

# The truth is out there

Television isn't all bad, says media literacy expert John Pungente – just look carefully and think critically

**N**o-one likes to admit to watching much television, especially not in a room full of serious-minded people gathered to hear an expert on media literacy deliver a lecture entitled "Windows on the Landscape: Catholics Taking Television Seriously." So it's not surprising that there were a few self-conscious giggles around the room when John Pungente, S.J. asked people to raise their hands if they watched popular television programs like *The X-Files*, or *Seinfeld*, or *Picket Fences*, or *Friends*.

But according to Pungente, who is currently Director of the Jesuit Communication Project in Toronto, there's nothing wrong with watching these programs. "Television in and of itself is neither good nor bad," he says. "It just exists. What makes it good or bad is the use we make of it."

Appropriately enough, Pungente, who was invited to the College to deliver the 5th Annual Ignatian Lecture, an annual lecture endowed by the Upper Canada Province of the Society of Jesus, finds support for his position in the writings of St. Ignatius, founding father of the Jesuits. "We are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save our souls," quotes Pungente. "The other things on the face of the earth are created for us to help us in attaining the end for which we were created. Hence we are to make use of all the things on the earth insofar as they help us to the attainment of our goal and to get rid of them insofar as they prove a hindrance to our goal."

People are quick to condemn television, Pungente says. A Vancouver organization called the Media Foundation calls television addiction the number one health issue of the day. Keith Spicer, who is head of the CRTC, has said that "the mass media are significant contributors to the aggressive behaviour and aggression-related attitudes of many children, adolescents, and adults." And books with titles like *The Plug-in Drug* and *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television* abound.

But perhaps we have missed something in our general rush to judgment, Pungente suggested to his audience. Like any medium, television is capable of both great harm and great good.

Television can serve as a great educator. "The three traditional agents of education – the home, the school, and the church – have been joined by a fourth agent: the mass media," Pungente says. Documentaries such as *Our: The problems of lesbian and gay youth* and *Hearts of Hate: The battle for young minds* offer information on issues ranging from the problems facing young gays to the chilling rise of neo-fascism among young Canadians. Docudramas such as the powerfully written and acted *The Boys of St. Vincent* are another source of educational material. And you can learn a lot about the

media from the media, says Pungente.

"*Media TV*, on City TV, analyzes various aspects of the media quite brilliantly."

But television doesn't have to be educational to be of value. "There's nothing wrong with using television as a means of relaxation," Pungente says, noting that shows like *Frasier*, *Home Improvement*, and *Friends* "are lots of fun to watch and don't overwhelm us with sex and violence that we find, quite rightly, so distasteful."

Television programs, whether they are educational or entertaining, present values, "sometimes values we don't want our children to have," Pungente notes, "but there are also other values – personal, social, and religious values – that we approve of as Christians, as ordinary, decent human beings, and that we would like our children to understand." As an example, he cites an episode of *Northern Exposure* in which the mayor of the small Alaskan town in which the series is set has to struggle with racist feelings when confronted by his grown son, the result of an affair with a young Korean woman during the Korean War. Racism is learned behaviour, he discovers, and can be unlearned.

The medium is capable of great good, Pungente argues. Condemning it is not the answer. "It comes as a surprise to people to learn that, in 1938, the church began urging people to look at motion pictures and to pass critical viewing skills on to children. The church asks us to reach out towards the greater good, to try to understand what is good about the media and not sit around saying how bad it is." We seldom look through the window television offers us at "the something else that is out there." We should not necessarily accept what we see through that window, Pungente observes. "What we need to do is offer our children and ourselves the tools of media literacy, the ability to look carefully, think critically." ☺

*John Pungente will be returning to St. Jerome's this summer to co-teach a course entitled The Religious Experience of the Young. For details on the course, or to obtain a cassette tape of "Windows on the Landscape: Catholics Taking Television Seriously," call 884-8110, ext. 259.*

