

# A son and his father

"I regret," Alexandre Trudeau began, "that I must give up my claim to be 'The Hidden Trudeau.'"

The laughter that erupted from those assembled in the St. Jerome's Community Centre on November 6 recognized that this most private son of Canada's most private prime minister was about to do something extraordinary. He was about to talk about Pierre Trudeau's faith and spirituality from the only vantage point not presented in the book being launched that evening: that of a son reflecting upon the guidance and example of his father.

A year before, in May 2003, friends, colleagues, and scholars gathered at St. Jerome's and the University of Waterloo to examine Pierre Elliott Trudeau's faith and its influence on his public life. From those discussions came *The Hidden Trudeau: The Faith Behind the Politics* (Novalis) edited by John English, Richard Gwyn, and P. Whitney Lackenbauer. The book documents the insights of many participants who knew or had studied Trudeau, including John Turner, Allan

MacEachen, Stephen Clarkson, Michael W. Higgins, and Bruce Powe. Speaker after speaker arrived at a conclusion that Alexandre summed up in three words more than a year later: for Pierre Trudeau, religious faith was "a private thing."

In looking to the prominent, public role that religion has come to play in American political life, Alexandre is proud that his father's religious conviction was private. But he is also "proud that he shared it with me and my brothers."

Without breaching that privacy, he offered glimpses into how his father encouraged a sense of faith and social justice within his sons, taking them to Mass and developing their understanding of the proper role and exercise of religious belief by reading to them from literary classics.

In particular, Alexandre remembered how his

father was moved by an episode in Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Jean Valjean, arrested for burglarizing a church, is freed when the Bishop tells the gendarmes that he had given the stolen candlesticks to Valjean as a gift. A cleric of less generous disposition featured in another favourite story drawn from Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. The parable of Christ's return to Earth and imprisonment by the Grand Inquisitor demonstrated to Alexandre the perils of an institutionalized belief severed from its humane origins.

"It stays with me," he said.

Alexandre has chosen to enact his personal sense of social justice as a filmmaker and journalist for *Maclean's*. His documentary *Embedded in Iraq* chronicles the forty days he spent living with a middle-class Baghdad family before, during and after the American invasion. His latest film, *The Fence*, documents the time he spent living on both sides of the security barrier separating Israel from Palestine—first with an Israeli family, then with a Palestinian man. It is his gift to create a human context for the momentous issues of our time.

In considering the foundation for his own beliefs, Alexandre quoted Pascal's famous Wager on God's Existence: "The eternal silence of these infinite spaces frightens me." And, like his father, he believes that religious belief is something shared with others "as our most sacred, private thing."

He shared such a moment in his closing remarks, recounting a meeting with an elderly Muslim who acknowledged that "he loved his religion, but he had never met a true Muslim." And Alexandre concurred: "I said the same: 'I am a Christian, but I have never met a true Christian.'"

The speech was the highlight of an event which raised money to support the Pierre Trudeau Scholarship. Created by Dr. Ron Schlegel, this scholarship is available through St. Jerome's to upper-year students throughout the University of Waterloo studying in areas closely associated with Pierre Trudeau: history, philosophy, religious studies, and political science. €

*All royalties from the sale of The Hidden Trudeau will be donated to the Trudeau Scholarship by Novalis.*

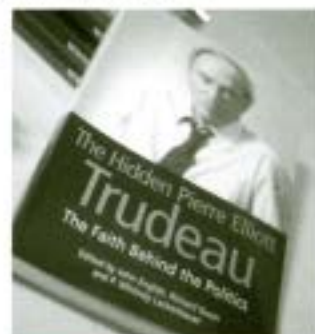


Photo: Mike Christie



Photo: Mike Christie

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

Photo: Ron Hewson

# Why unveil the hidden Trudeau?

by Michael W. Higgins

It should prove unsettling to us all that, in Canada, faith is the only thing left in the “closet.” When it does emerge as a matter for open discussion—blinking, tentative, easily cowed—faith is seen more as an embarrassment, an uncomfortable outing for the proverbial relative in the attic, rather than as a welcome visitor to the household of learning.

How did we arrive at this dangerous marginalization of one of the constitutive features of a genuine civilization? Why is it critical that the secular academy engage rather than isolate theological discourse and maximize rather than minimize opportunities for the study of “faith issues”?

Think of how religion is regularly short-changed in the public forum. An editorial in *The Globe and Mail*—in an otherwise religion-friendly reflection on Reginald Bibby’s *Restless Gods: The Renaissance of Religion in Canada*—notes: “Faith is not always a good thing. One need only look at so many parts of the world where religious extremism has led to hatred and violence in the name of God. And separation of church and state must be rigorously enforced.”

At first reading, I think most readers would regard these remarks as sensible. But, on closer examination, they betray the mounting anxiety over the commingling of religion and politics that has taken on accelerated momentum in recent months. Religion mixed with politics is always deemed to be a dangerous cocktail.

In an earlier time, the public discussion of faith and political views, theological and social issues, was not only possible and acceptable, but entertaining and instructive.

A radio play/debate I wrote for the CBC and which aired first in 1986 was based on the writings of Gilbert Keith Chesterton and George Bernard Shaw. These two men of an earlier time delighted in public debate and struggled with matters of consequence in the full glare of public scrutiny. Chesterton concluded his debate with Shaw with these words: “You ask people to worship the Life-Force; as if anybody could worship a hyphen.”

