

# Dead Man Walking: The journey

Sister Prejean delivers "a spiritual body slam"

"I am going to tell you some stories," said Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J., in her smoky-textured Louisiana drawl. So began the 16th annual Devlin Lecture, delivered on September 23 as part of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience 1998-99 program. A total of nearly 1,000 people, a record for a SJCCE event, packed Siegfried Hall during the two lectures.

One listener later described the talk as "a spiritual body slam." Prejean, a recent Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is best known as a dynamic opponent of capital punishment. Her best-selling book, *Dead Man Walking*, was made into an acclaimed motion picture starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn.

Prejean's journey began in 1982 when she agreed to write to a death row inmate in Louisiana State Penitentiary. At that point she knew nothing of Patrick Sonnier. "I only knew that anybody on death row in Louisiana was likely to be poor."

Later she began visiting him, and later still agreed to be his spiritual advisor.



As Prejean spoke, vivid images brought the story to life. The sound of Sonnier's shackles scraping across the cement floor as he approached the visitor's cubicle. The yellow October sunlight falling across the pictures of two murdered teenagers as Prejean read the dossier on the crime for the first time, and was filled with outrage—and then guilt, because she was "comforting the enemy."

And finally, Sonnier's last walk, with Prejean beside him. This was the turning point in her life. "When you walk with a person to his execution, it distills everything for you. Are you for life or for death? Are you for love or for hate?"

They had moved Sonnier to the Death House three days before. A psychiatrist looked in on him and offered Valium. On the last day an electrician came to check the apparatus, and the strap-down team practiced their drill one more time. "There is a protocol for death," says Prejean. "It's not easy to kill a human being."

Sonnier drank coffee and restricted himself to brief naps, to avoid nightmares. At 10 p.m. a guard came to shave his head for the electrodes. When they led him out into the corridor, shorn and shackled, "he looked like a little bird without feathers."

Prejean held his arm as they walked to the death chamber. When the final moment came and she was asked to leave the room, she told him to look at her face through the glass. "I will be the face of Christ for you." They fastened him down in the chair and sent the charge through his body. 1900 volts...cool down...500 volts...1900 volts. He watched her face as he died.

Since that night in 1984 Prejean has walked with two other men to their deaths. Out of the first experience came her conviction that state execution is murder: that no matter how horrible the crime, the criminals are human beings, and when we kill them, we are just as guilty of murder as they are. She has travelled all over the United States and the world, campaigning against the death penalty, and acting as an advocate for victims' families. ☪

Sister Helen Prejean, author of the bestselling book *Dead Man Walking*, was this year's Devlin lecturer at St. Jerome's.

Photo: Ron Hewson

SJU

DEAD

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

## Message from the President

# The real cost

*The pay-your-own-way philosophy of post-secondary education is having a profound effect on Canadian society*

Arriving in Australia last April, I was greeted with local headlines announcing a recommendation to government that it deregulate university tuition fees. It all sounded depressingly familiar. There is something in the air these days on a more-than-national scale which is altering the way we educate our citizens, altering the expectations we place upon our student population, and simultaneously altering the very principles on which our society is built.

The challenges and the changes we have had to confront since 1989 when I was first entrusted with the presidential responsibilities of St. Jerome's are many and varied. The roster of our full-time faculty, for example, has been profoundly recast as a result of retirement, illness, or re-employment. Walter Bildstein, Lindsay Dorney, Mark Kiley, Father Sudie MacDonald, Mary Malone, Peter Naus, John Orlando, Mike Shimpo, John Theis, Judy Van Evra. More than names. Real people. Professors with ideas, convictions, challenges. Part of who we were and who we have become. Part of who their students have

become, for university education is an engagement of ideas, the shaping of character, the basis for building a better society.

During this past decade, the pace and the nature of change have been dramatic.

From the student's perspective, fiscally, for example, in 1989-90 the tuition and incidental costs for both arts and mathematics regular programmes were \$1,627.30 annually; in 1998-99 those same tuition and incidental rates have more than doubled to \$3,701.06 and \$3,770.90

for regular arts and mathematics respectively. In

response to government's determination to download the cost of education to the student, St. Jerome's increased the number of scholarships and bursaries we offer our students from 23 to 71 so that during our last academic year 149 St. Jerome's students were the recipients of in excess of

\$104,000 in scholarship and bursary support. All of this money came from interest earned on permanently invested funds donated by friends and well-wishers of St. Jerome's. The upside of government policy: public support for St. Jerome's has been both widespread and generous.

From St. Jerome's perspective, fiscally, the base grant provided by the provincial government decreased from a 1989-90 allocation of \$2,829,600 to \$2,515,867 in 1997-98; at the same time, tuition and incidental fees paid by students and received by St. Jerome's in 1989-90 amounted to \$966,043, a sum which had virtually doubled to \$1,857,273 in 1997-98.

We are all making do with less.

The responsibility for financing post-secondary education has shifted unambiguously from government to the users of the system, the students and their parents. At the same time, and despite the voices of prominent business people

*"In an environment where tuition fees have reached mythical proportions for the less wealthy, will the important decisions shaping the Canada of tomorrow rest more and more in the hands of a social elite and less and less in the hands of the average Canadian?"*

calling for an articulate population with well formed habits of logical thinking, government has put the emphasis on "practical education"; it is an emphasis which extends from the entrepreneurial programmes of David Peterson's Liberals to the touted doubling of computer graduates of Mike Harris' Tories, there being, reportedly, no need for more "geographers." The results are evident enough in our student population: the 555 full-time arts registrants in 1989-90 has shrunk to 426 in 1998-99 while the population of math students has moved from 234 to 207, a number which has been kept necessarily low because of staffing, classroom/laboratory space, and fiscal constraints.

Although it has been exaggerated by the Harris Tories, the pay-your-own-way philosophy which is the hallmark of the current government has been in vogue during Liberal, New Democratic, and Progressive Conservative regimes—even though officially the New Democratic Party had long espoused the principle of free universal accessibility. Nor is the



shift in fiscal responsibility merely a matter of government financing and a response to debt load. The implications are philosophical and profound. Access to post-secondary education is no longer seen as a social responsibility and a right of citizenship. Practically and psychologically, the promise which university provides is more and more reserved for society's fortunate.

Nor is the implicit dismissing of the arts and culture purely a Tory phenomenon. The Peterson Liberals spoke rhapsodically about entrepreneurial programmes, the Chrétien Liberals have directed federal funding specifically towards job-enhancing research, and the Harris Conservatives have equated education with job training. There has been an obvious shift in emphasis from an understanding of who we are and what we can be as a society to what we can make and how much more efficiently we can make it. Surely a fully human education is centred on both parts of the equation: on human development both personally and socially as well as on job preparation. Pope John Paul II has written eloquently of the priority of labour over capital and of the essential humanness of one's labour. One might well ask if present thinking about secondary and post-secondary education has begun to put a priority on capital over wisdom.

With the denigration of the arts and the sanctification of the "practical," who will be challenged to ask the larger questions? Is the battleground for Quebec to be fought outside of Quebec on purely financial grounds? Who will defend the rights of the unemployed, the underemployed, the marginalized? In a society motivated principally by free market principles, who will be the champion of human dignity? In a society which celebrates the rights of the individual, who will help shape the conscience of the leaders of industry, of the builders of bridges and bank towers, of the individual Canadian intent on doing the right thing? In an environment where tuition fees have reached mythical proportions for the less wealthy, will the important decisions shaping the Canada of tomorrow rest more and more in the hands of a social elite and less and less in the hands of the average Canadian? Should the conscience of the nation, the national soul, really emerge from the board rooms of Bay Street and the research laboratories of big business?

