

The life of the mind, the lure of the earth

One advantage of Cristina Vanin's office at St. Jerome's is its eye-pleasing view of the pines. "I like to be outdoors. I'm inside too much, especially in the winter," she says.

"I look forward to spring, to getting out in the garden and getting my hands dirty." Vanin is a St. Jerome's grad (BA '81) who returned in 1992 to become a lecturer and later assistant professor of Religious Studies. She is currently chair and academic advisor of the Religious Studies department at St. Jerome's and director of the Studies in Sexuality, Marriage and the Family program.

Looking at the world as both theologian and gardener, she sees the life of the mind and the lure of the earth as part of the same web. "If I were not a professor at St. Jerome's, my vocation would probably have some connection to the land. I love camping, being by the water, being with the land. Maybe it comes from growing up in northern Ontario. The landscape north of Superior is very powerful; it has its own kind of beauty. Whenever I go back to Sault Ste. Marie, see the Shield, the lake, I know I'm home."

An inborn speculative bent led Vanin to a philosophy major at St. Jerome's. "I can trace asking questions about the Catholic faith back to when I was a child," she recalls. "At St. Jerome's, questions about faith and the religious tradition became the stronger ones for me, and that's why I went on to theology." Next stop was St. Michael's in Toronto. Then came doctoral studies at Boston College, where she focussed on the ideas of two influential thinkers, Thomas Berry and Bernard Lonergan.

Vanin's strong sense of connection to the land had already led her to ask ethical and theological questions about ecological devastation. "Berry's view is that the ecological crisis has to be dealt with from a variety of perspectives, including the religious, and that meeting the crisis means a change in the way we think about the universe and our role as humans in it."

Lonergan's work opened a different but related dimension. "It brought me to confront my own questions about God and faith. And since health for the earth community means a change in thinking, Lonergan helped

me to pay attention to the way we understand or think about anything." Lonergan's belief that "faith must speak to its time" also contributed to the development of ecological theology.

These ideas shaped Vanin's approach to teaching and research in ethics, ecology, gender issues, and Catholic thought. "The central questions in my work have to do with justice, especially in relation to women and to the earth," she says. With Religious Studies professor David Seljak, she created a course called *The Sacred Earth: Religion and Ecology*, which explores some of these questions.

When she chose sexuality and spirituality as the theme of her March 30 lecture for the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience, it was a chance to discuss the rediscovery of their intimate connection through the lens of the Incarnation as well as to highlight the Sexuality, Marriage and the Family program. The lecture also explored some founding ideas of eco-justice. The Incarnation implies that God is present to all of our humanity, including our sexuality. By extension, Vanin says, it opposes dualism, the notion that body and spirit exist on separate levels, and sanctifies justice in relationships between the sexes, between races, and between humans and the non-human world.

Much of her energy goes into teaching. "I love doing it—I enjoy the interaction with the students, being in the classroom, getting students to think critically about their own questions." That made St. Jerome's a natural choice. "I was attracted to teaching in a smaller place, where there's a possibility of real engagement with the students. My experience as a student here was that my professors knew me as a person."

Another chunk of time goes to administration. That doesn't leave as much room as she would like for research, "but I am trying to do more. I haven't done enough lately, and I miss it." One long-term project due to start soon, with the support of a Standard Institutional Grant for new researchers from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, will explore how religious communities in Canada are responding to ecological issues. Another project brings together ideas about theology and teaching—"What does it mean to teach theology in today's university? It's exciting because it gets me thinking about what I'm doing."

What else is ahead? "Over the next few years, I want to give more attention to the part of me that's a theologian." For Cristina Vanin, thinking seriously about what she's doing will continue to serve as compass north. ☪



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Michael W. Higgins is President of St. Jerome's University.

Uniting knowledge with wisdom

by Michael W. Higgins

As the principal ambassador of St. Jerome's University it is my job to put words to our vision. And everywhere I go—and I do seem to be going everywhere—I make the case that St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo provides a superlative education for our students. We do so in the context of the rich history of Catholic higher education in Canada and throughout the world. St. Jerome's, as a Catholic institution, is part of an international network of like-minded bodies committed to communicating, by means of disinterested scholarship and credible personal witness, the values of a faith-based life.

But just as often as I am invited to attend national and international meetings involving other Catholic presidents, principals, and rectors, and just as often as I am invited to participate in national and provincial organizations keen on lobbying their respective governments for increased funding for students, research, infrastructure adjustments, deferred maintenance, etc., I am invited to speak to local groups about the purpose of an arts education.

When you are required to give a presentation to fellow heads at a national meeting on the purpose and the future of a traditional liberal arts and science education, you do things rather differently from the way you would when you prepare a presentation for a group like the deans of all the faculties of engineering in Canada or the Cambridge branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women. Your focus is a trifle different. That makes sense, as I am sure you agree, but the end result must be the same. In the end, St. Jerome's, its professoriate, its administrative and support staff, its students and alumni, and its growing number of benefactors and donors must believe in the essential value of the kind of education we are committed to fostering, an education of the mind, the heart, and the spirit.

A liberal arts education, in my view, is involved in emancipating the mind from credulity. It is our job to open the minds of our students in such a way that they will be critical and skeptical of received nostrums, unquestioned conventions for doing things and thinking things, and prevailing ideologies no matter how subtle. It is the role of a

liberal arts education to transcend utility, to see the value of the human person beyond the use to which he or she can be put. True freedom is to be found in the knowledge that one is loved into existence and sustained by God, not in the evanescent values that we attach to one's productivity.

A liberal arts education is involved in the demanding task of vivifying memory, of uniting our students with the history that defines them, of bringing them into connection with a memory

greater than their own, and ultimately of helping them value the communal qualities essential for authentic civilization.

