

# SJU UPDATE

St. Jerome's University Alumni and Friends

*How do you live  
out your values?*

Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies  
Professor Toni Serafini encourages  
critical thinkers



**INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE**

Distinguished Alumni  
Award Winner  
David Morrell  
PG 9

Sister Joan  
Cronin, g.s.i.c.,  
Honoured  
at St. Jerome's Feast  
PG 11

SJU Profiles  
Alumni Visionaries  
PG 12

David B. Perrin, President &amp; Vice-Chancellor



## Our past gives us a strong foothold for an exciting future

As we wrap up another term at St. Jerome's University and prepare to celebrate the class of 2011 at June convocation, I'm reflecting on the amazingly skilled and talented students at SJU and the great accomplishments we've achieved together over the past year. I am proud of the education that our students receive at SJU and the leadership they exhibit in our community and in society. As I look forward to 2015 – our 150th Anniversary, I know that engaging with our supporters who invest in the unique brand of education we provide is the cornerstone to our continued success. Our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and donors gather together to contribute their ideas, energy, and support to a goal that they are personally passionate about – the transformative experience at SJU – where we ignite intellectual passion, engage creativity, and develop community and church leaders. We communicate through teaching, pursue knowledge through theoretical research and practical experiences, and serve our community and society – to build bigger, brighter and better futures for our students.

The future will be shaped in part by two new visionaries whom we welcome into our community on July 1, 2011. James (Jim) Beingessner will join us as Chancellor, and James S. Frank will become our eleventh Vice-President and Academic Dean.

You may know of Jim Beingessner's work in the Kitchener-Waterloo region, as his commitment and support of community affairs is the foundation of his leadership. Jim is a local retired entrepreneur and active

philanthropist. He firmly believes that the success of an organization lies in the passions of the leaders – who must genuinely care about the success of the organization – in order to truly achieve the vision. Dr. James Frank has been devoted, for over half his academic career, to university leadership through building trust, supporting values, and respecting others. Dr. Frank is currently Professor and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, at the University of Windsor, but is no stranger to us here at SJU. He is a graduate of St. Jerome's High School, was a member of the SJU Catholic Community for 36 years, was a long-serving and respected faculty member of the University of Waterloo (1991–2005), and was a member of the St. Jerome's University Board of Governors (2001–2005). Dr. Frank brings to his new position his academic knowledge, a passion for SJU, and his great appreciation for a strong liberal arts undergraduate education. We look forward to welcoming Jim Beingessner and James Frank to St. Jerome's University.

I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Peter Naus, who has served as Chancellor since February 2007, and to Myroslaw Tataryn, the Vice-President and Academic Dean since July 2005, for their generous and exemplary service to St. Jerome's University.

As we look forward to our 150th Anniversary in 2015, I know that our future success is possible only because of the solid foundation of our past, which gives us a strong foothold for an exciting future.

### St. Jerome's University

### Show your school spirit.



Purchase St. Jerome's apparel and gifts online.

Follow the link to "SJU Memorabilia" on the "Graduates & Friends" page at [www.sju.ca](http://www.sju.ca).





Mark Greco (MMSc '05, BAsC '04) – Alumni Association Chair

## SJU Alumni Association – *Enriching the Alumni Experience*

Spring is here, and new beginnings are all around us. It's also an exciting time of growth for the St. Jerome's Alumni Association, as we welcome several new members to our executive team. Our new members bring energy, innovative ideas, and leadership to alumni events and beyond. I'm eager to work with them as we find new ways for you – our alumni – to connect with your alma mater!

During the upcoming year, the Alumni Association will redefine alumni involvement with SJU by fostering new opportunities for our alumni community to contribute to the lives of others. Whether it's by being mentors to students, helping SJU recruit students, or even developing international opportunities (similar to the great work that SJU students have been doing in places

like Peru), we are looking for ways to involve you that go beyond social events. We want to offer our alumni ways to get involved with SJU that bring growth and learning opportunities, help you stay connected and passionate about SJU, and also help support St. Jerome's University and our students.

As we move forward with these many initiatives, we will need your help to make them happen – your ideas, creativity, suggestions, and support. We are always open to alumni offering a bit of your time and your talents

With SJU's 150th Anniversary approaching, we want to hear your SJU story! Photos and updates are welcome. You can send them to Mari-Beth Davis at 519-884-8110 ext. 28277 or [mbdavis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mbdavis@uwaterloo.ca).



Nadine Collins, University Advancement Officer

Over the past year, I have met many alumni and supporters who are enthusiastic and willing to give time and energy to the university. It's been

an exciting reminder of the importance of our partners and the amazing opportunities we can conquer when we work together. St. Jerome's University's upcoming 150th Anniversary is inspiring, and encouraging for our continued growth. I can't wait to get started.

