



125 Years

Enthusiasm for the truth
L'enthousiasme pour la vérité

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Update!

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University of St. Jerome's College

"A man of unquenching integrity"

A College bids farewell to its President

The tributes were many and generous, and they came from every quarter of College and campus life. They were characterized by sincerity, admiration, and emotion. Students, graduates, faculty, staff, and UW colleagues bid a fond farewell to Fr. Norm Choate, C.R., President of St. Jerome's since 1979, and chaplain and teacher during the early 1960s and mid-1970s.

Students had a chance to honour Fr. Norm at their annual Awards Night Banquet on March 31. They spoke admiringly of his concern for students and of his readiness to spend time with them.

For his part, Fr. Norm said to the over 300 students, faculty, and staff gathered that night at Spirits Restaurant at the Seagram Museum that "students have always been and are the joy of my life. I must be the luckiest university administrator in Canada. You (the students) have made a profound and wonderful difference in my life."

He continued by thanking students for their idealism and hopes, as well as for the many happy times they shared with him throughout his presidency. "And thank you for caring for me, for stopping by to say hello, and for sharing your life with me. You have given me your love and made my work as President more meaningful."

Fr. Norm's departure added a special poignancy to this year's Awards Night. His remarks were met with a prolonged and hearty standing ovation.

A formal testimonial dinner was held at the College in honour of Fr. Norm on April 21. Emceed by Board Chairperson J. Frank Clifford, the dinner was attended by faculty, staff, Board members, University of Waterloo administrators, Church College colleagues, political leaders and the College's Chancellor, Hamilton Bishop Anthony Tonnos.



(Photo by K. Dringham)

Fr. Norm was acknowledged for his achievements throughout ten years as President. He was praised for overseeing the building programme which added Siegfried Hall auditorium, a Board Room, offices and classrooms to the College. The College's outreach to the community flourished through such Choate-inspired initiatives as the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience and the publication of *Grail: An Ecumenical Journal*. His integral role in building a vibrant campus ministry programme was also cited.

Among those paying tribute to Fr. Norm was his colleague and successor as President, Dr. Doug Letson. In an eloquent tribute, Let-

son remarked that "it was my privilege to work closely with Fr. Norm, a close and warm friend, and a man of unquenching integrity. He is a just leader and cultured man who was willing to promote the arts. He reads, listens, attends, and has helped to build St. Jerome's College into a first-rate Canadian liberal arts College. Fr. Norm took pleasure in faculty publications and actually read them. He provided support and space for faculty and staff to explore new possibilities."

Fr. Fred Scinto, C.R., Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Resurrection, remarked that "Fr. Norm solidified the Catholic iden-

PM sends congrats

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes as you mark the completion of your term as President of St. Jerome's College.

You may take great pride in your accomplishments and, I am certain, your colleagues and the many students you have taught welcome this opportunity to show you the esteem and affection in which you are held.

May you have every success in meeting the challenges ahead.

*Yours sincerely,
Brian Mulroney*

Special
issue ...

• College says
farewell to
Fr. Norm Choate

• Reunion '89 Report

tivity of the College, and he strengthened campus ministry and lay leadership."

University of Waterloo President Dr. Douglas Wright also commended Fr. Norm, citing "the influence of St. Jerome's in the community and on the UW campus. It has become an integral part of our existence," he said. Wright then presented Fr. Norm with an inscribed silver platter.

Conrad Grebel Mennonite College President Prof. Ralph Lebold cited Fr. Norm's personable style and leadership gifts and his "vision of what a Church College should be. He always saw the larger perspective." Fr. Norm was also made a Fellow of Renison College in late April.

Bringing greetings from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Waterloo MP Walter McLean noted that "the public consciousness that has positively echoed from St. Jerome's College does not happen without leadership." He credited Fr. Norm with providing an atmosphere at the College which fostered global awareness and social justice.



Doug Letson reflects on the "Choate years" at Reunion '89.

Student Union President Matt Wilson spoke on behalf of all College students when he said that "Fr. Norm was the epitome of the open door president. He turned distance between administration and students into friendship."

Bishop Tonnos cited Fr. Norm's commitment to a strong and visible Catholic identity, and he spoke of the importance of the presence of a Catholic College in the Diocese.

Concluding the evening, Fr. Norm expressed his gratitude to College and UW colleagues, referring to the last fifteen years as a "privilege and a gift to me. Out of many professional associations have grown dear friendships," he added.

He spoke of his pride in the College's strong sense of identity as a Roman Catholic undergraduate liberal arts teaching college. "Being President, Chaplain, and teacher exceeds everything I could have ever imagined for myself," he commented.