One would like to think that there is more to our Canadian consciousness than the quest for market share and the maximizing of profit. There used to be—not too long ago. One might well stop and wonder: who has been the beneficiary of the free market drive to downsize, to lower inflation, to beat back the deficit, to shift onto the backs of the individual what used to be the responsibility of the state? Has the cost been too high? Are there better ways of putting our books in order? If to de-regulate is to abandon the rules, one has to wonder: Are there no rules after all? ☪

## *New Trellis system triples library resources*

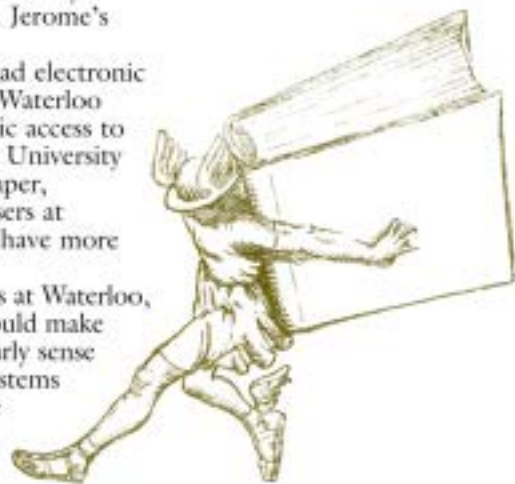
**W**hen Trellis was officially launched this September, it tripled the library resources available to St. Jerome's faculty, staff, and students.

"Our students, who already had electronic access to the entire University of Waterloo library system, now have electronic access to the collections of Laurier and the University of Guelph as well," says Gary Draper, St. Jerome's librarian. "Library users at Guelph and Laurier will, in turn, have more awareness of St. Jerome's."

About two years ago, librarians at Waterloo, Laurier, and Guelph decided it would make good financial, staffing, and scholarly sense to replace their aging computer systems with a single new one. They chose the Voyager system, capable of handling cataloguing, acquisition, and circulation for all three libraries in the TriUniversity Group, and they named it Trellis, to suggest the intertwining of three thriving library systems.

The outcome is easy access to a combined collection of more than three million titles. A St. Jerome's student who needs a book from the Guelph University library, for example, simply clicks on the "request" button in the electronic catalogue and chooses the St. Jerome's library as the pickup point.

Besides the standard author, title, subject, and call number searches, users can do an advanced search by entering a series of words related to the topic. Trellis displays all the matches it finds, ranked in order of relevance. Bibliographic research is also simplified, with links to CD-ROM databases and electronic journals, indexes, abstracts, and other on-line publications all on the Trellis home page. ☪



## **Meet the president-elect**

**T**he decision of the St. Jerome's University Presidential Search Committee was unanimous: Michael W. Higgins is to be the next president of St. Jerome's University, starting July 1, 1999, following Doug Letson's 10 years in the job. Higgins, a professor of English and Religious Studies at St. Jerome's since 1982, has held nearly every administrative post imaginable, including vice-president and academic dean, as well as being first director of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience. He is well known as an author, broadcaster, editor, and columnist, writing and speaking on religious and ethical issues. ☪

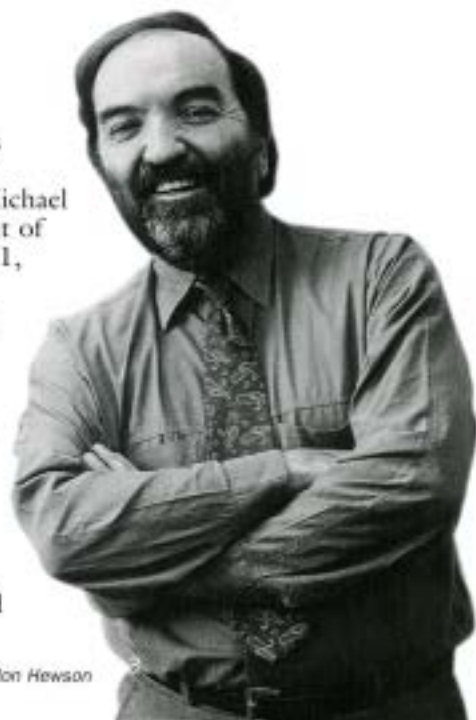
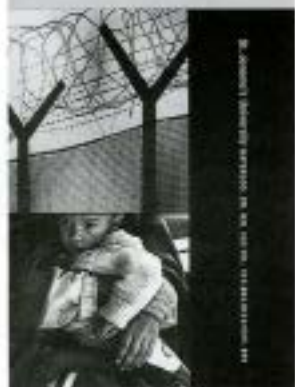


Photo: Ron Hewson



the  
Realworld

### 1999 St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience events

#### January 29

*Five on the Floor and  
Shifting for the Lord*

The Blue Grass Gospel  
Tradition. Musical perfor-  
mance, with lecture by  
Professor Jim Reimer of  
Conrad Grebel College.

#### March 5

*Culture, Spirituality, and  
Economic Development:  
Opening a Dialogue*

The 1998/99 Ignatian  
Lecture, with Fr. William  
Ryan, S.J.

#### March 19

*Catholic Education:  
A Venerable Tradition  
With New Challenges*

The Catholic School Board  
Lecture, with Monika  
Hellwig, Executive Director  
of the Association of  
Catholic Colleges and  
Universities in the U.S.

# Presenting the real world of Roman Catholicism

Being the new director of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience is like being a new parent, David Seljak says—"A lot more fun and a lot more work than I thought."

The fun part is working with the speakers, "dealing with people who are extraordinary—creative, talented, committed. Their energy is contagious." The work includes negotiating lecture topics and dates, rounding up chairs for an overflow audience, and sometimes getting up at four a.m. to drive a speaker to the airport. Seljak credits SJCE secretary Carol Persin, Father Jim Link and Melinda Szilva of the

chaplains, and Religious Studies chair Cristina Vanin for making the final result a success.

This season's theme, the Real World of Roman Catholicism, reflects Seljak's interest in "street-level Catholicism" and social justice. The speakers are all involved in "real world" issues—illness and dying, capital punishment, third-world poverty, education.

"In the real world, Catholicism often looks different from the way it's described in textbooks," Seljak says. "Words on a page are two-dimensional. This series is about the three-dimensional reality of the love of God." ☪

## Comings and goings

St. Jerome's has seen several arrivals and departures since the last issue of *SJU Update* was published, including the following.

- In April, J.A. Loftus announced that he was leaving St. Jerome's to assume the presidency of Regis College, the Jesuit graduate faculty of theology at the Toronto School of Theology.
- In July, Jack Griffin retired as director of development. Dave Augustyn agreed to assume the role of acting director of development until the conclusion of the St. Jerome's capital campaign in June 1999.
- Helen Heimpel, Campus Ministry secretary for 13 years, retired in August in order to stay

home and take care of her grandson, who was born in April of this year.

- Jim DiGioia, an external liaison officer for two years, also left in August, to accept a position as office manager at Ontario Table and Chair.
- Carol Persin, who worked for many years for the Waterloo Region Separate School Board, has replaced Helen Heimpel as University Catholic Community secretary and assistant to the director of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience.
- Megan Shore, a senior student currently completing a degree in Religious Studies, and Brent Charette, a St. Jerome's grad and former Student Union President, were hired for the fall term to do secondary school liaison.
- In early November, Marianne Rose, St. Jerome's friendly and helpful receptionist for many years, left SJU to become an assistant to the registrar at Renison College. ☪



Helen Heimpel

## Talking to drug pushers

With the help of a \$7,000 grant from the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption at Osgoode Law School, York University, Fred



Photo: Ron Newsom

Desroches, a professor of sociology at St. Jerome's, is talking to drug pushers. Working jointly with the RCMP, Desroches, who is studying high-level drug dealers and drug importers in Canada, has been conducting interviews with convicts in Canadian penitentiaries,

mainly in Ontario. A preliminary research report should be ready by the end of the year.

Since he joined the faculty at St. Jerome's in 1979, Desroches has published many articles and conference papers on the sociology of crime and deviance, and two books: *Force and Fear: Robbery in Canada* in 1995 and *Behind the Bars: Experiences in Crime* in 1996. ☪

## Our first Fellow

Scott Vanstone recently became the first St. Jerome's professor to win the highest honour that can be awarded to a Canadian scholar. He has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the 116-year-old academy of sciences and letters.