To help us get there, the Advancement office welcomes two new staff members. Kelly Macnab and Mari-Beth Davis joined us in March 2011. As Advancement Coordinator, Events and Annual Giving, Kelly is the person you'll connect with for event registration. She will also appeal to you for your support for future SJU initiatives. As Advancement Coordinator, Communications and Donor Relations, Mari-Beth will spend her time working on communications (like SJU Update!) along with enhancing life-long opportunities for our SJU alumni. We welcome Kelly and Mari-Beth to the St. Jerome's University community!

*How many SJU grads  
are in YOUR family?*

*One of the 150 unique aspects of SJU is the number of members of the same family who have lived in residence or graduated from SJU. We want to hear about how SJU connected your family – spanning generations, grandparents – to parents – to students. Send your story to Mari-Beth Davis at [mbdavis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mbdavis@uwaterloo.ca).*

# How do you live out *your* values?

*“The Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies program influenced my belief and value system in a way that showed me how to use them in the world around me.”*

— SMF student Larissa Currah

This isn't the kind of question you expect to answer in Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies (SMF) – rather, it's the foundation of the interdisciplinary program offered at St. Jerome's University. Through self-analysis, students are challenged to reflect on their own values and beliefs. They examine their own biases and judgments and critically analyze the foundation of who they are and what they believe. From there, Professors Tracy Penny Light and Toni Serafini believe their students are better able to develop a broader lens with which to approach the world – using critical thinking to interrogate the world around them – and in turn be more inclusive and accepting as they live out their own values. Now that's a powerful approach to understanding the role of sexuality, marriage and family in our community.

Once offered at St. Jerome's University as a flagship summer program to provide Family Life education to teachers within the Catholic school system, SMF Studies has come a long way from its roots. As Dr. Penny Light explains, “The SMF program is now a rigorous academic Honours program.” The goal of SMF is to promote interdisciplinary scholarship and research in fields such as gender, maintenance of relationships and the impact

of culture on sexual and family-related values and attitudes. Dr. Serafini reflects that in 2007, the department overhauled its entire curriculum to facilitate an Honours program – and can proudly report that the first Honours class graduated in June 2010. During the analysis of the curriculum and of the program overall, Dr. Serafini and Dr. Penny Light relied heavily on feedback and input from students and from interdisciplinary colleagues to ensure the department was meeting students' needs. To date, SMF is one of the only programs in North America that provides equal treatment of the topics of Sexuality and Family Studies in an Honours or General Major program. The Honours program has a required practicum and a thesis option and includes core research methods and statistics courses.

In Fall 2008, a group of SMF students was awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Arts Endowment Fund to create a documentary film exploring issues of inclusivity to ensure a campus that includes marginalized and underrepresented groups. The student group responsible for the documentary – Jenn Wunder, Laura Madden, Faith Cameletti, Kayla Orr and Alexandra Wendel – hopes that the film will be used as a training and educational tool for

first-year students during orientation week. Jenn Wunder describes the *BeInclusive Documentary Project* as “such an incredible way to learn about our campus environment, and also to apply everything we were learning in the SMF program. It really has been something that exemplifies the notion of research, theory and practice that is emphasized so strongly in SMF, because everything we were learning about our campus would inform what we were learning in our classes and vice versa, and this would also affect how we put this knowledge into practice.”

Putting knowledge into practice became a formalized aspect of the SMF program in 2009. Since then, over thirty-five students have been involved in four or eight-month practicum placements at a variety of local community organizations, such as Early Years centres, sexual health and education services, agencies and shelters servicing homeless youth, counseling services and community outreach.

Students in SMF must also complete ePortfolios (electronic portfolios) as a tool to capture their historical learning through the program and reflect on the connection between research and theoretical learning – in essence, demonstrating what they’ve learned and how the world around them has been impacted. Through both the practicum placements and the ePortfolios, students use critical analysis and integrate the knowledge and experiences obtained during the SMF undergraduate degree, with a view to transferring this learning to work or educational pursuits beyond graduation as leaders within their communities.

Over the past few years, interest in the SMF program of study has been on the rise. This might be in part because the SMF professors link their own research to SMF, creating more awareness about the program and the learning approach. Dr. Penny Light was recently recognized for her co-authorship of a successful Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant application, *Gender and Health: Histories*. In 2008, she published an article entitled “Making Connections: Developing Students’ Historical Thinking with Electronic Portfolios.”