(Photo by K. Dwyer)

He touchingly thanked his late mother. "Though I tried repeatedly to quit school, she was determined not to let me. She placed a high value on education and I cannot imagine my life without education." He also went on to acknowledge the commitment, hard work, and efficiency of his secretary, Alice Tapper.

And delving into the College's history, he cited College founder Fr. Louis Funcken, C.R. "Father Funcken believed that the key to good education is to know and to love students. They will learn well if you manifest an enthusiasm for the truth." This was an axiom Fr. Norm said he tried to emulate during his time at the College. Given the warm response of the nearly 200 present, there was little doubt that he had succeeded in this objective.

Fr. Norm then expressed his gratitude to former Presidents Fathers Siegfried and Finn "from whom I inherited a firm foundation".

Finally, he paid tribute to his successor as President, Doug Letson, noting that, "I'll miss the excitement of the College beginning a new era under Doug."

Honorary degree

Fr. Norm was particularly moved at the news that he is to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the University of Waterloo's Fall Convocation on October 21.

"I was absolutely speechless," he remarked. He will have to regain his speech, however, as he will also be called upon to address convocation.

In announcing Fr. Norm as an honorary degree recipient, the University cited his lengthy and outstanding service to both St. Jerome's College and the University of Waterloo. Throughout his tenure as President, he served effectively on the University Senate, Board of Governors, the Presidents' Working Group, the UW/WLU liaison committee, the Watfund advisory committee, the Pascal lecture committee, and both UW Presidential and Vice-Presidential search committees.

Scholarship honours Fr. Norm

A new scholarship/bursary named in honour of Fr. Norm Choate was announced publicly at the Grads' Association Reunion dinner June 3.

Many graduates responded to the special appeal to make a contribution to this new scholarship fund. It was the graduates' gift to Fr. Norm on his departure from the College. Awards will be made to deserving students in a year's time.

"This scholarship is a sign of the esteem in which we hold you," noted Rob Donelson in his remarks at the testimonial dinner. "It also shows our respect and admiration for your concern for students and for access to university education."

"Though this gift is not something you can take with you when you leave, it is something you leave behind for the students who will not have the privilege of knowing you personally as we have," added Donelson.

Donations to this fund are still being received. If you wish to contribute, please send your gift to the Office of Development at the College. A tax receipt will be issued promptly.

Writeback

St. Jerome's "like an oasis"

Even though I am not a graduate of St. Jerome's College, I have had many dealings with your community over the years and have grown to respect your aims. This feeling was reinforced recently when I attended a memorial service for Todd Earl, the twenty-year old whose life ended so tragically. The service was held on campus.

I didn't know what to expect. I was very aware of the deep grief, resentment, anger and confusion that many of Todd's friends felt. The last thing I was expecting was the sense of calm and direction that was evident from the first moment that the thirty of us sat down. Father Charlie and Father Norm set such a tone of loving concern that the next hour of "stories about Todd" was truly funny and therapeutic. When John Donne wrote that "no man is an island," he could have been thinking of the Todd Earls of the world. And in the same way, St. Jerome's is like an oasis that permits people to be themselves, and yet be given insights into an even better self.

Sincerely,
A friend of St. Jerome's

As *Uplate!* went to press, the College was saddened at the news that former President Father Cornelius Siegfried, C.R. passed away on July 26. A tribute to Fr. Siegfried's many achievements as President and educator will appear in the next *Uplate!*

A President reflects as he leaves office

(Photo by UJW Central Photo)

Prior to leaving the office of President after ten years to begin a sabbatical, Fr. Norm Choate sat down with *Update!* editor Rob Donelson on May 3, 1989. What follows is the text of that interview.

Update! How do you feel as you begin to make ready to leave the College?

Choate: Well, not surprisingly, I have very mixed emotions. On the one hand, I am absolutely convinced of the rightness of the decision to go. It's the right time for the College, for me, and for the Congregation. I am delighted with the prospect of Doug taking on the job. But this place has been my home for fifteen years, and I have gotten to know a lot of people and have come to care very much for them. I've seen a lot of really nice things happen in their lives, so that the feeling of leaving is kind of sad.

Update! When you look back on your years as President, Chaplain and teacher, what gives you the most satisfaction?

Choate: Campus Ministry was the best job I ever had. I had fun in that job. It's physically exhausting work, but it's work in which you are involved with people and significant human issues. You have the chance to present a welcoming, human face of the Church to people who are doing a lot of searching and questioning. And of course I have some paternal feelings, so campus ministry gave me a chance to be a little bit of a father. Not every problem that a student comes and talks to you about is world-shaking. People fall in and out of love around here with the regularity with which the sun goes up and down, and to them it's a critical piece of business. I must have listened to the story a thousand times about "she doesn't love me anymore." What they don't know and what I know is that they'll get over it. They will hurt for a little while then there will be somebody else.

