, named after former dean Zach Ralston, is given to the student who "embodies all the qualities that the College and the student body perceive of as representing the best of the tradition of St. Jerome's. The student must be a student leader, actively involved, a role model, achieve a quite respectable level of academic excellence, and just be a good person."

Not surprisingly, Quinn has been exceptionally active, beginning in first year when he was on his House Council and participated in residence events. In second year, Quinn co-chaired Charity Run and was involved in more residence activities. He was a residence don in third year and senior don this past year, when he was also one of the organizers of a successful student raffle that raised more than \$3,000 for student bursaries.

In his "spare" time, Quinn has maintained "about an A average," written movie reviews and



Photo: Ron Hewson

"fun columns" for *Across the Creek*, a newsletter produced by St. Jerome's students, and worked in the Development department in the summer of 1996, helping to raise money for the new Community Centre.

And how does Quinn describe himself? "I'm just a nice guy," he says. ☺

CLASS notes

'69 On March 25, 1997 Pope John Paul II appointed **Fr. Thomas Christopher Collins (BA'69, English)** as Coadjutor Bishop of Saint Paul Diocese in Alberta, assisting the Bishop of St. Paul, the Most Reverend Raymond Roy. Prior to this appointment, Bishop Collins was Rector of St. Peter's Seminary in London, ON.

Born in Guelph, Bishop Collins was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Hamilton on May 5, 1973, the same year he received an MA in English from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor of Theology from Saint Peter's Seminary. In 1978 he received a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and in 1986, a Doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome.

Bishop Collins served as Assistant Pastor at Holy Rosary Parish in Burlington from 1973 to 1974 and at Christ the King Cathedral in Hamilton from 1974 to 1975. He was Professor of Sacred Scripture and Dogmatic Theology at St. Peter's Seminary in London from 1978 until 1997, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Vice-Rector from 1992 to 1995, and became Rector in 1995.

'74 In September 1996, **Eloise Coleman (née Walner, BA'74, French)**, began part-time studies at the University of Toronto for her Masters of Information Services. Eloise continues to work as a case manager at the Pay Equity Commission of Ontario.

'76 Turning a fun hobby into a job, **Mike Schnarr (BA'76)** opened Camp Magellan, a kayaking camp for youth aged 12 to 20. Located north of Parry Sound on Georgian Bay, the camp provides trained staff, touring kayaks, tents, and food for one-week sessions beginning on June 30. For more info call (519) 577-3582 or check the camp Web site at campmagellan.in.on.ca

'79 On September 16, 1996, Frank and **Mary Anne DePalma (née Lasovich, BA'79)** welcomed their sixth child, Nicholas Jeffery, brother to Jessica, Kristen, Daniel, Laura, and Anthony. Frank is the news editor for the *Halifax Mail-Star* and the DePalma family lives in Bedford, NS.

'81 Living in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, **Rev. Ronald Mendes, C.S.Sp. (BA'81, Philosophy)** was appointed Principal of St. Anthony's College (Secondary School) in September, 1996. Well versed in computer technologies, Fr. Ronald acted as the systems administrator for the Web site at his previous school.

'82 In addition to teaching religion, **Rev. Paul Sims, C.R. (BA'82, History)** is the religious superior of the Resurrectionists who live and teach at Gordon Technical High School in Chicago. Fr. Paul will complete his MA in Administration and Supervision from DePaul University, Chicago, this fall.

'83 **Marc Kealey (BA'83, Political Science)** has started his own business, Kealey & Associates, offering health care and international consulting. Marc lives in Pickering, ON.

'90 **Mary Lou (née Kennedy, BA'89)** and **Vince Tucci** welcomed their first daughter, Kyla Danielle, on December 5, 1996. Mary Lou works as the human resource coordinator at Abitibi-Price Inc. in Toronto. The Tucci family lives in North York, ON.

'91 In October, **Britta Bia (BSc'91)** began her PhD in Biochemistry at Oxford University, UK, studying the effect of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy on the heart. On December 28, 1996 Britta and Stuart Alan Orr were married at Grace Church On-The-Hill in Toronto.

