

Michael W. Higgins

He's "Top Ten"

Michael W. Higgins is one of Ontario's ten best lecturers and he can prove it. The President of St. Jerome's was shortlisted as one of the "Top Ten" from over three hundred and fifty nominees by a panel composed of columnist Robert Fulford, playwright Andrew Moodie, and *Literary Review of Canada* editor Bronwyn Drainie for the TVO program *Big Ideas*.

Big Ideas, which is hosted by Irshad Manji, is a two-hour program which airs Saturday and Sunday afternoons on Ontario's public broadcast network and which features a lecture format which producer Wodek Szemberg declares is "unapologetically intellectual" and "a showcase of the ideas that shape our public debates today and our understanding of the world as it is and as it is likely to be."

Big Ideas broadcast lectures by each of the ten finalists and invited viewers to vote for the individual who best demonstrated clarity and coherence, energy and performance, and confidence and authority. Higgins' lecture, entitled "Holiness: An Antidote to Evil," was broadcast on October 15.

Although he did not garner enough popular support to be declared Number One, Higgins was deeply gratified at this recognition. "I haven't actively taught during the six years that I've been President, with the exception of being a guest lecturer in various graduate and undergraduate courses. So it is very satisfying to know that past students situate my efforts as a teacher amongst such distinguished company." £



He's Headed East

The President of St. Jerome's for the past six and a half years, Michael W. Higgins, is leaving St. Jerome's to become the President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Speaking to faculty and staff following the announcement of his departure, Higgins said, "I have not taken this decision lightly. It follows

months of discernment, personal struggle and prayer."

"My decision to go to St. Thomas is not motivated by personal restiveness or professional dissatisfaction. [St. Jerome's] remains an ideal place to work. But throughout my career, I have been passionately committed to Roman Catholic higher education in Canada and abroad. I knew that, should an occasion arise whereby I could deploy some of my skills and learning to assist

in strengthening the Catholic intellectual tradition outside of St. Jerome's and, by doing so, enhance the national network of Catholic institutions of learning, I was prepared to do so."

Still, Higgins said he and his family depart St. Jerome's "with a heavy heart. Simply put, we love this place."

"I have treasured my relationship with St. Jerome's and have matured as a scholar, administrator and person in the intellectual and spiritual environment that it has impressively nurtured over the years."

Higgins takes on his new responsibilities on July 1, 2006. In the interim, Chancellor Richard Gwyn will chair a committee which will undertake a national search to identify candidates to succeed him. £

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St. Jerome's University
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The President's Penultimate Message

by Michael W. Higgins



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

Photo: Ron Hewson

Over the past six years, I have used this column to focus on matters pertaining to the critical role that can be played by a Roman Catholic, liberal arts university in Canada, and on the many things we are doing to make you, our graduates and supporters, proud of your association with St. Jerome's.

This time I have news of a more personal nature. I will be departing as President of St. Jerome's on June 30, 2006.

I am assuming new responsibilities as President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick—yet another of the impressive Catholic universities

that have enriched the post-secondary landscape in Canada.

I'm not saying good-bye quite yet—I'll leave that for the Spring issue of *SJU Update*—but I want to share some thoughts about what it means to me and to my family to leave a community, in which we—my spouse and partner, Krystyna, and our four children, Becca, Andrew, Sarah, and Alexa—have been deeply rooted since 1982.

St. Jerome's and Kitchener-Waterloo are places where long-lasting and treasured friendships have been forged, where we have grown, personally and professionally, and where we have attempted to make our own unique contributions. As you can doubtless appreciate, this decision and time of transition are difficult.

When I was first offered a position at St. Jerome's by President Norm Choate, I had been teaching at both St. Michael's College School and the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto. Bold efforts were made by the

principals of those institutions to keep me there, but after a series of interviews with Fr. Choate, Peter Naus and Doug Letson, the opportunity to come to St. Jerome's seemed to be the right offer at the right time.

Very few agreed. We received condolence cards, road maps highlighted with directions to Toronto, warnings that my future in the media was compromised, and less-than-subtle cautions from academics who wondered why I would deliberately choose to go to a backwater.

We have never regretted our decision.

St. Jerome's is a bold and imaginative place to be. I have been fortunate to participate in many exciting initiatives: the Centre for Catholic Experience, the Institute for Studies in Theological Renewal, *Grail: an Ecumenical Journal*, and the Catholics in Public Life Forum, to name just a few. In the last few years alone we have launched new undertakings to enrich the lives of our students and our SJU community: an investiture ceremony for incoming students and outreach programs for those living off-campus; a graduate degree in theology (Master of Catholic Thought); flourishing Legal Studies and Human Sciences programs; and cooperative agreements with universities in Hungary, Mexico, Poland and

Italy and with the international social justice program, Intercordia.

All of these things are possible because we work as a community, because the Academic Deans with whom

I've worked, Kieran Bonner and Myroslaw Tataryn, share my commitment to the principles of collegiality and subsidiarity, because our faculty and staff are fully engaged in making SJU a place of excellence and growth.