Vanstone, a professor of mathematics and computer science, was honoured for his work in cryptography, the writing and deciphering of codes—an ancient art and science that's been revitalized since computers came into wide use for transmitting private information. He holds the NSERC/Pitney Bowes Chair in the Centre for Applied Cryptographic Research and is chief cryptographer at Certicom, a leading developer of cryptographic technologies. ☪



Photo: Brynn Gladding



# Eric McCormack serves up a gruesome treat

When Eric McCormack chose the title *Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast* for his 1998 Friends of the Library talk, he had no idea what he was actually going to say. By the time he was standing at the lectern in the Modern Languages Theatre on May 6, he still hadn't found a follow-up for the White Queen's maxim.

Instead, he treated his audience to a reading from his first book, *Inspecting the Vaults*. The excerpt, delivered in McCormack's good-humoured style, with an undisguised relish for the creeping horror of the tale, describes how a doctor murders his wife, cuts up the body, and surgically conceals the pieces in the bodies of his living children and the family dog. The children are understandably ill; the dog dies.

McCormack followed that up with a humour-laced account of his childhood in a poverty-stricken Scottish mining village, where kids who wore underwear were considered snobs and where you were likely to get beaten up if you were seen with books under your arm. Yet books were lavishly available in the local library, where McCormack began his love affair with language.

Such impossible but compellingly believable episodes as the one McCormack describes in the story he read to the Friends of the Library often crop up in his fiction. The characters live in a dark world of disease, madness, mutilation, and death, lit by flashes of hilarity. Those who don't die struggle on towards some sort of light, or learn to live with the nightmares.

His books are *Inspecting the Vaults* (1987), shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize; *The Paradise Motel* (1989), winner of the Scottish Council Book Prize; *The Mysterium* (1992); and *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women* (1997). *First Blast*

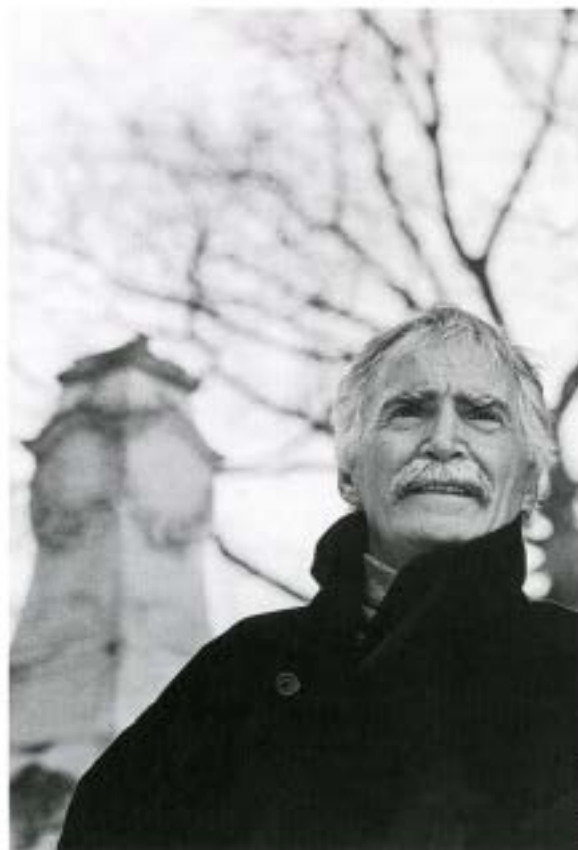


Photo: Ron Hewson

(the title is a satirical reference to John Knox's diatribe against female rulers) was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award. McCormack arrived in Canada in 1966 and has been teaching English literature at St. Jerome's University since 1970. ☺

## Grail is generally excellent

**G**rail: An Ecumenical Journal edited by Michael W. Higgins, academic dean of St. Jerome's University, and published by Novalis at St. Paul University, Ottawa, has again won a number of awards.

In awarding *Grail* First Place for General Excellence—Scholarly, the Catholic Press Association described the journal as "a thoroughly engaging magazine that combines appealingly soft images with powerful ecumenical messages and perspective." *Grail* also won First Place for Best Cover, for the December 1997 issue; First Place for Best Article—Scholarly, for Susan M. Day's article, "Moral Vision and the Grotesque: Another Look at Flannery O'Connor's Novel *Wise Blood*;" Second Place for Best Article—Scholarly, for Patrick F. O'Connell's article, "Merton on the Eve of the Third Millennium;"

and Second Place for Best Interview, for an interview with Gregory Baum by Michael W. Higgins and Douglas R. Letson.

As well, the Canadian Church Press Association awarded *Grail* an Honourable Mention for General Excellence, Specialized Magazines and First Prize for Theological Reflection (Doctrinal) for Diane Bisson's "Towards an Inclusive Community."

*Grail* will complete 14 years of continuous publication this December, after which it will cease publication in its current form. Novalis will be launching a new journal that will build on *Grail's* strengths and considerable accomplishments. ☺

AN ECUMENICAL JOURNAL



## Want more Merton?

Thomas Merton's life will be the subject of a series of Ideas programs, written by Michael Higgins, which will air on CBC Radio One on December 2, 9, and 16, 1998 at 9:00 p.m. Merton will be played by well known actor R.H. Thomson and composer Peter Togni has written an original score for the series.

"Magnetic North/True North: Geography Beyond Boundaries," a symposium put together by the International Thomas Merton Society, will be held at St. Jerome's University June 10-13, 1999.

# A celebration of Thomas Merton

The first sign that the event taking place at St. Jerome's on the evening of October 2 was to be no ordinary book launch was the sight of Michael W. Higgins in a tuxedo, chatting with well-wishers and signing copies of his new book, *Heretic Blood: The Spiritual Geography of Thomas Merton*. Michael's elegant appearance alone would have distinguished the evening as remarkable, but there was more. There was a buzz of excitement in the air as guests sipped wine and chatted with each other, anticipating the main event of the evening: the premiere performance of a musical composition commissioned especially for the occasion.

At 8 o'clock, guests made their way to the community centre to hear *Song: Contemplation*, composed and conducted by Alfred Kunz. The words of Thomas Merton wove through the piece, which featured performances by reader Rae Crossman, soloists Kevin Bradshaw and Jennifer Black, the K-W Philharmonic Chamber Choir and members of two choirs conducted by Kunz: Music Alive and the Nith Valley Singers. By turns hauntingly

beautiful and disturbingly discordant, the composition brought together, in the words of Michael Higgins, "order and accident, dissonance and harmony, the renegade and the devout, the innovative and the classical"—a fitting tribute to Merton.

Thirty years after his death, Thomas Merton—monk, poet, social critic, sage, artist, and rebel—continues to defy neat classification. "Merton is no pseudo-saint, nor is he likely to be canonized," writes Michael Higgins in his introduction to *Heretic Blood*. "He is the consummate post-modern holy one: flawed, anti-institutional, a voice for the voiceless. But he is also a classical traditionalist: centred, obedient, in search of stability." A guide to the life and thought of Merton, Higgins' book is "a primer for those eager to know more about Merton but intimidated by the sheer volume of his writings."

*Heretic Blood: The Spiritual Geography of Thomas Merton*, by Michael Higgins, can be ordered through the University of Waterloo bookstore, (519) 888-4567, ext. 2902, bookstore@bg1.uwaterloo.ca



Photo: Ron Hewson

Above: The main event of the evening was the premiere performance of a musical composition commissioned especially for the occasion: *Song: Contemplation*, by Alfred Kunz.



Right: Friends look on as Michael Higgins signs a copy of *Heretic Blood: The Spiritual Geography of Thomas Merton*.

Photo: Ron Hewson



# Extending our reach

St. Jerome's is one of three universities collaborating on a new Web-based course which will explore religion and ecology

"You hear a lot about threats to Christianity these days," says David Seljak. "But in the 21st century the greatest threat to the church will be that most of it will be under water. Or there simply won't be any people left."