She was also featured in February on CTV’s *ProvinceWide* as an expert in dating and relationships. Dr. Serafini, meanwhile, published “The Functions of Identity Scale: Validation in Italian Late Adolescents and Emerging Adults” in 2010, and recently co-authored an article “Undergraduate Students Identify What Fosters Critical Self-reflection in Higher Learning”, in an edited volume on Canadian scholarship of teaching and learning, with fellow SMF Adjunct Professor, Carm De Santis. She is also working on co-authoring a book on current issues in adolescence and working on an interactive website project about sexuality, relationships, and social issues concerning adolescents and their families.

Coming up in the year ahead, for the first time, the Florence Fleming Award will be given to an upper-year student in Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies. The award was created by SJU student Ted Fleming in



*SMF students and professors Marlene Pfaff (former sessional instructor), Carm De Santis, and Toni Serafini with internationally recognized parenting expert Barbara Coloroso*

memory of his grandmother, Florence Fleming, who strongly supported post-secondary education, particularly for women and for sex education.

As the SMF program continues to grow, it’s important to see how it fits within the tradition and vision of St. Jerome’s University. Dr. Penny Light explains, “It all comes back to the very concept of social justice and empowering students with the knowledge, compassion and leadership skills to impact and change the world around them. The SMF program is all about inclusivity, being accepting of others, practicing ethical behaviour and fostering sensitivity – and that’s all about SJU’s commitment to learning and academic excellence through the gospel values of love, truth and justice, and the formation of leaders for the service of the community and the Church.”

# Being Green

## It *IS* easy being Green

There is a lot of hype and education out there about reducing energy consumption. Implementing more cost-savings techniques and introducing energy-saving programs and educational resources have become more important to SJU than ever. Facility Manager Jim Robson is working towards realizing a Sustainability Program at SJU to minimize our environmental footprint. The Sustainability Program focuses on three key areas: reduction of energy consumption, waste reduction, and natural regeneration.



SJU Facilities is developing an aggressive three-year plan that will measure and ultimately **reduce our kilowatt consumption through promoting energy conservation**. The plan will be designed with input from our energy provider, Waterloo North Hydro, and will be implemented at SJU with plenty of education and awareness-raising about the role all students, staff and faculty will play in reducing our carbon footprint.

Despite the many recycling bins around campus, large amounts of paper and metal are still making their way to local landfill sites. Facilities will complete a "waste audit"

in August to find out how waste is being managed and whether more can be done to **encourage recycling and reduce the impact on landfills**.

To lessen our impact on the environment, a "no mow" or natural regeneration area will be set aside in July to **reduce the amount of grass that needs to be cut on campus**. The naturalized area will support plant species that represent those that would have been found on campus prior to human settlement.

## St. Jerome's Alumni Golf Classic

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**  
**Merry-Hill Golf Club**

### A Hole in One for SJU!

Whether you lived in residence, graduated from St. Jerome's, or just love the SJU community, join us for a fun-filled day on the course.

Save the date now and watch your email for further details. We look forward to seeing you there!



For more information and to register, visit [www.sju.ca](http://www.sju.ca) or contact Kelly Macnab at [kmacnab@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:kmacnab@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-884-8111 ext. 28301.

# Student Life

## Relay for Life

*Students raise an unprecedented \$19,704 to beat cancer*

Friday, April 1, 2011, marked the fifth Relay for Life event at St. Jerome's University. Relay for Life celebrates cancer survivors and pays tribute to the lives of loved ones who have died of cancer. More than 170 St. Jerome's University students took part this year, showing that they can truly make a difference.

Thanks to a lot of online donations, the funds raised exceeded all expectations – a testament to the amazing



sense of community at SJU. Some students made special efforts to increase pledges: for example, Sebastien Kundra, Andrew Lessard, and Bess Mitchell offered to shave their heads at the \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000 milestones.

The event was made possible through talented SJU student leaders Rachel Bell, Lee Follis, Kathryn French, Dan Martell, Brianne McDougall, Michael Phillips, Rebecca Ruccurean, Roxanne Tremaine and Rachel Wright. A special thank you to the event Chair, Kristina Bartold, for her dedication and leadership.

## Awards Night

### *Student Award Winners Announced at SJU Gala*

The 47th Annual SJU Gala, hosted by Dr. Benoit Charbonneau and student Katie Zettel, recognized students whose contributions and accomplishments have brought honour to the community over the past year. Here are some highlights from the *Back to our Roots* – March 25, 2011 event:

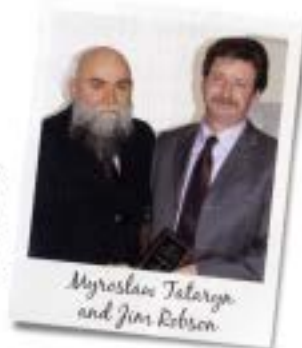
**Matthew Fox** is this year's recipient of the **D. R. Letson Community Service Award** for his significant contributions to SJU's student life, community building, and the wider community – embracing what it means to be a responsible global citizen.