On December 12, 1996, **Patti Ashton (née Mielke, BA'91, English)** and husband Tony welcomed daughter Bethany. Patti teaches in Georgetown and the Ashton family lives in Milton, ON.

'92 Canons and muskets fired, and soldiers from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment saluted when **Dave Brunelle (BA'92, History)** and Lisa Duquette were married on December 21, 1996 in Penetanguishene, ON. When not participating at historical re-enactments, Dave is the business administrator at the Penetang Curling Club.

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.

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What's new in your life?

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A glimpse of the past

WILLIAM J. SILCOCK, who graduated from St. Jerome's in 1967 with a BA in Geography, died on February 29, 1996. The following excerpt from his memoirs, passed along to us by his wife Peg, describes his first impression of the University of Waterloo:

"My union found me a job in a place I'd never heard of: Waterloo, Ontario. Apparently, a university was being built there. When I arrived at the job site, all I could see was about a thousand acres of mud (it had rained heavily recently) and the students took their lectures in a large, roughly constructed, grey wooden shack, connected to the roadway by a wooden gangplank across the mud. Some university, I thought."

After a skiing accident ended his career as a journeyman insulator, William, who was then 39, registered at St. Jerome's College. He graduated four years later and went on to teach geography at K.C.I. until he retired.



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Joe Voros (BA'92, English), who lives in northern British Columbia, reports that he misses not only the Bombshelter, but also SJC grads. E-mail Joe in Fort Nelson at jvoros@husky.schdist81.bc.ca

'93 "Still studying for actuarial exams," **Anna Marie Beaton (née Stante, BMath'93, Actuarial Science)** and husband John – a WLU grad – recently moved to Guelph from Toronto. Anna Marie works as an actuarial assistant with the Co-operators Insurance Company and enjoys living in downtown Guelph.

Steve Bosnick (BMath'93, Pure Mathematics) graduated from the University of Guelph with an MA in Philosophy in June 1996 and currently works as a software developer at Sybase Waterloo. "The Boz" lives in Guelph.

Having finished her Master of Science in Toxicology at University of Guelph in September 1996, **Debbie Chan (BSc'93)** is still hunting for that "elusive full-time job." While searching, she is content with short-term contracts at Guelph's Department of Horticultural Science.

Married in June 1994, **Carol Anne Luchankoganly (BSc/OD'93, Optometry)** and Ken Ganly were blessed with a son, Johnathon Auston, on March 1, 1997. Both Carol and Ken are optometrists and live in the Kennett Square area of Pennsylvania.

'94 Taking a six-month leave from her Master of Divinity at the University of Toronto, **Bridget Bates (BA'94, Religious Studies)** played hockey in Switzerland on the women's elite team, and is currently touring England, Ireland, and Scotland to visit friends and to promote her first book. For more information about *Growing Up Slowly*, a collection of poems that Bridget has been writing since age ten, contact her sister Lynda at Unit 16, 1218 Kirstie Crt, Oakville, ON L6H 5C7.

After finishing his MA in history at Queen's, **Stephen Bolton (BA'94, History)** "lived the life of fun and poverty" in Venezuela while teaching English. Steve moved to Bogota, Columbia, and currently manages a company that provides training for GMATs and GREs. In September, "Bolt" will begin his PhD in history at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Darren McIntyre (BMath'94, Mathematics) lives in Waterloo and works as a sales representative at Waterloo Maple.

'96 Since January 1997, **Joe Vincec (BA'96, Political Science & Applied Studies)** has worked at EveryWare Development Corp. as a product trainer for Tango. Increasingly, Joe is working "on the road" and away from his home in Brampton.

In Memoriam

We regret to report the death of:

Fr. Graham Clark, S.F.M. ('55),
December 4, 1996.

Upcoming Graduates' Association events

Reading by Prof. Eric McCormack

Wednesday, June 4, 1997
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

2nd Annual Wine Tour

Visit three Vineland area wineries
Saturday, September 13, 1997
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Bus pick-ups in Waterloo and Cambridge, and Toronto and Hamilton

Employment Workshop

Workshops on public speaking and finding employment
Saturday, October 4, 1997
8:30 am – noon
St. Jerome's College, Waterloo

Fall events still in the planning stage:

SJC Skating Party Annual Grads' Association Lecture



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