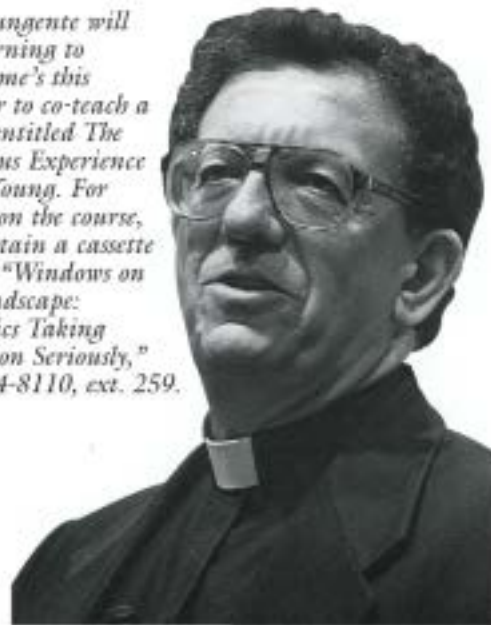


Photo: Ron Hawsan

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University of  
St. Jerome's College  
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## Message from the President

# Building community: A daring plan

These are unsettling times in Ontario, troublesome times on the province's campuses, challenging times at St. Jerome's – we are, all of us, unmistakably on the verge of a new and exciting era.

As one sign of the times, we are now facing the reality of the decision taken by the School Sisters of Notre Dame to redirect their energies to social justice activities and, as a result, to conclude their 34-year collaboration with St. Jerome's College. Their March 2 celebration, thank-you, and send-off provided an opportunity for past residents and long-time friends to recall what was and to reflect on what can be. Clearly, no one can replace the Sisters; realistically, we need now to look for meaningful ways to build on their legacy.

For their part, they have embarked on their own exciting future as they become involved in social justice apostolates like the Betty Thompson Youth Centre in Kitchener where the Sisters have decided to become actively engaged in

ministering to the young living on the city's streets.

There has been a lot of excitement on campus about a College decision related to the departure of the School Sisters of Notre Dame – the combining of the NDC and J.R. Finn cafeterias into a single, integrated, and modern facility. At a special February 22 meeting of the College's Board of Governors, the Board gave its unanimous approval to proceed with the \$2 million development of a 275-seat cafeteria which will provide a common meeting ground for the women and the men of the two residences as well as offer a welcoming place for St. Jerome's registrants not living in residence: a well-lighted and comfortable area to eat, to meet, and to mingle – to help build community and facilitate a

sense of identity amongst those various groups who have chosen to identify with St. Jerome's.

It is a daring plan at a time when government is gutting university budgets – the cutbacks are particularly hard on smaller institutions like St. Jerome's which do not have the flexibility to react to such huge reductions in grants, in part because of our size, in part because we do not receive the capital grants awarded to secular universities, but also because we have long since had to learn to do with less. At St. Jerome's there is simply no excess to cut. Nevertheless, St. Jerome's Board was persuaded of the spiritual need to build community, of the physical necessity to update aging kitchen and dining facilities which have been in service since 1962, and of the potential generosity of the College's friends and supporters who we are convinced will assist us in our need to renew.

Renewal does not, unfortunately, consist of mere bricks and mortar. As you will read elsewhere in *SJC Update*, four of St. Jerome's faculty have elected to accept the much celebrated Special Early Retirement Program introduced by UW – as members of the UW Pension Plan, St. Jerome's faculty and staff were eligible to receive its benefits somewhat earlier than any of us had anticipated. The early retirement decisions of psychology professors Peter Naus, John Theis, and Judy Van Evra leave the College's Department of Psychology with an urgency to be reborn, especially when one considers the Long-Term Disability status of Professor John Orlando who is still convalescing from a serious auto accident which he was involved in last Easter. And because of Professor Mary Malone's decision to retire early, the restructuring of the Religious Studies Department is already under way.

St. Jerome's College clearly stands on the threshold of a new and exciting era. More than ever it needs the support and encouragement of those who have gone before, of those who believe in what St. Jerome's was and what St. Jerome's can be. We do hope that our graduates and friends will share in the excitement. ☪

## Class of '96 rises to the challenge

When tuition fees rise almost 20% this fall as a result of government funding cuts to universities in Ontario, scholarships and bursaries will become even more important to students struggling to make ends meet. But thanks to the success of the 1996 Graduating Class Challenge, there will be a little more financial support available to St. Jerome's students who need it. This year's graduating class has pledged to contribute over \$5,700 to the Graduates' Association Scholarship/Bursary.