I will leave SJU deeply confident of its future as a place where community matters, where new ideas are welcome and new projects encouraged, and where faith and the intellectual life are seen, not as antagonistic, but as rich complements in the making of meaningful lives. ☪

“St. Jerome's is a bold and imaginative place to be.”

A Feast of Memory and Affirmation

Catholics are not a dour crowd...not inattentive to the finer things that exalt the senses, and we are here for a feast—for a celebration.”

With these words, St. Jerome’s President Michael W. Higgins broke into the happy hubbub of two hundred guests gathered in the Douglas R. Letson Community Centre on Friday, September 23rd for the 5th Annual St. Jerome’s Feast for Catholic University Education. What ensued was indeed a feast: a feast of words, images and memories, as well as a superb gourmet dinner.

This year, the Chancellor John Sweeney Award was presented to an order of women closely connected with St. Jerome’s history and mission as a Catholic University. The School Sisters of Notre Dame—who arrived in Ontario in 1871 to administer the orphanage in St. Agatha at the invitation of Fr. Eugene Funcken, C.R.—aligned themselves with St. Jerome’s University in 1961 to found Notre Dame College and provide significant educational opportunities for women.

Deborah Pecoskie (BA ’72), Chair of St. Jerome’s Board of Governors and herself a graduate of Notre Dame College, gave a special tribute. “Where does one begin to honour an outstanding group of women who have impacted your life in such a profound manner?” she asked. “This is the gift which I and others received: the offering of a life, and the gift of a place. Tonight we honour and congratulate a group of women, many here, many gone, who truly know what it is to give unconditionally of themselves and truly to fulfill the role of sister.”

In accepting the Award, the Provincial Leader, **Sister Delia Calis**, SSND (BA ’64), who was among the first students at Notre Dame College, confirmed that the founding Sisters recognized a need and committed themselves to meeting it. “Urged by the love of Christ, we choose to express our mission through ministry directed towards education. For us, education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and assisting them to direct their gifts towards building the earth.”

“Like Mother Teresa, we educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons, as our ministry demands a Christian vision of what the human person is called to be and what the world is

destined to become. We believe that education—learning—is a giving and a receiving, a mutual enrichment. Education is growing in communion with God and with one another, and in acceptance of responsibility for the earth and its people.”

Sr. Delia spoke approvingly of the ways in which St. Jerome’s continues to fulfill that vision of education, citing the recent partnership with Intercordia Canada to provide students with first-hand experience of the challenges faced by developing countries and the newly-launched Master in Catholic Thought (MCT) program as examples.

President Higgins provided the assembly with a progress report on the MCT, to which the



Deborah Pecoskie honours the SSNDs
Photo: Mike Christie

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proceeds of the annual Feast are directed. Over \$700,000 has been raised to launch the program, which received Ontario Council of Graduate Studies approval in 2005. The inaugural offering of classes in September attracted twenty registrants—triple the number expected—with more new students beginning in January.

“As a community,” Higgins concluded, “this came to fruition because we knew that we needed it. We also need to come together, to appreciate the things that are part of our sense and signature as a community. Communion is more than just simply language; it’s a way of being together sacramentally, corporeally and spiritually.”



Kay Sweeney and Sr. Delia Calis
Photo: Mike Christie

A Reunion of Cummings-o-philes



Front L to R: Pat Flynn, (BA '68), Patrick O'Neill (BA '67), Larry Cummings, Judy Stauffert (née Dalrymple-BA '68), Rand Houghton (BA '69), Ron Green (BSC '67), Barb Cowan (kneeling), Mary Perkins (née Kolyanko-BA '69), Roger Spalding (BA '66), Gwen Nowak McGreenere (BA '65), Marta Tomins (BA '65).

Back Row L to R: Peter Hinchcliffe, Mike Gurski (BES '74; BA '77), Doug Hilker (BA '66), Virginia Vickers (BA '69), Mary Lou Hiller (BA '66), Roger Fowler (BA '66), Carolyn Pegg (née Lavigne-BA '67), Sr. Barbara Frank (BA '69), Bob Wiljer (BA '66), Gail Young (née MacDonald-BA '66), Bruce Young (BA '66). (Hidden behind Rand Houghton is Barbara Samson-Willis (BA '67)).

It was around ten on the morning of September 17th, 2005. An impressive gathering—including judges, professors, teachers, writers and business people—assembled in the Sr. Leon White Room and greeted each other with evident warmth. The evening before, many had attended the inaugural Laurence A. Cummings Lecture in Cultural History, delivered by Dr. Modris Eksteins on the topic “Art, Fame and the Problem of Authenticity: Vincent van Gogh and Us.”

This morning, however, they were there to bridge the nearly forty years since many of them had seen one another last. Then, they had studied English literature or acted in medieval dramas under the banner of St. Aethelwold's Players. In either case, they came within the compelling orbit of Dr. Larry Cummings and, as was so often the case when he taught them, they were awaiting his arrival.