Of special note to SJU staff, faculty, and alumni, – student and Facility Manager **Jim Robson** received the **Graduating Student Award**. Jim's contributions to the SJU community are impressive because of the lifespan across which they have occurred –he was a residence don in 1987/88, led alumni gatherings, organized community events, and has been a friendly face on campus for nearly 20 years. His pride in the SJU community is unmatched by any other grad. He's a man of few words – but Jim is a steadfast symbol of where we've come from, where we're going, and what's possible.

These award winners certainly bring SJU "back to its roots." For a full list of student award winners, visit our website: <http://sju.ca/news/2011Mar31awards.pdf>.

**Krista Hundt** (BA' 11) received the highest award for a graduating student – the **Zach Ralston Award**, for the student whose consistent academic excellence is also paired with her ongoing commitment to building community and enhancing student life at St. Jerome's.

First-year student **Kristina Bartold** received the **Todd Earl Award** for her consistent expression of the ideals and spirit of the community at SJU. Kristina is a student whose inclusivity to everyone connected with SJU is truly remarkable.



# NEWS

## SJU Distinguished Teachers Abound



Professors Steven Bednarski (l) and Ted McGee (r) win the 2011 Distinguished Teacher Award. Our leadership strengths lie not only with our students, but with our professors who continue to win accolades for academic excellence. Dr. Steven Bednarski (History) and Dr. Ted McGee (English) were named two of UW's four 2011 Distinguished Teachers and were honoured with the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Award in recognition of a continued record of excellence in teaching.

## SJU Professor Ryan Touhey travels to Vienna with Fulbright Commission



On November 18-19, 2010, Dr. Ryan Touhey (History) joined international colleagues in Vienna for the Fulbright Commission's panel discussion "Does Academic Exchange Matter?" The Austrian-American Education Commission included academic representatives

from the University of Paris; La Trobe University, Melbourne; Leiden University, The Netherlands; and the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

## Spring Celebration Honours Faculty Authors

At the 2011, *Spring Celebration and Author Event*, held on April 6, President David Perrin highlighted the aims of this event: to acknowledge the work of SJU professors and to share it with the community. Here are this year's SJU authors:

- **Tristanne Connolly** (English): *Queer Blake*
- **Whitney Lackenbauer** (History): *A Commemorative History of Aboriginal People in the Canadian Military*
- **Kerry Lappin-Fortin** (Italian and French Studies): *Traduire? Avec Plaisir!*
- **Alexander Shvarts** (Sociology and Legal Studies): *Transnational Entrepreneurs: Ethnicity, Class and Capital*
- **David Williams** (English): *Defending Poetry: Art and Ethics in Joseph Brodsky, Seamus Heaney, and Geoffrey Hill*



Chancellor Peter Naus and Anke Naus (BA '75).

SJU Librarian Lorna Rourke, who was an event organizer, shares, "This year's event celebrated six books, thirteen articles, six book chapters, and one journal edited and/or written by Faculty. For a university the size of SJU, the quality, variety and quantity of work is very impressive."

## Dr. Kieran Bonner on Power, Parenting and the Human Condition

Dr. Kieran Bonner, Chair of SJU's Department of Sociology and Legal Studies and Director of the Human Sciences Initiative, joined two members of Sacred Heart University (Connecticut), Dr. Kathy LaFontana (Department of Psychology) and Dean Seamus Carey (College of Arts and Sciences) in April 2011, to discuss "Power, Parenting and the Human Condition" from three distinct points of view. We are certain that an intriguing conversation ensued.