Now don’t get me wrong. I am not one for basking in the comforting rays of nostalgia or restoring the *ancien régime*. But I am keen on recapturing something of that openness and freedom that you find in honest public debate, that generosity of exchange and good will, that healthy willingness to engage issues that truly matter to us all that GKC and GBS so ably manifested in their time.

Contemporary commentators Martin Levin and Nino Ricci have written about religion and its public invisibility. Said Levin, “It seems we are ready to talk openly about the most intimate personal things, body odour, or a taste for sadomasochism, but spiritual matters are off-limits in polite company, almost an embarrassment.” And Ricci replied, “Religion almost never gets talked about; there’s little outlet for what once was for most people, and still is for many, a formative part of who we are. It’s something we may have rejected or only nominally believe in, but it continues to inform our culture.”

As a nation, we have concluded that religious conviction and denominational affiliation are *verboten* in the political marketplace. They are best reserved to the private sphere. Memories of past religio-political and socio-religious conflicts warn us that the subtle intrusion into the political world of creedal and spiritual convictions is to be fiercely resisted. In short, religion means disagreement, division, and disharmony. But does it?

Are we not dealing with a simple-minded media construct, a perversion of meaning and intention? Why should the religious convictions of public leaders be kept in a holding tank in the belief that knowledge of an individual’s core values is to be kept hidden in the public interest?

Ignorance about religion can lead to disastrous results—as recent social and political developments only too pertinently demonstrate. The questionable strategy of identifying institutional religion as pathology-driven and spirituality as blessedly holistic contributes to the general miasma that pervades both media and popular discussions around faith in the public forum. The university is the ideal setting for the disinterested investigation of faith.

It is the job of university education to produce fair critics of both received and untried ideas. Ideas and critiques about religion—its myriad institutional roles, its chequered and complex history, and its capacity to either expand or diminish human freedom—have a critical function at the heart of the academy.

And that is why we co-hosted with the University of Waterloo last year’s first-ever conference on Pierre Elliott Trudeau’s faith and spirituality, and that is why the publication this November of the conference’s proceedings under the title *The Hidden Pierre Trudeau: The Faith Behind the Politics* is such a welcome event. ☺

# Much depends on feasting

At this year's St. Jerome's Feast for Catholic University Education, the Chancellor John Sweeney Award was presented to the renowned classicist and self-described "anthropologist of everyday life," Margaret Visser. Best known for her conversations with Peter Gzowski on *Morningside* and her book *Much Depends on Dinner*, her presence and that of her husband, Colin, at the fourth annual Feast on October 15th was an occasion for reflection and laughter.

Margaret detailed her own intellectual and spiritual pilgrimage with stories of three churches.

The first was Notre Dame in Paris, where, as a student at the Sorbonne, she found respite from the tedium of lectures. The second was St. Francis of Assisi, a church in Toronto's Little Italy, which attracted her with its colourful statues of innumerable patron saints representing all the native villages of its parishioners.

The last was Sant'Agnese fuori le Mura, or St. Agnes outside the Walls in Rome, which was

the subject of her book *The Geometry of Love: Space, Time, Mystery and Meaning in an Ordinary Church*. It was for this work of scholarship that she was honoured with the Sweeney Award, since her writing illuminates the origins and themes of



Photo: Mike Christie

Roman Catholic belief as they are articulated in the architecture and iconography of a typical church. The book won universal acclaim and was named the number one best-seller by *Maclean's*.

This was a study she undertook in search of her own personal cultural history as much as in the interests of scholarship. The benefits of study and belief, she said, lie in the way that they connect us with our personal and collective heritage. She demonstrated the importance of remaining curious about that heritage by telling the story of Socrates, the Vissers, and the great wind of Delos.

When Socrates was condemned to die, the sacred ship *Parolos* was away from Athens on its



Chancellor Richard Gwyn,  
Margaret Visser and  
Kay Sweeney

annual trip to Delos. During its absence, executions were forbidden; moreover, the ship's return was often delayed by a great wind. That wind forestalled Socrates' death for thirty days—time in which he engaged his students in the philosophical discussions recorded in Plato's *Crito* and *Phaedo*.

Twenty-four hundred years later, Margaret and Colin Visser accepted an invitation to tour the Aegean on a yacht—a decision made dubious by the first words uttered by their hosts. "Look," they told Margaret, "we know you're a scholar of ancient Greece, but we're just not interested. We don't want to hear anything about it."

Margaret was incredulous. "It's a great loss, just culturally, never mind the whole religious dimension which is, of course, far more important, to cut oneself off from knowing these wonderful stories that are part of our heritage." Nevertheless, she graciously agreed and remained silent as they sailed past ancient sites rich in incident and tradition. An uncomfortable week later, she and Colin disembarked near Athens and their hosts asked where they were going next.

"To Delos," they replied.

"Oh, don't go there," said their hosts, aghast. "There's a great wind that often blows between Athens and Delos."

"We know," said the Vissers.

