

# St. Jerome's by any other name

No matter what you call it, St. Jerome's is a great place to go to school

**I** never really thought about going to college," a young woman told Dana Woito, the registrar at St. Jerome's, on a recent visit to a high school in the Toronto area. "I always thought I'd go to university. But now that I've seen your literature, I just might reconsider."

That's just one problem that was solved on March 4, 1998 when St. Jerome's College officially and legally became St. Jerome's University.

"Our new name will avoid much confusion, especially during recruitment of new students," says President Doug Letson. "Prior to March 4th, our official name was the University of St. Jerome's College, but we were commonly referred to as St. Jerome's College. It is little wonder that we encountered persistent confusion over our identity, a matter which was especially problematic from a recruitment perspective."

Many secondary schools refer to themselves as colleges: Assumption College and St John's College in Brantford, for example; Ridley College in St. Catherine's; St. Michael's College School in Toronto; and St. Andrew's College north of Toronto. "Students attending such secondary schools saw registering at St. Jerome's College as a lateral rather than a vertical academic transfer," explains Letson.

Another problem was that students often assumed that St. Jerome's was simply a residence on the campus of the University of Waterloo. Many university residences—including the women's residence at St. Jerome's, which was formerly called Notre Dame College, and Resurrection College, which is across the road from St. Jerome's—call themselves colleges.

But perhaps the most persistent problem

was that St. Jerome's was often mistaken for a community college. "Secondary school students and their parents often thought that an application to St. Jerome's College was an application to a community college—a college of applied arts and technology like Conestoga College," says Letson. "Our new name will clarify our status."

St. Jerome's, which was founded in 1865 by Father Louis Funcken as a Catholic institution of higher education for the training of young men for the priesthood, became incorporated as a university with the name "The University of St. Jerome's College" in 1959, at the same time that the University of Waterloo and Waterloo Lutheran University were given university charters. In July 1960, St. Jerome's federated with the University of Waterloo, waiving its degree-granting privileges and becoming the founding university college at Waterloo.

In December 1997, after discussions at both College Council and the Board of Governors, application was made to officially change the College's name to St. Jerome's University. The Ontario Minister of Education gave approval on February 25, 1998, and official registration followed on March 4, 1998.

"The new name will require a few cosmetic changes—signs, maps, letterhead, business cards, and our website will all require revision," notes Letson, "but there is no change in our arrangement with the University of Waterloo." Students registering at St. Jerome's will still enjoy all the benefits of being part of a small, comfortable community at the heart of a world-renowned university, and will graduate with a University of Waterloo degree. ☺

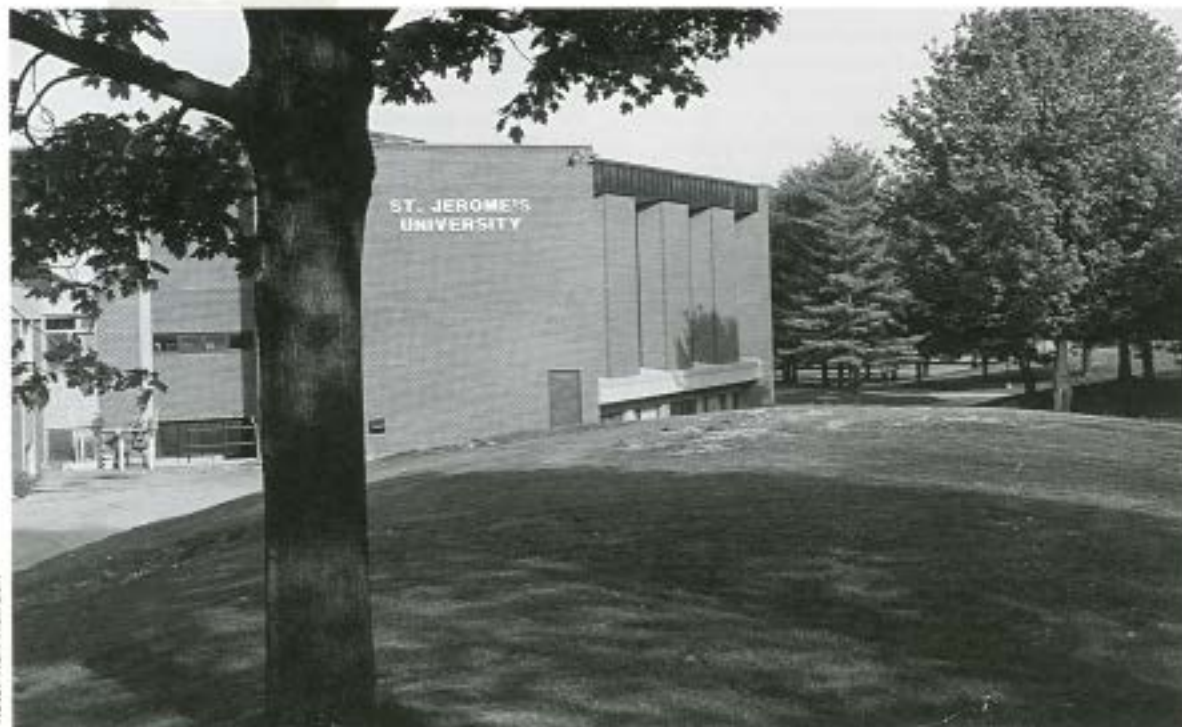


Photo: Ron Hewson

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ST. JEROME'S  
UNIVERSITY

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

## Message from the President

# Bigger isn't always better

**S**mall is Beautiful. E.F. Schumacher's 1974 socio-economic analysis of capitalist society—his concerns over the juggernaut of the religion of bigness and the inhumanity of laissez-faire liberal economics—anticipated only too well the opium of the '90s. According to the contemporary credo, no meat processing plant, no bank, no school board, no hospital, no suburban city can be inoculated against the disease of bigness. Where, one might wonder, does the religion of bigness and entrepreneurial appetite leave a philosophy which espouses the essential dignity of the individual, the priority of labour over capital, the innate humanness of work, the need for society to care for the underprivileged, the weak, the smallest in our midst? The religion of bigness is wholly at odds with time-tested Catholic social principles which take their origin in Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum novarum* of 1891 when the "new things" over which the Pope was fretting included wide-ranging industrialization, laissez-faire capitalism, and the increasingly trans-national nature of capital.