Seljak, an assistant professor of religious studies at St. Jerome's University, is the director of Religion and Ecology, the first co-operative Internet course to be offered for credit by the Canadian Catholic Colleges and Universities (CCCU). The course is a collaboration among St. Jerome's University, St. Thomas More College in Saskatchewan, and King's College in London, Ontario. Under the technical direction of Steve Furino, associate professor of mathematics at St. Jerome's, the course is steadily taking shape and should be ready for its scheduled starting date of September 1999.

Religion and Ecology will be the first of many courses to be available to CCCU members through the Internet. A course on medical ethics and one on native studies are next on the agenda. Web-based teaching allows Catholic institutions to pool resources and augment their programs without having to hire new instructors, an important consideration in these cash-strapped times.

Collaborating with partners across the country is not easy, Furino says. Most of the technical meetings are conducted through telephone or computer conferencing. But the main problem is momentum. "It's hard to keep people in three or four institutions, all of whom have other jobs to do, moving along a single track."

Seljak, who has taught a class called *The Sacred Earth* at St. Jerome's for two years, says the new course fills a gap. Not many Catholic colleges offer courses on environmental ethics. And it's a natural choice for Catholic institutions, "given the nature of the crisis." He uses the title of a work by environmentalist Paul Hawken—*The God of Life and the Death of Birth*—to sum up the crisis. Many scientists say we are threatened with a massive dying-off of species, as air, earth, and water become more and more toxic. Some predict that our world will eventually become so hostile to life that animals, including humans, will no longer be able to give birth.

Scientists like David Suzuki have been pointing out the irrationality of economic values that reduce a clear-cut forest to a series of pluses on a balance sheet and record none of the damage to the ecosystem. Biologists have raised the alarm about the disappearance of frog populations. Frogs, they say, are today's global equivalent of the canaries that miners used to take into coal mines to give warning of when the air was starting to become unbreathable.

Although the course will build partly on the work of secular scientists, Seljak emphasizes that, at bottom, the issues are theological. "Theology is about life and death, or it's about nothing. To

worship the God of life is to stand against death in all its manifestations: poverty, racism, imperialism, and environmental degradation."

The course defines the ecological crisis as a crisis of spirituality, explores the values of the dominant political and economic structures that led to the crisis, and looks at the role of world religions in the debate. There is an emphasis on how people and societies can change their behaviour. Asked whether effective change is possible, Seljak says he's not optimistic about the short term, but he is hopeful. "That's the lesson of the crucifixion, to hold onto hope even in the darkest times. I expect we will have to go through a real crisis before we change our ways. But redemption is always possible. Life always has the final word."

As course director, Seljak will call on the expertise of historians, philosophers, sociologists, biologists, environmental scientists, and environmental activists to supplement his own sociological approach. "Each will bring a different perspective to the course." They may appear as guest lecturers or in short video clips within Seljak's lectures. But nobody is sure, yet, exactly how this first course will look. "It's a test case," Furino says. "There will be a fair amount of learning on our part." Furino is testing several different delivery methods. "Live streaming" allows a speaker to interact with students across the country in "real time" through the computer at a fraction of the cost of bringing the speaker in person to any given institution. CD-ROMs are another option. Desktop-to-desktop videoconferencing might suit graduate seminars. Because the cost of the technologies has come down from thousands of dollars to hundreds in recent years, all are feasible.

Both Furino and Seljak emphasize the need to retain the immediate, face-to-face give-and-take that is such a large part of the excitement of the live classroom and so easy to lose in distance learning. They hope to schedule discussion groups in which students can actually talk to each other, live and on-line. "When the technology works," Furino says, "it means we'll be doing things we couldn't even dream of doing 25 years ago. For students, it means new ways of learning they couldn't have anticipated." ☺



Photo: Ron Hewson

New technology will allow David Seljak, director of the new Religion and Ecology course, to call on the expertise of historians, philosophers, sociologists, biologists, environmental scientists, and environmental activists across the country.



# Not allowed?

Bioethicist Father Mark Miller explores the subject of faith and ethics in the work place

If Catholics feel beleaguered these days, afraid of losing their identity in an overwhelmingly secular world, they can take heart at the thought that it's happened before. Think of how St. Jerome must have felt in 410 when he learned that Rome, the centre of Christendom, had fallen to the Goths.

At the end of the 20th century, says Father Mark Miller, CSsR, the secular world and faith communities occupy separate camps. Social

custom holds that it's fine to be religious, so long as you keep your beliefs personal and private. But there is no role for religion to play in the world, despite the fact that Christian communities have a long tradition of caring for the sick, feeding the poor, and educating the young.

At the same time, paradoxically,

there's a new emphasis on ethics in public life. Now more than ever, Miller holds, it's critical for Catholics to make their collective voice heard—because a host of tough new ethical issues is marching over the horizon, and secular society isn't equipped to handle them.

Miller's talk on September 18, entitled "Not Allowed?" *Faith and Ethics in the Work Place*, opened the 1998-99 St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience lecture series. As a bioethicist working in the health care system in Saskatchewan and Alberta, Miller deals every day with the moral and ethical issues faced by doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, and patients and their families. "My role is not to answer questions, but to set up communication among all those involved, and to help them understand the issues so they can make good

decisions." Beyond the hospital, he consults with church authorities on bioethical issues, writes a column for the *Prairie Messenger*, gives workshops to teachers and health workers, and has written two books on practical ethics.

"The challenge over the last 2,000 years has been to change with our society while remaining true to Christ and the Gospels," Miller says. The challenge that faces Catholics now began with the pluralism that grew up in the last few decades—a development good in itself, because it encourages respect for the beliefs of others. Unfortunately, this mutual respect has developed into something negative. "It's used as a club to stop any group from asserting itself as a faith group."

According to the ethos of the day, faith belongs at home. "The irony is that there's no such thing as a personal, private religion. We are a community." And that, Miller says, is the key to having an effective voice. "Catholic communal wisdom includes the resources to deal with today's ethical problems. But if we don't remain a community, we'll get squashed."

The problem is that pluralism has been confused with secularism. And there's an assumption that secularism is value-neutral, handy for use as common currency when we make decisions about our laws, our children's education, and the care of our sick. "This is a myth. In the public sphere, religious ethics has been replaced by the religion of secularism."

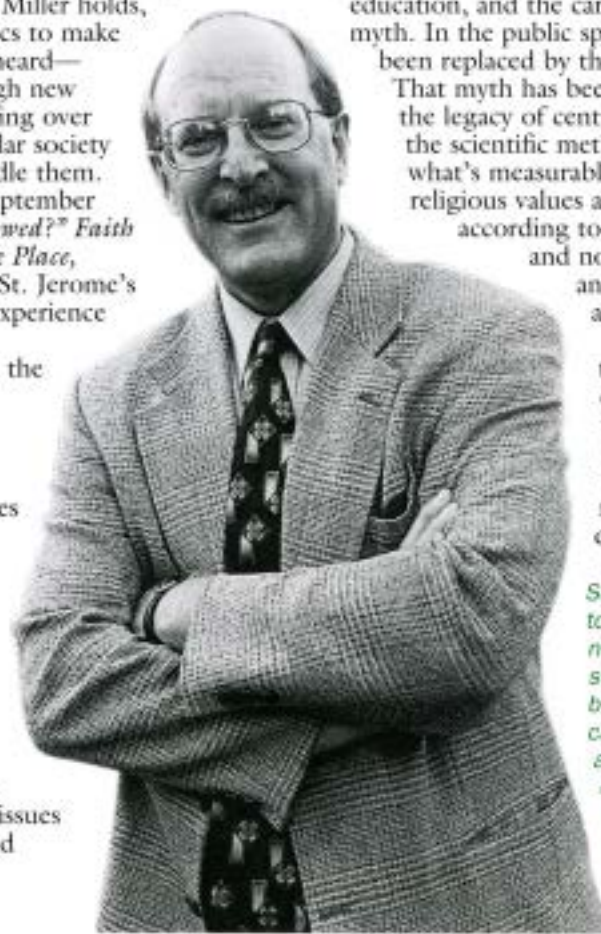
That myth has been reinforced by another, the legacy of centuries of thought steeped in the scientific method: the myth that only what's measurable is real. Moral, ethical, and religious values are immeasurable and so, according to this myth, are subjective and not quite real. It follows that anybody's values are as good as anybody else's.