"And we didn't say another word," Margaret concluded, to her audience's considerable and resounding delight. ☪



# Dallaire on being human

Lieutenant-General (Retired) Romeo Dallaire spoke at the Catholics in Public Life conference on May 28, 2004.  
Photo: The Record

Last May, an overflow crowd gathered to hear Lieutenant-General (Retired) Romeo Dallaire—author of the acclaimed book *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*—open the Catholics in Public Life conference with these words: “Hopefully, [what I have to say] will challenge you and maybe even disturb you... I hope it will be perceived with the optimism and with the dynamic that it should, as we look at ourselves, our country and humanity, not just now but in the future.”

What became clear to those who listened was that this was a man, schooled in military discipline and strategy, who was also deeply philosophical and who had attempted earnestly to enact the principled convictions of western, Christian culture in the face of the heart of darkness.

The Rwandan mission assigned to Dallaire and his troops in 1993 was to have been a classic peacekeeping mission. It failed. “We discovered a whole other entity that is not classic in any way, shape or form, an entity...that is, in fact, beyond rules. We discovered barbarism.” He concluded that “peacekeeping, as we knew it, didn’t fit the bill.” Dallaire and his men faced dilemmas for which there were no obvious precedents. When child soldiers use young girls as human shields, what moral references apply?

Leaders on both sides of the conflict were well educated, many having graduated from some of the best schools in North America and Europe. “All knew how to move their country, populations, public opinion and the great powers.” But they refused to share power, thus creating irreconcilable tribal conflicts that ultimately led to genocide.

In the face of international indifference and mounting pressure to leave, Dallaire pondered whether to stay and defend the 20,000 Rwandans

from both sides under his protection. On a dark night, he came suddenly and powerfully to realize that he was not alone with this agonizing decision. “In a nanosecond, I was strengthened to the extent that I was able to continue my command for months afterwards...and sustain the casualties, continue to see the atrocities, the traumas and the dilemmas, and continue to attempt to save Rwandans.”

In the aftermath, he was left to wrestle with terrible questions. “What we learned in Canadian society—our religious beliefs, our social justice, our sense of humanity and human rights—gave us great power, but at the same time brought us trauma in terms of what to do. What gives us that inner strength to go instinctively beyond our self-protection to help other human beings? How does one deal with the guilt of surviving?”

As he recovered from his experience, he would visit Montreal’s Marie-Reine-du-Monde Cathedral—the only place where he could find strength and “raise himself to the level of living.” There, “I found serenity, solace. I could think. I felt protected.... Our Church gives us that.... I can turn somewhere to find the real and ultimate serenity of my mind and my soul and my heart.”

Still, he has hope for the influence of countries like Canada in the world. “We are different,” he said. “We don’t walk past people who suffer.... Canada has created standards of ethics and moral reference that no other nation has applied, standards that were established on very solid grounds with the active and continuing participation of the Church. We are being tested out there as we’ve never been tested before.”

## SJU News

**Richard Gwyn** has received the unanimous approval of the Board of Governors for an additional two-year term as Chancellor of St. Jerome’s. He will serve until the fall of 2007.

St. Jerome’s has finalized two new cooperative agreements with international universities. In April, 2004, St. Jerome’s University signed an agreement with the Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest, Hungary to encourage faculty and student exchanges, exchange of publications, and joint research. The arrangement was facilitated by **Andrew Telegdi**, MP for Kitchener-Waterloo, who is himself of Hungarian descent. This September, a cooperative agreement on the same terms was concluded with Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla in Puebla, Mexico. A similar agreement with the University of Calabria in Italy has

resulted in a number of exchange students spending academic terms in Canada.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board’s Community Award was presented to St. Jerome’s University in May. **Louise Ervin**, Chair, and **Roger Lawler**, Director of Education, presented the Award to President **Michael W. Higgins** during Eucharistic celebrations recognizing the service of staff and trustees at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Kitchener.

**Vera Golini**, who is returning full time to St. Jerome’s after seven years in half-time secondment to the University of Waterloo as Director of the Women’s Studies program, has been appointed the new Associate Dean. Her term will run until June 30, 2005. She succeeds **Steve Furino**, who has embarked upon a well-earned sabbatical.

## *“Here’s the problem. Let’s do something about it.”*

Forty years after Fr. Norm Choate sparked his interest in sociology, Dr. Peter Warran (BA, '68) is receiving the 2004 Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award in recognition of his commitment to social justice and his intrepid curiosity, both of which have led to leadership roles in labour, government, business, and academia.

“Norm Choate had a way of transmitting the sociological imagination that was visionary,” says Peter. “He was one of the most formative influences for me.”

Already strongly influenced by Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement, Peter arrived at St. Jerome’s after an apprenticeship with Northern Electric and time as a Paulist seminarian in Baltimore. He wanted to attend a Catholic college, but “didn’t have a language credit.” St. Jerome’s required no language credit.

He became politically involved as the St. Jerome’s representative on the Federation of Students and, later, as president of the Canadian Union of Students (CUS).

But he did not stop there. “We decided we didn’t like this war in Vietnam.” A discussion in 1966 with Clayton Ruby—future lawyer and civil rights advocate—led to meetings in Iowa with the executive of the Students for a Democratic Society. “We told them, ‘There’s an extradition treaty between Canada and the United States but it’s only effective when there are comparable offences. There’s no draft in Canada. If these guys come to Canada, they can’t take them back.’ Well, it seemed like a good idea.”