Where, in the religion of bigness, one might wonder, is there room for diversity, diversity such as that provided by the Catholic school, diversity provided by the federated and affiliated system of post-secondary education which enlivens and humanizes the Canadian campuses of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, diversity which approaches health care

and social policy from Christian conviction rather than economic efficiency?

The analogical imagination which is insightfully Catholic posits an imperfect world which is an expression of Creative Intent, a world to be transformed.

It is a world which urges the need for light where there is

darkness, healing where there is disease, consoling where there is grief. Indeed, committed and energetic Roman Catholics have breathed life into this analogical image by creating schools, hospitals, counselling agencies, and centres of refuge and human assistance. Like the

philosophy which gave these agencies their inspiration, they are themselves worth celebrating and worth conserving, even though they are expressions of a divergent voice, and even though their relative size could give the false impression of fiscal inefficiency in a society which puts a systemic emphasis on the economics of amalgamation.

In the previous issue of *Update*

I outlined the progress being made by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada in establishing a co-operative and integrative voice on the national scene.

Similar alliances are being formed more locally with our educational, medical, and social agencies. In the four-city area of Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph, for example, we

have an active Alliance of Organizations with Catholic Values and Traditions. The Alliance is the

brainchild of Sonia Pouyat, the

Executive Director of Notre Dame of

St. Agatha Children's Village, and embraces St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, St. Joseph's Hospital and Home in Guelph, the Catholic School Boards of Waterloo and Wellington Districts, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Family Counselling Centre, Notre Dame of St. Agatha, the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, the Waterloo Region Catholic Community Foundation, and St. Jerome's University.

In addition to looking for joint operating efficiencies and discussing matters of common support, as an Alliance we have initiated a volunteering programme with St. Jerome's students and have begun to meet with local MPPs, MPs, and civic politicians as a means of raising consciousness about who we are and the importance of what we are offering within our community. One needs to have informed friends at the table. And in raising consciousness one will sow the seeds both of understanding and of appreciation.

Ours is a tradition which in principle puts people first, one in which we are our brother's keeper. Ours is a tradition which values social units whose size does not overwhelm the human. Ours is a voice which needs to be heard, a vision which needs to be shared, a tradition whose affirmation that small is beautiful needs to be appreciated, embraced, and articulated. ☪

*Where does the religion of bigness and entrepreneurial appetite leave a philosophy which espouses the essential dignity of the individual, the priority of labour over capital, the innate humanness of work, the need for society to care for the underprivileged, the weak, the smallest in our midst?*

# A hotbed of distinguished teaching

St. Jerome's is now home to no fewer than five recipients of the University of Waterloo's Distinguished Teacher Awards. At spring convocation, Gabe Niccoli, a professor in the Department of Italian and French Studies at St. Jerome's, was presented with the award in recognition of his long record of outstanding achievement teaching Italian language and culture. Niccoli is well-known for his passion for his subject, his good humour, and his approachability outside the lecture hall.

The awards are given each year to professors and lecturers who have demonstrated "intellectual vigour and communication skills in the interpretation and presentation of subject matter," as well as "concern for and sensitivity to the needs of students." The selection committee also looks for "clear indication that the nominee has favourable and lasting influence on students." The award consists of a citation and presentation at spring convocation ceremonies, special designation in the University of Waterloo calendar as a "Recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award," and \$1,500 to be used in support of teaching activities.

Previous winners from St. Jerome's include mathematics professor Conrad Hewitt, retired



professor of religious studies Mary Malone, philosophy professor Gerry Campbell, and St. Jerome's president Doug Letson, who is a professor of English. ☪

# He's outstanding

At their Annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet in March of this year, the Federation of Students at the University of Waterloo presented Jon Waterhouse, a sociology student at St. Jerome's, with the Overall Leadership Award. The awards, according to past Fed president Mario Bellabarba, are "the Feds' opportunity to thank people who aren't often thanked for their volunteer work."

During his years as a student, Waterhouse has dedicated much time and energy to making

St. Jerome's a better place. He has served as treasurer and president of the student union and as a student member of the grad association, and he's been active in raising funds for St. Jerome's. He has also served as co-ordinator of the safety van program at Waterloo, as a member of the University Commission of Student Appeals, and as security co-ordinator for Waterloo's Canada Day celebration.

According to Waterhouse, his investment in his community has benefitted him personally. "I'm not just an individual," he says. "I feel connected where I didn't feel connected for a long time. The more bonds you can create in your life, the better."

But it has also benefitted St. Jerome's. "You may not consciously write 'change the world' in your day-timer," said Federation of Students representative Kelley Foley when she addressed Waterhouse and the other award-winners at the banquet in March, "but all of you do, and all your work represents hope and optimism for the future." ☪

# Not just another brick in the wall

It's not as easy as it looks. Building a wall takes a fair bit of thought and planning, says Dave Augustyn, co-ordinator of graduate affairs at St. Jerome's. But it was satisfying to see the contributions of 246 graduates, faculty, staff, and friends of St. Jerome's to the *Building Together for the Future* capital campaign given such solid acknowledgement. The new wall, which stands in the foyer of the Community Centre at St. Jerome's, contains bricks engraved with the names of donors—including Shakespeare, if you can believe what you read—who contributed a minimum of \$450 to the capital campaign. In total, the brick campaign raised over \$130,000. Plans are underway to begin a campaign for a second wall sometime in the fall. ☪

## Upcoming Centre events

The Centre for Catholic Experience at St. Jerome's will be presenting two lectures in September.

On Friday, September 18th, Mark Miller, a Redemptorist priest from Edmonton, Alberta will give a public lecture and, on the following day, an all-day workshop for health care professionals. Miller, who is in charge of the Redemptorist Bioethics Consultancy for Western Canada, is the author of *The Health Care Ethics Guide*, which is widely used in hospitals across Canada.

And on Wednesday, September 23rd, Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, will speak about capital punishment and her work with death row inmates.

For more information on these and other upcoming Centre events, contact David Seljak, Director of the Centre, or Helen Heimpel, Centre secretary, at (519) 884-8110.

Photo: Dave Augustyn



Photo: Ron Hewson

From time to time, faculty and staff at St. Jerome's get new office furniture, but that's not what we're talking about here. Two new chairs in cryptography were recently established as part of the University of Waterloo's

## Scott Vanstone gets a new chair



new Centre of Applied Cryptographic Research, and Scott Vanstone, a professor of mathematics at St. Jerome's, has been appointed the NSERC/Pitney Bowes chairholder.