Update! What are some of the highlights that come to mind when you think of your years as President?

Choate: The easiest things to identify are the physical things. We undertook construction of the new classroom and office wing, including Siegfried Hall auditorium. The College is financially sound and with that financial foundation we have been able to take on other initiatives. I think that the Roman Catholic identity of this College today is unquestioned and unquestionable, and I'm very proud that we have been able to do that. When I talk about "we" that's not a royal "we", that's all of us together. A President tries to make it possible for other people to do things and many have done so. We have a lot of creative and energetic people here, and I have always tried to create an atmosphere and provide the resources for them to be creative and energetic. And for the most part that has worked.

A constant theme for me ever since I've been here is students. I always wanted to be



Doug Letson presents Fr. Norm Choate with a Peter Etril Snyder painting "Riding to Help a Neighbour".

associated with students, and I have. Even as President I've been able to maintain some contact with students. I like them.

Update! How do you think the College is different today from when you first became President?

Choate: I think it's more academically sound. We think a little bit better of ourselves as an academic institution. I think that in the past we were a little too humble about ourselves. We have a maturing faculty, many people who teach well and who are doing their research and providing service. Certainly, the visibility of this College has increased enormously in the last ten years. Our outreach into the community through efforts like the St. Jerome's Centre, *Grail*, the various summer institutes and high school liaison have expanded enormously.

"I have always tried to create an atmosphere and provide the resources for faculty and staff to be creative and energetic."

Update! How are you a different person today as a result of your experiences as President?

Choate: I'm tired. (laughter) I think I've learned a lot in this job. When I first started I thought that there was a certain amount of paranoia in the air because things were tense between the College and the University. My axiom became "you have to speak to the best in people, you have to assume the nobility of people and act on that assumption". I still

believe that if you speak to the best in people you will get the best response. Ten years of experience have taught me it's not always quite that simple; things get a little complicated sometimes. This may sound odd for a man my age to say it, but I've gained a lot of confidence in myself, because when I started this job I was very frightened.

Update! Why do you think you have become more confident?

Choate: Because we have been lucky, a lot of things we tried have worked. As you well know, universities are very conservative institutions, so anytime you propose a new idea you face resistance. I spent a lot of time campaigning for various initiatives. Some of them worked, sometimes I got assent and sometimes I didn't. I realize you can't do anything unless you have the support of the people around you. I always thought "let's try it, if it doesn't work, we'll stop doing it". Most everything has worked. As I said, we got lucky.

Update! That good fortune, though, has posed it's own problems because in a sense we are sometimes victims of our own success.

Choate: That's true and that's a major problem. I was thinking about that yesterday. We're doing X percentage more than what we were doing ten years ago with, in fact, fewer people. We have a smaller faculty now than what we had ten years ago, just by a couple. You are right, it is a problem. I don't want to predict the future on the way out of my office, but this place has to grow because we are just going to exhaust people if it doesn't.

Update! Do you think that students are any different today than they were when you started as a Chaplain, or even when you started as President?

Choate: Yes and no. The no part is that I've always found the students here to be substantial people and decent human beings. The trick is to get beyond the "student" definition. The word "student" describes what somebody does, it doesn't describe what they are. They are people. If you get to know students you'll find out they are wonderful people. On the other hand, this campus has changed a lot. This University has become rather prestigious and attracts a lot of high achievers. The co-op program attracts people with very specific goals and, quite frankly, I am not always thrilled by that. One of the things that I've so enjoyed in the past is watching the marginal student come in here, catch on, and blossom. They learn and they like learning.

The other part that doesn't change is that the people at St. Jerome's still know how to have a good time. They enjoy each other. There was a really moving experience last weekend. We had a student death last week as you know, so the students wanted to do something themselves. It was especially important to them because we are between terms, they were caught, they were alone. They arranged a memorial service here at the College. It is very moving for me that when they want to be with somebody, they want to be with their schoolmates. They want to be with the people in this community. So some things have changed and others have not.

"The visibility of this College has increased enormously in the last ten years."

Update! You always have been very supportive of the Graduates' Association. Could we talk about how you see the role of graduates in the life of the College?

Choate: We talk endlessly around here about community and I believe it. It's a high value and it exists, but I think it's hard for students a lot of the time when they leave because they are suddenly uprooted. Happily, most of them have made good friendships as students. Here they were guys and girls together, now they are young families together. The Graduates' Association is a support for that sense of community. Obviously when you start a Graduates' Association one of the reasons you do so is because you need their financial support. This has been forthcoming and has been a lot more easily achieved than I ever thought it would.