"This is the most successful grad class challenge ever, both in terms of amount pledged and participation," says Dave Augustyn, Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs at the College. "Six students from the graduating class – Julie Bielik, Dave Donohue, Chris McGrath, Andrew McKenna, Danielle Searles,

and Joe Vinccc – helped organize the effort and canvassed their classmates."

Since 1990, graduating classes have pledged over \$23,000 to the Graduates' Association Scholarship/Bursary, tangible evidence of their commitment to the accessibility of higher education and to academic achievement. Graduating students see the pledge as a way of giving future students the opportunity to grow socially, spiritually, personally, and academically in the St. Jerome's community.

Interest generated by the fund is awarded to students in the form of scholarships and bursaries. During the 1995/96 academic year, for example, four students received a total of \$3,700 from the Graduates' Association Scholarship/Bursary. ☪

Photo: Ron Hewson



Doug Letson, President, St. Jerome's College

*The College's Board of Governors has given its unanimous approval to proceed with the \$2 million development of a 275-seat cafeteria which will provide a common meeting ground*

### High-school students swarm the College

By all accounts, this year's Campus Day was the best yet. Over 150 high-school students and their parents showed up at St. Jerome's the morning of March 12, anxious to get a first-hand look at the place. They attended information sessions, toured the main building and residences, and had a chance to talk with College faculty, staff, and students.

"It was the best Campus Day since I've been Registrar," says Dana Wolto. "Mother Nature helped. It was a glorious spring day." But Wolto also gives credit to the student volunteers who showed visitors through the residences. "They're the best ambassadors the College could have."

# St. Jerome's to launch major capital campaign

This summer, St. Jerome's will be launching its first capital campaign ever. Over the years, the College has appealed to its graduates and friends for ongoing support, but faced with raising \$3.5 million to cover the purchase of Notre Dame College and the reconstruction of the J.R. Finn cafeteria, St. Jerome's has decided to launch a broader appeal.

The College is determined not only to carry on but to build on the legacy of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. "They have provided an atmosphere in which women can realize their potential and go out and make a difference in the world," observes College President Doug Letson, "and we're going to try to continue that tradition. At the same time, I think there have been enormous societal changes over the past 34 years and St. Jerome's, too, has evolved to the point where it's possible for the men and women who live in the two residences to collaborate more closely in the building of community than they have in the past."

To this end, the house councils of the two residences are being amalgamated. As well, instead of two four-member don teams there will be one eight-member don team, under the direction of Darren Becks, formerly the director of the men's residence.

"The two buildings will become one residence," says Becks. "This is a great opportunity to take a look at why we do things the way we do, to think about whether we can do things differently."

The only major structural change that will take place at Notre Dame will be the addition of an overhead passageway connecting it to the J.R. Finn residence. "A physical connection is important to make it clear that the residences are really one now," says Letson.

The cafeteria at Notre Dame will be closed, and the cafeteria in J.R. Finn will be expanded to accommodate all the students in residence. "I think it's clear from an efficiency point of view that you just can't have two cafeterias running within 50 yards of each other," says Letson. "And from a community point of view, it makes sense to integrate the two. A single cafeteria will give the men and women who live in residence a chance to mingle on a casual basis, to get to know each other, build friendships, and develop intellectually."

The newly-renovated cafeteria will be open to all members of the St. Jerome's community, including the more than 500 students who register through the College but don't live in residence. "The whole effort is to make the cafeteria bright and inviting, to let people know that they're welcome to drop in," says Letson. "I think there's potential here to build community that's really quite exciting."


"The students are looking forward to the changes," says Becks. "Meal time is often the only time students have to socialize. The new cafeteria will give them more opportunity to interact."

Erin Thomson, a third-year kinesiology student who lived at Notre Dame during her first two years, is currently living off campus, but will be returning to the women's residence as senior don in the fall. "I'm really excited by the implications of the changes," she says. "They're the reason I'm coming back. The whole idea of a cafeteria for the whole community, a meeting ground for everyone, is really exciting."