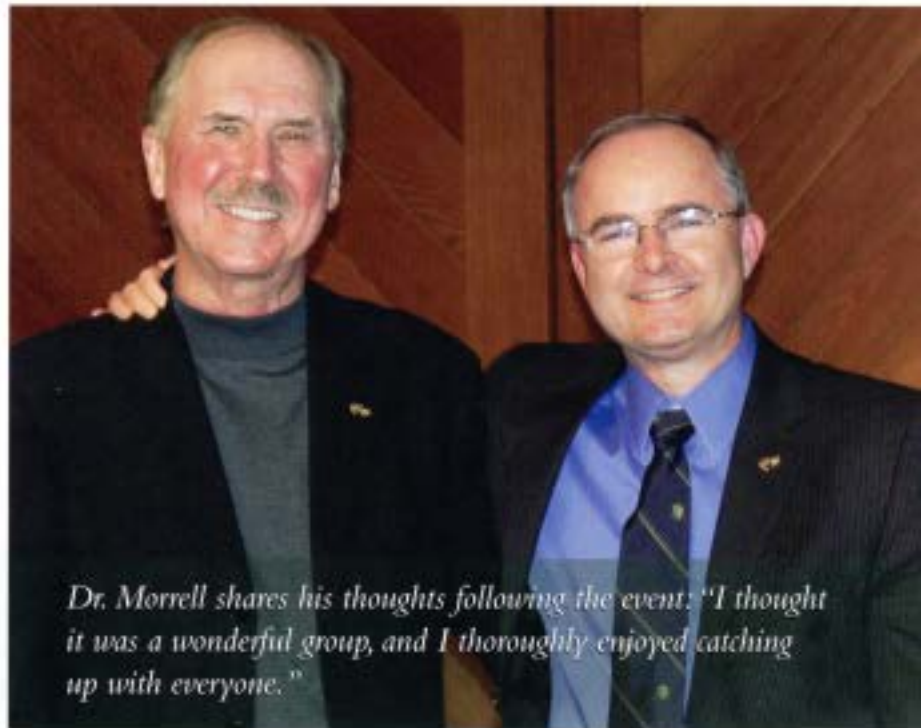


# An Evening with David Morrell

*Recipient of the 2011  
Distinguished Alumni Award*

Despite the chilly January temperatures, Dr. David Morrell (BA '66) joined alumni and friends at St. Jerome's for a wonderful evening of sharing stories of SJU in the 1960s and in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the University of Waterloo's English department. He inspired the audience with anecdotes of his career as an award-winning author of more than 30 books and reflected fondly on his beginnings as an SJU English graduate in 1966. His message was simple – the St. Jerome's community provided a solid foundation for his career. His academic studies with professors such as Dr. Laurence Cummings and his friendship with fellow English student Robert Wiljer (BA '66) (who turned up to see him at the event), gave him the support he needed during his time at St. Jerome's. It was great to hear Dr. Morrell's enthusiasm and fond reflections about his time on campus.

In his line of work, research is key to strong and accurate plot and character development. He is trained in wilderness survival, hostage negotiation, assuming identities, and defensive driving. All of this research goes into the writing of his bestselling books. His first novel, *First Blood*, featured the character John Rambo, which spawned the movie *Rambo*, starring Sylvester Stallone. There are 18 million copies of his work in print, and his books have been translated into 26 languages. No small feat for the Kitchener-born writer.



*Dr. Morrell shares his thoughts following the event: "I thought it was a wonderful group, and I thoroughly enjoyed catching up with everyone."*

He is a three-time recipient of the coveted Bram Stoker Award. During the SJU event, he received another honour: the **Fr. Norm Choate 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award**. This award recognizes the contributions Dr. Morrell has made to the literary world, with action thrillers such as *The Naked Edge*, *Creepers*, and *The Spy Who Came for Christmas*, as well as his achievements in community life.

Dr. David Morell now lives in New Mexico with his wife, Donna (BA '65) – a fellow SJU grad.



## ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY 2011 MEMORIAL MASS

Monday, October 31, 2011 at 12 p.m. ~ Notre Dame Chapel

Join us at this annual event where members of the SJU community celebrate the lives of their loved ones who passed away in the previous year. A memorial service and an inscription of names in our Memorial Book are followed by a light lunch. To attend the 2011 Memorial Mass or to have a loved one celebrated, please contact Nadine Collins at [ncollins@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ncollins@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-884-8111 ext. 28255.

## What do SJU alumni have in common?

### 2011 SJU Alumni-Student Career Mixer

Our Alumni-Student Career Mixer tradition continues! Every year a great lineup of presenters from both SJU and the UW Center for Career Action, and a fantastic group of students and inspiring alumni presenters come together for another successful event.



Thank you to our 2011 alumni speakers pictured here with David Perrin and Mark Greco. From left to right they are:

- Mary Ellen Cullen (BA '78, French) – Deputy Crown Attorney for the Province of Ontario
- Bruce Rodrigues (BMath '83) – Superintendent of Education, Waterloo District Catholic School Board
- Ali Asaria (Former SJU Resident) – founder of well.ca
- Margaret Steel Farrell (BA '94, English) – Communications Specialist, Manulife Financial
- Greg O'Connor (BA '87) – Marriage and Family Counsellor specializing in Wilderness Therapy
- Jeff Woodrow (BA '02, Fine Arts) – founder of Joy Apparel (on teleconference)

To kick off the event, representatives from the SJU Registrar's office and UW Centre for Career Action shared career planning tips and offered direction for current and graduating students. Then the presenters shared their stories. So what do our SJU alumni have in common, besides their link to SJU? A passion for what they do.