A liberal arts education is engaged in affirming the immeasurable, the unquantifiable, the interior, qualities of the human person that cannot be easily gauged by our standard instruments of assessment but which are at the very core of what we mean by personal dignity.

And finally, it is the duty of a liberal arts institution like St. Jerome's University to unite knowledge with wisdom, to remind our students and all those who learn in our environment—including the faculty and staff—that in the end, although it is true that we *acquire* knowledge, we are in fact *possessed* by wisdom.

These qualities of a liberal arts education define, for me at least,

what we mean when we talk about Catholic higher education. We are engaged together as staff, teachers, graduates, and donors in an undertaking much bigger than ourselves, an undertaking that has about it a nobility that we can easily lose sight of in our sometimes maniacal need to determine a career path and achieve public success. For in the end, learning is like Catholicism: it is about *communion*. And when we think about it, we know how daunting and humbling a project this truly is. But we also know that as an institution we have been about this task for a goodly time and that there are many now who bear the signature of a formative education that pays greater attention to the deeper issues than one finds in a larger culture often dominated by what the 19th-century critic and poet Matthew Arnold calls "an inveterate inaccessibility to ideas."

To lead is to think and to think is in great part, but by no means the whole, to be. And that's why we at St. Jerome's University exist: to lead; to think; to be. ☪

St. Jerome's, its professoriate, its administrative and support staff, its students and alumni, and its growing number of benefactors and donors believe in the essential value of the kind of education we are committed to fostering, an education of the mind, the heart, and the spirit.

Peter Hinchcliffe retiring

Peter Hinchcliffe is retiring this year after spending the last 35 introducing students to English and Canadian literature, pursuing his own research, nurturing new writers, and providing exemplary service to St. Jerome's.

A respected scholar known for careful, original work, he has edited or co-edited several books on Canadian literature and published articles on Tennyson and other authors. His authoritative edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Ebb-Tide* came out in 1995. As a Vancouver native, however, he prefers to highlight his work on the West Coast writer Ethel Wilson, the subject of one of his first published scholarly articles.

As a teacher he's methodical and meticulous. "He has a mind that makes subtle distinctions and refinements and he's able to convey those subtleties," says Ted McGee, past chair of English. But he's also creative, often coming up with fresh ways of presenting the material. In one course, he shaped the history of Canadian literature around the history of the little magazine.

Hinchcliffe came to know the Canadian literary scene well as one of the fiction editors of *The New Quarterly*, the award-winning magazine based at St. Jerome's. His name first appears in the third volume, in 1983. President Michael Higgins describes his efforts as "critical for its success. Not only has he been thorough and fair in assessing submissions as fiction editor, he has been there again and again with the others to argue the case in appeals for funding. Fundraising activity does not come naturally or easily to him, but it's typical of him that he won't shirk it."

His *New Quarterly* experience has been wonderfully rewarding, Hinchcliffe reports. "You get a whole different perspective on writing and reading in publishing than with teaching and research." And there's the excitement of finding talented new Canadian writers, especially when, like Andrew Pyper, Oakland Ross, and Stephanie Bolster, they go on to critical acclaim.

Hinchcliffe has also done more than his share of service work over the years. "He has shown great generosity to the institution," McGee says. "He's worked very hard and taken on significant administrative jobs, always without complaint." To mention just one, in his 20 years on the



Photo: Ron Hewson

admissions committee Hinchcliffe became the authority on the admission of foreign students for the entire University of Waterloo.

Asked what he'll miss most, Hinchcliffe doesn't hesitate. "My students and colleagues; the working companionship." They in turn will remember a colleague able to keep a cool head in personnel meetings when others are losing theirs; a committed Catholic whose faith matters very much to him; a quiet man with a dry wit and an ironic view of the world; a deeply private man who will never ask for help in personal matters, but will go out of his way to check on the welfare of students and co-workers; a man of unfailing courtesy who is never pushing an agenda, who is always "just himself."

"I've never heard an unkind word said about Peter in all my time at this university," Higgins sums up. ☪

St. Jerome's people publish

Three new books were published in the last year by faculty or former faculty of St. Jerome's University.

Michael Higgins and Douglas Letson, the president and past-president of St. Jerome's, co-edited *Soundings: Conversations About Catholicism* (Novalis), a collection of interviews conducted over 16 years with "priests, prophets, professors... word-enamoured novelists, spiritual writers with an edge, theologians who like to unnerve, activists with a holy attitude, and social scientists who take faith seriously."

Mary Malone, a professor of Religious Studies until she retired in 1998, has published the first

volume of a three-book series, *Women and Christianity* (Novalis). The book covers the first thousand years of the history of women and the Church and is the culmination of a lifetime's work "to extricate from the tradition the reality of women's lives." The second and third books will cover the years 1000 to the present.

And Gabriel Niccoli, a professor of Italian, edited *Ricordi: Racconti di vite oltreoceano* (Editions Soleil), a collection of memories, tales, and short stories, most in Italian but some in English, recounting the sacrifices and triumphs of Italian immigrants who settled in Waterloo and Wellington counties. ☪

An enthusiasm for the truth

More than one hundred years ago, Fr. Louis Funcken, the founder of St. Jerome's, explained that the purpose of a St. Jerome's education was to instill in students "an enthusiasm for the truth." His words provide the title for an original history of St. Jerome's to be published this fall, with funding support from Fr. Ed Jackman and the Jackman Foundation. Three St. Jerome's historians, Fr. Jim Wahl, Gerry Stortz, and Ken McLaughlin, have combined their research interests and knowledge to create an insightful history of our university.

The book will include more than a hundred illustrations, with a special emphasis on student life. The authors are seeking photographs from anyone who attended St. Jerome's. Please send photos to Carolyn Dirks, Archivist, St. Jerome's University; all photos will be scanned into the St. Jerome's archival data base and returned.