Cummings taught English at St. Jerome's from 1962 to 1972 before launching the cultural history program at UW's School of Architecture. As a professor he was challenging. As a director he was a perfectionist. The loyalty he commanded was evident in the people he influenced.

The guest of honour arrived at last, the beard whiter, the voice still resonant with southern drawl, the mind still incapable—and intolerant—of flummery.

The stories began—tales of pranks and pratfalls, missed cues, perilous adventures with ladders, impossible assignments and riveting discussions. Pat Flynn remembered being accidentally beamed by a trapdoor in rehearsal, prompting so much laughter that Cummings wanted to keep the shtick in the show. Barb Cowan presented Cummings with a piece of needlepoint detailing the story of Noah that she'd begun nearly forty years before and recently completed. Roger Fowler spoke of being inspired by Cummings' counsel that a “good teacher puts an irritating grain of sand in your mind”, an irritant that spurs questioning and may, in time, produce a pearl of understanding.

Cummings, now retired and living in Texas, was eloquent in his appreciation and visibly pleased to see his former students and colleagues. He did, however, protest that much of what he had heard about his curmudgeonly exactitude and inspiring influence could in no way be confirmed by his own recollections. ☺

A Sad Addendum

The conviviality of the inaugural Laurence A. Cummings Lecture in Cultural History and the reunion of graduates from the 1960s was overshadowed by sad news of two subsequent deaths: that of Larry's beloved wife, Jean, on December 18, 2005 of leukemia and, the day before, of **Roger Spalding** (BA '66) from complications arising from brain cancer. It was Roger who first approached St. Jerome's with the idea of establishing and sponsoring an annual lecture honouring his mentor. Roger taught high school English in Toronto until he retired in 1999 and took up a second career as a psychoanalyst with the Institute for the Advancement of Self-Psychology. He was a pioneering member of the AIDS Action Now steering committee in the early days of the AIDS crisis and a regular contributor to *The Body Politic*.



Robson Re-Connects

Jim Robson first came to St. Jerome's as a student and made lifelong friends in residence. While he couldn't bring himself to leave SJU—Jim has worked for many years as a valued member of Residence and Facilities Operations as Maintenance Lead Hand—his friends moved on. So when Jim organized a big outdoor get-together this past summer at his home in Sebringville, he included a mini-reunion of former SJU students and residents. (Note that Jim's passion for vintage radio is evident in this picture.)

(L to R) **Dave Dawson** (BMATH '93), **Jim Robson** himself, **Pat McAleese** (BA '99), **John Scott** (BA '89), **Mary Scott** (BA '87), **Leslie Duffy** (BA '90), **Paul Smith** (BA '90) and **Neil Duffy** (BMATH '91). Also present were **John Zamora** and **Dan Fasan**.

Women of the '90s Reunite

It could have been an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. Consider, if you will, the discombobulating experience of Layla Propopapa on August 6, 2005. Having returned to UW after ten years to pursue graduate studies and choosing to live in her old undergraduate residence, Layla stepped out into a sunlit Saturday morning only to find herself, suddenly and unexpectedly, transported back to the early 1990s.

That was when she had last resided in Notre Dame College—as it was then known—and that was when she last saw the faces that were now clustered in the breezeway, greeting each other with animation and delight. Layla had wandered serendipitously into a reunion—organized by **Cathy Muegge** (née Flachs-BA '95)—of women who had lived at Notre Dame from 1990 to 1993.

There were **Genevieve Anderson** (BA '94), **Silva Andonian** (BSC '95), **Diane Cesa** (née Valentini-BA '95), **Shari Chantler** (née Biggar-BA '94), **Andrea Charette** (née Fryer-BA '93), **Paula Charters** (née De Prosperis-BA '94), **Marcia Dedominicis** (née Coombs-BA '95), **Katie Donohue Keaveney** (BA '93), **Leona Jones** (BMATH '95), **Catherine MacArthur** (BA '95), **LoriAnne Major** (née Aaviku-BA '95), **Karen McGrail** (née Boere-BA '95), **Paula Petsche-Wilhelm** (BA '94), **Lisa Pochman** (née Murphy-BA '95), **Fiona Taylor** (née McIntyre-BA '95), **Mary Terpstra-Skinn** (BSC '95), **Toni Volpato** (née Mair-BSC '96), **Marianne White** (BSC '95), **Joanne Winter** (née Stypa-BA '94) and **Ewa Yousufzai** (BMATH '95).

The clamorous chatter of remembering and catching up continued through a barbeque lunch attended by SJU's President, Michael Higgins, and the Chair of English, Ted McGee.