Entrepreneurs Ali Asaria and Jeff Woodrow saw a need they could fill using their connections and skills. Mary Ellen Cullen carved out a niche in her law practice, helping women and children, both victims and

perpetrators. Bruce Rodrigues' passion for his career stems from his joy of teaching and being with students. Margaret Steel Farrell and Greg O'Connor have found that personal and professional networks can lead to career opportunities and satisfaction.

All of our exceptional alumni presenters use their talents and skills to find passion and fulfillment in their careers.

The message to all was simple – follow your heart.

We are always looking for talented, knowledgeable alumni to be presenters at the Alumni-Student Career Mixer. You, too, can give something back to the students of St. Jerome's! For information on getting involved in the SJU Alumni Association or volunteering as an alumni presenter, contact Mari-Beth Davis at [mbedavis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mbedavis@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-884-8110, ext. 28277.



tweet this!

### *How to Make Social Media Work for You*

On November 18, 2010, Martha Jack, Head Consultant with eCONVERSE Social Media Consulting, gave an insightful presentation to SJU alumni on how to make the most of social media tools. Jack, a local entrepreneur, shared tips on using social media to spread the word about your business or career, to find employment, or to promote a cause that you are passionate about. The session focused on giving alumni the skills and knowledge they need to be active and effective social media participants – especially important in a community where technology is part of everyday life.

Alumni who attended the event learned about how to get the most from their social media content; about the various platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter; and about how to cater to different types of media users (tailoring the message to your audience). The session also served as a starter lesson for alumni seeking ways to integrate a social media strategy into their business – and to use social media when it makes sense, not just to be there because it's the place to be.

Join us at

# St. Jerome's Feast!

Support Catholic higher education

*Proceeds from this event support  
first-year entrance scholarships at SJU.*

**When:** 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2011

**Where:** D.R. Letson Community Centre  
St. Jerome's University  
290 Westmount Road N.,  
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G3



Sister Joan Cronin

This year's honoured guest and recipient of the Chancellor John Sweeney Award for Leadership in Catholic Education is **Sister Joan Cronin, g.s.i.c.**, Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Education and a member of the Grey Sisters community of Pembroke, Ontario.

Sister Joan has worked as a classroom teacher, vice-principal, principal, consultant, coordinator and supervisory officer with various Ontario Catholic school boards. She holds B.A. and B.Ed. degrees, as well as Master's degrees in Theology, Education and Adult Education.

The Chancellor John Sweeney Award was created to "honour the historical contribution and continuing commitment of Catholic institutions, leaders, and educators to the cause of post-secondary education in Canada. It also recognizes the ongoing need for a Catholic presence and voice in shaping future leaders and engaging in the challenging issues facing the world today."

Sister Joan joins other recipients who have received this honour: Fr. Lorford Keasey, Fr. Jacques Monet, s.j., The Hon. Allen J. MacEachen, Margaret Visser, School Sisters of Notre Dame (Canadian Province), Rev. Dr.

## St. Jerome's University

*has the vision to build for the future*



St. Jerome's University is pleased to announce the completion of the University's strategic vision, *Strategic Vision 2015 and Beyond*, which was approved by the University's Board of Governors earlier this year. The Vision has been built over the past three years through information gathering with St. Jerome's Faculty, staff, students, board members, donors and alumni.

The Strategic Vision is now available on our website at:  
**[www.sju.ca](http://www.sju.ca)**

James McConica, C.S.B., Craig Kielburger, John Milloy, Fr. Bernie Hayes, C.R., and Senator Noël Kinsella. We look forward to celebrating with you at *St. Jerome's Feast* and honouring Sister Joan Cronin together in our support of Catholic higher education.

To reserve your seat or table of eight, or for more information, contact Kelly Macnab at [kmacnab@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:kmacnab@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-884-8110 ext. 28301. Tickets are \$125 each.

## Alumni Profiles: *Visionary SJU Alumni*

Since the last issue of SJU Update, several of our alumni have been recognized for their outstanding contributions as visionaries. Their contributions and accomplishments have raised local and national awareness about their work.



**Ali Asaria** Former SJU resident Ali Asaria is changing the way Canadians shop for health and beauty products with his innovative company *well.ca* – a start-up that began in his living room. Ali, began his career as a

software engineer at Research in Motion Inc., but gave it all up to start his own online store in 2008. His vision was to offer Canadian shoppers an e-commerce store that focuses on a friendly approach to the online experience. With the company doubling its sales revenue every four months, site traffic indicates that *well.ca* is the online leader in the health and beauty category. Asaria has big plans for the future, “*Well.ca’s customer promise is to provide the kindest, most friendly shopping experience. I know that my team follows through on this promise.*” (source: Canada Post magazine, Fall 2009)

*Well.ca* has been touted by *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post* and the *The Record* as one of the fastest-growing start-up companies in Canada. Asaria, who was also named one of the *Top 40 under 40* in Guelph, takes it all in stride. Returning to his roots at SJU, he is eager to share his experience with others in the start-up community, organizing networking events and writing a blog. He knows the importance of giving back.