John Corr, an English student from Hamilton, is winner of this year's Zach Ralston Award. Amy Zambuto, a sociology student from Cambridge, won the Doug Letson Community Service Award.

Photo: Ron Hewson

Other award winners:

The University Life awards go to graduating students at St. Jerome's who show all-round excellence inside and outside the classroom.

Shannon Anderson, English

Jill Craven, Religious Studies

Mark Modolo, Fine Arts
Crystal Price, English

Ten St. Jerome's students in their final year were also recognized for high academic achievement in their departments.

English: Shannon Anderson, John Corr

French: Fiorella Manchisi
History: David Lobe

Mathematics:
George El-Koura

Philosophy: Ayli Lapkoff
Psychology: Steven Kuhn

Religious Studies: Carrie Martin, Christina Reimer

Sociology: Cheryl Raby

Top students named

This year's winner of the Zach Ralston Award, which recognizes the student who best exemplifies the spirit of St. Jerome's, is John Corr, an English student from Hamilton. He's known for his willingness to get involved, guiding high school students, working on *Across the Creek* and *Res News*, helping with UCC ministries, serving as residence councillor, and helping to organize the SJU Reading Series. Of his many activities, he says being a don was most challenging and fulfilling. "You really help run the place at every level, from carrying chairs to talking to residents about their schoolwork and problems." John will

go on to graduate studies in Canadian literature.

The Doug Letson Community Service Award went to Amy Zambuto of Cambridge, a sociology student with years of volunteer activity to her credit. "I've especially enjoyed working with Big Sisters of Cambridge and with the Anger Management Program at Maplehurst Correctional Centre," she reports. She has also volunteered with YMCA Settlement and Integration Services, Community Justice Initiatives, and several other organizations. Amy plans to take a Master of Social Work and would like to work with young offenders on probation. €

Sexuality, Marriage and the Family now a degree program

St. Jerome's newest degree program is a welcome development for students like Ronda Lobsinger, who can now earn a degree that better reflects her career goals. A mature arts student, she has been working for ten years as a certified holotropic breathwork practitioner, running workshops with a counselling team that includes an MD and a family therapist.

"Many of our clients are women who have survived sexual abuse," she says. "Along the way I realized that I want to specialize in sexuality and women's issues and go on to graduate work in this area." Although it will mean adding some time to her studies, she plans to transfer her major to the new degree program in Sexuality, Marriage, and the Family offered through St. Jerome's.

The three- and four-year general degree programs are an exciting development in the history of the 30-year-old program, says director Cristina Vanin. Previous directors, including John Theis, Peter Naus, and her immediate predecessor, John Rempel, wanted to offer a major in Sexuality, Marriage and the Family and worked to prepare the ground. The early retirement of several faculty members in 1996 caused a temporary setback, but since then new hirings have created a faculty base strong enough to support a major. The core faculty are Kieran Bonner, a sociologist with an interest in family, B.J. Rye, a psychologist specializing in sexuality, Rempel, a psychologist whose area is human relations, and Vanin herself, a theologian with a special interest in ethics.

"The real push came from the students," Vanin says. "I regularly get inquiries from people interested in doing therapy, counselling, or public education in this area." The program will also attract students who want a foundation for further studies in law, psychology, or health. The degree programs build on but will not replace the existing honours and general options, minor, and diploma in Sexuality, Marriage and the Family, in which interest remains high.

This story began in 1972, when Father Leo

Lafreniere, a European-trained sexologist, introduced a six-week, full-day summer course to train teachers in the subjects of family life and sex education. The first decade was a heady time of high enrolment, funding that flowed directly to St. Jerome's, and international guest speakers. In the mid-'80s the focus of the program shifted to providing academically sound programs for regular students, although the applied element was never lost.

When Vanin became the director in 2000 the group began exploring new directions. A cross-Canada survey conducted by Rye showed that other programs study either sexuality or marriage and the family, but St. Jerome's is unique in combining both areas in one program. "We also have to credit Kieran Bonner, who brought his experience of interdisciplinary programs from Augustana College," Vanin says. "We wanted to make this program as interdisciplinary as possible," something demonstrated in the varied backgrounds of the faculty.

This interdisciplinary character allows the students to gain a clearer understanding of a subject that is multi-dimensional in nature. The list of approved courses ranges over culture, literature, health, love, values, gender issues, ethics, religious studies, family relationships, and sexuality.

Lobsinger says she finds it valuable that the program does not present sexuality in a vacuum or treat it as value-neutral. "The courses offer a comfort level with the idea of sexuality as something that's more than a matter of plumbing and parts. They give you a more healthy view of what it means to be a sexual being, which is what people need as they heal."

Understanding such issues is important to students like Lobsinger who plan to work in related fields, but Vanin says it will also widen horizons for anyone who wants to understand this most central part of their humanity. "Getting people to really think critically about sexuality, including the impact of one's own gender and family ties, is essential to a sense of personal worth and a capacity for relationships." €

Remembering Zach Ralston

One of the foremost spokesmen for St. Jerome's in the 1960s, Zachary Taylor Ralston, died on January 7, 2001. "He was perhaps the most popular teacher then at St. Jerome's," recalls history professor Ken McLaughlin, who was an undergraduate living in residence when Ralston was dean of men. McLaughlin remembers a plain-spoken priest who gathered the students together before evenings out and told them to have a good time and look out for each other. "If one of you gets in trouble and I hear you abandoned your friend, I'll break both your legs."

A coalminer's son raised in the hill country of Kentucky and Tennessee, Ralston was named after the soldier-president Zachary Taylor. He taught at St. Jerome's High School and served as military chaplain in Korea before coming to St. Jerome's College in 1960, where he taught French and Religious Studies. As dean from 1965 to 1970 he helped to integrate the academic programs of St. Jerome's and the University of Waterloo.