Cryptography—the art of writing and solving codes—has been the focus of a great deal of media attention recently because of the central role it plays in securing electronic communications and data transmissions. Before electronic communication, society had developed an elaborate but workable system that revolved around the written signature to deal with security issues.

Today, as more and more information is transferred digitally, electronic alternatives to the written signature are becoming increasingly important.

As holder of the new chair, Vanstone will focus his research on public key cryptography, a sub-discipline of cryptography that addresses

privacy, data integrity, and non-repudiation—the guaranteed acceptance by an electronic system of valid data. Vanstone says the big recent breakthrough in his field is the development of the digital signature, the electronic equivalent of

the traditional written signature. A number that is a function of the information that

accompanies it, a digital signature can be computed only at source, and only by the individual who originates, but it can be recomputed and verified at any destination.

Before accepting his new chair, Vanstone held the Mobius Chair in Cryptography at St. Jerome's, which was established in 1995. In addition to teaching at St. Jerome's, Vanstone holds cross-appointments in two Waterloo departments: Computer Science and Combinatorics and Optimization. He is also chief cryptographer at Certicom, a leading provider of cryptographic technologies for computing and communication companies.

Vanstone is enthusiastic about the new centre at Waterloo, which he expects will attract the best graduate students, excellent postdoctoral fellows, and distinguished professors. "The centre will create a critical mass of cryptographic research," he comments. ☺

## Out of darkness

"I keep setting myself the task (sometimes on purpose, sometimes not) of speaking about that experience where my words break down, where I'm faced with trying to write through the unspeakable, the untellable," says Charlene Diehl-Jones. "I'm fascinated by what happens at that juncture: where language faces its own failure."

A professor of English at St. Jerome's and an accomplished poet, Diehl-Jones recently completed "the most difficult task (I hope) I'll ever find for myself as a writer." *Lamentations*, published by Trout Lily Press of Stratford, Ontario, grew out of the pain of losing a child, Chloe Diehl-Jones, who lived just a week.

"It's scary work," says Diehl-Jones. "When you let yourself experience the full impact of grief, some part of you gets so lost that you're never entirely sure you'll find your way back again. To grieve, if you're strong enough to do it fully, is to take up residence in the dark places, even as you lean toward the daylight you know still exists someplace nearby."

A brave book, *Lamentations* is a record of her journey through the dark places toward the light. "What I find in these pieces, much to my surprise, much to my delight, is that

they're nowhere near as dark as I'd anticipated," says Diehl-Jones. "When I finally let go of trying to tell what I thought was untellable, when I gave up and just listened for the threads that spun around me in the quiet of my sadness, I found myself writing a garden. Gardens have a magic about them: the energy that presses them into greenness every year, the odd logic of growth and decay and regrowth."

Getting to that garden, however, was hard work. "I wrote the prairie winter pieces first," Diehl-Jones recalls. "All I could really hang onto in those first weeks was those great sweeps of space, the way the frozen prairie somehow spoke all the wordlessness that had overtaken me." But most difficult to write were the pieces in the "lullaby" section. "It's where I braved speaking into the abyss, speaking to a child who was already gone from me, who can only hear my heart, and not my voice."

Her courage has been rewarded with the publication of a handsome book. "I love the look of it," says Diehl-Jones. "I like that it's so spare inside, it feels like the words are speaking to the white space, the wordless space. The book is a kind of living story of Chloe that moves through space and time with me." ☺



Photo: Ron Hewson

*the flax bobs blue  
reminds the sky to wake  
the poppies this  
is the garden you should  
know my child the blaze  
of grape hyacinth dying  
to another year's promise*

from *Lamentations*  
published by  
Trout Lily Press  
87 Front Street  
Stratford, Ontario  
N5A 4G8

# The best of St. Jerome's

Ralston Award winners are the sort of people you'd expect to accomplish great and good things

When Matthew Giroux lists all the things he's been up to at St. Jerome's University, he shrugs them off as "just things I enjoyed doing." This year's Zach Ralston Award winner has lived in residence, has been a prefect, and helps with the University Catholic Community's Sunday night student Mass as a reader or sacristan. He helped coordinate a student trip to the Dominican Republic; this year he served as the student union's chief returning officer and chaired the scholarships and bursaries fundraising committee. He is also the student member of the St. Jerome's presidential search committee.

Matt even serves St. Jerome's in his summer job: running the Conference Centre, an increasingly thriving concern. Though these are all serious ventures, he still says, "I don't take myself too seriously."

After two years of mathematics, he switched faculties and will graduate this spring with an honours science degree. In the fall he'll start teacher training at St. Andrew's College, Glasgow. Studying abroad will satisfy his urge to see the world and "do something out of the ordinary," while preparing for a career that may be in his blood, given that his father, brother, aunt, and uncle either are or have been teachers.

First presented in 1971, the Ralston Award goes to the student who represents the best of St. Jerome's. He or she must be actively involved in the St. Jerome's community, a good student, and a good Christian. In short, the sort of person who might be expected to accomplish great and good things in the future.

Although it was impossible to catch up with each of the 47 winners (before 1975, multiple awards were given), that promise seems to hold true. Despite busy working lives, Ralston grads tend to be deeply involved in their communities.

For example, Stephen Haller, BA '72, has been practising law in Kitchener for 21 years. Among many other connections, he was president of the board of Family and Children's Services, Waterloo Region, and is legal counsel for Citizens Concerned with Crime Against Children.

Robert Lang, BA '72, practised law for 15 years before earning a BEd and becoming a teacher at a Waterloo public high school. He has also headed a raft of local boards, including those of the Notre Dame of St. Agatha Children's Mental Health Centre and the K-W Catholic Youth Organization.

Two more teachers, Kevin Coates, BA '85 and Nan Forler, BA '87, joined forces and talents in marriage. Outside class, Kevin plays with a rhythm and blues group, with Nan sometimes supplying vocals. With another band, Shark Naked, Kevin has released a CD of his songs. In summer, he and Nan run an arts camp for children.

As policy planner with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Kenneth Forgeron, BES '75, has been working to improve the recreational trails of the region, among other endeavours. As a long-distance cyclist, he enjoys the fruits of his labours. He also enjoys coaching Catholic Youth Organization hockey.