In the afternoon, the twenty-two women created a circle in Notre Dame Chapel and Gen Anderson invited each to reflect on that transitional time they had shared. Many spoke of values that now find expression in their professional and personal lives. Heads nodded as **Andrea Charette**, who stayed at St. Jerome's to become Director of Student Services, spoke of the shaping influence of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Then, **Fiona Taylor** recalled the powerful experience of singing "The Lord's Prayer" during Mass. The assembly rose as one, joined hands, and sang: "Father, you are in Heaven..."

A moving end to a wonderful, albeit discombobulating, day. ☺



Some of the women of Notre Dame College, 1990-1993. Special thanks to **Cathy Muegge** (1st row, far left) for suggesting the event and helping organize it.

SJU News

St. Jerome's University will be hosting the Administrative Council meeting of the International Federation of Catholic Universities March 6 to 10, 2006. The Council consists of representatives from the global Catholic university world. Presidents and rectors from Latin America, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Asia will be accompanied by the Paris-based Secretariat of the International Federation of Catholic Universities and several translators for a week-long series of meetings.

Michael W. Higgins is the Canadian representative on the Administrative Council and in that capacity will serve as host for this meeting. This is the first time that such a meeting has been held at a Canadian Catholic university.

Christopher Burris of the Psychology Department spent a recent sabbatical conducting research in California, Arizona and Scotland. While in Scotland he met with Dr. Fabio Sani of the University of Dundee and was asked to contribute a chapter to an upcoming book.

The English Department's **Stan Fogel's** self-described "opus" on the American novelist and short-story writer William H. Gass has been published in *The Review of Contemporary Fiction* (Vol. XXV, No. 2), a journal that "features critical essays on fiction writers whose work resists convention and easy categorization."

Michael W. Higgins' upcoming series on the CBC One radio program *IDEAS* will be broadcast on February 15th, 22nd and March 1st at 9:00 p.m. Entitled *Stalking the Holy: The Pursuit of Saintmaking*, the series is the result of five years of interviews and

Eva Kmiecic:

Distinguished Graduate



Photo: Bryn Gladding

The 2005 Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award recipient, **Eva Kmiecic** (BA '75), has a disarming smile, a great sense of humour and a directness that penetrates to the heart of any issue.

She began the 2005 Graduates' Association Lecture by observing, "In the thirty years since I sat in the SJC coffee shop, I have regrettably witnessed a steady erosion of integrity, honour, and responsibility at the highest levels of the government, the public service and the private sector."

This is an unflinching analysis from the first civilian to be appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Eva also worked on immigration settlement and refugees with the Australian Commonwealth Government, established Public Security and Citizenship & Immigration departments for the federal government of Canada and served as Vice-President of the Public Policy Forum. She is presently a Board member of the Institute on Governance, chairs the Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector Advisory Committee to Crossing Boundaries, and Co-Chairs the Steering Committee that is overseeing the

organizing of the Human Resources Council for the Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector.

For the past two years, she has been the Senior Vice-President, Strategic Management, for United Way of Canada-Centraide Canada.

"Values are at [United Way's] core. I have learned some amazing lessons that could certainly translate to the private and public sectors."

Her friend and teacher, **Father Jim Wahl, C.R.**,

disclosed that he only taught her one course. The real connection developed during impassioned debates in the SJU coffee shop over endless cups of Mrs. Brown's notoriously murky coffee—which Eva refused to drink. "What my professors knew then, but I did not, was the long-lasting value of the critical ideas that were planted and germinating within me at that time—the survival skills that would be required to put principles into practice, the precious analytic tools and values that would be needed to make difficult yet ethical decisions down the road."

Fr. Norm Choate expressed St. Jerome's reciprocal sentiments in a note he sent to Eva to mark the evening: "I remember well your intelligence, charm and energy and I am very proud that St. Jerome's has played a part in your quest for the greater good." ☺

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research into the process and purpose of sainthood, focusing on the extraordinary number of saints canonized by Pope John Paul II and on the causes of Mother Teresa, Pope Pius XII and Padre Pio in particular. The broadcast will be preceded by the publication of *Stalking the Holy* by Anansi Press.

Former English professor **Peter Hinchcliffe** has received the Province of Ontario's Senior of the Year Award in recognition of his leadership on the City of Kitchener's Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and on the Mayor's Advisory Council for Kitchener Seniors.

SJU President Emeritus **Douglas Letson** was also recognized recently for his many volunteer commitments. In presenting Doug with the Waterloo Council Award, which is the City's most prestigious form of

civic recognition, Waterloo Council made special note of his tireless commitment to the Walter Bean Trail.

David Seljak (Religious Studies) has been appointed Chair of Religious Studies for the University of Waterloo for a three-year term. David will step down as Director of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience in June after establishing the lecture series as a leading forum for the discussion of contemporary issues within a Christian context. SJU graduate **Megan Shore** (BA '99), who is currently completing her doctoral thesis at the University of Leeds and who has been lecturing in the Religious Studies Department at St. Jerome's, will assume the directorship of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience on an interim basis.