We also need their moral support; we need people to support the concept of Catholic education, and the concept of federated colleges. I've about given up on the Provincial Government. I don't think we are going to get any help from them. They're hell-bent for mediocrity, and this College has got to do

everything in its power to resist that. The Graduates' Association, in my estimation, is one of the keys. For this President, the Graduates' Association has been a source of enormous personal support. One of the hardest things for me as President has been the endless receptions and dinners. I'm not a very public person. But to go to the Grads' Association events and to see that group doing so well makes me very proud of them.

Update! The College's Catholic identity has been an important concern to you as President. Could you highlight some of the ways you think the Catholic identity of the College is manifested?

Choate: Certainly the most visible sign of our Catholic identity is the rather large and active Campus Ministry programme. We have a worshipping community here of about twelve hundred people. I used to think that we were rather shy and apologetic about our Catholicism, and I don't think that's true anymore. We have active debates in the classrooms, the hallways and in the cafeteria about how this Catholicism gets expressed, but I no longer hear people shying away from it. I think that people who are not Catholics in the College have learned that the Roman Catholicism of St. Jerome's College is open enough and confident enough. I'm not threatened by the presence of people at the College who are not Catholics or indeed not believers, because we are confident in who we are. Our Catholicism is also expressed in our curriculum and in our extracurricular activities. We have always had courses in religious studies, we have courses in Church history, in the social teachings of the Church, so that idea has intruded into the curriculum in a valid way. Other obvious examples are the Centre, *Grail*, the summer institutes all of which have been, I think, quite successful and which operate on a relatively small amount of money and largely volunteer help. So that means that the people here are committed to those initiatives most of which have the word religion, "Catholicism," kind of written all over them.

Update! I would like to conclude by talking a little bit about plans for your sabbatical.

Choate: My plans for my sabbatical right now are to go to England for a couple of weeks in early June, right after the Graduates' weekend. I'm just going to sit down for a couple of weeks because I'm so preoccupied with the business of leaving here that I can't think much about the future. Then I'll make my way down to Rome to my Community's house where I'll be in a renewal program in the month of July. I intend to wander around Europe during August and September, return here in October, at which time I hope to make a long retreat. I want to do some workshops and upgrade myself in theology and spirituality. And in the midst of all of this I have to find a job and I have to find a place to live.

Reunion '89 - Grad

It was everything organizers had hoped for - a large and enthusiastic turnout and a splendid tribute to Fr. Norm Choate by the Graduates' Association.

In Fr. Norm's final public act as President, the Graduates' Association honoured him with a moving testimonial dinner held in Siegfried Hall, because the cafeteria could not accommodate the 300 graduates who came to pay tribute to a dear friend.

"The reason we are here," announced MC Terry Downey (BA '66), "is to honour a loyal and thoughtful friend, an exemplary priest, a wise and compassionate counsellor, and an inspirational role model who has left his mark on all of us."

"But we have also left our mark on him," Downey cautioned humorously. "We nearly ruined his health, frayed his nerves, caused his hairline to recede, and inflated his blood pressure!"



Terry Downey (BA '66) did a superb job as Master of Ceremonies at the Grads' Association's Testimonial Dinner.

The dinner also provided an opportunity for incoming President Dr. Doug Letson to be introduced formally to the community of graduates. In his remarks, Letson said that "Fr. Norm was the right person in the right place at the right time in our history. He gave us a sense of the possibilities of St. Jerome's and encouraged us to seize the future."

"The College changed dramatically under Fr. Norm," added Letson. "He instilled in us a sense of confidence that we do well what we do at St. Jerome's."

Following a sumptuous buffet dinner of chicken cordon bleu and hip of beef, complemented by specially-labelled 125th anniversary wines, three graduates paid formal tribute to Fr. Norm.

Marc Kealey (BA '83) called him "a friend, spiritual model, and advisor," while Paul Rucurean (BMath '79), a student in residence during Fr. Norm's chaplaincy, shared his admiration for him through a humorous anecdote of how

uates' Association's finest hour

(Photo by K. Droulx)

the two established their "good neighbour policy" while living in the Men's Residence.

But perhaps the most moving tribute of the evening came from Dana Woito (BA '84). Dana eloquently reflected on a homily Fr. Norm delivered at the St. Jerome's Day Mass in 1982 on "saints, heroes, and prophets." In it he had spoken of those whom he felt exemplified the qualities of saints, heroes, and prophets. He cited parents of students, the commitment of scholars, the silent courage of new students filled with anxiety but determined to learn, students in volunteerism, and the devotion of students returning home to visit a sick family member.

"Fr. Norm showed us that words matter. His love for the world of words, his passion for reading, his labour over the written word, and his spoken words carefully chosen and unerringly placed showed us a man who loved words" she said.