"He was colourful, ebullient, a little exotic," McLaughlin says. It could be startling in those more formal times to meet a cassock-clad, pipe-smoking priest who would thrust out his hand and announce in a booming voice and a strong southern accent, "My name is Zach—Zach Ralston." The students, who affectionately mimicked his accent but took his concern for



A gathering of deans: from left, Fr. Zach Ralston, 1965-70, Fr. Jim Wahl, 1970-75, and Fr. John Finn, 1961-65.

them very seriously, often joined the self-taught field naturalist on nature walks around the still-rare campus.

Ralston left St. Jerome's in 1970 on sabbatical and returned to the United States. Later he left the priesthood and married Frances Sellars, and taught at the Citadel in South Carolina from 1972 until he retired in 1983. The Zach Ralston Award, established in 1970, annually recognizes the student who, by being actively involved in the university community, an exceptional leader, and an inspiration for others, demonstrates the best of the St. Jerome's tradition. ☪

Orlando rides into the sunset



John Orlando retired this year, 30 years after joining the Psychology department at St. Jerome's. On disability leave for the past six years following a serious car accident in 1995, he has been living on a 13-acre farm in Pennsylvania with his wife, Nettie Bartel, a professor of special education (with whom he co-authored two books and some articles on

AIDS education) and pursuing a passion for raising and training horses.

Retired professor Peter Naus recalls that as chair of Psychology at St. Jerome's, "John encouraged establishing courses in applied psychology that provided a complement to those on the main campus. This was a real contribution to the whole university because in the early years courses on the main campus tended to be more theoretical."

His strength as a teacher was that he helped students see the relevance of psychology in

everyday life, Naus comments. The emphasis on applied psychology also found expression in the Institute for Studies in Learning Disabilities, which Orlando founded and directed, with Judith Van Evra as associate director, and which ran every summer for about 15 years. It was a clear success, bringing together a concentration of current information on learning disabilities that hadn't been available in the region before. This uniqueness, and the fact that sessions were taught by leading experts in the field from all over the continent, attracted thousands of students, mostly teachers, over the years.

Alice Carroll, then secretary to the institute, recalls those years as both busy and exhilarating, and Orlando as a director who was "always on top of things and, most of all, so appreciative of every effort" of his staff.

Naus describes Orlando as a loyal colleague and chair. At the same time, "It was typical of his style that he would not let conflicts get out of hand... John was very good at handling misunderstandings right from the beginning."

Orlando admits he sometimes misses the intellectual excitement of the university. "As a group, we did good work over the years and I think we fulfilled what we set out to do. I had an opportunity to grow professionally and personally, and the people I worked with were very supportive, especially the people in my department. They were and continue to be my friends." ☪

St. Jerome's links with Calabria

Winter-weary St. Jerome's students and faculty members now have the option of studying or doing research in the sunny hills of southern Italy. In December, St. Jerome's and the University of Waterloo signed an agreement with the University of Calabria to allow academic exchanges of students, faculty, and resource materials. "Unical" was founded in 1968 and has about 27,000 students in six faculties. The agreement was facilitated by Gabriel Niccoli, chair of French and Italian Studies at St. Jerome's, and a founding member of the Canadian Calabrese Foundation.

The right education for

St. Jerome's is about to launch a campaign promoting liberal arts education—with

On a blustery day in March, four St. Jerome's graduates battled the elements to make their way to the studio of Waterloo photographer Jens Langen. The occasion? An opportunity for graduates to "speak" to prospective St. Jerome's students about how their experience at St. Jerome's and the liberal arts degree they earned here have made a significant contribution to their lives and careers. "In a society that constantly holds up technology and professional skills as the ultimate goal of an education," says Dana Woito, who is registrar at St. Jerome's, "it's a challenge to illustrate to prospective students the value of a liberal arts degree. What better way to do that than by

'introducing' students to individuals whose arts degrees have helped shape and direct their careers and have contributed to their life choices?"

To that end, Woito has launched a "liberal arts campaign." She and her team will be

producing four posters profiling individual arts grads from St. Jerome's. There will be a

tear-off card on the posters, which students can use to request a brochure telling more about each grad and providing information about arts programs and St. Jerome's. The new campaign builds on a previous series of posters and a brochure profiling English grads produced in the mid-90s. "That campaign was very successful," notes Woito. "We won a silver medal from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education for the series of posters, and we had a great deal of positive feedback from teachers and guidance counsellors who displayed the posters in their classrooms. 'This is exactly what we've been looking for,' they told us."

The new campaign broadens the scope beyond one department to include four other disciplines within the spectrum of the liberal arts. The four grads profiled are **Michelle DiEmanuele** (BA '87), a political science grad; **Krista Vines** (BA '87) who has a French degree; **Brian Orend** (BA '94) who has a joint honours degree in history and philosophy; and **Bryon Thur** (BA '95), a psychology grad. "These 'fab four' were selected from a long list of St. Jerome's arts grads on the basis of the career possibilities they represent, as well as the life skills that each person has developed," explains Woito. "Not one of them immediately moved into a career that they had chosen when they were fourteen years old. They took steps, changed directions, encountered obstacles, made decisions, assessed their options: all of these things are as important as their actual career choices."

After graduation, DiEmanuele spent sixteen years with the Ontario government, both in the political realm and with the civil service. She served in the Premier's Office (under David Peterson) and worked for several Ontario government ministries including the cabinet office, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Citizenship, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of the Attorney General. In her most recent government position, she served as Assistant Deputy Minister of corporate services for the Ontario Ministry of Health. There, she was in charge of finance, human resources, audit, capital expenditure, and technology.