Acting on such conviction led to an impressively varied career.

After graduate studies, Peter held executive positions with the United Steelworkers of America, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, and the Canadian Steel Trade and Employment Congress. In 1992, he became the assistant deputy

minister of finance, the province’s chief economist and the principal architect of the Social Contract. “That got everybody’s attention,” he says with a sigh.

Then, “some crazy mathematician friends of mine had this idea about software. They would goof around with the code and I would imagine the organizational problems this stuff would solve.” The result was Zoomit, a networking software company that Peter and his friends sold to Microsoft in 1999.

Today, he is a senior research fellow at the Munk Centre for International Studies and an adjunct professor of political science and industrial relations at the University of Toronto. He is also a member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Board, and, with his wife, Dr. Margret Hovanec, created the Lupina Foundation to promote research and innovation in areas of health and society. Among other things, they have helped establish an international network of trauma centres to assist civilian populations recovering from the effects of terrorist bombings.

They sponsor a lecture series about contemporary issues within the church at the Newman Centre in Toronto. Together, they also donated a significant collection of contemporary art to St. Jerome’s.

Throughout, Peter continued to study, completing a PhD in 1986 and post-doctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1991. Currently, he is studying theology at Regis College.

“It’s a long stretch to go from being an apprentice at Northern Electric in 1962 to doing a post-doctorate at M.I.T. in 1992,” Peter admits with a laugh. “I look at my life with a vague combination of curiosity and amusement.”



*Dr. Peter Warran is the 2004 Recipient of the Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award*

Photo: Bryn Gladding

### **Call for nominations**

*The Father Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award recognizes graduates who have made outstanding contributions to their professions, their communities, or the Church.*

*To nominate a graduate, please submit a letter with the following information:*

*the nominee’s name, current address and phone number; a summary of the nominee’s achievements; your name, address and phone number.*

*Direct nominations to:*

*Harry Froklage,  
Director of Development  
and Graduate Affairs,*

*St. Jerome’s University,  
290 Westmount Road N.,  
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G3*

*or via e-mail to  
froklage@waterloo.ca*

*Deadline for nominations:  
Friday, February 18, 2005.*

During the last weekend of October, the St. Jerome’s Student Catholic Community (SCC) hosted the Canadian Catholic Student Association (CCSA) Regional Conference on campus. **Flavia Quintana-Escalona**, SCC Co-coordinator, reports that there were “seventy-four participants, including students from many universities across Ontario, accompanied by their Chaplains.” The conference theme was Canadian Catholic Social Teaching and its slogan was “Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with our God.” Four of the invited speakers were SJU graduates. **Megan Shore (BA '99)** spoke to the topic “Act Justly: What is Catholic Social Teaching?”; **Joe Mancini (BA '81)** and **Stephanie Mancini (BA '82)** led a discussion on “Love Tenderly: Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching”; and **Gonzalo Duarte (DPCS '94)** and his wife Jasmin addressed the theme “Walk Humbly with our God... and brothers and sisters.”

Three St. Jerome’s students have received Canada Millennium Scholarships. **Cassandra Roach** has received an In-Course Excellence Award, valued at \$4,000. **Kathy Sisak** and **Ekaterina (Kate) Solovieva** will also receive renewals of their awards this year, valued at \$4,000 each.

At fall Convocation, **Scott Vanstone (BMath '70)** of the Mathematics Department was presented with a University of Waterloo Award for Excellence in Research for achieving “an exceptional international reputation for his academic accomplishments with an impressive record of research publications, and [playing] a prominent role in promoting elliptic curve cryptography as a practical security technology.”

Faculty of Arts undergraduate award winners for last spring’s 2004 Convocation included SJU students

# Making a Home Away from

## Centre for Catholic Experience Lectures

Winter/Spring 2005

All lectures take place in Siegfried Hall.

**Friday, January 28**

7:30 p.m.

God of the Outdoors

Jim Profit, SJ

**February 18**

7:30 p.m.

Healthcare and

Canadian Values

Roy Romanow

**Friday, March 4**

7:30 p.m.

Many Churches/Many

Faiths/One Planet

Douglas John Hall, PhD

**Friday, March 18**

7:30 p.m.

Lessons from Iraq

Hans-Christof Graf von

Sponneck

**Friday, April 8**

7:30 p.m.

Beyond Borders:

Diversity as a Moral and

Spiritual Resource

Marilyn Legge, PhD

For more information,

please visit our website:

[www.sju.ca](http://www.sju.ca)

It's Day 2 of Frosh Week and the annual SJU faculty/staff/frosh barbeque is in full swing. Frosh who moved into residence over the weekend and day students who commute from home contribute to the cheerful clamour of people getting to know one another.

Lisa, a first-year student from Exeter, lives in residence and has already met all of her floor-mates. "We stayed up talking until 3 a.m." She doesn't look tired at all. Shannon is living at home in Guelph and commuting; this morning, her car broke down. Sandra is so excited about classes starting that she's impatient for Frosh Week to be over. Everyone has a story to tell.

Magda is helping create the buzz. She is a third-year student who is an off-campus don and part of a new program that helps off-campus students connect with the St. Jerome's community through activities and support. "Last night, we went bowling," she beams. "We'll have barbeques, bonfires; we might go skiing this year."