But "he also showed us that words and actions need not inhabit separate realms - they prod the mind and stir the soul," Dana reflected. "Through his homilies and through conversation, he showed us that words spoken from the heart are the most important of all. This is a worthy legacy."



Dana Woito (BA '84)

As a follow-up to these oral tributes, an impressive slide show put to the music of David Foster was prepared by graduate John Curtis (BA '83). The Grads' Association had collected photos of Fr. Norm's life, and the presentation left not a dry eye in the house.

No introduction was needed when Fr. Norm came to the podium and offered his thanks.

"As I prepare to leave the College, I have tried to imagine my life without the presence of students," he observed. "That has been a fearsome task, for your presence here is a clear sign to me that you have become my friends. I am profoundly grateful for your friendship."

Reflecting on his years at the College, Fr. Norm noted that "my greatest joy has been watching so many of you grow in grace, in age, and in wisdom. You are now men and women



A prolonged standing ovation for Fr. Norm Choate was a moving response to an evening of tributes.

of substance, and I am so incredibly proud of all of you."

"Though I have been a small part of your lives," he continued, "you have been an enormous part of mine, in fact, the very purpose of my life."

Fr. Norm expressed his optimism that the College will flourish under the presidency of Doug Letson. "The College is a rocket on a launch pad whose engines are all fired up. Your support is making lift-off possible," he said, acknowledging the role of the graduates in the College's future progress and development.

He concluded with a personal comment on how he has tried to hold to the practice of caring for all students equally during his years at the College. "I always tried to love every student and tried not to set hooks in them. I knew they must be free."

"I must confess that I failed at this every year for I fell in love with students again and again. I would not have had it any other way." He added, "I've thought a lot about how much love and caring I've received, and I am profoundly grateful to all of you."

The best-laid plans ...

It could not have been scripted any more humorously or surprisingly. The draw for door prizes at the June 3 Testimonial Dinner started innocently enough - a gas barbecue donated by A&P/New Dominion through the efforts of grad Paul Rucurean, and an actual Blue Jays game bat obtained by grad John Brioux.

As hushed anticipation covered the room when the first number was called, an extended pause suggested the winner was not present. Then an embarrassed Paul Rucurean stood up with the winning number! To great laughter, he promptly told MC Terry Downey to draw again.

Which he did, and the lucky number was 200. Great. Someone will go home with a bar-

beque - we thought. Two grads, Bruce Cosby and Colleen Maloney, both made their way to the podium to collect their prize. Two two hundreds? Again, uproarious laughter was heard.

Two people had hand-stamped the prize numbers on the programmes, one from 1 to 200, the other from 200 to 300. Hence the dual winners.

Thinking on his feet, Terry Downey in witty fashion tossed a coin and both grads went home with a prize - Bruce with the barbecue and Colleen with the bat.

While you can't cook a steak on a baseball bat, it can always be used as a tenderizer.

It was a light-hearted conclusion to a great evening.

Weekend of events

While Saturday's testimonial dinner was the focal point of Reunion Weekend, a number of other activities took place making for a worthy celebration of our 125th anniversary. On Friday evening, historian Fr. Jim Wahl, C.R., gave a short talk on the early history of the College, with particular emphasis on founder Fr. Louis Funcken.

On Saturday morning, historian Ken McLaughlin led an enthusiastic group on a tour of former College sites in Kitchener. The group travelled to the Duke Street building which now houses St. Jerome's High School, and the Kingsdale Campus in east-end Kitchener, from which the College moved to UW in 1962.

Shakespearean scholar Professor George Hibbard gave a short lecture over lunch on the Stratford Festival's performance of the double bill *Titus Andronicus/The Comedy of Errors*. A group of over twenty grads participated and thoroughly enjoyed both the informative lecture and a first-rate performance.

A noon-time barbecue lunch under the warm sunshine of our campus was a great chance for over 150 graduates, friends, and children to mingle prior to the games and sports events later in the day.

The Art and Activity Centre was a big hit with the children as the coffee shop was transformed into a mammoth day-care centre under the energetic direction of grad Sharon Forgeron (BA '75). Paints, playdough and crafts were the order of the day for over 50 seemingly tireless children.

A bronze plaque acknowledging the College's 125th anniversary was unveiled in St. Agatha at the cairn marking the site of the College's founding in 1865. A 1935 photo of graduates erecting the cairn was recreated and provided an intriguing study in contrast.

The celebration of Mass on Sunday morning in a packed Notre Dame Cafeteria was followed by a pancake breakfast for over 200 grads and their families.