Eva Kmiecic on “The Greater Good: Enacting Personal Values to Build Community”

Excerpts from the 2005 Graduates’ Association Lecture

The years I spent on this campus—studying ancient history and philosophy, reading the Greeks and the Romans initiating the debate on what it means to be a citizen, what it means to be truly good, what it means to be a leader, and then carrying on those discussions with professors and fellow students—those years have had a lasting impact on me and on my thinking....

I am convinced that we are experiencing a very destructive cycle of a new set of values that are creeping within our society, in both the public and the private sectors—values that translate themselves into practices such as deception, personal ambition and cynicism.... And I believe that if we do not, individually, one step at a time, stand together to regain our moral centre, the society we hand to the next generation will be unrecognizable and unliveable....

Things can get very very bad indeed, but individual people, working together, must make daily choices to act ethically, decently and humanely, perhaps even blindly optimistically, regardless of the outcomes....

Let me share with you [an] encouraging example.... Bhutan is a small country of less than 2 million people, sandwiched between two of the most populous, energetic economies in the world—India and China.... The Royal Government of Bhutan decided some time ago to abandon the concept of GDP [Gross Domestic

Product] in favour of the GNH, or Gross National Happiness index....

The government of Bhutan is hoping to foster a society...where both the givers and the receivers of these acts of public service will experience greater happiness [and] help to build the four most important and interdependent pillars of their society—economic self-reliance, environmental preservation, cultural promotion, and good governance. And collectively they are investing in making this happen by measuring their progress against their vision....

What gets measured gets done. Think for a moment of the potential, the extraordinary, transformative power of dedicated people measuring their progress toward achieving a vision of happiness on a national scale. Where serious people focus their attention and energy on economic, environmental and cultural growth that promotes strong communities. Real attention. Working together respecting differences of opinions and honestly listening to each other to find the best possible solutions. Giving honest, forthright, authentic leadership. Ensuring values of honesty, integrity and respect were at the forefront. ☺

Myroslaw Tataryn, SJU’s new Academic Dean and Vice-President, has launched a Learning Initiatives Task Force made up of faculty and staff to examine the learning experience at St. Jerome’s and determine how desired learning outcomes—such as critical thinking skills—can be enhanced. The Task Force, which includes Associate Dean **Cyntha Struthers**, Professors **Ted McGee** and **B.J. Rye**, University Librarian **Carolyn Dirks**, Registrar **Dana Wolto** and **John Tottenham**, an upper year student, will evaluate successful models from other mission-driven universities across North America. They will also tap into internal expertise by organizing a number of “Teaching Events” in which SJU professors will share innovative teaching strategies that they have successfully implemented.

During his sabbatical, **Fr. Jim Wahl, C.R. (History)** researched and wrote an illustrated history of the Congregation of the Resurrection Ontario-Kentucky Province. The book is scheduled to be launched on August 14, 2007—the 150th anniversary of the arrival, in 1857, of Fr. Eugene Funcken, C.R. at the spot that was to become St. Agatha.

“Harambee”: SJU Students in Kenya



Angela Pagett and Kenyan schoolchildren

They went to create change and returned changed themselves. A powerful sense of social justice motivated eight St. Jerome’s students to devote two years to fundraising and two weeks of sweat equity to help construct a school in the Maasai and Kipsigi areas of Kenya. **Annie Denomme** (Religious Studies), **James Gillies** (Software Engineering), **Mike Mitchell** (Business & Math), **Vanessa Nicholas** (Psychology), **Angela Pagett** (English Literature), **Tracy Pickard** (Psychology), **Sara Sawaya** (Music) and **Carissa Will** (Psychology) left Toronto on August 22 on a momentous mission undertaken under the direction of Free the Children,

an organization founded by Craig Kielburger to combat the exploitation and impoverishment of children. Over \$20,000 was raised through the St. Jerome’s community and the UW Circle K Club, which is affiliated with Kiwanis International.

The welcome the students received and the lessons they learned affected them profoundly. Angela quotes a single Swahili word to sum it up: ‘harambee: a coming together of the people for the betterment of all.’ “I have never met people who are so genuinely happy, who open up their homes and community so willingly, and who immediately make you feel like a welcome, valued, and appreciated part of their community.”

Carissa recalls that “the ground at the build site was so hard that you couldn’t use a shovel or you would break it.... At one point, a local woman, Julian, came over and showed me how to hold the spade properly. I thanked her and we worked together for a long time taking turns

breaking ground and clearing the dirt away.... Too many times I do just enough work to get by. It was so satisfying to know that you had given it your all, and that you had earned the right to be tired.”

Such efforts are truly making a difference. Formerly, “school attendance was about 70%,” notes Tracy. “Now it has gone up to over 90%! An education will allow these children to learn about basic health care, enable them to increase their income, and provide them with the opportunity to succeed.”

But the chance to learn was clearly reciprocal. Annie expresses it concisely: “It was a very humbling experience for all of us, having the opportunity to work together with a group of people who know the true meaning of community.”