DiEmanuele recently accepted a new position, her first outside of government, as VP Human Resources and Organizational Development with Brookfield Properties Ltd. She says her liberal arts education provided her with the ability to maintain her edge in the constantly changing work world. "Students in liberal arts should be thinking not about what they're learning to do, specifically—it's not like accounting—but about the foundation a liberal arts education provides." As she takes on the challenge of a new position, DiEmanuele notes, "I'm confident that the skills I've built up are transferable, just as the skills I acquired at university were transferable to the working world."

Krista Vines accepted a position at PepsiCo International after graduating with her French degree in 1992. After several years with PepsiCo in hospitality, customer service, and human resources, and after gaining a wealth of management experience, Vines determined that she had maximized her potential for growth within the company. She looked for other options and took a job as a consultant with Hamilton Executive Consultants. In short order, she held a senior management role with the company.

In January of this year, Vines created her own company, Orendco Inc. (her birth name is Orend—she is Brian Orend's sister), a human resources consulting firm, along with two friends. "I have always wanted to own my own company, and that was a goal after graduation," Vines says. "I did not expect to be at that point this soon." Vines cites a long list of skills she acquired from her liberal arts degree. "The bottom line," she says, "is that you can teach anyone a technical skill, but you cannot teach the 'soft skills' that make a well-rounded employee. These you hone throughout your school years."

Brian Orend began his undergraduate career intending to major in economics, and at first enjoyed its common sense, real-world applications. But by third year, he had already developed the critical thinking and decision-making skills it took to switch his major to philosophy and history, subjects he had been interested in since his teens.



Large props serve as visual metaphors for obstacles grads encounter as they negotiate their career paths.

changing times

the help of four very enthusiastic grads

After earning his BA, Orend's path was fairly direct. He completed his doctorate at the age of 26, and though many people thought he was too young to contemplate becoming a professor, he landed a faculty position at the University of Waterloo, where he is currently teaching courses in moral issues, the history of ethical theory, engineering ethics, and justice. His research focuses on the big moral and ethical questions related to our social and political structures, especially war. "I'm using war as a wedge to get into the deeper questions of the justice of our social and political institutions, especially our international institutions," he says.

Orend is quite satisfied with the change in direction in his career path. "Philosophy is about the important moral, social, and political questions of life. It's a practical discipline because it tackles issues that are immediate and real, problems every person encounters, or could encounter, in their daily lives."

When the doors didn't open fast enough for Bryon Thur after graduating with his psychology degree in 1995, he decided to open a web design shop. Within a year, the little enterprise had morphed into the Galileo Group. Three years of swift growth later, Galileo joined forces with an established advertising firm to form Emerge2 Digital, a company that offers clients a full spectrum of marketing services.

Now a partner and vice-president of a company with projected sales of \$2 million, Thur has come a long way in a few years. He says that the skills he learned as an undergraduate—adaptability, ingenuity, the ability to learn on the run—helped him negotiate the bumps in the road. "I often tell people my liberal arts degree was very valuable to me. It's made me very open-minded, for one thing," says Thur. He's willing to consider any idea—but critically. "I don't believe anything I read," he says. "I question everything; I look for sources." His time at St. Jerome's also helped him develop his writing skills,

essential to his job because of all the proposals he writes and the website writing he does.

One trait these four grads have in common is confidence, which was in clear evidence on the day of the photo shoot. Each of the grads posed with a large prop produced by Tom Bishop of Ampersand Studios, who is designer and art director for the campaign. The props were visual metaphors for the obstacles the grads had encountered on their career and life paths, or the skills required to negotiate those paths. Though it was Bishop's role to direct the shoot, the grads didn't feel shy about shouting out directions or trying to crack up the person being photographed. "We had a ball," laughs Bishop.

The next step in the campaign is to design and print the posters, which will appear this fall in high schools across Ontario. Students who send in a tear-off card will receive a brochure expanding on the career paths of these St. Jerome's grads. "Their stories clearly illustrate that the skills they learned as arts students are valuable life skills," says Waito. "These people are wonderful examples of how a liberal arts education—especially at St. Jerome's—is an education that really prepares you for the real world." 🍀



Photos: Langen Studios

Do you know a student who might be interested in a liberal arts program at St. Jerome's? For copies of our liberal arts brochure, call (519) 884-8110 or send e-mail to you@sju.uwaterloo.ca.

If you'd like to share how your liberal arts degree has had an impact on your life or your career, please write to

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Proud of their liberal arts degrees: (from left to right) Bryon Thur, Michelle DiEmanuele, Krista Vines, and Brian Orend.

Travelling the road to peace



Photo: © The Record, Kitchener, Ontario, 2000

Ten steps to peace

by Fr. John Dear

1. Pick your issue and take a stand.
2. Take a stand for the rest of your life.
3. Let God disarm your heart through daily prayer and meditation.
4. Be part of a peace community—your church, for example.
5. Welcome everyone. Be all-inclusive.
6. Maintain solidarity with the poor.
7. Keep speaking out against nuclear weapons and war.
8. Take a risk. Dare to break bad laws and accept the consequences.
9. Understand that all these issues are not political but spiritual.
10. Follow the example of Christ the rebel.

John Dear challenged God for the first and last time in the summer of 1982. Fresh out of university and full of questions about life, he was backpacking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where one day he found himself alone in the Chapel of the Beatitudes. In this setting the words of Christ—love your enemies, endure persecution for the sake of justice—were powerfully inspiring. So inspiring that he went outside, looked up into the sky, and offered to dedicate himself to a life of peace and justice—“On one condition. If you send me a sign.”

The answer came in thunder. “Three huge black Israeli planes fell from the sky, breaking the sound barrier. They were coming right at me over the Sea of Galilee, they came right over my head—and then they dropped a whole bunch of bombs killing a whole bunch of people on the Lebanon border.” He never asked for a sign again.