"The entire weekend, and especially the classy tribute to Fr. Norm was the culmination of many years of building a strong Graduates' Association," commented Rob Donelson. "I am convinced that for everyone present, the weekend reinforced the importance of the College in our lives. It was truly the Grads' Association's finest hour."



New job for Board Chairperson Mr. J. Frank Clifford, Chairperson of the College's Board of Governors, was recently appointed Director of the new Council for Teacher Education. The Province of Ontario established the council to advise the government on changes to teacher training programmes. The Council was recommended by the Teacher Education Review Steering Committee chaired by Mr. Clifford. Formerly, Mr. Clifford headed the Education Ministry's professional development branch.

Sr. Joyce Kempel leaving After 8 years as assistant residence administrator at Notre Dame College, Sr. Joyce Kempel is leaving to take up teaching duties at St. Brigid's School in Hamilton. Sr. Joyce will be teaching grade one.

Tom Ciancone named 1989 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient



(Photo by K. Doughty)

Distinguished Graduate Award recipient Tom Ciancone (BMath '70).

Tom Ciancone (BMath '70) of Toronto, is the fourth recipient of the annual Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award presented at the Graduates' Association Reunion dinner on June 3, 1989.

The award is given to recognize a St. Jerome's graduate who makes an outstanding contribution to one or more of these areas: his or her community, province, or country; career; church; or to the Graduates' Association. Tom Ciancone meets all criteria.

"He is a person whose life has been dedicated to those in society without power - the handicapped, the illiterate, workers, immigrants, and others. He is someone who has integrated his faith with principles of social justice," notes Rob Donelson, Director of Development.

Ciancone is currently a Numeracy Resource Facilitator with the Toronto Board of Education and has been responsible for breaking new ground in the Toronto literacy community. Here he tutors adults in basic mathematics, assesses new materials, develops curriculum, and gives staff development workshops.

Since the early 1970s he has been active in the Christian Movement for Peace, an ecumenical group which promotes peace and justice awareness globally, locally, and in the churches. It recently merged with Project Ploughshares.

From 1973-76, he was a member of the News Synthesis Project, a church-sponsored organization which attempted to present the news, especially Third World news, in an organized manner so that groups and individuals could more readily understand important issues.

In 1974-75 he was a volunteer on the Hamilton Committee of the California Grape Boycott in support of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union.

Throughout 1975-78 he was an occasional volunteer at L'Arche communities in Ontario and France, and he spent time in Italy working in a Milan co-operative teaching English and

Math by night, while he did secretarial and maintenance work by day.

In 1978 he helped to found the Circolo Culturale Carlo Levi which brought together Italian Canadians in Toronto through cultural and social events.

Ciancone travelled to Nicaragua in 1983 with other educators to study the literacy and popular education programmes there. On his return, he travelled widely and spoke to many schools, churches and community organizations to raise awareness. He was also involved in the Tools for Peace programme in Toronto.

He ran as a candidate in 1985 for the separate school representative on the Toronto Board of Education.

Also in Toronto, Ciancone worked with the Metro Labour Education and Skills Training Centre giving classes to unemployed workers who have lost their jobs due to plant closures.

The holder of Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees, Ciancone has taught high school mathematics in Hamilton, and English as a Second Language at Humber College. He studied carpentry and was self-employed as a professional cabinetmaker from 1980-88. He has also returned to St. Jerome's College to speak to students in a Career Forum.

One nominator had this to say about Tom Ciancone: "In a world that honours those who make a big splash, Tom would hardly be noticed. He has not 'settled down' into a secure, prosperous life that could easily have been his since leaving St. Jerome's. Instead, he has shown us a man who loves life, who is not afraid to travel many roads, and who uses what he learns to benefit his work, himself and others." Ciancone's record of service speaks for itself.

On receiving the award at the Reunion Dinner, Tom commented that "As a student, I remember Fr. Norm as a quiet and determined man. As a graduate, I have seen him challenge the College to change and grow. It was the St. Jerome's Centre which brought me back to the College, and my commitment to social justice has been reinforced here. St. Jerome's is a source of intellectual and spiritual renewal, and I am grateful for that."



(Photo by K. Doughty)

Tom Ciancone and parents Anna and Carmen stand behind the College's new lectern built by Tom.

Grail recognized for style and substance

For the second straight year, *Grail: An Ecumenical Journal*, published quarterly by the University of St. Jerome's College Press, has won a series of national awards given by the Canadian Church Press (CCP).

Religious newspapers, magazines, and journals from across Canada were honoured in this annual competition which took place at the CCP annual meeting in Toronto recently.

Grail again won the General Excellence Award for journals. This award recognizes design, layout, photographs, and content. The judges commented that *Grail* is "a sheer delight to look at and to handle. It is editorially unique in the way it bridges serious academic and theological work with a journalistic topicality."