Miller says this myth has trivialized the spiritual dimension of life and left us ill-equipped to deal with death and dying. And when it comes to sex and marriage, the notion that everyone can define their

*Secular society isn't equipped to handle the host of tough new ethical issues we're facing, says Father Mark Miller, a bioethicist working in the health care system in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Now more than ever it's critical for Catholics to make their collective voice heard.*

Photo: Ron Hewson

*"My job is to respect the grey areas and do my best to deal with the reality of people's lives when they are suffering. Issues may seem to be black and white, but I've found often that the more you get to know the person involved, the more grey areas you find."*





own values has done enormous damage to relationships, the family, children, and communities.

Ironically, he foresees that science may become the hotbed for a new ethical flowering. The scientific and technological advances of the last half-century blurred the boundaries between life and death and gave us new powers to intervene at the beginning and end of life. A whole new crop of ethical issues sprang out of these technologies. Health care workers, scientists, clergy, and laity started re-thinking the right and wrong of how we deal with fertility, genetic disease, transplants, and terminal illness.

Today, ethics is one of the fastest-growing career fields, Miller says. People specialize in ethics for business, law, the environment, and medicine. There is some hope that all this ethical ferment will produce a common language to help us deal with the new problems.

With all those specialized ethicists, why do we need Catholic hospitals, schools, and colleges? Why, in fact, should Catholics be allowed to speak, as Catholics, in the public forum?

Because, Miller answers, Catholics and people in other faith communities have something important to add to the ethical debate—something that's not being addressed by the "religion of secularism." Catholic values are based on natural law, which holds that the world and all its creatures are good because they were made by God, and it's up to us to protect them.

"Our faith is the deepest dimension of ourselves, and that is where our convictions come from about what it is to be human, and how we live that humanness." That being so, it's hardly fair to ask Catholics to treat their faith as irrelevant when they engage in public debate.

Nor should they. Catholics have a job to do, Miller says. "We are the leaven in the dough. To give that up is to abandon God's work. I believe the bread is rising more healthily because we are there, willing to speak and to be who we ought to be."

### **The real world of Catholic health care**

The following day, Father Miller conducted a one-day workshop at St. Jerome's. About 60 people—mainly hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, palliative care and home workers, hospital chaplains, and parish lay workers—registered for *The Real World of Catholic Health Care*.

Miller wore a black-and-white tie ("the modern version of the Roman collar") with a grey shirt: a deliberate choice to illustrate a theme he introduced the night before. "My job is to respect the grey areas and do my best to deal with the reality of people's lives when they are suffering. Issues may seem to be black and white, but I've found often that the more you get to know the



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's General Hospital  
Photographer: Doug Wood

person involved, the more grey areas you find."


Four sessions explored medical ethics, the church's position on new reproductive technologies, care for the dying, and the use of "hard cases" in making ethical decisions. The common thread in all four was that the church supports the value of human life in all its manifestations—the unborn child, the terminal cancer patient, the chronic MS sufferer, the adult with Down's Syndrome.

Part of the church's task is to preserve what's good from the past, Miller told his audience.

"This is something we're very poor at defending — but we are preserving what it is to be human.

This is going to be the fundamental question of the 21st century."

As we head into the new millennium, a whole new set of issues is appearing over the horizon, heralded by a sheep named Dolly and her clones. These issues were the stuff of science fiction a few years ago: brain transplants, human clones, xenografts—blends of human and animal genes. Not far behind are genetically enhanced children. If we can do it, should we? Who will decide?

We will have to be very strong as a community, Miller says, and remain true to our mandate to preserve the meaning of what it is to be human if we hope to offer convincing answers to such questions. 

*"Our faith is the deepest dimension of ourselves, and that is where our convictions come from about what it is to be human, and how we live that humanness."*



# Recruitment goes high-tech

*Bringing the sights and sounds of St. Jerome's to high school students*

*"As far as we know, only one or two other universities in Ontario are using CDs for recruitment," says Dana Woito, St. Jerome's registrar.*

*This year, the recruitment team at St. Jerome's is taking a new high-tech approach. Ready to hit the road with computer in hand are Megan Shore, Brent Charette, Andrea Fryer, and Dana Woito.*

Starting this winter, high school students who are trying to decide where to go and what to do next will have a good idea of what St. Jerome's University is like without setting foot on campus. They will be able to browse through a CD-ROM enlivened with sound and video to get the basics about the university, find out what some of their professors are like, and take a virtual stroll across campus.

"We believe we're something of a pioneer in this," says Dana Woito, St. Jerome's registrar. "As far as we know, only one or two other universities in Ontario are using CDs for recruitment."

Any student who sends in a reply card from a St. Jerome's brochure with the "access to CD-ROM technology" box ticked off will receive a copy of the new CD. Students without computers at home can usually find one at their high school guidance office, where they will also find a copy of the CD. The disk will supplement an assortment of print materials designed to help students make informed choices about their futures.

About two years ago, President Letson and mathematics professor Steven Furino began exploring the idea of creating a CD. It was a logical next step after the success of the St. Jerome's website, Letson says. And it seemed an opportune way of sending the recruitment message, with more and more students using computers and CD-ROM drives.

To view the CD, you use the mouse to point-and-click your way through the "tree" of information levels. You'll find sections on programs, scholarships, residence, career opportunities, location, and how to apply. "We've kept the information brief and to the point: you can get what you need from it," Woito says.

Video clips show students and faculty members talking about life at St. Jerome's and graduates talking about their jobs. A virtual tour of the campus matches still photos with clips of ambient sound: quiet conversation in a residence room, the

bustle of mealtime in the community centre, ducks quacking near a bridge over Laurel Creek.

"You get a feel for the campus in a way you can't from print materials," Letson observes.

Furino is the project's technical director. He says they learned a lot while testing the CD on at least 40 different types of computers. Load time and sound glitches were more common with PCs, with their varied cards and drivers, than with Macs. However, most machines newer than four years old offered few problems.


Letson, Furino and Woito produced the CD with the professional help of Spencer Francey Peters, a Toronto media design company. The up-front work was expensive, Woito says, because the project had a number of media dimensions, including photography and videotaping, that made it time-consuming and costly to produce. She found that working on the content of a CD is very different from editing print text because you have to keep in mind several levels of information at once: the immediate text and the areas to which it's linked. "You have to think and work in 3-D."

Once the master disk has been pressed, however, it costs very little to press copies—as little as \$2 each. Initially, 5,000 disks will be pressed. Woito estimates that the CD will have a shelf life of two to three years. "At that point we'll make any needed changes, and we will also look at how pervasively CDs are being used."

"Student recruitment has changed dramatically in recent years," Letson says. "It's important that post-secondary institutions not just keep pace with change but be on the cusp of student interest. This CD tells people that St. Jerome's is a humanitarian institution that also understands the value of technology in the contemporary world."

In line with this philosophy, Brent Charette and Megan Shore, St. Jerome's two full-time high school liaison travellers, developed a new PowerPoint presentation to take on their visits to about 200 Ontario high schools this fall.

Using a laptop computer, projector, and speakers, and furnished with a screen or white wall, they can illustrate their text with video and sound clips and with still images. Breaking up a 45-minute talk into digestible chunks, and bringing more than one voice into the presentation, makes it more lively and interesting, an effective way of sending a message to high school students.

"This is a video-savvy generation," Woito says. And the travellers report that the new, high-tech approach has been working. The students are focused and interested, and their questions after the presentations show that the sights and sounds of St. Jerome's have made an impression. 