Instead he returned home, became a Jesuit, and started on the long road that led to war zones all over the world, to anti-nuclear protests all over the United States, and to more than 50 arrests for acts of non-violent civil disobedience. It led to the writing or editing of more than a dozen books, including the latest, *The Sound of Listening*, and to a position as director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the world’s oldest and largest Christian pacifist organization, a position from which he has just resigned.

It also led to his appearance in Siegfried Hall last November, where he delivered the 2000-2001 Ignatian Lecture, “The Road to Peace: Living the Life of Radical Non-Violence.” The lecture was sponsored by the St. Jerome’s Centre for Catholic Experience, the Peace and Conflict Studies program at Conrad Grebel College, the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, and the Guelph Centre of Spirituality.

The summer of ’85 marked the beginning of

a new stage on John Dear’s road. While working with refugees in El Salvador, he met Fr. Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the University of Central America, and several Jesuit colleagues. He was impressed by the good cheer of his hosts as they described the harassment they endured for speaking out against the death squads. Four years later the Salvadoran priests and their housekeepers were dragged out of the house where Dear had shared a meal, forced down on the ground, and shot in the head.

“It’s a powerful thing to know martyrs; and what do you do about it?” Dear became a more active protester. “And that led me to December 7, 1993, when, with Philip Berrigan and two friends, at four in the morning, we crossed the line onto the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.” The base was swarming with soldiers engaged in war games. Nuclear-capable F-15 fighters, just back from the Gulf War, stood on alert.

Finding an unwatched F-15, the four began beating on the hull with hammers in a symbolic attempt to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah: “They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” At once they were surrounded by soldiers with machine guns. “I was the spokesperson for the group, so I said, ‘We are unarmed, peaceful people, we mean you no harm. We’re just here to dismantle this weapon.’” After a stunned moment the soldiers threw them onto the ground and aimed machine guns at their heads, “and all I could think of at that moment was Ignacio Ellacuria, and the Jesuits lying on the ground with guns pointed at their heads...”

They spent eight months in a North Carolina jail for that action. It might have been less if they’d been more meek in the courtroom. (Ordered to reveal who drove the car to the base, Dear told the court, “We were driven there by the Holy Spirit.”)

Eight years later, swords seem more plentiful than ploughshares. More than 35 wars are going on right now, Dear says. The litany of violence continues: poverty, starvation, torture, state executions, homelessness, environmental degradation, and 30,000 nuclear weapons ready for use. “We live in the most desperate of times but also the most hopeful of times, because it’s as if God has said, ‘It’s in your control. Destroy yourselves or finally, for the first time in your history, you can work your way out of this mess through active non-violence.’”

When Christ was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, he told his friends to put down their swords. “Two thousand years later, we still have not heard that command.” It’s very clear, Dear says. “It means that if you want to be a person of God, of holiness, of spirituality, you have to begin this journey on the road to peace.” ☪

Continuing CONNECTIONS

E-mentoring program is taking shape

by Harry Froklage

How to translate mission into meaningful reality: it's a challenge that every genuinely visionary institution addresses every day. The St. Jerome's University mission clusters strongly around a sense of community. For those who live, study, work, and worship here, that spirit of community is immediate and palpable.

But for those who have left St. Jerome's—its graduates—a continuing and reciprocal sense of the St. Jerome's community is equally important.

The e-mentoring program announced in the Winter 2000 issue of *SJU Update* is a novel and interactive way of building community by connecting current students to past graduates. Students will benefit from the "real world" counsel of professionals practising in their areas of interest while graduates maintain a vital and useful link with St. Jerome's—all through the medium of modern technology.

The response to our call for volunteers was immediate and gratifying. SJU grads from a variety of backgrounds expressed their willingness to be e-mentors. Here is a sampling:

- **Marc Verhoeve (BA '73)** is a head of guidance counselling with the Waterloo Region District School Board.
- **Fran de Vries (BA '99)** operates her own business in Mississauga, providing psychometry

and administrative assistance to area psychologists.

- **Deron Waldock (BA '89)** lives in Vancouver and is a lawyer with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.
- **Steven Church (BMath '92)** has worked in the software industry in a variety of positions, including programming, training, sales and management.
- **Brent Charette (BA '93)** is a development officer with the University of Waterloo.
- **Kevin Donelson (BA '78)** has taught at both the secondary and elementary level for the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.
- **Andrew McKenna (BA '96)** is a student-at-law with Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP in Ottawa.

These are a few of the professionally—and geographically—diverse graduates who will be helping St. Jerome's serve current and future students more meaningfully. The program will be launched in September 2001.

Thanks are due to all who volunteered and an invitation is extended to all St. Jerome's graduates who may wish to participate. If you would like to become an e-mentor, please contact Harry Froklage, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, by e-mail at froklage@uwaterloo.ca or by calling (519) 884-8111, ext. 255. ☎

Photo: Ron Hewison



Harry Froklage is Director of Development and Graduate Affairs at St. Jerome's.

Upcoming grad events

The "Home to Jerome's" Weekend

St. Jerome's University
July 13-14-15, 2001

Come home. Reconnect with friends. Enjoy a summer weekend at St. Jerome's and sample the delights of Waterloo Region on a bit more than a student's budget!

The St. Jerome's Graduates' Association is organizing a special weekend for graduates. Choose to stay in Sweeney Hall for one or two nights or simply enjoy special family and reunion events of your choice. Visit St. Jacobs, Stratford, and the Waterloo Market. Attend Mass in Siegfried Hall on Sunday morning.

Saturday night will be the highlight of the weekend, with a "Buffet St. Jerome's" in Sweeney Hall followed by "A Midsummer Night's Ceili," an evening of Irish music, dancing, and song in the air-conditioned comfort of the Community Centre, featuring **The Grand River Ceili Band**, with St. Jerome's own graduate **Margaret Nally (BA '94)**.