The June 1988 issue of *Grail* won in the Best Layout and Design category. The judges observed that *Grail* provides "a refreshing approach. A very clear, organized grid with well-handled typography gives this a contemporary look. A refined attention to detail completes a great presentation."

"editorially unique in the way it bridges serious academic and theological work with a journalistic topicality."

Grail
An Ecumenical Journal

Grail also received an Honourable Mention in the Best Black and White Photo category, for a photo by S. Hill-Jackson accompanying the article "Abuse of the Elderly: The Silent Crime," which appeared in the March 1988 issue of *Grail*.

An Honourable Mention was also received in the Best Theological Reflection (Inspirational) category for the article "Woman: Icon, Rebel, Saint" by Sr. Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

"These awards reflect *Grail's* growing stature as a high quality journal," noted Editor Michael Higgins. "We are very proud that *Grail* has been recognized both for its content and its style."

Grail was established in 1985 with its first issue appearing in March of that year. The journal has approximately 1700 subscriptions across Canada, the U.S. and worldwide. Its editorial board is comprised of Carmeta Abbott, Norman Choate, C.R., Robert Donelson, Mark Kiley, Doug Letson, Mary Malone, Ted McGee, and Gerry Stortz.

A one year subscription (4 issues) costs \$14; a two year subscription (8 issues) costs \$25. For subscription information contact Miss Rita Racanelli at the College (519) 884-8110.

Successful writing career for grad



(Photo courtesy G. Lynch)

Gerald Lynch (BA '76)

It has been a productive publishing year for SJC grad Gerald Lynch (BA '76). Lynch, a member of the Department of English at the University of Ottawa, recently published two books, *Stephen Leacock: Humour and Humanity* (see below), and *Prose Models*, a comparison of Canadian, American, and British essays. He has also published a collection of his own short stories, *One's Company* (Mosaic Press, Oakville). Canadian Poetry Press of London, Ont., will publish Lynch's parallel text edition of the first book-length poem published by an English-Canadian, entitled *Oliver Goldsmith's The Rising Village*.

He recently signed a contract with Copp Clark Pittman to edit a book called *Canadian Essayists*. This book presents a history of the essay in Canada from Stephen Leacock to Barbara Amiel, and features 12 of Canada's best essayists including such writers as Hugh MacLennan, Robertson Davies, Mordecai Richler, Northrop Frye, Margaret Atwood, and Margaret Laurence. The book is intended for Canadian literature classes and the general public.

Since 1978, Lynch has published over 20 short stories in such journals as *The Capilano Review*, *Descant*, *The New Quarterly*, *The Canadian Forum*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *The Fiddlehead*, and many others.

In 1982 he won the National Magazine Award (first prize for fiction), and in the same year and again in 1986, he received Ontario Arts Council grants. In 1987 he received a Canada Research Fellowship, a five-year programme which allows young scholars to pursue research in the humanities.

After he received his BA in 1976, Gerry earned a Master's degree in English from UW in 1978. He proceeded to earn a PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1984, and taught speech and English Literature at Western until he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Dept. of English at the University of Ottawa. Here he has taught creative writing, American Fiction, Canadian poetry, Canadian short stories, and other courses.

Gerry and his wife Mary-Jo live in Blackburn Hamlet, just outside of Ottawa, with their two children, Bryan, 5 and Meghan, 4. Mary-Jo received her Registered Nurse certification at Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital and her BScN from the University of Western Ontario. She works in the Intensive Care Neonatal Nursery at the Ottawa General Hospital.

A native of Monaghan, Ireland, Gerry came to Canada in 1957 and became a Canadian citizen in 1975.

Book Review

A serious look at humourist Leacock

Gerald Lynch, an alumnus of St. Jerome's College who now teaches at the University of Ottawa, has written a most serious volume about humourist Stephen Leacock.

In his book, titled *Stephen Leacock: Humour and Humanity*, (McGill-Queen's Press, 1989) Lynch proposes that Leacock's humourist writings were but a vehicle to further his Toryism - in the 19th century sense - and his humanistic ideals.

The book is sure to be a welcome addition to Leacock scholars, but it is heavy slogging for those whose acquaintance with Leacock doesn't extend beyond his well-known stories. Lynch, gathering his ammunition from essays and letters written by Leacock, sets out to prove that the funny writer was also a humour theorist whose central purpose was, in Lynch's words, to further the "moral melioration of mankind."

Lynch equates Leacock's style of comic writing with his political beliefs, calling humour the "literary vehicle of the middle way (of Tory humanism), which mediates between satire and sentimentality" the literary equivalents, in Leacock's thought, of extreme liberalism and socialism.