Ralston winners are often high achievers, like Dr. Donna Lamping, BA '76 (PhD Harvard), researcher and senior lecturer in health psychology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Or Eva Kmiecic, BA '75, a vice-president of the Public Policy Forum, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering excellence in government. "The job gives me 80-hour weeks, and I love it!" she says. Or Anita Ploj, BA '87, a lawyer with Agriculture Canada and special advisor to the director-general of research for eastern Canada, "helping the branch avoid legal problems before they arise."

The newer grads are hot on their heels. Dan Bortolotti, BA '92, who "always wanted to be in journalism," is happily employed as an Internet freelance writer and senior editor of *Today's Parent*. Dave Donohue, BA '96, is chasing a dream in Toronto, producing and writing films with his group, New Year's Eve Productions.

Nadina Jamison, BA '94, won a prestigious McConnell Fellowship that took her all over the continent to learn fundraising techniques at major universities. While corporate gifts development officer at York University, she also volunteers with several organizations devoted to the advancement of education—including St. Jerome's, where she sits on the Board of Governors.

Not surprisingly, many Ralston winners have stayed closely connected to St. Jerome's. Rob Donelson, BA '81, worked for St. Jerome's for 12 years, ending as director of development. Now he serves as executive director of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation.

Asked to describe himself, this year's award winner Matt Giroux ducks the question and talks about St. Jerome's instead. "What makes a place a good place? A collection of good people doing good things. That's what St. Jerome's is all about." And he adds, "I hope that doesn't sound too corny!"

What makes a place a good place? Good people, like this year's Ralston Award winner Matt Giroux.

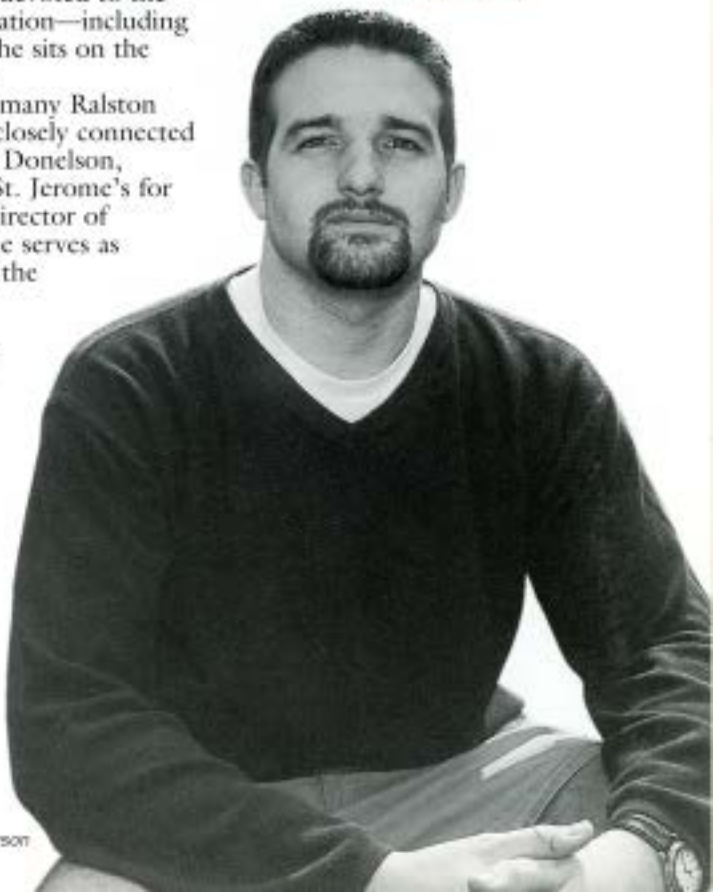


Photo: Ron Hewson

# No small accomplishment

Vera Golini, a professor in Italian Studies at St. Jerome's, is now director of Women's Studies at Waterloo

"When our students graduate they take with them something new and valuable," says Vera Golini, who began a three-year appointment as director of Women's Studies at the University of Waterloo in July 1997. "They leave with a bountiful knowledge of the history, the culture, and the accomplishments of women."

Golini's move to an administrative office after 22 years of full-time teaching and program development (she set up the minor program in

Italian and Canada's first Italian language correspondence courses in the early '80s) is not as dramatic a shift as it might appear. A professor in Italian Studies at St. Jerome's University, Golini continues to serve on a dozen boards and committees, including current terms on the University of Waterloo Board of Governors and Senate. She is also vice-president of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies. "But first comes my commitment to my teaching and my students, who motivate my work in the service sector."

In fact, Golini still teaches in both Italian and Women's Studies: this year, a course on Canadian Women Writers of International Origins. Jocelyne Legault, advisor to Waterloo's

vice-president (academic) on Interdisciplinary Programs, says students' comments on Golini's teaching in Women's Studies are "glowing," and adds, "Already she is giving her own imprint to the program." Michael Higgins, academic dean of St. Jerome's, says that her teaching in Italian is "quite simply excellent."

Together with Mary Clare, the Women's Studies administrative secretary, Golini helps students make informed choices from the program's great variety of courses. Women's Studies courses come from all over the campus: about 50 in all, including 16 from St. Jerome's, with 28 more from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Waterloo has just launched a four-year BA, which will see its first graduates in fall 1998. Seven courses are also approved at the graduate level, while eight courses are available by distance education: more than at any other Ontario university.

A well-stocked resource room is located beside the administrative offices in the PAS building. And, especially for researchers in the social sciences, the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room in the Dana Porter Library has "the best retrospective archives in Canada relating to the history of women," according to Susan Saunders Bellingham, head of Special Collections. Waterloo has been collecting in this field for more than 30 years.

The Golini family came to Canada from Italy in 1956. "After the war, we came from nothing—no money, no language. All we had was a desire to have a future better than what we could have back home." As an undergraduate, Golini supplemented a bursary and scholarship from McMaster University with income from whatever jobs she could find. "My wish for graduate studies was confirmed after a summer job at a glass factory in Hamilton, where I worked shifts on the assembly line. It was a job from hell, because of the heat, the speed, the smoke, the sleep I lost. And the oppression I witnessed, and the swearing I had to hear night and day. After that, I knew for certain that I would not stop school until I had gone as far as I could possibly go."

With an American scholarship, she earned an MA in Italian at the University of Colorado. A teaching assistantship, a scholarship from the University of California, and a Canada Council grant let her complete her PhD at Berkeley. "That was when women with PhDs were relatively few," she notes. "It was a sign of real accomplishment to have earned one's degrees at different universities."