# CLASS notes

**'57** A hand-lettered "certificate of philosophy" from St. Jerome's, dated 1957, still hangs proudly on Warren F. Kimball's office wall. He came to St. Jerome's for Latin and philosophy and completed all the requirements for a degree (then awarded by the University of Ottawa) except French. Warren is now the Robert Treat Professor of History at Rutgers University. "The endless stream of philosophy courses have long since congealed in my mind, although I can still see Father Murphy flamboyantly writing out his entire lecture on the blackboard with the repeated advice: 'Memorize this and you'll get an A.'" But, Warren adds, "I not only learned how to study and even think a little, but what intellectual self-discipline I have come from the St. Jerome's experience." It wasn't easy being an American in Canada. When he tried out for the student hockey team, he saw other students skating backwards faster than he could skate forwards. So he volunteered to be goalie. "In the pre-Plante days that wasn't safer, but it was less humiliating." (Jacques Plante, a goalie for Montreal, invented the goalie mask.)

**'63** William G. Godfrey (BA'63, History, MA'66, History) is married to Rhianna Edwards and living in New Brunswick, where he is a professor of history at Mount Allison University.

**'66** A varied career that included 14 years of teaching led Peter Birrell (BA'66, French; York BA'84, Translation) to his current interesting job. He works for Scotiabank as a translator, "mainly French to English, of medical, legal, financial, and miscellaneous general documents." Peter lives in Orangeville, Ontario.

**'68** Joanne Kraemer (née Koebel, BA'68) owns her own insurance business, a Co-operators Insurance franchise in Waterloo, employing two full-time staff.

**'69** A graduate of MIT's Sloan School of Management, Peter J. Warrian (BA'69, Sociology; MA'71 History; PhD'86, History) has worked for the United Steelworkers of America and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and was executive director of the Canadian Steel Trade and Employment Congress. From 1992 to 1994 Peter served as chief economist for the province of Ontario. Currently, Peter is president of LM Informatics, chairman of the board of CTI Training Services, a partner in both Medalta Advanced Ceramics and Zoomit International Corporation, and chairman of the Virtual Institute.



John G. Zablocki (BA'68, History) is a busy man. Not only is he a history specialist with the Hamilton Wentworth Board of Education, he has helped build "a world class sports plantation" in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina, and spends

considerable time travelling to sunny spots in the southern United States on business with the tourist industry. As a volunteer, he's been busy with environmental concerns like the return of the peregrine falcon and the survival of the loggerhead sea turtle.

The job from which Joseph Mayhew (BA'69, English) recently retired—librarian in Greenbelt, Maryland—obviously absorbed only part of his energy. His critical writings, cartoons, and science fiction have appeared in major publications such as the *Washington Post*, *Analog*, and *Asimov's*. And he's been nominated, for the fourth time, for a Hugo—science fiction's top award. "Several of my short stories have 'Canadian content;' one is even set in the K-W area, another takes place partially at St. Jerome's, soon to be published in *Aboriginal SF*."

**'70** Greg Humbert (BA'70, English) was recently hired by the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) in Ottawa for research and special projects. Greg writes, "this new role resulted from the fact that I had been doing contract work for them in a variety of fields from writing/research in health policy and ethics, to reports on any number of topics." Greg is also active in the Ottawa Chapter of the St. Jerome's Graduates' Association.

After being ordained in 1949, Frank Reitzel, C.R. (MPhil'70, English) spent his early years studying and teaching English. In 1983 he began doing pastoral work at St. Francis Church in Kitchener, and in 1988 he was posted to St. Patrick Church, Bermuda, as parish priest and Vicar General of the Diocese of Hamilton. Lately he's also been writing a column for the local newspaper and trying his hand at poetics. Fr. Frank turned 75 in May.

## Flynn wins!

Pat Flynn (BA'68, English), partner with Flynn & Sorbara Lawyers in Kitchener, proudly displays the sweatshirt he won by sending in his business card. You too can win a brand new St. Jerome's University sweatshirt by simply mailing your business card to Dave Augustyn, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, by February 1, 1999. We'll enter your name in the draw and include your card in a display at St. Jerome's.



Monica Beauparlant and Jennifer Prosser were just two participants in St. Jerome's 23rd annual Charity Run. The event raised a total of \$6,200 for the Volunteer Action Centre, a group that matches volunteers with 120 non-profit agencies in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

Photo: Tim Gardner, Waterloo Chronicle

Photo: Dave Augustyn



# CLASS notes

**'72** After graduation, **Antonette Bousquet (née Krawczyk, BA'72, French)** continued to expand her menu of skills through further training, and is now working in Calgary as assistant vice-president of national accounts for the Diners Club.

As records manager for the Canadian Blood Secretariat, **Joyce Meek (née Tinney, BA'72, History)** is responsible for, among other things, maintaining the information submitted by Health Canada to the Krever Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada. Most of her time, she says, is spent in the research, retrieval, cataloguing, and preparation of material to support Health Canada's position in various litigations involving blood.

**'73** **Margaret M. Downey (née Renner, BA'73, English)** went on to Hamilton Teacher's College after St. Jerome's. After spending some time raising her four children, she is now supply teaching for the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

**'74** **James M. Corrigan (BA'74; BA'76, Psychology)** started working for himself in 1990, when he founded Corrigan Insurance and Benefits Planning.

His firm has grown to eight people, including three producing partners. And how is the family? "I am now married, with two beautiful children: Daniel, 12, and Nicole, 9." James and his family live in Whitby.

**'77** **Marny Beale (BA'77, English)** left a position as principal of Lester B. Pearson Catholic School in Toronto to become president of the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario.

Before her recent retirement, **Ann Marie Sehl (BA'77)** served on the Waterloo Catholic District School Board for five years as public affairs facilitator, and for 17 years as elected representative, with terms as vice-chair and chair. Ann Marie and her husband Jim live in Waterloo.

**'78** "It is quite an honour to be acknowledged by your peers," admits **Teresa Anne Gesuale (née Deppisch, BA'78, History)**. Teresa, who is department head, special education, at St. Anne's High School in Tecumseh, Ontario was one of four recipients of a Teacher of the Year award from the local chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children.

**Henrietta Versluis (née Vervoort, BA'78, French)** spent the first five years after graduation in the insurance industry, with a brief move to Alberta sparked by wanderlust. Back in Toronto, she met her husband Martin, and for the next 12 years was busy with the family greenhouse business, and with their two children: Chris, 13, and Ali, 10. The last two years, Henrietta and Martin have been running Marrch Mechanical Service in Oshawa, "and are much the happier for it!"

**'79** After graduation, **Diane Marie Dewan (née Warren, BA'79)** earned a BED and then taught with the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board for 10 years. Dianne retired from full-time work with the board in 1992 in order to raise her children, but still teaches continuing education courses. The Dewans live in Mississauga.

"No two days are the same for me," says **Ruthann Susan Fisher (BA'79, English)**. "That's what attracts me and keeps me in this ministry." Ruthann is administrative assistant at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Kitchener. After a period of uncertainty following graduation, she decided to combine her faith and her work, connecting fully with this aim after taking a three-year theology program at Resurrection Centre in Waterloo.

**'81** As co-owners of MACS Promotions, **Alicia Martinello (BA'81, History)** and her husband represent soccer players at the professional level in Europe and North America. This year they held their second annual Manchester United camp in Toronto, led by youth coaches from the famous team. "Last year a player was scouted by United and is currently the under-20 keeper for Canada!"

**Lyn McNiffe (BA'81)** worked for more than two years as a credit counsellor at the Catholic Family Counselling Centre and then for four years as director of Marilac Place, an emergency shelter for women. Now, as a caseworker for Ontario Works in Waterloo, she helps clients work towards self-sufficiency. Lyn is also an active member of the St. Jerome's Graduates' Association Executive Team.



Graduates and friends of St. Jerome's inspect the vines at Konzelmann Estates, one of the stops on this year's Annual SJU Wine Tour. The group also visited the Chateau des Charmes and Reif Estates wineries and briefly explored the quaint shops in the village of Niagara-on-the-Lake.