Most of these students were accepted at other universities but chose St. Jerome's. Smaller class sizes were an important factor, along with more individual attention in class. "I don't want to be lost in a large group," laughs one. "I like to be the centre of attention."

Residence was another key consideration. "I chose St. Jerome's because of the atmosphere,"

says Nikki, returning for her second year in residence. "I took some tours before I came and the people were always really welcoming and kind. There was a good mixture of frosh and upper years. It works. Also, there are always so many events going on, so many ways to be involved." Her conclusion: "St. Jerome's is a wonderful community, a home away from home."

Making that home away from home a reality is the work of a team of staff and students led by

Darren Becks (BES '94, MAES '01), the residence and facilities director. "You should have been here on Sunday when everyone moved into residence," he explains as he recovers from a weekend of introducing roommates, reassuring parents, and ensuring that computers are compatible with ResNet, the wireless network. His team of



Off-Campus Don Jeff Akomah leads the Frosh Cheer

staff, dons, orientation leaders, and ResNet technicians made the transition for new students as smooth as possible.

Darren and his staff—Cris Hawkins, his assistant and the conference coordinator; Richard Crispin, information systems administrator; Jim Robson, maintenance lead hand; and Ed Gover, maintenance—oversee two residences and an administrative building, conferences (which have increased tenfold in ten years), food services,

**Emir Delic**, French, and **Mark Otto Kronwald**, Religious Studies. The University of Waterloo's Alumni Association Gold Medal was awarded to SJU grad **Ian Douglas McIntyre**, Honours Computer Science, Pure Mathematics Minor.

For his commitment to local heritage, **Kenneth McLaughlin** (BA, '65) History, has been honoured by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation with the Sally Thorsen Award. The terms of the award require that the recipient must have demonstrated "in the course of at least 10 years of their professional lives, an outstanding and active level of commitment to heritage concerns." A former chair of the Foundation, McLaughlin helped establish the Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener and served as president of the Ontario Historical Association.

**Ted McGee**, English, recently published an article in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* on "The Presentment of Mr. Bushell's Rock"—a theatrical device by which Bushell introduced King Charles I to his underground grotto and secured for himself control over the silver mines of Wales. He spoke at the Stratford Festival again this season on "Staging the Supernatural" at the 23rd Annual Teachers' Conference (14-15 October '04).

**David Seljak**, Religious Studies, has co-edited *Religion and Ethnicity in Canada*, with Paul Bramadat of the University of Winnipeg. The book explores six major religions in Canada (Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam, and Chinese religions) and the place of religion in Canadian society as it pertains to government policies, immigration and the economy, and the laws and standards of education.

# Home

by Kate Holt

maintenance, parking, and information technology. Good and effective working relationships are vital.

For students, the residence experience is determined by other students who serve as dons. "Dons are connected to the students on their floors," says Cris Hawkins. "They really work at building community throughout the year." She and Darren run a two-week program to orient dons to the kinds of challenges they may face and the resources available to assist them. The program also builds the team. "Our dons deal with so much—they're on the front lines, they're my eyes and ears—and I need to equip them as best I can," says Darren. "Our expectations are high, and it's not an easy job."

Darren became familiar with those expectations as a frosh and later as a don himself. He credits former president Doug Letson and former residence director Steve Sabourin with encouraging his current philosophy of residence life and praises Sister Celeste Reinhart, former director of residence at Notre Dame College, for modeling the importance of pastoral presence.

These are values that continue to find expression in new initiatives like the introduction of a Residence Life Coordinator who will organize tutorials and events for residents on an ongoing basis. And they are values that have been passed on to the current group of dons. Joel, a new don, says, "My goal this year is to make my floor a home. I have a floor of upper-year students and during frosh week most of my students were leading frosh activities. Being out there with them as they welcome new residents is fantastic; what better way to drive home the real spirit of St. Jerome's?"

Photos by Mike Christie

St. Jerome's Reading Series will feature five outstanding writers of prose and poetry. **Diana Fitzgerald Bryden** of Toronto has published two books of poetry: *Learning Russian* (2000) and *Clinic Day* (2004). **John Gould**, a Victoria-based writer, has published two collections of very short fiction. The second, *Kilter: 55 Fictions* (2003), was nominated for the 2003 Giller Prize. **Goran Simic**, a prominent writer in the former Yugoslavia, has published eleven volumes of poetry, drama and short fiction. His most recent book, *Immigrant Blues* (2003), is his second volume of poems in English. **Carrie Snyder's** first book of short stories, *Hair Hat* (Penguin, 2004), was published to rave reviews. A graduate of St. Jerome's University, she now lives in Waterloo. **Lewis DeSoto** emigrated



Eric Silius



Leanne Philbert and  
Tobi Dipo



First-year student  
Barbara Strgar



Katie Hillis and Sue  
Brubacher, Assistant to  
the Registrar

Fresh-faced Frosh

from South Africa. His first novel, *A Blade of Grass* (2003), received a Booker Prize nomination. For more information, contact Gary Draper at (519) 884-8111 x220 or via e-mail to [gdraper@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gdraper@uwaterloo.ca).

SJU Academic Dean **Kieran Bonner** served as Ph.D. supervisor for this year's winner of the 2004 Alumni Gold Medal for outstanding achievement at the Master's level at the University of Waterloo, Elin Moorlag.