She achieved her ambition, but at a price. "In the '60s and '70s it was much more difficult than now to attain a profession, and have a 'life' too," she observes. "Now, when students ask me about personal choices, I encourage them to find a balance in their lives. Women today have more choices than ever, and that is progress in itself."

Today, Golini's life is not devoted exclusively to the university. She is also a board member and cultural director of the K-W Italian Cortina Club. The club's social and cultural activities involve people of all ages, including children, through the Italian language program Golini set up in 1979.

Publishing on Italian literature and Italian Canadian women writers, and compiling a bibliography on Italian Canadian writings keep Golini busy. But she still finds time to jog, go horseback riding, swim, and visit her family in Hamilton. "I am very close to my family: it is among the many pleasures that have kept me in southern Ontario." That, and the family warmth that has been "the centrepiece of life at St. Jerome's" over her more than two decades there. ☪



Photo: Ron Hewson

As director of Women's Studies, Vera Golini helps students find their way through the great variety of courses and resources available at Waterloo.

# Encountering God: David Stanley and the Spiritual Exercises

*Bishop Prendergast explores David Stanley's approach to a very traditional form of prayer and contemplation*

Terrence Prendergast made the 30-day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola twice, in 1961 and 1978. The first time he was a novice fresh out of high school. As he recalls, neither he nor any of the other retreatants were given much guidance as they made their way through the course of the founding document of Jesuit spirituality.

On the second occasion he was a priest preparing to take his final vows in the Jesuit order. This experience was very different. Prendergast met the retreat director each day and they developed a close personal connection as they worked together through the Exercises. "In hindsight," he says, "I feel I had experienced a great deal of what the restored manner of directing the Spiritual Exercises offered me because I had been a student of Father David Stanley."

Prendergast chose the title of Stanley's classic *Encountering God: Scripture and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola* for the title of the fifth annual Ignatian Lecture, delivered March 6 at St. Jerome's University as the culminating event of the 1997-98 season of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience. Prendergast, auxiliary bishop of Toronto and former theology professor and dean at Regis College, was not only a student of the great Biblical scholar but a friend, until Stanley's death in 1996.

*Encountering God* came out in 1967, just at the right time to offer a new approach to a very traditional form of prayer and contemplation. One reviewer described it as "Catholic Biblical scholarship at its best." More, the book had "what older spiritual writers called 'unction.' The reader feels like turning to God in loving conversation as he reads the pages."

Considering the times, Prendergast says, this was quite an achievement. "Reform-minded religious men and women, eager to follow the new directions prompted by the second Vatican Council, and somewhat ready, perhaps, to jettison pre-conciliar traditions and perspectives, were steering away from traditional ascetic forms of prayer, such as the annual Spiritual Exercises offered in a preached format." Many doubted that the Exercises, in their older packaging, could be relevant after Vatican II.

But Stanley's presentation, "blending as it did rich scriptural insights within the pattern of the traditional adaptation of the Exercises in an eight-day retreat, kept religious men and women open to the possibility of a renewal of the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises."

Stanley's writings were a valuable aid to retreat directors who were guiding a new generation of retreatants, better informed about scriptural studies and ready to ask difficult questions. For example, the gospels don't agree on the

details of certain incidents, such as the feeding of the multitudes. So how can they all be inspired?

Stanley's answer—that each gospel reflects the evangelist's unique experience of the Holy Spirit, and so each, though different, is equally inspired—lies at the heart of his thinking. A related idea was that the search for the "authentic" words of Jesus was a waste of effort. Neither the evangelists nor St. Paul showed any such concern, Stanley pointed out. In fact, they reformulated the words of Christ and placed them in contexts different from what they occupied in the oral tradition, "a procedure which frequently gives them an almost totally new meaning."

All of this was not only legitimate but necessary, he contended. The evangelists, like Paul on the Damascus road, had met Christ in the spirit, not the flesh. And like Paul, they received the evangelical traditions created by one or other of the twelve apostles, who themselves only came to an inspired knowledge of Christ's nature after the Resurrection, when they saw with what Aquinas called "the eyes of faith." Stanley maintained it was this spirit-filled experience that the gospel writers meant to present in the gospels, rather than a historical record.

It was his belief that Ignatius had much in common with the evangelists. Like them, he adapted the gospel message for his day for the sake of eliciting in his readers an experience of the truth of Christ that transcended the text. Stanley was convinced, Prendergast says, that the Spiritual Exercises were inspired (although not in the same way as the gospels) and that Ignatius, like the evangelist John, "had been given an experiential encounter with the risen Lord, and that for this reason each could truthfully proclaim, 'I encountered God.'"

On the whole, Prendergast says, Stanley's attempt to bridge the gap between scriptural study and spirituality was successful. "If David Stanley's labours can help us to visualize the gospel message and the Ignatian Exercises as something that go harmoniously together, this is a significant accomplishment of which I think our Canadian church and the Jesuits of English-speaking Canada may be rightly proud." ☪

*Bishop Terrence Prendergast chose David Stanley's classic work Encountering God: Scripture and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola as the subject for this year's Ignatian Lecture.*



Photo: Ron Hewison

"It's like a co-op job for faculty," says Steve Furino. A long co-op job. It will be another two years before you'll find Furino at the front of a classroom again. Since December 1997, the popular mathematics professor at St. Jerome's (Furino was recently named Teacher of the Year by the Math Society at Waterloo) has been on secondment to the Student Information Systems Project (SISP) at the University of Waterloo. He's one of 20 people who are working together to bring the electronic capabilities of the Registrar's Office into the 21st century.

## A change is as good as a rest

*Steve Furino is taking a break from teaching—if you can call it a break*

"Most of the software was written quite a while ago, and there are a number of problems with it," says Furino. It's hard to support, the user interface is weak, and it doesn't provide the kind of information required for institutional decision making.

"For example, right now it's fairly difficult to assess the effectiveness of recruiting programs in particular areas. As competition for students intensifies, the university has to decide how best to invest its limited resources to attract the quality of student that it wants."

The university is making an enormous commitment to the initiative, Furino notes, "pulling 20 people out of their jobs to work on this project. But I think it speaks to the importance of doing it right." It's risky work, Furino admits. "If we do it right, no one will know what we did. But if we do it wrong," he says with a grin, "we look for a job somewhere else."