"University is all about breaking down barriers," says Ronan Quinn, a third-year history student who has lived in residence since his first year. "I'm looking forward to increased interaction between students." Quinn, who will be senior don in the men's residence in the fall, is also looking forward to more menu choices. "There will be more flexibility. The new equipment will make it possible to offer more healthy choices, a wider vegetarian menu. Our new cafeteria will be one of the best facilities in Ontario."

Though \$3.5 million is by far the largest amount of money the College has ever tried to raise, Jack Griffin, Director of Development at the College, is confident it can be done. "It's the greatest challenge the College has ever faced," he says, "but I believe people rise to the occasion."

Beaver Foods, a long-time supplier, was first off the mark with a major donation. "We've been here a long time," says Bob Henderson, president of the company. "I have a niece and nephew who have gone through this place. My brother-in-law went here 25 years ago. So there's a strong connection, and we want to carry it on."

That's the kind of response Griffin is counting on. "John Veltri, S.J., a long-time friend of mine, says, 'each person carries within images/thoughts that have power to bring about new life even more beautiful than before.' I'll be counting on every member of the College community – faculty, staff, students, board members, and graduates – to help make this campaign a success." 

*"It's the greatest challenge the College has ever faced, but I believe people rise to the occasion"*

*– Jack Griffin,  
Director of  
Development*

*Architect's drawing of the new cafeteria: A bright, inviting place to meet*



Photo: Ron Henderson

# College says good-bye to 73

Peter Naus, Judy Van Evra, John Theis, and Mary Malone take early retirement

"The focus within universities, as I see it, has shifted more and more to trying to enhance students' chances of getting a job"

– Peter Naus

Over the next few months, St. Jerome's will be saying good-bye to four faculty members who have decided to accept the Special Early Retirement Package offered at the University of Waterloo as part of a strategy to address a government-imposed budgetary shortfall in 1996-97 of \$18 million at UW and some \$300,000 at St. Jerome's College.

Of the four, Peter Naus, who arrived at the College in 1973, has been at St. Jerome's the longest. A social psychologist by training, his areas of specialty are human sexuality and aging, death, and dying. Naus served for six years as Academic Dean and was instrumental in establishing the Sexuality, Marriage and the Family (SMF) program.

During his 23 years at the College, Naus has noticed a gradual change taking place. "Though it's not totally fair to say that universities have become institutions of professional skills training," says Naus, "the focus within universities, as I see it, has shifted more and more to trying to enhance students' chances of getting a job. Despite the university's best intentions, I think we are moving further and further away from what a university is supposed to be. John Ralston Saul put it very simply: universities ought to be places where students are taught how to think. I am afraid that they are being taught more and more what to think."

Naus also notes that though some things have changed over the years, some things have stayed the same. "One thing that has changed very little is the structure of the curriculum, the particular requirements that are in place in order to be given a degree," observes Naus. "I find that very strange. I had thought that with growing budget pressures, there would be a radical overhaul of the curriculum, and I have seen very little evidence of that. Most of it has been tinkering, really. I am still wondering whether the current crunch is going to lead to radical restructuring."

Asked what's next for him, Naus replies that he's looking forward to having time to pursue some intellectual interests. "I have found myself getting more and more interested in broader social and economic issues in recent years," he says. "I don't have the background I would need to hold an informed opinion, and I would like to have that."

Naus also hopes to continue the research he and John Theis have been engaged in in recent years, on the relation between a father's affirmation and his son's psychological well-being. "But there will be some practical limitations. By that I mean we will have to finance it ourselves, and there are aspects of the research that could be pretty expensive, so I don't know where that will go."

He may also explore private practice. "Theis has asked me to join him for certain cases where my expertise can be relevant, and I'm quite intrigued by that, though I don't know what

form it will take." But he has no intention of starting a second career. "The clearest thing that I have in mind is that I'm not going to do much for a while."

Judy Van Evra, on the other hand, plans to be very busy. "In some ways, I'll be doing the same things," she says, "but in totally different contexts."

During her 21 years at the College, in addition to teaching courses in child development, educational psychology, childhood behavioral and emotional disorders, children and the media, learning disabilities, and child psychopathology, Van Evra has published two books: *Psychological Disorders of Children and Adolescents* and *Television and Child Development*. She has also served locally on the Child and Family Services board and the advisory board for the Learning Disabilities Association, worked as a consultant for the Waterloo Separate School Board, and maintained a small private practice. As well, she is currently Chair of the Complaints and Disciplinary committees of the College of Psychologists of Ontario in Toronto.