**Michelle DiEmanuele** Michelle DiEmanuele (BA '87) was recently recognized as one of *Canada’s Most Powerful Women – Top 100 Awards (2010)* for the country’s highest-achieving female leaders in the private, public and

not-for-profit sectors. Michelle, who is President and CEO of The Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga, was also honoured in 2006 and 2007 as one of *Canada’s 100 Most Powerful Women* and in 1999 as one of *Canada’s Top 40 under 40*. She is the 2002 recipient of the *Fr. Norm*

*Choate Award*, given to an SJU grad for outstanding leadership in professional and community endeavours.

After graduation, DiEmanuele was the Senior Policy Advisor to the Ontario Government Caucus, and then to the Premier. She also served as the Associate Secretary of Cabinet and as Deputy Minister of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS). She held several senior management positions in eight government ministries, real estate, banking and the private sector. Apart from her career, she still finds time for her community as a board member on the Conference Board of Canada and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Greater Toronto United Way. (source: Credit Valley Hospital)



### **Michele Mosca**

Faculty member Michele Mosca (BMath '95) has been named one of the country’s *Top 40 Under*

*40*. The award, announced in *The Globe and Mail* (April), recognizes the achievements of 40 young Canadians whose vision, innovation and leadership is making a positive difference in their communities across Canada. Mosca is recognized for his outstanding contributions to science as a professor of quantum physics at the University of Waterloo. He graduated from SJU in 1995 with a mathematics degree.

As one of the founding leaders of Waterloo’s Institute for Quantum Computing, and a founding researcher at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Mosca has played a key role in placing Waterloo and Canada at the forefront of research and innovation. UW President Feridun Hamdullahpur says, “*His incalculable contributions to science in Canada make him an ideal recipient of the Top 40 Under 40 Award.*” Through his research and leadership, and his efforts to create a collaborative graduate studies program in quantum information, he has helped build Canada’s reputation as a worldwide epicentre for quantum research. (source: Colin Hunter, Institute for Quantum Computing)

These profiles are only a few highlights of our exceptional SJU alumni. To share your milestones and accolades in *SJU Update*, send your news and photos to Mari-Beth Davis at [mdbdavis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mdbdavis@uwaterloo.ca) or call her at 519-884-8110, ext. 28277.

# Catching up with Alumni



**Archbishop Thomas Collins** (BA '68) celebrated the March launch of his book *Pathway to our Hearts*, which draws on his popular monthly lectio divina series at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. His engaging style and

his deep understanding of Scripture is an introduction to the ancient Christian tradition of lectio divina (sacred reading) and meditation on the Word of God.



**Melissa (née Latour) Hammell** (BA '05) and **Jonathan Hammell** (BMath '06) are proud new parents of a baby boy! Fenton Lawrence was born on May 10, 2011, weighing a healthy 8 lbs 9 oz.

With his mother's communication skills and his father's passion for numbers, Fenton is sure to be a perfect fit for the Knowledge Integration class of 2033.



**Bishop Peter Hundt** (BA '78) was appointed Bishop of Corner Brook and Labrador by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in March 2011. Bishop Hundt, born in Hanover, Ontario in 1956, had served as Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto since April 2006. He holds

a Bachelor of Arts from St. Jerome's College, and a Master of Divinity from St. Peter's Seminary, University of Western Ontario. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Hamilton in 1982.



**Tom Mayberry** (BA '10) has recently had his artistic work published from his master's thesis on William Blake. Mayberry combines creative prose with concepts of celebrity culture and works with a team of aesthetic artists to construct the performances and images.

His work follows in the vein of Canadian conceptual artists such as David Buchan and General Idea, but at its centre is a fusion of William Blake and Lady Gaga. More of Mayberry's works can be viewed at [www.callastudio.ca](http://www.callastudio.ca). Mayberry is currently a graduate student at McMaster University.