# New faces at St. Jerome's

the world in the snow  
one big chalk blur

God's scribbled ideas  
descending

they get smudged on  
their squeeze through  
the clouds

dimmed when they're  
whipped by the wind

but when the storm  
strengthens

into dense sheets of  
white

you know God's getting  
excited

about his equations

Tristanne Connolly,

Grail, Vol. 8, Issue 3,  
Sept. '92

Photo: Chris Hughes



## Tristanne Connolly

Tristanne Connolly's books are unpacked and happily shelved in her new office in the English department. And she's happily ensconced as well.

Connolly had wanted to return to Canada for some time and leapt at the opportunity at St. Jerome's. "A lot of my work has to do with theology and mysticism—religious studies has been my secondary area—so St. Jerome's was the perfect place."

A Hamilton native, Connolly studied medieval literature and religious studies at McMaster before receiving her doctorate from King's College at Cambridge University. She taught at Auburn University in Alabama, and at Butler University in Indianapolis. Her doctoral thesis, *William Blake and the Body*, was published in 2002. Now, she's looking forward to teaching British Literature Survey—"Beowulf to Virginia Woolf," she jokes—and British Romantic Literature.

She also looks forward to being able to walk more regularly. "Cars are inimical to thinking; if you're walking, you can *think*. Neither can you read in a car, but you can read on a subway. Public transit encourages reading."

Her husband Ken Robinson is a freelance short story writer, and Connolly is herself a poet. Three of her poems appeared in *Grail* magazine, formerly published at St. Jerome's. One is reproduced in the sidebar to the left.

## Whitney Lackenbauer

Five minutes with Whitney Lackenbauer—the History Department's newest member—will leave you as enthusiastic as he is about Canadian history. "I'm an historian because I love history," he says. "It's that simple."

Born in Waterloo Region and a graduate of St. Jerome's, Lackenbauer (BA, '98) sees his return as a homecoming. He was mentored by Kenneth McLaughlin and Gerald Stortz and won the History Award before pursuing post-graduate studies at the University of Calgary. In 2000, he was selected by *Maclean's* magazine as one of the "100 Canadians to Watch" under the age of 30.

During post-doctoral studies at the University of Saskatchewan, he became fascinated by the Canadian Rangers, volunteers who monitor the delicate ecosystems of the Canadian North and report on everything from security issues to climate change. "If the Northwest Passage opens up," he says, "we'll face fundamental changes that we need to be educated about; we need to be prepared."

Lackenbauer will teach Canadian History through Biography and Canada in World Affairs. He looks forward to demonstrating to his students that Canadian history is anything but dull. "There's nothing I'm more passionate about than Canada: there's lots to celebrate, lots to lament."

Lackenbauer lives in Otterville on the dairy farm where his wife, Jennifer, grew up.

*The Hidden Pierre Trudeau: Faith and Politics in the Balance*, which he co-edited with Richard Gwyn and John English, was published this November. ☪

## Grad Notes

'68 St. Jerome's graduates will be saddened to learn that **Frank Marc D'Andrea (BA '68, English)** of Richmond Hill died suddenly on Saturday, July 24, 2004. Frank is survived by his wife, **Dr. Wendy D'Andrea (BMath '71, Combinatorics and Optimization)** and his children Lauren and Greg. Frank was a respected lawyer and held a variety of senior executive positions with the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association and was vice-chair of the board of governors of Holy Trinity School. He was also past vice-chair of the Liquor License Board of Ontario and the Ontario Police Commission.

'78 **Peter Tassi (BA '78, Religious Studies)** is the chaplain at Cathedral High School in Hamilton. He reports that, each summer, he has travelled to work with a Third World mission. When he

returns, he raises funds for overseas missionaries. Thus far he has served in Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and, most recently, Rwanda, where he became acquainted with Fr. Hermann Schulz, who had established an orphanage in the mountain village of Musha. In 1994, the genocide killed 5000 people in Musha alone, including many children in his orphanage. Peter has been deeply involved in support of Fr. Hermann's efforts to rebuild his orphanage and continue his charitable work. You can contact Peter at [ptassi29@yahoo.ca](mailto:ptassi29@yahoo.ca).

'86 **Kevin Fayarchuk (BA '86, Sociology)** will be heading back to Budapest, Hungary with his wife Melinda and their three-year-old son, Aidan, to teach at the American International School of Budapest, after spending two years at the Zurich International



# Let the Dialogues Begin

It took a number of great dialogues—within St. Jerome's and in partnership with the University of Waterloo—to launch two unique academic courses of that same name.

The Great Dialogues courses are designed, in the words of Academic Dean Kieran Bonner, to explore contemporary issues within the context of our evolving intellectual tradition. "We face concerns today—some of which are universal, timeless issues—that other ages have struggled with; the solutions they've arrived at are often embodied in key texts."

Bonner and Carol Acton of the English department envisioned courses focusing on texts drawn largely—but not exclusively—from the Western tradition that lent themselves to "dialogue between the teacher and the student, the teacher and the text, and the student and the text." Chancellor Richard Gwyn actively supported the new courses and suggested the thematic, issues-oriented focus of the courses.