When she leaves, Van Evra plans to expand her private practice and increase her involvement with the College of Psychologists. "I find that work really interesting," she says. Another thing she plans to do is write. "I've got lots of projects that I've started," she says. "At the moment, my daughter and I – she's a writer and editor – are working on a book on media literacy for children. I think I'll find enough to keep busy."

John Theis isn't really planning to retire, either. "I'm simply changing direction in my career," he says. Since he came to the College in 1976, Theis has taught introductory psychology as well as a number of therapy courses. Over the years, he has maintained a small but active private therapy practice, as well as serving as a consultant for the Royal Ottawa Psychiatric Hospital.

"I'm in the business now of looking to set up an office," says Theis. "I'm quite excited about it. Peter and I are hoping to set up a place where clinical work is done on a broad range of issues. We'd like to have a lawyer work in the facility, and a physician. We'll all occupy the one facility, so that we can work together and support each other."

But Theis hopes to continue teaching at the College on a part-time basis. "I would miss teaching," he says. "I find that clinically, the students keep me honest. When you teach therapy skills to students, they say, 'How come? Where did you get that? How did you know that? How did you do that?' So I hope to maintain that contact."

In recent years, Theis has seen a change in the students at the College. "The energy and enthusiasm they've always had is still there," he says, "but there's a seriousness about them,

# years of experience

a genuine concern about what their lives are going to look like. Life in Canada has gotten tough, and you feel it here."

But especially in tough times, he observes, St. Jerome's is a good place to be. "This place is very student-focussed. There's something about this place that says, 'Pay attention to students. Hear their stories. Take time.' It's not unusual to see a faculty member talking to three or four students in the hall."

"One thing that hasn't changed over the years," agrees Mary Malone, "is the accessible atmosphere of the College. Students experience it as a friendly place. Even with the pressure of increasing class size, students find us approachable. I'm always surprised when students from across campus call me doctor or professor, because that's so unusual here."

A relative newcomer, Malone came to the College in 1987. "I was hired certainly as a woman and probably as a feminist," she says, "although I think they were hoping I wouldn't be a brash feminist." While at St. Jerome's, she has taught courses in church history and women in religion, as well as developing and teaching courses on Mary, feminist theology, and women mystics.

"One thing I've noticed," Malone observes, "is the importance, at least to some of the students, of Catholic community. Because I teach religious studies, I've been very much aware of students' faith lives. That's not what we're discussing in class - it's mostly in after-class discussions and outside of class that I notice this. I think the presence of an explicit Catholic community here at the College is very important."

Asked about research, Malone, who is a popular public speaker, explains, "Most of my research days have been involved in preparing the next set of public lectures. I made a pact with myself never to refuse a women's group. I've done a lot of work, locally, with local parish groups and women's organizations - Mennonite, Anglican, United Church, Lutheran." She has also served as the Director of the Centre for Catholic Experience and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the College, and is currently Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Waterloo.

"There are only two women department chairs at UW," Malone observes, "myself and the Chair of Anthropology. When I go, I'll probably be replaced by a man, because there aren't many other women in Religious Studies. There hasn't been a lot of obvious change on campus when it comes to women. I think the questions have been keenly debated, but I don't think there has been a major change of attitude."

Like Peter Naus, Mary Malone doesn't intend to do much during her first year of retirement. "I have made a fairly momentous faith decision in my life," she notes, "which demands a fair

amount of leisurely introspection." She will be spending the fall in Ireland, looking for a place to live. "Eventually I plan to move back to Ireland," she says. "I fell in love with it all over again when I was there during my sabbatical."

"A lot of people have told me not to tie up the first year of my retirement too much, not to tie myself into patterns" Malone observes. "So I'm quite happy to let the first year sort itself out, and then I'll begin to be a little more disciplined about things."

One of the things she plans to be disciplined about, in time, is writing. She is currently working on the final chapter of a book on feminist ritual and has "pretty well concluded" an agreement to write a book on women and religion. She also has plans for a book she calls *Leaving Home, Finding a Voice*. "It will be a personal account, a reflection," she explains, "but it will also be a historical reflection. Most of the women in history who did find a voice in a religious sense had to leave home to do it. The book will be an exploration of the historical contexts which liberate women's voices and which deny women's voices."