In the chapter exploring Leacock's theory of humour, we're whirled through a world's fair of theorists: anyone from Thomas Hobbes to Sigmund Freud who has commented on the nature of humour seems to have found their way into the book. It's a scholastic tour de force, but rather mind-boggling.

The book is promoted as "the most thorough critical appraisal today of Leacock's two major works, *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town* and *Arcadian Adventures With the Idle Rich*, showing that Leacock is not merely an entertaining humourist but also an important and serious humanist." Lynch seems centrally concerned with seriousness and writes in a way that leaves not a hint of the amusement and jolly romp most of us associate with Leacock. No doubt, Lynch has contributed an important book that will deepen literary perceptions of Leacock's work. But I hope my fellow graduate will pardon me if, next time I board the imaginary train to Mariposa, I do so because Leacock still is one of the best "merely entertaining humourists" Canada has ever produced.

This review was written by Kelley Teahen (BA '83). Kelley lives in London where she is a reporter for The London Free Press.

Next issue . . .

- Administrative changes at the College
- Convocation '89 report
- Ottawa and Toronto Chapter reports
- Lisa Bauer profile



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Grads named to national post

Two St. Jerome's graduates were recently elected as the new President Couple for Serena Canada, a national organization which teaches Natural Family Planning (NFP).

Marian (née van Berlo, BA '80) and Frank O'Connor (BA '80), both 32, were elected at Serena's Board meeting in Montreal. Residents of Scotland, Ontario, near Brantford, the O'Connors succeed Julien and Mary Alice Boyer of British Columbia.

"We were very honoured at the confidence shown in us," commented Marian, who, with Frank, has taught NFP for the past six years. "We look forward to working with other teacher couples across Canada, and hope we can build on an already strong foundation."

Based in Ottawa, Serena Canada was originally developed in 1955 by Rita and Gilles Breault of Quebec who continue to remain active in the organization. Serena is comprised of hundreds of volunteer couples across Canada certified to teach the sympto-thermal approach to natural family planning.

This approach combines both the woman's basal body temperature and her body symptoms to gauge fertility and to know approximately when ovulation occurs. This information enables a couple to achieve or to avoid a pregnancy.

As President Couple, Marian and Frank will undertake the implementation of a new five-year plan intended to promote greater accessibility to Serena's NFP Service.

"Serena is a reliable natural alternative that the public should know about before they make any decisions regarding birth control," remarks Marian.

Adds Frank, "During our term as President Couple, we hope to see Serena Canada grow in the number of teacher couples as well as the number of couples taught. We also hope to attain funds from more diverse sources." Serena is partially funded by the federal Ministry of Health and Welfare and by various district health councils across Canada.

Marian and Frank were Executive Directors of Serena Saskatchewan from 1983 to 1985 and the founding couple of Serena Brant. Frank is currently Director of Residence at St. Jerome's and Marian is a part-time school teacher and a homemaker. The O'Connors have two children, Jessica, 5, and Justin, 2.



Marian and Frank O'Connor

Photo courtesy F. & M. O'Connor

Update! is the newsletter of the University of St. Jerome's College Graduates' Association. It received the 1983 and 1984 Communications Award of the Canadian Association of University Information Bureaus and the 1988 Best Newsletter Award of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education, a Canadian organization of university alumni, development, and information officers. It is published quarterly and mailed free of charge to all graduates, former residents, students, faculty, and friends of the College for whom we have reliable addresses. If your address has changed, or if you would like to receive information from the College, please complete and mail the coupon on this page. We welcome letters for Writeback and general news of graduates for Where Are They Now?

Editor: Robert Dowdson Consulting Editor: Peter Hinchcliffe
Layout: Monica Lynch Photographs: As indicated

In Memoriam

First year math (co-op chartered accountancy) student Todd Earl, 20, of Ancaster, was killed in a car accident on April 25. Todd was one of the College's top math students having come to us as an Ontario Scholar from Ancaster High School. He received an entrance scholarship to St. Jerome's and had lived in our Men's Residence.

Though students had already returned home for their summer break or for co-op work terms when they learned of Todd's untimely death, an impressive representation was on hand for funeral services in Ancaster presided over in part by College chaplain Fr. Charlie Westfall, C.R. Many returned to the College for an impromptu memorial service the following Sunday.

"He had a contagious spirit and a true love of life," remembers fellow resident Pat Fischer. "He was known to show kindness and concern for others and that really came through when the people around him needed it."

A well-rounded student, Todd was an accomplished athlete and played on many College teams. He also held a keen interest in computers and served as an advisor in a partnership with two former teachers. He is survived by his parents Ron and Patricia Earl, and his brother Jay.

Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.

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