# CLASS notes

85

**Barbara Voisin (née Kraemer, BA'85, Psychology and Sociology; Western BEd'86)** teaches at Immaculate Conception School in Formosa,

Ontario. Barbara and husband Glen have two children: Bobbi, 9, and Tommy, 7. Barb recalls being particularly shy when she started university, and "St. Jerome's provided me with small classes, friendly people and quality education. A big 'Thank you' to everyone there!"

86

**For Darcy Brioux (BA'86, Recreation)** and his wife Susan, life has suddenly become a lot busier and more exciting. Jasmine Elizabeth Grace was

born December 28, 1997. Darcy is manager of leadership development in the Faculty of Physical Education and Health at the University of Toronto.

After their wedding in December 1993, **Lida Cepuch (BMath'86, Computer Science)** and her husband Ian Richmond moved to London, England. Ian works at AT&T as a manager and Lida directs the warrants business at Bankers Trust. On March 3, 1998, their first child, Catherine Ann Cepuch Richmond, was born. "She's seven pounds six ounces and beautiful!" Lida reports. "As we have lived in England for more than four years she will have dual citizenship—UK and Canadian."

## Do you know a distinguished grad?

*Nominations are being accepted for the 1999 Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award. Named in honour of one of St. Jerome's past-presidents, the award was established by the Graduates' Association to recognize St. Jerome's graduates who have made an outstanding contribution to their career or field of endeavour; their community, province, or country; their church; or St. Jerome's. Please forward your nomination to Dave Augustyn, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs at St. Jerome's, by March 1, 1999.*

## SJU grads gather on the hill

Since the summer of 1997, a group of SJU graduates from Ottawa—Richard Slowikowski, Greg Humbert, Eva Kmiecic, Roxane Lapensée, George Martin, RoseMarie Morris, and Anita Ploj—have been meeting to establish a local chapter. From the beginning, the group has worked as a collective to help put St. Jerome's graduates in touch with one another, to heighten the profile of the university in the Ottawa area, and to plan and participate in events that contribute to some form of community service.

Needless to say, the group was delighted when

approximately 40 graduates, joined by Doug Letson, president of SJU, and Dave Augustyn, director of graduate affairs, gathered for the Ottawa Chapter's inaugural event in early June. The evening provided an opportunity to share memories and get "caught up." But it also provided, by means of a voluntary "offering" from the graduates, \$247 for the Ottawa Food Bank.

If you live in the Ottawa area and are interested in participating in upcoming events, contact Richard Slowikowski at (613) 952-7877, or Brad Kelly (wbkelly@chat.carleton.ca).



Photo: Patrick LaFontaine

Posing in front of the Parliament Buildings at the inaugural Ottawa Chapter event are (front row, from left to right) Richard Slowikowski (BA'78, English); Anita Ploj (BA'87, English); Elham Shamsian; Roxane Lapensée (BMath'95, Combinatorics & Optimization); Dave Augustyn (BA'95, Political Science); (second row) Robert Zuccherato (BMath'92, Combinatorics & Optimization; PhD'97, C & O); Laila Zuccherato (née Svekis, BMath'93, Mathematics); St. Jerome's President Doug Letson (BA'62, English); Anne Bisson (née Johnson, BA'80, English); Shaun Mullaly (BSc'91); (third row) Stan Granic (BA'87, Philosophy; BA'89, Philosophy); Brad Kelly (BA'97, Political Science); Dale Petruka (BA'87, Geography; BA'90, Geography); Eva Kmiecic (BA'75, History); RoseMarie Morris (MA'69, English); Greg Humbert (BA'70, English); and (fourth row) Rob Danforth (BA'70, English); Richard Whitney (BA'89, Religious Studies); Ken Fenton (BA'77, English; BA'78, Religious Studies); Jeanne Cloutier (née Shankoff, BA'87); Bob Zettel (BMath'72, Mathematics); Stewart Cook (BA'80).



**'87** Brenda L. Kenyon (BA'87, Psychology; MA'89 Guelph, PhD'94 Concordia) has been

working on a television documentary, "Death: A personal understanding," which aired this fall on Vision TV. A clinical psychologist, Brenda has always been interested in how children understand death and grieve losses. When her brother died in January 1994, it changed the way she thought about dying. "It was an experience that, for me, suddenly shifted everything from a theoretical interest to an extremely personal process." The documentary series reflects this approach, looking at death in a highly personal manner. It is based on Brenda's popular distance education course on the psychology of death and dying which she teaches at the University of Guelph. Brenda is director of the Centre for Psychological Services at Guelph, a not-for-profit facility that provides psychological assessment and treatment.



Photo: Kitchener-Waterloo Record

**'88** After graduation, Laurie Ault (BA'88) took a few more courses at Wilfrid Laurier while working full time, and received her CMA designation in 1992. Laurie now lives in Brantford and works as a controller at Nu-Gro Corporation in Woodstock, Ontario.

In January 1998, Stephen Loughlin (BA'88, Philosophy) successfully defended his doctoral thesis in medieval philosophy at the University of Toronto. Stephen, who lives in Hamilton, is now a part-time senior lecturer in ethics at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York.

**'89** For ten years now, Christine Fischer Guy (BA'89, English, MA'90, English) has combined a career in corporate communications with

freelance journalism. Her work has appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Life*, *Homemakers Magazine*, and *Today's Parent*, among others. "My work takes me from big bank boardrooms to kitchen tables in small towns, and I love that about it," she says. "Since my son was born in July 1996, I've scaled things back so that I could add another facet to my career: each week, I'm a stay-at-home mom, a journalist, and a corporate communicator, in approximately equal measure. Having this kind of blend has made me the most satisfied I've ever been." Christine lives in Toronto.

A hiking accident in Lucerne, Switzerland, left Scott Koch (BA'89, Psychology) a paraplegic in August 1994. Scott had already received a Diploma in Accounting from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1992; in 1997 he received his designation as a Chartered Accountant. He now works as an investment advisor at Nesbitt Burns in Kitchener, Ontario.

"BC living is the best!" exults Mary-Jo Schropp (BA'89, Psychology). After working in Kelowna for three years, she began teaching at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Vancouver in the fall. "I am loving the lifestyle: snowboarding in the winter and rockclimbing and hiking in the mountains in the summer! I am missing my family and friends, but I sure don't miss those nasty winters!"

**'90** Anne Stephens (née Morrison, BA '90) came to St. Jerome's as a mature student to complete her degree on a part-time basis. She now teaches at Cedarbrae Public School in Waterloo. "As an educator who believes in and encourages life-long learning," she writes, "I exemplify my beliefs!"

Mary Lou Tucci (née Kennedy, BA'90) has put her career as a human resource coordinator on hold while raising her children, Kyla Danielle, 16 months, and Joseph Nicholas, born April 1. "My husband Vince and I are approaching our fourth wedding anniversary and love our life here in Toronto. There certainly isn't a dull moment these days but we wouldn't want it any other way!"

**'91** "Great news! It's a boy!" writes Trish Kerr (née Robinson, BA'91, Geography). "We welcomed our first child, Jonathon, on May 12, 1998." Trish returned to her job as conference consultant at Manulife Financial, Waterloo, in November, while her husband Jeff continues to work in Toronto as a territory manager for a company that manufactures and sells knee braces. "We are adjusting to life with a newborn," Trish adds, "but I think I am pulling more all-nighters now than I did during my SJC days!" St. Jerome's and Notre Dame pals can send e-mail to Trish at [pjkerr1@yahoo.com](mailto:pjkerr1@yahoo.com).

Robert McCubbin (BA'91, English) teaches high school drama and English in Mattawa,

## Van Sickle's travels lead him to publishing

After working as a social worker in Kitchener and travelling in Africa, Wayne Van Sickle (BMath'94, Mathematics; Renison BA'97, Social Development) started Stonecutter Press, his own publishing company. Wayne's first book—*Naturparkführer Algonquin Park Kanada, a guidebook about canoeing, maple syrup, and everything else that German tourists want to know about Ontario's Algonquin Park*—was published in July 1998. "My experience at St. Jerome's and my travels have helped me develop the discipline and the confidence that I need to write and publish my own books." To buy a copy of the book or just say hello, e-mail Wayne at [stonecut@hotmail.com](mailto:stonecut@hotmail.com).