Though the years of experience of Peter Naus, Judy Van Evra, John Theis, and Mary Malone can never really be replaced, the work of rebuilding the two departments affected by the early retirements has already begun. By the end of April, a new faculty member in Religious Studies will have been hired, to start work July 1, and in the fall, the College will likely begin the search for a new faculty member in Psychology.

"I think it's going to be really exciting for the people who stay, as well as for the people who go," says Van Evra. "There will be new faces. Some enthusiastic young faculty will finally get a crack at the place." 🍀

*"One thing that hasn't changed over the years is the accessible atmosphere of the College. Students experience it as a friendly place"*

*- Mary Malone*



*Judy Van Evra, John Theis, Mary Malone, and Peter Naus will be gone by September 1*

Notre Dame College residents gather to remember and say farewell

## Telling stories out of school

When women get together, they tell stories, and that's exactly what happened on March 2 when past and present residents of Notre Dame College gathered to say farewell to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who will be taking leave of their ministry at the College on April 30, 1996.

The storytelling began in the morning, as women from every decade of Notre Dame's 34-year history assembled in the chapel. As they shared their memories, some common threads emerged.

Over the years, Notre Dame College has clearly been a caring community, though sometimes that caring has been expressed in odd ways. Mary Ann Edmonstone, who lived at the College during the '80s, explained how residents would occasionally tie a friend to a chair and lock her in her room, forcing her to study.

But there were also stories of caring expressed in gentler ways. Maureen Sims, a current resident, told about coming into her room late one night, during an especially difficult time, and finding a note on her pillow that read, "Let go and let God."

Deb Havoic, a resident of Notre Dame in the '70s, remembered how a Sister offered to make soup or porridge for her after a painful visit to the dentist. But, she explained, the Sisters cared for more than just her physical comfort. "One year, after the annual creek jump, the Dean of Women asked to see the girls who had been involved," Havoic said. "I thought I was in trouble. Again." But to Havoic's surprise, the Dean offered the women refreshments, then told them how proud she was that they had tried their best, even though they hadn't won.

Many women spoke of how such caring and encouragement had strengthened their self-confidence, for which they were very grateful. "But most of all I'm grateful for the sense of community I experienced at Notre Dame," said Liz Gabbott, who lived at the College in the '70s. "We looked at the guys at St. Jerome's and they seemed a little lost."

Aisling Deehan, who lived at Notre Dame in the '80s, was thankful not only for the good food at the College – "we went back for seconds and thirds, gained 15 pounds, and started wearing track pants" – but also for the deepening of her faith that happened at Notre Dame. "I never thought going to university would develop my Catholic faith," she observed.

Many of the women talked of the life-long friendships they made at Notre Dame, and expressed sadness that their daughters would not be able to have the same experience. "My best friends today are people that I met at Notre Dame College," said Havoic. "When I call them today, it's like no time has passed." She added, with regret, "I had always hoped at least one of my daughters would experience the uniqueness of Notre Dame."


But Deb Pecoskie, a resident from the '60s, saw the upcoming changes in a different light. "In the '60s," she said, "it wasn't a given that women would go to university. For every woman on this campus, there were eleven men. Notre Dame was a kind of oasis. Without speaking about it, we strengthened each other." But over the years, things have changed. Perhaps, Pecoskie suggested, it's time "to make this a place for Catholic men and women, a place for the 21st century."

Storytelling continued informally during the open house and coffee house that followed the event in the chapel, and went on well into the night. Dana Woito, master of ceremonies for the dinner and dance that concluded the day's events, talked about her time at Notre Dame College in the '80s, reminding everyone that "you can only learn about the straight and narrow by experiencing the wide and curvy."

Their experience with the young women at the College who explored the "wide and curvy" will serve the School Sisters of Notre Dame well in their next endeavour. They have decided to become actively involved in the Betty Thompson Youth Centre in Kitchener, working with young people living on the streets. As a gesture of thanks and farewell, Doug Letson, President of St. Jerome's College, presented the School Sisters of Notre Dame with a cheque to support them in their new work. "The School Sisters of Notre Dame are not passing away," he noted, "but moving on."