So why take on such a commitment? The challenge, says Furino. "My arm was never twisted. I have written 20,000 lines of code without a problem, but I've never worked on a

project where you need a large number of people to make it come to fruition. It's an entirely different environment for me. And there are a lot of issues associated with software implementation on this scale that I haven't been exposed to."

The formal arrangement is that Furino will spend 70 per cent of his time on the SISP. Another 20 per cent of his time—roughly one day a week—is reserved for research. His area of expertise is frames and resolvable designs, finding ways to arrange a finite number of objects within a specified framework according to a prescribed set of rules.

He offers, for example, the problem of determining a pattern for planting different varieties of wheat in a number of fields that minimizes the effect of variability in the fields. "Frames and designs originated from an attempt to ease analysis and reduce the probability of error in agricultural tests," says Furino.

But the field has moved well beyond agriculture, to addressing such problems as how to store data on CDs in a way that maximizes error-correcting capability and how to design computer systems for banks that allow data to be retrieved quickly and can handle many requests simultaneously but that also maximize error detection and correction.

"Some of these problems are extraordinarily hard," Furino admits, "and at this point, well beyond our computing abilities. We can let computers run for millennia and they still won't test all the possible combinations. We need a new algebra and new algebraic techniques to resolve these problems."

Another project Furino has been involved in for several years combines his mathematical abilities with his personal interest in ornithology. He has developed a database which is used to track records associated with birds. Wings, as the database is called, is due for release this summer, after being tested by parks, field naturalist clubs, and tourist associations as far afield as Australia.

Asked about the connection between his research interests and his current work on the Wings database and the Student Information Systems Project, Furino observes that the activities require a similar kind of discipline. "The kind of habits you bring to writing code to look for combinatorial designs you also bring to writing code for databases," he observes. But he also notes that there are connections at the aesthetic level. "Both activities are really about patterns."

In the remaining 10 per cent of his time, Furino remains involved in several service projects, including the Canadian Catholic Colleges and Universities (CCCU) project, an initiative to optimize the resources of Catholic colleges and universities across Canada. Furino was instrumental in developing the CCCU home page, which introduces the browsing public to member institutions across Canada, and is a member of a committee developing co-operative courses to be offered on the Internet.

"I think it's one of those tremendously important projects," says Furino, "and now is the time when it pretty much has to happen, otherwise we will see a lot of the smaller places not survive." ☺

*For the next two years, Steve Furino will be working on the new Student Information Systems Project (SISP) at the University of Waterloo. But that doesn't mean he won't make time for a little bird watching.*



Photo: Ron Hewson



## A step in the left direction

### Alexa McDonough expresses cautious optimism about the future

**A**s you'd expect, this is not the first time that I have been invited to address this topic," admitted Alexa McDonough to the more than 350 people who had gathered in Siegfried Hall to hear her thoughts on the future of social democracy. McDonough visited St. Jerome's in late March to deliver the Annual Graduates' Association Lecture.

But recent events—including the election of a massive Labour government in the UK, the return of Democratic Socialists to power in France, and in Canada, the recent restoration of the NDP to official party status in the House of Commons—have the leader of the federal New Democratic Party feeling optimistic.

"I hope you'll agree, it is a step in the right direction—or more to the point, in the left direction."

Social democracy, she notes, fell on dark days with the election of Margaret Thatcher. "Notions of caring and compassion were dismissed as failing to grasp the 'new global realities' of the late 20th century. And the struggle for equality was dismissed as an unwarranted obstacle to the objective that has come to supersede all others—namely, competitiveness."

The challenge for social democrats for the last decade and a half, says McDonough, has been "to provide leadership in the struggle for human values to prevail in an increasingly commercialized, corporate-dominated competitive world."

The greatest challenge for social democrats in the early years of the coming century will be to accept change: economic change, social change, technological change.

"It's impossible to talk about the future of social democracy without talking about change," says McDonough. "How we have been dealing with it to date, how we've been failing, on the left as well as on the right. But also how we can move forward. How we can make this change work for underprivileged people as well as for society's elite."

One way to handle change is to adopt a "sink-or-swim" approach, as Canada and the United States have done. "You decide that massive change should be uncritically embraced without question, without analysis, and most of all, without interference."

But the social costs of the sink-or-swim approach are huge: much higher health costs, lower incomes, more poverty, more crime, and less hope. And in the long term, so are the economic costs: crumbling infrastructure, an untrained workforce, stressed workers, and unhealthy workplaces.

"It's that spectre of an ugly, diminished, compassionless society that has prompted the second approach," says McDonough, "the approach broadly advocated by those of us on the left in Canadian politics. You could call it the 'hold the fort' approach."

Subscribers to this approach believe that because change threatens jobs, communities, families, our medicare system, our cultural institutions—the very things that help to define us as Canadians—change must be resisted at all costs. But this approach denies any opportunity for growth. "For all the threats in the storm clouds of change," observes McDonough, "there's also opportunity and promise."

A better approach, she suggests, is to embrace change and channel it in a way that benefits all. She offers what happened recently in the Netherlands—sometimes called the "Dutch economic miracle"—as a model.

In the early 1980s, as unemployment and public debt mounted in the Netherlands, the unions looked across the Channel at what Margaret Thatcher was doing to people's lives in the UK, and realized it could happen in the Netherlands as well.

So they got together with business and the government and formed a Social and Economic Council. The unions agreed to moderate their wage demands and to be more flexible about part-time and contract work, which meant higher profits and more investment for Dutch firms. It also helped the government tackle the debt.

In return they were guaranteed job security and decent standards, industry-wide collective agreements, and an explicit commitment to reducing inequality. But perhaps most important of all, there is now in the Netherlands a multi-partite process for making social and economic policy. Government, employers, and workers sit down and reach a consensus on targets for jobs, for social spending—for every major area of public policy.

"Results in Holland are not perfect," McDonough admits, "but they are impressive: working people get more security and employers get more stability, lower costs, and more flexibility."

In the coming years, we are all going to have to find the kind of courage to embrace change that the Dutch have demonstrated, says McDonough.

"These are challenging times. It takes real courage for people these days to start a family. It takes real hope to start university or college. It takes guts to even try to enter the workforce given the erosion of the standard of so many jobs.

"I don't think it's too much to expect politicians, employers, and union leaders to show some of that courage as well." ☺

*"It's impossible to talk about the future of social democracy without talking about change," says McDonough*

*College president Doug Letson presents federal NDP leader Alexa McDonough with a St. Jerome's sweatshirt.*

*Photo: Ron Hewson*



## Be the first on your block!

You could win a brand new St. Jerome's University sweatshirt by simply mailing your business card to Dave Augustyn, Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs, by September 1, 1998. We'll enter your name in the draw and include your card in a Graduate Employment Display at St. Jerome's.