Grad Notes

'63 William “Bill” Godfrey (BA '63, History) has been selected as Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies at Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan following a distinguished academic career at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. A specialist in Atlantic Canadian history, Godfrey received his PhD from Queens and has held prestigious fellowships at Cambridge University and the University of Maine.

'68 Patrick Joseph (Pat) Flynn (BA '68, English), a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, was named the first recipient of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board’s Distinguished Graduate Award. In addressing the graduates at Resurrection High School, he extolled the value of lifelong learning by citing his own career: “I studied music and did laundry for a year, then I went back to school to SJU for 4 years, then worked in the

construction industry for nearly seven years, then took my LSAT’s and I went back to law school....After starting my own practice and after working as a lawyer for 22 years, I was appointed to the bench three years ago—and at 57 years old, I went back to school—New Judge’s School.”

'70 Elizabeth (Betty) Etue (BA '70, English) is a radio and print journalist, the president of Virago Entertainment and the writer and associate producer of the documentary *Chasing the Dream — Women’s International Hockey*. She has enjoyed a twenty-two year career in book publishing and co-wrote an engrossing and highly-praised history of women’s hockey, *On the Edge*. Her latest book, *Born to Play*, recounts Olympic gold-medalist Hayley Wickenhauser’s rise to international fame with previously unpublished stories, photographs, and quotes.

South Africa Inside Out

Late in 2004, a few courses short of his Honours B.A. in Speech and Communication, John Tottenham decided he needed a change. The affable J.R. Finn don signed up for seven months with Canada World Youth—half in Kelowna, B.C. and the other half in Cape Town, South Africa. Eighteen participants from Canada, Botswana, and South Africa, along with two supervisors, lived with host families and held work placements in the media.

Cape Town made an indelible impression. "I was in a township about an hour outside of Cape Town called Mitchell's Plain, an area formally known as the "coloured townships." Created under apartheid, the townships housed groups officially classified as black and coloured, far removed from white enclaves. "I was one of the few white people to be living in a heavily populated coloured area of 1.3 million people.

My household consisted of a single mom and seven others in a three-bedroom home."

It took a ninety-minute bus ride to reach his work placement with Bush Radio, a community radio station which "started illegally during apartheid to send out messages to the people in the Cape flats on simple skill of survival and political issues." John produced a daily radio show called Building The Nation, inviting four guests to comment on a theme of interest to people in the Cape flats.

John is back at St. Jerome's to complete his B.A., but his appetite has been whetted. "The assumptions I held before stepping on the airplane have been redirected through group participation with various cultures, living in a coloured township and my work placement. When I graduate from University I would like to continue learning and growing through the various opportunities that are offered to young Canadians." ☺

Message from Pakistan

The following is an excerpted message from SJU Student Zehra Zaidi to Carolyn Dirks, the University Librarian. Zehra, a native Pakistani, was at home when the devastating earthquake hit on October 8th.

Hello Carolyn,

Thank you so much for your email and your concern. You're right, the devastation is extreme.... My own loss seems so insignificant in the face of whole families being wiped out, children losing their parents and homes, having nothing left in the world which they can call their own....

The project that I am working with personally is a...Crisis Center which is housing about 300 people. Around 250 of them are unaccompanied orphan children. Their parents have been listed missing or dead...[M]ost of these children are suffering from diseases, broken bones, gangrene etc. We've set up

mobile clinics where free doctors come and see them....We are hoping funds from the government will arrive soon but there are bigger crisis situations in the Northern areas...[F]or the time being these children do not have clean drinking water, enough food, medicines, blankets or medical facilities....

It's crucial for us to play a part as the international community and so far the Canadian response has been very heart warming. I've received letters and small donations from my university friends and professors which I have forwarded to the crisis center...

Take care and be safe, Zehra

Donations to the Crisis Centre can be made to:

Family Protection and Rehabilitation Center
First Women Bank
Allama Iqbal Open University Road
PLS-AC/NO 02018798
Islamabad, Punjab, Pakistan 42600

'78 Ted Kuntz (BA '78, Psychology) has just released his first book called *Peace Begins With Me*. It captures his personal journey of making peace with his son's disabilities. A description of the book and more information on Ted can be found at www.tedkuntz.com. Ted is a psychotherapist in private practice in Coquitlam, B.C. and can be reached at tkuntz@axion.net.

'80 Kevin Empey (BMath '80, Mathematics and Chartered Accountancy) has been appointed Executive Vice-President, Clinical Support and Corporate Services for the University Health Network, which consists of Toronto General, Toronto Western and Princess Margaret Hospitals. A *Globe and Mail* announcement indicates that Kevin leads Corporate Services, overseeing finance, materials management, retail, clinical laboratory, nutrition services, facilities management, and strategic relationships. Kevin lived

in Finn Hall and writes that he chose to live there "because of the good things I heard about the culture and environment from prior residents."