This fall, two courses are on offer. "Reflection and Action" will see students interacting with works from Homer, Plato, and St. Augustine through to James Joyce and Hannah Arendt, while "Politics and Morality" challenges contemporary views with works by Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Karl Marx, and Joseph Conrad.

John Greenwood, who teaches both courses, says that "the course texts are part of our identity as citizens of the West, part of our ongoing cultural inheritance. The excitement is in seeing their continuing relevance, even though

they speak to us from a period different from our own."

Bonner elaborates: "From our contemporary point of view, the answers advanced at other times may seem primitive, strange or even unintelligible. But as we try to understand the culture that birthed those solutions, we get some distance on our *own* culture, and some perspective on current issues as well."

As for the future, Bonner says, "We'll see where it goes—what kinds of other courses we can develop that will pick up different threads." ☺



## Legal Studies Expands

In 2003-2004, St. Jerome's began to house the Legal Studies program and honours, general and joint honours degree programs have been approved for September, 2005. Dr. Fred Desroches, the program Director, says that "The new Legal Studies degree has stimulated both student and faculty interest. The LS&C Advisory Board hopes to add new and exciting legal studies and criminology courses in the next couple of years."

The program draws on courses from many disciplines including sociology, political science, psychology, history, English, philosophy, accounting, statistics, actuarial science, peace and conflict studies, environmental studies, planning, and classical studies.

School. He has had the opportunity to assist in starting the Terry Fox Run in Budapest ('91-'96), in Taipei, Taiwan ('97-'02), and in Zurich ('03-'04). Contact Kevin at [keeverkm@hotmail.com](mailto:keeverkm@hotmail.com).

**Darcy Brioux (BA '86, Recreation & Leisure)** is currently manager of the Citizenship and Leadership Development Office in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Physical Education and Health. After graduating from the University of Waterloo, he took an M. Ed. from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and embarked upon a career advising post-secondary students, staff and faculty on leadership and physical education programs. In his current position, he is developing a mentoring program to ensure exceptional leadership opportunities. You can reach Darcy at [darcy.brioux@utoronto.ca](mailto:darcy.brioux@utoronto.ca).

**'87 Anita Ploj (BA '87, English)** married Basile Noël on September 6, 2003 in Ottawa, Ontario. Anita graduated from Dalhousie in 1990 with her law degree and from the University of Ottawa in 1993 with a professional specialization in Civil Law. Anita is legal counsel to the National Research Council and to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

**'92 Sheila Arnold (BA '92, English)** graduated with a B.Ed. from Queen's in 1994 and is currently teaching grade four with the Avon Maitland District School Board. She and her husband, Rob Schnurr, had a baby boy in April, 2003. His name is Connor Braeden Schnurr, and his six-year-old triplet brothers Jordan, Brett, and Caleb are "very proud of him and love him to pieces."



Anita Ploj

# Continuing CONNECTIONS

## Remembering Sister Leon White, SSND

Women who resided at Notre Dame College from its inception in 1962 until 1980 were profoundly influenced by the character and values of the College's founding Dean of Women, Sister Leon White. In recognition of Sister Leon's historic contribution to the education of women at St. Jerome's, a

*"Sister Leon was an inspiring educator whose leadership as Director of Notre Dame College helped pioneer post-secondary educational opportunities for women at St. Jerome's."*

newly renovated conference and study room in the women's residence was named in her memory on September 25, 2004.

The Chair of the Board of Governors, **Deborah Pecoskie (BA '72, Sociology)**, herself a former resident of Notre Dame College, shared her memories both of Sister Leon and of residence life, memories echoed by many of the female graduates who attended.

President Michael W. Higgins characterized the decision to name the former food services room and study area after Sister Leon as a significant act of remembrance, stating that "By remembering, we make present." **Sr. Delia Calis, SSND (BA '64, Latin)**, who lived in Notre Dame College as a student and is now the Provincial Leader of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, spoke passionately about the enduring commitment of the SSNDs to the cause of educating the whole person, and the manner in

which Sister Leon exemplified that commitment.

The plaque was dedicated by a prayer service conducted by Fr. Jim Link, C.R. and Melinda Szilva. On it were inscribed the following words: "Sister Leon was an inspiring educator whose leadership as Director of Notre Dame College helped pioneer post-secondary educational opportunities for women at St. Jerome's. Her declared conviction was that 'Women have taken their place in careers and professions alongside men. They have a distinct and very important contribution to make. The calibre of that contribution will depend upon the depth and quality of the education they have received.' She served as Dean of Women and Associate Professor of English from 1962-1980 and, in recognition of her leadership and influence, was made an Honorary Member of the University of Waterloo in 1996."



*Sr. Delia Calis and Deborah Pecoskie unveil a plaque honouring Sr. Leon White.*

Photo: Harry Froklage

## Grad Notes

**'94 Genevieve Anderson (BA '94, Religious Studies)** has moved to Cape Breton to join L'Arche for one year. She writes: "My house is called Stareghan, and is located just outside the town of Mabou, on the west side of the island. There will be five people in my house, at least for the fall. We get assigned to a different buddy every day within the house. The adults with mental disabilities are referred to as 'core members' or 'the folks.' I will have to learn how to cook for the five of us every other day! Fortunately, we get invited to the other houses for supper every Tuesday night before community night at the Lodge on the main property outside Whyocomagah." You can contact Gen at [genevieve\\_anderson@yahoo.ca](mailto:genevieve_anderson@yahoo.ca).