### The "Niagara Falls Boys"

"When I became the Registrar of St. Jerome's in August, 1971," writes **Brian Patrick Eby (BA'71, French)**, now a partner with Ludwig, Lichtenheldt & Eby in Kitchener and Chair of the Board at St. Jerome's University, "I had the pleasure of meeting most of the students registered at St. Jerome's. First-year students were especially excited to be there and I was especially excited to see them as we shared a common bond—we were all rookies in what we were doing.

"I grew especially close to a group of first-year students who had come to us from the Niagara Falls area. I shared meals with these gentlemen from time to time during the three-year tenure I enjoyed as Registrar at St. Jerome's and have kept in contact with several of them right up until today. Each fall we enjoy spaghetti and moose-meat balls compliments of Ralph Biamonte's father."

Brian sends the following news.

After working 19 years for Canada Customs in Niagara Falls, **Kevin Kitney** was forced to retire in 1993 due to muscular dystrophy. Roseanne, Kevin's wife of 22 years, has worked for Day-Timers of Canada for the past 20 years. Kevin continues to hold his own with a keen sense of humour and with "the fastest wheelchair in Ontario!"

For over 20 years, **Bob Austin (BA'74, Sociology)** has worked with Niagara Regional Social Services. Bob and Gerry, who is a registered nurse, have been married for over 24 years. Their two sons play junior hockey and the whole family thrives in Niagara Falls.

Looking for great ribs and pasta? Stop by and say "hello" to **Ralph Biamonte (BA'75)** at his roadhouse restaurant, Mick & Angelo's Eatery & Bar, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. A long-time sports fan, Ralph sponsors several children's sports teams, and coaches hockey, ringette, and baseball. Ralph and Suzie (née Bigger, Renison BA'75, Social Development Studies) have been married for over 23 years and live, along with their two daughters, in the Falls.

Living in Fort Erie, Wendy and **John Marshello (BA'75)** have been happily married for 20 years. Chuck enjoys a career with Canada Customs and currently works as Traffic Superintendent at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls.

**John Sadler (BA'75)** recently retired from teaching in Niagara Falls to a cottage in Eastern Ontario. John and Nancy, his wife, taught a combined total of 45 years, and still had time to raise two daughters.

Since his marriage 15 years ago, **Mike Somerville (BA'75, Geography)** and his family have made the Village of Chippawa, Ontario their home. Mike works for Ontario Hydro in Niagara Falls.

'69 "In the late 1960s," recalls **Rand Houghton (BA'69, Philosophy)**, "Students and profs from St. Jerome's provided leadership across the entire campus." Rand, who helped develop the St. Jerome's athletics letter to encourage students to become involved in intramural sports, notes that in the fall of 1965, St. Jerome's students led the protest against proposed changes to the Canada Elections Act. In effect, the changes would have disenfranchised post-secondary students who lived away from home. St. Jerome's students also changed the rules for choosing a queen for the Annual Winter Carnival. They removed all references to beauty and concentrated instead on how each contestant could act as an ambassador for the University of Waterloo. And St. Jerome's English professor Larry Cummings directed a medieval acting troupe—St. Aethelwold's—before the formal establishment of the Drama Department. "Translating them himself, Cummings made each medieval drama applicable to a contemporary audience," recalls Rand. Now a project officer at the Development Services Branch of Community and Social Services at Queen's Park in Toronto, Rand says that St. Jerome's provided a sense of family. "Everyone looked out for each other. That was important and understood." Rand is hoping that his daughter Heather will choose to live at St. Jerome's when she starts university next year.

'73 "It's great to be back 'home' at St. Jerome's," says **Paul S. Voisin, C.R. (BA'73, Religious Studies)** who now resides at Louis Hall, the Resurrectionist residence at St. Jerome's University. After 21 years of priesthood, almost 13 of which were spent in Bolivia as principal/formation director/pastor, Paul now serves as pastor of the Spanish-speaking Catholic communities of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Waterloo, Wellington, and Brant counties. Paul also acts as the vocation animator for the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection. Welcome home, Paul!

'82 **Christine Kardos (BA'82, English)** and **Gene Gryski (BA'66, English, MA'81, English)** were married July 1, 1994 in Richmond Hill. Christine, with a BEd from Western and a Graphic Arts Certificate from Fanshawe College, works as a freelance artist and writer. Gene attained his MEd from U of T and is head of English at St. Robert Catholic High School in Thornhill and chair of the English subject council of the York Region Catholic District School Board. Christine and Gene live in a loft studio in downtown Toronto.

'84 **Tim Collings (BASC'84 Electrical Engineering)** was recently honoured by the Caldwell Partners International as one of "Canada's Top 40 Under 40."

# CLASS notes

Photo: Mark Van Molen, The Vancouver Sun



Announced in the April 1998 issue of the *Financial Post Magazine*, the award recognizes Tim's invention and commercialization of the V-chip, a device which allows viewers to block television programs containing violence, profanity, and sex. Tim is a laboratory engineer at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia.

**'90** Susan Wolf-Dales (BA'90, Psychology) and Andrew Dales (BA'92) live in Walkerton, Ontario, with their three children: Isaac, five years old; Brienne, two; and Emily, one. Recently, Andy became a territory manager with Cyanamid, in London, Ontario. "We are looking forward to the changes and new opportunities that await us there," writes Susan.

**'91** Merry Christmas to Aisling (née O'Donnell, BA'91, Fine Arts) and Jason Deehan! Santa brought son Conor Francis in December 1997. Aisling earned her Masters of Education from U of T in 1997 and currently teaches in the Durham Catholic District School Board. The Deehan family lives in Oshawa.

What a busy year for Sharon and Kirk Fergusson (BA'91, English) and family! Kirk recently changed positions at work and is now the senior communications advisor with Western Economic Diversification Canada in Ottawa. In August, 1997, Kirk began the Executive MBA program at the University of Western Ontario, and will graduate in the spring of 1999. On November 22, 1997, Sharon gave birth to daughter Faith. And finally, the Fergussons moved into their new home in Nepean in February, 1998. Whew!