Photo: Mark Staff, Image Power



# CLASS notes

Ontario. "My favourite teacher while attending SJC was Ted McGee," Robert recalls. "I try to put a little of his style, his knowledge, and his criticism theories into every one of my classes. Thanks, Ted!"

After working for eight years, part of the time as a payroll clerk for Bruce County, **Michelle Schmidt (née Kraemer, BA'91, Psychology)** is currently staying home to raise her children. She lives in Mildmay, Ontario.

When asked for his job title, **John Van Hees (BA'91, Philosophy)** answers simply, "Father." He hears it a lot. John is one of three priests in a church in Stoney Creek, one of the largest in Hamilton Diocese, serving "a wide diversity of people and ministries... close to 5,000 families, which works out to be around 12,000 to 14,000 people."

**Cheryl Worboy (BA'91, Psychology)** travelled to the Sunshine State to earn her BEd (University of South Florida in Tampa) and Master of Special Education (Florida Gulf Coast University) and is now a special education teacher at Central Elementary School in Clewiston, Florida.

'92 He's home at last. After completing his degree at St. Jerome's, **Glenn Breen (BA'92, Philosophy)** went to the University of St. Michael's College (Toronto) for a Master of Divinity (1995) then to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (Wilfrid Laurier) for a Master of Theology in Pastoral Counselling (1996). Since September of '96 he has worked as manager of pastoral care at the General Hospital in his native St. John's, Newfoundland.

**Christine Schnarr (née Prudnikowicz, BA'92, English)** has been managing the Stanley Park branch of the Kitchener Public Library for two years now. "I feel fortunate to have found a career that is interesting and challenging," Christine says. "The profession is evolving—librarians use computer technology as well as traditional print resources to help people find out what they need to know."

'93 **Kathleen Donohue (BA'93, English)** enjoys teaching French to students in grades 1-8 as well as the grade 2-3 program at Foundations Private School in Newmarket, Ontario. "The school is unique in that it has a small number of students and a student-teacher ratio of 12:1," Katie says. "St. Jerome's was simply a terrific place to spend four years. I will always treasure my time there!"

As a residential counsellor with the Dundas County Association for Community Living and a support worker for Developmental Services of Leeds and Grenville in Brockville, Ontario, **Michael Gaylord (BA'93, Psychology)** can honestly describe his work as tough but rewarding. Michael works with developmentally challenged adults in group homes, helping them with daily

living skills and activities that promote independence and community involvement.

**Todd Moor (BA'93, Psychology; Western BEd'95)** and his wife, Susan Ilkov-Moor (UW BSc'93, Psychology) are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Marianne Turtle Moor, on March 26, 1998. The family lives in Kingston where Susan is completing an MD at Queen's. Todd and his father, Dennis, have been travelling extensively, teaching wood carving and selling their line of tools, books, and videos as part of their wood carving business, Chipping Away. You can visit their website at <http://www.chippingaway.com> or send Todd an e-mail at [todd@chippingaway.com](mailto:todd@chippingaway.com).

**Anna Stante (BMath'93, Actuarial Science)** has left her job as an associate actuary at The Co-operators in Guelph for a new position in Minnesota with the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company. She moved to St. Paul in September with her husband John Beaton, who is working toward his PhD at the University of Minnesota.

As vice-president, sales and marketing for Lava Computer Manufacturing Inc., **Mike Wynnycky (BA'93, History; Cambridge MA'97, Politics)** supervises eight sales people and manages all marketing activities. Mike says his training in politics and philosophy have stood him in good stead, because they've helped him understand the way people think and react.

'94 **Adam Lee (BA'94, English)** has been working constantly since he left St. Jerome's, and enjoying it. After two years with CIBC as a technical writer and documentation specialist, he took a position designing interactive training guides for a Mississauga company that owns Just Vacations. "Travel is a nice perk (we tend to receive up to 75 per cent off air travel!) I spent some time in Holland and England and I am planning my next trip (Israel or Russia)."

**Eric Stuhlemmer (BA Accounting, MAcc'94)** is enjoying some great golf and sailing these days. He's living—not just vacationing—in Bermuda. When not on the links or in the water, Eric works for "a captive insurance management firm," J&H Marsh & McLennan.

'95 Sounds like **Nancy Hackett (BES'95, Planning)** has been enjoying life lately. In January 1998 she completed a Master of Resource and Environmental Management degree from Simon Fraser University, with a thesis on winery tourism. "I have to admit it was a fun project, travelling through beautiful rolling wine country, talking to wine makers, grape growers, and winery tourism providers; and at the end of the day sipping the fruits of their labour." She's now working as a planner with Parkland Community Planning in Red Deer, Alberta, enjoying the wide open spaces, "but looking forward to—return visits to

## 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)

Please do not publish this info in SJU Update.

Please return this form to:

Dave Augustyn  
Director of Graduate Affairs  
St. Jerome's University  
Waterloo Ontario N2L 3G3  
Phone: (519) 884-8111, ext. 255  
Fax: (519) 884-5759

You can also send e-mail to:  
[daugusty@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:daugusty@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca)  
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# CLASS notes

## UPDATE

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Ontario and hoping to catch up with some of the NDC girls I shared laughs and friendship with."

After completing her degree, **Susan McCullogh (née Terrett: BA'95, Religious Studies)** went on to Huron College, University of Western Ontario, and graduated in April of this year with a Master of Divinity. Susan hopes to be ordained in the Anglican ministry.

'96 After St. Jerome's, **Chris McGrath (BA'96, French)** went on to the University of Vermont to study for a Master of Education degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration. He's also been working as the assistant coordinator for campus programs and special events. Last year he published an article entitled "Student affairs, eh? The Americanization of the Canadian Student Affairs Profession" in *Vermont Connection*, a student affairs journal. Chris expects to receive his degree in May 1999. "After that, it's time to hit the pavement, and find a great job in Canadian higher education administration."

A former director of residence at Notre Dame College, **Celeste Reinhart (BA'96)** is currently the facilitator of Trust and Dare, a School Sisters of Notre Dame organization located in a multicultural downtown Toronto community. Celeste describes Trust and Dare as "a transformational learning centre in spirituality, theology and justice for building sustainable communities."

'97 "Work has been extremely busy," reports **Tony Bekavac (BA'97, Political Science)**. As a financial advisor with the Mutual Group in Kitchener, Tony "helps people and businesses protect today and plan for their futures."

**Daniel Flitton (BA'97, English; Brock BEd'98)** has been given a permanent contract with the Simcoe Separate School Board and is teaching Grade 8 at St. Nicholas Elementary School in Barrie, Ontario.

**Michael J. Forestell (BA'97, History)** has packed a lot into less than a year. Starting last April, he spent three months as the collection assistant for the Victoria County Museum in Lindsay, Ontario, then a month in Kingston

helping the Ontario Museum Association organize this year's OMA Conference at Queen's University. In September he moved to Goderich to start a 15-week internship at the Huron County Museum, the final requirement for the Museum Management and Curatorship program at Sir Sandford Fleming College.

'98 **Mark Castellani (BMath'98, Teaching Option)** is living in Stoney Creek, Ontario, and teaching mathematics with the Niagara Catholic School Board.

### In Memoriam

We regret to report the death of: **Marlene A. Darling (née Lynch, BA'81, English)**, January 3, 1997.

## Upcoming grad events

### Employment Skills Workshop

Strategies for finding work from those who do the hiring.

Saturday, 16 January 1999  
8:30 a.m. - noon  
St. Jerome's Common Room

### A Winter Social in Ottawa

Sunday, 31 January 1999  
7:30 p.m.  
Zoe's at the Chateau Laurier

Ottawa area grads and students are invited to beat the "blahs" at a Winter Social. For more information please contact Richard Slowikowski at (613) 952-7877

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

Monday, 5 July 1999  
Shot-gun start at 12:30 p.m. sharp  
New Dundee Golf and Country Club



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