For more information, tickets, or room bookings, please contact Harry Froklage, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, St. Jerome's University, Waterloo ON, N2L 3G3. Phone (519) 884-8111, ext. 255; fax (519) 884-5759; e-mail froklage@uwaterloo.ca.

Events

- "Buffet St. Jerome's," Saturday, July 14, 5:30 to 7:00pm, Sweeney Hall. Cost: \$18.00 (adults) plus tax; \$12.00 (children under 12).
- "A Midsummer Night's Ceili," Saturday, July 14, 7:30 to 11pm, Community Centre. Cost: \$12.00 (adults); \$8.00 (children under 12).

Accommodation packages

- Two nights—double occupancy, four breakfasts and two lunches: \$139.30 plus tax.
- Two nights—single occupancy, two breakfasts and one lunch: \$79.65 plus tax.
- One night—double occupancy, two breakfasts: \$61.40 plus tax.
- One night—single occupancy, one breakfast: \$35.70 plus tax.

Please note: Buffet and ceili costs are additional. Registration deadline: Friday, June 29, 2001. ☎

'65 Norman Hodge (BA '65, English) and his wife Fi are now living in Tasmania, Australia, where they moved in 1991 to be near their grown sons.

After a ten-year break and six months in semi-retirement, he's back teaching at a local college on a part-time relief basis; Fi is mentoring Bosnian refugee students and helping them improve their English skills at the same college. Norman looks back on an academic career in South Africa, where he taught at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg for four years and then helped to establish the African University of Transkei and served as professor of English and dean of arts, and on the governing council. "This was Nelson Mandela's home area, and I had the great privilege of meeting him when he visited us after his release from Pollsmoor prison," Norman writes. He adds: "I have very fond memories of St. Jerome's College and the residence, being among the first group to live in the residence with its transfer from Resurrection College. And forever with this, the memories of Father Finn's infectious laugh, Father Siegfried's warmth and humanity, and helping Father Zach with an endless procession of injured and abandoned wild critters to nurse to health or midnight winter wades into the snow to listen to owls. I was a resident from 1962 to 1965 and took several courses from Father Ralston in that period. From 1966 to 1968, I taught in the English department when Larry Cummings was head, along with Doug Letson and other lousy golfers like us.... Later, I assisted Father Dave Mowat in the residence for a year before marrying. I haven't seen St Jerome's since 1970, although I was in contact for years afterwards with Father Zach at the Citadel and Sister Mary Leon White." Friends can reach Norman at fhodge@our.net.au or write PO Box 153, Burnie, Tasmania 7320, Australia.

Gwen Nowak (née McGrenere, BA '65) has published a book entitled *Miriam of Nazareth: Who Can Find Her?* (Cortleigh House, 2000), a personal and scholarly response to the question "Whatever happened to Miriam of Nazareth?" Gwen recalls her years of study at St. Jerome's in her acknowledgements, recognizing that "my positive experience with all of my priest-professors was a graced experience."

'66 Elizabeth Lawless (née Dorris, BA '66) writes that friends can now contact her at lizlawless@canada.com. Liz graduated from the landscape technology program at Ryerson in 1991 and now works as a landscape designer. She lives in Waterloo with her husband **Jerry Lawless (UW PhD '69)**, a professor of mathematics at the University of Waterloo.

'77 Brian Nowak (BMATH '77) and his wife Christine are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on May 7, 2001. They are planning a trip to Australia and Hawaii to mark the occasion. Their boys are all doing well in their pursuits. Craig (21) is

completing third-year electronics engineering at Conestoga College while Scott and Brad (both 18) are finishing their OAC year at St. Benedict's. They are trying to get their rock band "Shrapnel" (visit <http://www.shrapnelonline.com>) off the ground between education and jobs. The family live in Cambridge, where Brian is in his 16th year at R.J. Slocki EDP Services after nine years at IBM Canada, and Christine is an educational assistant at St. Margaret elementary school. They can be reached at chrinowa@enoreo.on.ca or brian@rjsecdp.com.

'87 Stella Paola (née Gualtieri, BA '87, French) and Mike Paola (BMATH '88) consider themselves fortunate to have had the opportunity to live in Boulder, Colorado, from 1997 to 1999 when Mike was working in Sybase's office there. "We took full advantage of the Boulder adventure by visiting many interesting places, meeting new friends, and partaking of some skiing, hiking, and mountain-climbing," Stella writes. During those years she took a leave of absence from teaching to stay home full-time with their three children. Back in Waterloo, Mike returned to Sybase's iAnywhere Solutions office, and Stella resumed her part-time teaching position in the religion department at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School until June 2000, when she resigned "to maintain a healthy balance in all our lives." She says she's been able to pursue other rewarding interests. Meanwhile, Christopher (10), Jordan (7), and Nicole (6) "continue to keep us busy, as they journey through life uncovering their talents and interests." Both Stella and Mike would love to hear from St. Jerome's and Waterloo friends. You can reach them at mtpaola@home.com.

'89 Deron Waldock (BA '89; UWO LLB '92) reports that he now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and holds a position with Borden, Ladner, Gervais LLP. After graduating from St. Jerome's, Deron went to Western for law studies and was called to the Ontario bar in 1994 and to the British Columbia bar in 1999. He can be contacted at dwaldock@BLGCanada.com.

'92 Karen Kueneman (née York, BA '92, English) and her husband **Dean Kueneman (UW BES '96, Environmental Studies)**, recently celebrated the birth of their twin boys, Thomas Joseph and Tyler Reginald. Karen and Dean both teach high school in Kitchener-Waterloo; Karen is a guidance counsellor working with the Waterloo District Catholic School Board. They would love to hear from St. Jerome's grads at dean_kueneman@wrdsb.on.ca.