**Patrick Ko (BMath'91, Mathematics)** works as an associate lawyer at McCarthy Tétrault in Toronto as part of a high-tech law group. Patrick says that he is "happily touring in 'Smiley'—my little Miata—and glad to be a computer geek again!"

**'93** Melissa (née Burgess, BA'93, History; MA'96, History) and Peter Humphries (UW BIS'93, Independent Studies) welcomed son Stephen on December 6, 1997. Prior to the birth, Melissa was supply teaching for the Lakehead Board of Education. Peter works as the manager of information services at the Northwestern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre. The Humphries live in Thunder Bay. For cute photos of Stephen, check out his website at <http://www.olin.com/users/peh/>.

## She's serious about community service

"My main focus is on social justice issues," says Megan Shore, a fourth-year religious studies student at St. Jerome's and recipient of the 1998 Graduates' Association Community Service Award. "I have a passion for alleviating injustices."

In the winter of 1995, she lived and worked in Guatemala for four months as part of a Peace and Conflict Studies internship. "While the family I lived with was very poor, they would give me anything I needed. They offered me simple, unconditional love," she says.

Since her return in June 1995, Shore has given numerous presentations and workshops about social justice and poverty to various church and school groups in her home town of Stratford. In the fall of 1995 and again in the fall of 1996, she volunteered at St. Joseph's School in Kitchener, where she tutored newly-settled

Photo: Dave Augustyn



children and adult immigrants in English. In the fall of 1996, she also worked as a volunteer at St. John's Soup Kitchen in Kitchener, helping prepare daily lunches for those in need.

From May to August of 1997, Shore volunteered full-time at Romero House, a refugee centre in Toronto. She lived and worked with refugee claimants, helping with the resettlement process and preparing case work for refugee hearings.

The Graduates' Association Community Service Award recognizes a St. Jerome's student or resident for commitment to and involvement in voluntary community service beyond the university campus. The award is meant to honour students who set an example to others and motivate other students to reach out to the community and to participate in service activities.

### Hey SJU 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 SJU Update.

Name (Please include birth name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail/WWW \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Year/Programme \_\_\_\_\_

### Are you working?

Job title \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail/WWW \_\_\_\_\_

### Are you married?

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Year/Programme \_\_\_\_\_

### What's new in your life?

(Enclose additional sheet if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please do not publish this info in SJU Update.

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

You can also send e-mail to: [dagustyn@watserv2.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dagustyn@watserv2.uwaterloo.ca) or use cyber Classnotes at [www.usjc.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.usjc.uwaterloo.ca)

**Editor**  
Linda Kenyon

**Production**  
Kenyon & Co.

**Design**  
Amperand Studios

**Contributors**  
Dave Augustyn  
Pat Bow  
Doug Letson

**Photography**  
Dave Augustyn  
Ron Hewson  
Mark Van Manen

**Advisory Board**  
Jack Griffin  
Michael Higgins  
Doug Letson

Please address correspondence to:  
S/U Update  
St. Jerome's University  
Waterloo, Ontario  
Canada N2L 3G3  
Phone: (519) 884-8110  
Fax: (519) 884-5759  
e-mail: update@usjc.uwaterloo.ca  
www.usjc.uwaterloo.ca



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Following graduation, **Christine Nuernberger (BA'93, Political Science)** provided research for the "third party" of the Ontario Legislature, earned her MA in Political Science and Master of Public Administration, and became a policy advisor to the Ontario Minister of Health. In the summer of 1997, Christine joined Leisureworld Inc., which specializes in hotels and long-term care homes in Ontario, as the director of public relations and business development. Christine lives in Toronto.

'96 **Kari Lynn Hauck (BA'96, Geography)** "lucked-in" while attending teacher's college in Australia. She was offered a teaching job after she took a chance and arranged her final teaching placement in Auckland, New Zealand. She is looking forward to her move "down-under" and will begin teaching in January, 1999.

'97 Who says you can't relive the past? Over the summer of 1997, **Michael Forestell (BA'97, History)** made history come alive as a curatorial assistant and historical interpreter at Ste. Marie among the Hurons in Midland, Ontario. Having just completed a Certificate in Museum Management and Curatorship at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough, Michael will continue living his life in the past.

**Paul Ortner (BA'97 Economics)** sends greetings from Karl Franzens Universität in Graz, the second largest city in Austria. Now completing another BA, this time in history, he's taking part in the Waterloo-Graz exchange program. "I have also become a student of Sociology," he writes, "just observing the daily life of the country." At the conclusion of each lecture, he notes, students repeatedly rap their knuckles on their desks—the louder and longer the rapping, the greater their appreciation. Across the university campus, students leave their bicycles unlocked, with little fear of theft. Ortner writes that Austrians are incredible polite and courteous, but observes also that Austrian culture has become quite Americanized. "English is thought to be the coolest language, and all things American, culturally superior." Ortner misses his family and friends, but writes, "this year is an invaluable experience."

## Upcoming grad events

### Parliament Hill Tour and Reception

Wednesday, 10 June 1998  
7:30 p.m. – Tour of Centre Block and group picture  
8:00 p.m. – Reception, Room 200, West Block

All Ottawa area grads and students are invited.

### Fourth Annual St. Jerome's Golf Tournament

Monday, 6 July 1998  
Shot-gun start at 12:30 p.m. sharp  
New Dundee Golf and Country Club

\$95.00 for golf, a cart, and prizes. Proceeds to St. Jerome's capital campaign (a tax receipt will be issued).

### Third Annual SJU Wine Tour

Saturday, 12 September 1998  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Visit three Niagara area wineries. Bus pick-ups and drop-offs in Waterloo, Cambridge, Toronto, and Burlington.

### Graduate Anniversary Day

Saturday, 19 September 1998  
Student Life Centre, University of Waterloo

Grads from '63, '68, '73, '78, and '83 are invited back for a special day. Don't miss it! There will be campus tours, displays, a family barbeque, a Warrior football game (vs. Guelph), and a historical presentation.

### St. Jerome's Day Mass

Sunday, 27 September 1998, 7:00 p.m.

A special celebration on the feast of St. Jerome, including an academic procession by St. Jerome's faculty and staff and an address by Chancellor John Sweeney.

### Halloween at St. Jerome's—Scary Stuff!

Saturday, 31 October 1998  
8:00 p.m. in the St. Jerome's Community Centre

Dress up and join the fun!



St. Jerome's University  
Waterloo, Ontario  
N2L 3G3



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