**'96 Matt Devine (BA '96, English and Sociology)** and his brother **Tim** have

released a CD entitled *Not Ordinary*. Following up on their earlier successes with the award-winning Catholic rock group Critical Mass, the duo was showcased this past spring at New Beginnings: A Salt + Light Easter. Tim, who attended St. Jerome's from 1993-96, was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 with the Companions of the Cross, Ottawa. He is currently serving at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Matt is a Catholic secondary school teacher in Brampton, Ontario. He and his wife, **Kate Moffat-Devine (BA '96, English Rhetoric and Legal Studies)**, have one daughter. Matt is also a member of the praise band Cross Member and performed at the Lasting Treasures conference in Midland, Ontario in August, 2004. To learn more, visit [www.catholicrock.com/devine.html](http://www.catholicrock.com/devine.html).



Album Cover: *Not Ordinary*

by Harry Froklage



Sr. Delia Calis and Sr. Marie Taylor

Photo: Harry Froklage

Among those attending were many graduates from the '60s, '70s and early '80s. A number of them had become members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, including

Sr. Elizabeth Lackenbauer (BA '69, English), Sr. Barbara Frank (BA '69, History), Sr. Audrey McCarville, (BA '71, Religious Studies), Sr. Marie Taylor (BA '71, English), Sr. Marilyn Fedy (BA '76, English) and Sr. Celeste Swan (BA '81, Religious Studies).

Among the other women residents there to remember and honour Sr. Leon were Margaret Boyd (BA '76, Psychology), Doreen Ciamarra (BA '76, Psychology), Carol A. Copeland (BES '75, Geography), Gayle Dzis (BA '63, History), Barbara Kerr (BES '75, Geography), Susan F. Koval (BSC '68, Biology), Anke Naus (BA '75, Psychology), Josephine O'Connor (BA '73, Arts), Evelyn Reniers (BMATH '75, Mathematics), Donna Rich-Bradie (BA '70, French), and Catherine Szak (BA '75, Arts). ☺

**'01 Kimberley McIlwrath (BA '01, Medieval Studies)** has been studying in Eretz, Israel since June, taking Hebrew and Jewish studies classes at the W.U.J.S. Institute in Arad. She has both Arab and Jewish friends; several of the latter are currently serving in the army. While living in Jerusalem, she volunteered for an organization called One Family, which she describes as "one of the most important and terrifying things I've ever undertaken."

The group provides support to those who have survived attacks and their families. "The situation here is too complex for me to ever break the surface," she writes. "I've learned so much about mankind,



Kimberley McIlwrath

compassion, conflict and above all, faith...I am a different person now, just for having been here."

**'03 Natalie Dushney (BA '03, English Language) and Jason Postma (BA '02, History)** were married on July 31, 2004 at Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. Natalie works in the Communications Branch at the Ministry of Education and Jason is completing his Masters degree in philosophy at the Institute of Christian Studies in Toronto. They plan on moving to Japan in September 2005. You can contact them at [Natalie.Dushney@edu.gov.on.ca](mailto:Natalie.Dushney@edu.gov.on.ca).

### Sister Jeannette Niedzwiedz, SSND (1934-2004)

Residents of Notre Dame College will be saddened to learn of the death of **Sister Jeannette Niedzwiedz, SSND** on March 10, 2004, at Notre Dame Convent, Waterdown. Sister Jeannette was 69 and in the 50th year of her religious profession. She was the Dean at Notre Dame College at St. Jerome's University from 1973 to 1979.

For seventeen years, she served as a teacher and principal in elementary and secondary schools in Waterloo, Kitchener, Walkerton, Hamilton, Welland and at Notre Dame Academy, Waterdown. Her dream of working in pastoral ministry was realized following two years of study at St. Paul University, Ottawa. Jeannette ministered in parishes in Owen Sound, Kitchener, Regina, Banley in England and Hamilton. In 2001, Jeannette joined the leadership team in Waterdown's Motherhouse, taking special responsibility for the chapel and liturgical life of the community. She continued in that service until her death.

### Hey SJU grads!

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

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

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### Are you working?

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

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### Are you married?

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

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

#### What's new in your life?

(Enclose additional sheet if necessary)

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## Art & Spirit '04



This year's Art & Spirit Festival (June 24-26) featured a display of sculpture by SJU grad, Catherine Paleczny (BA '00, Fine Arts), like this piece, entitled Organistruct.

## Ottawa Grads Gather



Anthony Bellomo (BMATH '01, Accounting and Mathematics/Accounting) and Michael W. Higgins at a gathering of Ottawa graduates in October. Also attending were Roger Fowler (BA '66, English), Damaris Rizewiski (BSC '75, Science), Richard Slowikowski (BA '78, English), and Joanne Stoody-Weeks (BA '66, English).



## Choate Display Unveiled

This November, past recipients of the Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduates Award joined this year's winner, Dr. Peter Warrian (BA '68, Sociology), in front of the new display funded by Richard Callahan (BA '62, Latin), last year's recipient. Joining Peter are past Choate Award winners Joan Grundy, Judy Nairn, Tom Ciancone, Christine Dominico, Joe Mancini, Brenda Kenyon, Richard Dominico and Rob Donelson.