Mark Duffy (BMATH '92) and his wife Teresa have enjoyed their first holiday season with their new son. Aiden Christopher was born on June 28, 2000. Mark continues to teach mathematics at Totino-Grace High School in Fridley, Minnesota, where the family make their home. In addition to teaching math, Mark is slowly working toward

Directed Prayer Weekend

Guelph Centre of Spirituality

September 28-30, 2001

Last year, we provided a special opportunity for graduates and friends of St. Jerome's to attend a silent, directed prayer weekend at the Guelph Centre of Spirituality. That success encouraged us to repeat the opportunity again this year. The cost is \$135.00 and spaces are limited. Please reserve your place before June 30, 2001 by contacting Harry Froklage, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, St. Jerome's University, Waterloo ON, N2L 3G3. Phone (519) 884-8111, ext. 255; fax (519) 884-5759; e-mail



CLASS notes



converting the United States to a Canadian way of thinking. Finally, Mark is an active fan of the NHL's Minnesota Wild. Of the two teams he now cheers for, they have the better record.

'94 Colleen Tanner (née Bracken, UW BES '94, Geography; UWO BEd '97), a resident at Notre Dame College in 1989-90, has been teaching with the Waterloo District Catholic School Board for the past three years. She's currently teaching junior and senior kindergarten at Blessed Kateri School in Kitchener. Her husband Mark, who attended St. Jerome's from 1989 to 1991, has been working with the Microsoft line at EMJ, a Guelph-based computer distributing company, for six years. He recently accepted the position of manager of the MIS department. Their daughter Kyla (10) is in grade four and loves to read and play ringette. Her brother Keith (5) is in senior kindergarten and plays hockey. The Tanners live in Cambridge and can be reached at colleen.tanner@home.com.



'95 Dave Augustyn (BA '95, Political Science) and Carol Berkhout (BA '95, Sociology & Political Science; BEd '98, Toronto) are happy to announce the birth of Lucas Adrian Berkhout Augustyn, on April 2, 2001, at Welland Hospital. Lucas is the third grandchild for Edward and Violet Augustyn and tenth grandchild for Gerry Berkhout and Gwenn Alves. After 20 months as the fundraising coordinator with the Alzheimer Society of Niagara, Dave joined the Hotel Dieu Health Sciences Hospital in St. Catharines as the development manager in January 2001. Currently on maternity leave, Carol began teaching religion at Notre Dame College School, Welland, in September 1998. Dave, Carol, and Lucas live in Fenwick, Ontario, and can be reached at iowa@niagararc.com.

'97 After two years of study, Paul Ortner (BA '97, Economics; BA '00, History) has completed his honours history degree at Karl Franzens Universitaet in Graz, Austria. As a result of this experience, he has plans to conduct tours of Austria, which he says will "offer an experience that the big tour companies don't, a chance to really see and experience Austria." Paul plans to offer a unique introduction to the country's history, culture, religious tradition, and natural beauty, as well as to the "best beer in the world," a view he claims is seconded by Professor Gerry Stortz of St. Jerome's history department. Paul can be contacted at portner@golden.net.

After nearly four years in Minnesota, Christina Ronzio (BA '97, Religious Studies; MA '99, Liturgical Studies) returned happily to Canada at the end of January to take up the position of director of liturgy for the Diocese of London, Ontario. Christina was born and raised in Kitchener, the oldest of three children in a musical family. After graduating from St. Jerome's she completed an MA at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, a Benedictine university that played an important role in the liturgical movement beginning early last century. During her time at St. John's she worked for the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research. Upon graduation she worked as director of liturgy for the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. "I'm glad to be home," Christina says.

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:

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Heimpel called to the bar



"For as long as I can remember," says Justin Heimpel (BA '97, English/Legal Studies Option), "I've wanted to be a lawyer. It's a profession where you can really make an impact, not only in the community, but in the lives of individuals." At St. Jerome's he majored in English "because law is all about persuading people, and I thought English was the best training for that. It's certainly been a plus."

Justin received his law degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1999 and articulated for a year with the Kitchener/Guelph law firm Flynn & Sorbara, already a hotbed of St. Jerome's graduates (partners Pat Flynn, BA '68, and Brian McCann, BA '67, are alumni). When Justin was called to the Ontario bar this February, he was honoured for achieving the highest mark in the province on the civil litigation exam—99 per cent. He's now a civil litigation lawyer with Flynn & Sorbara.

"I could always see myself in the courtroom," he says with a laugh. "I must have watched a lot of *Matlock*."

Teahen takes a front-row seat

When Kelley Teahen, BA '83, became the Stratford Festival's new media manager in January, she brought to the job not only a life-long passion for theatre but 15 years' experience as a journalist. After earning an MA from Dalhousie University and a BJ from King's College in Halifax, she spent most of her working life at the *London Free Press*, where she won five Western Ontario Newspaper Awards, including three for opinion and column writing. Her latest award in 1999 recognized her coverage of two Londoners working to redeem slaves in Sudan—an assignment that had Kelley, computer in backpack, hiking through rebel-held territory.

"The day may come when I'll miss writing opinion columns," she says, "but my Stratford Festival job draws on a much broader range of my abilities." The reward is "having a front-row seat to the incredible creativity in this place and knowing I can be useful in letting people know about it." Alumni looking for information about the festival can visit www.stratfordfestival.ca. Kelley's e-mail is kteahen@stratford-festival.on.ca.



The St. Jerome's Feast for Catholic University Education

St. Jerome's University
Friday, September 28, 2001 - 6:30pm

The issues facing Catholic education generally, and Catholic university education in particular, are complex and challenging. St. Jerome's University is launching the first in a series of annual dinners to celebrate those who have championed Catholic university education in Canada and to detail the opportunities and challenges ahead.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please contact Harry Froklage, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, St. Jerome's University, Waterloo ON, N2L 3G3. Phone (519) 884-8111, ext. 255; fax (519) 884-5759; e-mail froklage@uwaterloo.ca.



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