'85 Patricia "Trish" Barbato (BA '85, Economics) was profiled in the October issue of *Canadian Living* in an article entitled "Having It All." The vice-president and chief financial officer of Providence Healthcare in Toronto was featured as one of four women successfully balancing the pressures of family, career, and personal growth. Trish also chairs the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

'93 Elaine Demaiter-Boyd, (BMath '93—Mathematics/Teaching) writes that she and her husband, Paul, "want to update our friends on the arrival of our fifth child, Kevin Edward, born on December 2, 2004. Kevin was welcomed by big brothers

New Faces From A(shley) to Z(unic)

Ashley Dietrich



"I'm getting used to hotels," laughs Ashley Dietrich, the new Recruitment Assistant and Admissions Specialist in the Registrar's Office. "We visit up to three secondary schools each day and they could be in Chesley, Kincardine and Hanover!"

After graduating from St. Jerome's last spring, Ashley began her new duties at the end of April. Job one: head out on the road to promote SJU and the University of Waterloo. "I focus on Catholic high schools, but we do visit public schools as well."

The needs and interests of students are changing and recruiters need to listen and adapt. "Students entering university are younger now. We're hearing that finding a job and a lifestyle are important to students, and we try to inform them about possible choices." Students concerned about the cost of university appreciate hearing about "scholarships and bursaries, OSAP and other loans, the co-op experience and part-time work."

But sometimes, guidance counselors and teachers are the ones who need to be informed. That's the other important aspect of Ashley's job. "Many guidance counselors don't understand that St. Jerome's is federated with the University of Waterloo and that all graduating students receive a UW degree. They do appreciate the benefits that St. Jerome's provides: smaller classes, academic counselors, a strong sense of community. Individual attention is valued." 🍷

Nick Zunic

Dr. Nikolaj (Nick) Zunic, assistant professor of Philosophy, is happy to be part of the St. Jerome's community—and a little amazed at how it happened. A Toronto native, he'd completed his doctoral studies at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and was teaching at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia when he secured a one-year contract at SJU. Six months later, he successfully competed for a permanent position and he is now happily ensconced in the Philosophy Department.

He numbers the Christian existentialist Gabriel Marcel and the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber among his greatest influences, along with Henry Nouwen and Jean Vanier. (Nick's father-in-law was among those who helped Vanier found L'Arche and his wife, Erin, worked at L'Arche in Brussels.) "I've read many of their books and met both of them. The inspiration that comes from the personalist philosophers definitely filters through to my philosophical thinking."

Nick is pleased that St. Jerome's is strongly committed to its Roman Catholic identity. "Many institutions tend to be lukewarm in this regard, often to the point of secularizing," he observes, "whereas here at SJU it's very much at the forefront." He is impressed as well as the collegiality of the staff and "the balance between teaching and research." 🍷



Grad Notes

and sisters James (9), Brian (6), Emily (4) and Laura (2)." Elaine teaches for the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board at Holy Trinity School in Simcoe. She and her family reside in Tillsonburg and can be reached at tillsonburgboyds@hotmail.com.

'94 **Adam Lee** (BA '94, English) has started up his own HR consultancy: Reflect—Human Resource Infrastructure Specialists. He is living in England and working in central London.

'96 After several years in the film and TV business, **David Donohue** (BA '96, Psychology) has written his first script—entitled "Spring Break"—for the television series, *MISSING*, which airs Sunday nights on A-Channel. A former prefect at Finn Hall, David has been married for 5 years to Lucia Favarin, whom he met as a UW exchange student.

'99 **Denise M. Kocher** (née Oswald, BA '99, Sociology) attended the University of Western Ontario and obtained a law degree in 2002. She was called to the Ontario Bar in July 2003 and is now an associate at Sorbara, Schumacher, McCann LLP, practicing in corporate and commercial law alongside many SJU grads. In the summer of 2000 she married Michael Kocher and on August 7, 2004 they welcomed their first child, Paige Marie Kocher.

'00 **Lisa Costa** (née Thorne, BA '00, English) married John Costa on September 17, 2005 in Cambridge, Ontario. Lisa graduated from Dalhousie University in 2002 with a Masters Degree in Health Administration (MHA). After working in Toronto for 3 years, Lisa returned home to Cambridge where she and John now reside. Lisa is currently Manager, Quality, Planning & Risk Management for Cambridge Memorial Hospital.

Continuing CONNECTIONS

Travels in the Land of Apples and Beans

by Harry Froklage



No apple is too big for Paula and Chris Ambrozic and Michael W. Higgins.

This past August, when Michael Higgins and I were in New York and Boston for a variety of meetings, we were able to visit some SJU transplants in The Big Apple and Bean Town. It is both strange and

reassuring to travel to a distant place, meet people, often for the first time, and find yourself, within minutes, sharing memories of influential faculty and friends and learning about interesting and successful post-SJU lives.

For example, **Dr. David Weiss** (BA '85, Psychology)—a native New Yorker—went on to complete his Ph.D. in psychology and operates a service in Manhattan which conducts intraoperative monitoring, tracking neural activity during brain surgery.