**Thomas McDaries** (BA '69) and his wife, **Nancy McDaries** (BA '69), initially attended Resurrection College before they transferred to St. Jerome's. While studying literature with Professor Peter Hinchcliffe, Thomas was asked to read a particular poem. When he had finished, Professor Hinchcliffe said he had done a wonderful job, except it wasn't the poem they were studying. Little did Professor Hinchcliffe know that Thomas had just fallen in love with girl sitting next to him (Nancy) and was somewhat distracted! They married a month later, in November 1967. Thomas is now retired after a 35-year career in consumer relations and Nancy is an educator with Weedsport High School. They have three children. Thomas and Nancy reflect on their time at SJU: "[It] was much more than a great school, it was the foundation of love as well as learning. Looking back we are truly indebted to the inspirational faculty – Fr. Finn, Dr. Cummings, Dr. Hinchcliffe, Dr. Levitsky, Dr. Ledbetter, and Dr. Rosenberg." Thomas and Nancy can be reached at [medaries911@yahoo.com](mailto:medaries911@yahoo.com).

Photo: Waterloo Region Record



**Brian Orend** (BA '94), a professor of philosophy at the University of Waterloo and a human rights author, was honoured this year by *The Record* as one of the *Top 40 Under 40*. The award

recognizes young leaders who know how to bring ideas to life to build a better future for the Waterloo regional community.

Orend, a 1994 graduate of SJU is the renowned author of five books on such topics as war, human rights and happiness. His upcoming book, *Seizure the Day: Happiness in Spite of Illness*, was inspired by his being diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 30. Orend, who is the creator and director of the International Studies program at UW, is also the youngest professor ever to be hired at UW, achieving tenure as an associate professor at age 30 and becoming a full professor at 35. "I really like the students..." he says of his teaching methods. "It's the high-energy aspect of my job, and I like that."

(source: The Record, February 24, 2011)



**John Morley** (BMath '04) and his Hamilton band *Live How You Live* have taken the international music world by storm with their song "One Life." The song was personally selected by Yoko Ono to commemorate her late husband John Lennon's vision for peace and love in the world. In honour of Lennon's 70th birthday, Ono and the Lennon Songwriting Contest selected "One Life" from among countless submissions from across the globe. The band is inspired not only by this recognition of the song, but by the fact that it was selected by Ono as a testament to Lennon's vision of peace. "One Life" will now compete for a grand prize to become one of the final 12 John Lennon Award winners that will compete for Song of the Year.



**Frank O'Connor** (BA '80) recently received a prestigious award as one of Canada's outstanding principals for 2011. O'Connor, who is principal at North Park Collegiate in Brantford, was honoured for

helping to implement the Turning Point program while principal at Valley Heights Secondary School in 2006.

O'Connor, who was Director of Residence at St. Jerome's from 1985 to 1989, is credited by his colleagues as changing the face of education for Valley Heights through his strong leadership and his ability to find ways to reach out to an isolated community by designing a program to support them. He was recognized by The Learning Partnership, a charitable organization dedicated to championing a strong public education system in Canada.



**Sara Pendergast** (BA '88) and her husband John Milloy welcomed their new son, Michael Milloy, on October 16, 2010. Baby Michael is pictured here with big brother John Patrick Milloy, age five.

**Bruce Rodrigues** (BMath '83) was recently elected President of the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA) by the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB). Rodrigues, who also has a Master of Divinity, has had a distinguished career in Waterloo Region's Catholic schools since 1986. He is also the Board's Associate Director of Education. "Bruce is not only one of the leading educators in the province of Ontario, he's also one of the finest people you could ever hope to meet," said WCDSB education director Roger Lawler, himself a former OCSOA president.

## Recognize anyone from the SJU 1971 Bagbiters Intramural Football Champions?



Photo courtesy of Paul Morley

**Back:** (Left to Right) Mike Dore; Pete Burns; Bob Gaudreau; Vic Kuratic; Paul Benninger; Frank Spagnola; Bob Sharpe

**Middle:** (L-R) Tom Potter; Chris Gadula; Rick Skibinski; Paul Morley; John Forestell; Bill Webster; Paul Brophy; Pat Gibbons; Brian Juggler

**Front:** (L-R) Jim Ferney; Larry O'Breche; Al Denandis; Pat Greaney; Bob Stephenson; Pete Galligan; Sean MacDonnell; Joe Bartolacci; Pete Visser (Coach)

SJU grad Paul Morley (BA '71 and MA '75) sent us this photo and we'd love to see more! We'll be creating an online photo gallery of SJU memories for our 150th Anniversary and we need your help!

**Keeping in touch** - Send your memories, photos, stories and updates to Mari-Beth Davis at [mbdavis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mbdavis@uwaterloo.ca) or give her a call at 519-884-8110, ext. 28277.

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Capital Gain	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
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Tax on Capital Gain	\$9,200	\$9,200	n/a
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\*Based on marginal tax rate of approximately 46%

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For more information about making donations to St. Jerome's University, please contact Nadine Collins, University Advancement Officer, at [nacollins@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nacollins@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-884-8111 ext. 28255.

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