Dr. Jorge Serrador (BA '94, Psychology) also pursued doctoral studies and teaches gerontology at Harvard Medical School in Boston. His research into the effects of impaired blood flow to the brain has included work with NASA astronauts.

'01 Annamae Elliott (née Lang, BMath '01, Statistics & Teaching) began working at St. David Catholic Secondary School teaching Mathematics and Computer Science in September 2001. "I married Greg Elliott on August 16, 2003 and we moved to Elmira shortly before that. Recently, we welcomed our first child, Heike Mae, on February 17th, 2005. She's definitely our little miracle!" You can reach Annamae at family.elliott@rogers.com.

'03 Catherine Rawn (BA '03, Human Resources Management & Psychology) has completed her Master's degree in Social Psychology and is pursuing doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia. She married Russell Ball (UW BA '02) in August, 2004. Catherine received the Psychology award upon graduat-

Paula Ambrozic (née Seymour—BA '00, Sociology) and her husband **Chris Ambrozic** (BSc '99, Chemistry) live and work in New Jersey, where Paula is the Manager of Customer Services for Rymax Marketing Services and Chris is Vice-President (North America) for Umetrics Inc.

Christopher Usas (BA '86, English), who came to SJU directly from St. Jerome's High School, is now a Director of Scotia Capital—US Power, a subsidiary of Scotiabank. (In fairness, when we met, he was most excited about the pending birth of his and his wife Bonnie's first child. Brooklyn Elizabeth—who seems to have been named after the borough in which Chris and Bonnie reside—was born on September 17th.)

Each left us with amusing, profound, sometimes epiphanic memories of their transitional experiences at St. Jerome's. They cited familiar names—Ralston, White, McCormack, Naus, Desroches—and spoke of kindnesses extended and encouragement received. They confirmed that St. Jerome's really is what it says it is: a true community that is challenging and affirming, academic and pastoral, small and, well, small.

Such conversations really are the best part of my job. ☺

We are saddened to learn of the deaths this past year of two St. Jerome's graduates: **Judith Dona**, (née Wintermeyer, BA '68, Philosophy) and **Lynne Dianne Mislai** (BA '71, History).

ing from St. Jerome's. You can reach her at cdrawn@psych.ubc.ca.

'04 Robyn Cowper (BA '04, Psychology & Sexuality, Marriage & Family) is currently working as an intake worker at Child Abuse Treatment Services in Whitehorse, Yukon, coordinating a Child/Youth Support Program that links mentors with children who have experienced or witnessed abuse throughout their lives, and leading three psycho-educational groups dealing with adolescents and decision-making, life education and family violence. She has been delegated to sit on the Sex Education of Yukon Committee. She recently wrote to thank Dr. B.J. Rye, Director of the SMF Program, for "helping me achieve my goals". You can reach her at Robyn.Cowper@gov.yk.ca.

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.

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SJU Gallery



Investiture Ceremony

At the Investiture Ceremony for the incoming 2005 class, Academic Dean Myrosław Tataryn acknowledges an uncanny resemblance between himself in full regalia and the University's namesake, St. Jerome.

2005 marked the 140th anniversary of the founding of St. Jerome's College on the spot just outside St. Agatha memorialized by "grateful alumni" with this cairn in 1935.



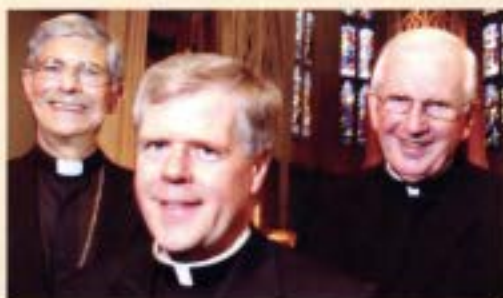
Bergie Named Auxiliary Bishop

St. Jerome's graduate **Rev. Gerard Bergie** (BA '80, Philosophy) has the distinction of being one of the first new bishops to be named by Pope Benedict XVI. He was named auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Hamilton, joining the **Most Rev. Matthew Ustrzycki**—who also studied at St. Jerome's and who is also an auxiliary bishop—in assisting Most Rev. Anthony Tonnos, bishop of the Diocese.

Tonnos was quoted by *The Record* as being "delighted" by Bergie's appointment: "He's a very spiritual man. He has a great, sensitive concern for people." The Diocese—which extends from Hamilton to Tobermory and includes 560,000 members—continues to grow and Bergie will assist in a variety of administrative and pastoral responsibilities.

Since his ordination in 1984, Bergie has served as a parish priest and diocesan chancellor. "I

have never regretted my decision to respond to the call of God," he said when his elevation to the episcopate was announced. "My priesthood has continued to be a source of great joy in my life."



Most Rev. Anthony Tonnos, Rev. Gerard Bergie and Most Rev. Matthew Ustrzycki.

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