"We will go in your name," Sister Celeste Reinhart, current director of Notre Dame College told the assembled residents, past and present, and other members of the St. Jerome's community.

"Please remember us in prayer."

The final event of the evening was the raffling off of the letters spelling "Notre Dame College," which had been removed from the outside of the residence building. To bring closure to their work there, the Sisters have asked that the residence be re-named. 

### Daughters of God

As a lasting tribute to all residents, past and present, Notre Dame College asked Dona Paul

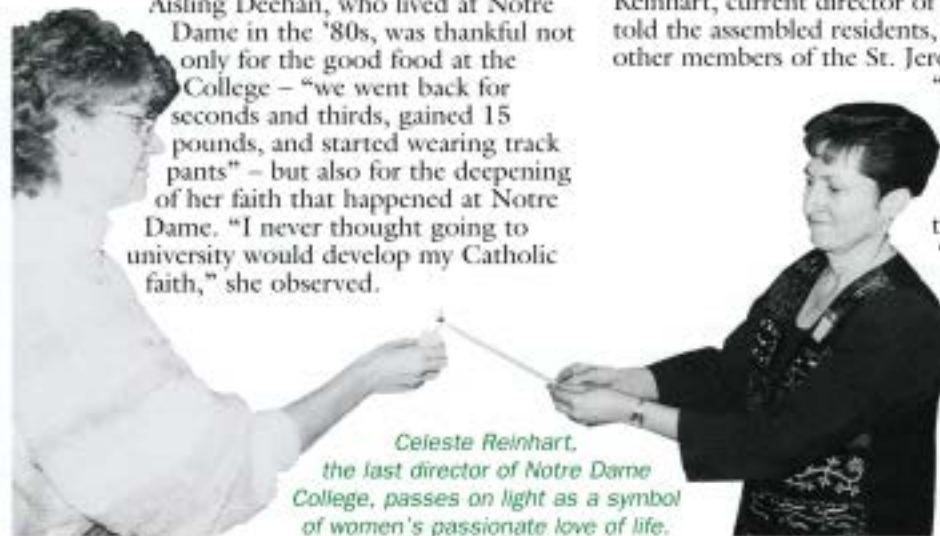
Massel to celebrate, in poetry, the lives of the women at the College during its final year under the administration of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The resulting book, *Daughters of God*, "is more

than a collection of real life stories," writes Celeste Reinhart in the introduction. "Sometimes irreverent, sometimes angry, the poet leads readers to question their own traditional understandings of who God is and where the church is in the lives of these pre-millennium women."

*Daughters of God* costs \$10 and can be ordered from:

Notre Dame College Press  
1921 Snake Road  
Waterdown, ON  
L0R 2H0



Celeste Reinhart, the last director of Notre Dame College, passes on light as a symbol of women's passionate love of life.

Photo: Dave Augustyn

# A ministry of presence

Though many people dream of working at home, not many dream of living at work. In fact, for most people, waking up each morning at a busy place like St. Jerome's would be more like a nightmare.

But Father Jim Link, now in his fourth year as College chaplain, wouldn't have it any other way. "Things are immediate at a university," he says. "Life is right now. Intellectually and emotionally, the whole pot of life is stirred up. Students feel great hope for the future, mixed with anxiety, all connected to the present moment, to what they're doing now." Link lives in Louis Hall, across the courtyard from the main administration building at St. Jerome's, along with four other members of the Congregation of the Resurrection. Not that he has much time to spend there.

When he was hired, Link took on the work of two people. Budgetary restraints had forced St. Jerome's to eliminate a second chaplain, and though at the time, College President Doug Letson expressed hope that a two-member chaplaincy team could someday be restored, what was needed right away was a priest "to provide the sacramental necessities and to begin to build a chaplaincy we hope will be both stable and far-reaching, embracing all the elements we see as important."

Asked about those elements, Link says, with a chuckle, "I should show you the actual document I was hired under – they didn't want a chaplain, they wanted God! A lover of wisdom, a pursuer of truth...."

What they got was a St. Jerome's graduate who had taken final vows as a priest while doing undergraduate work at the College, then gone on to do graduate work in theological studies at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. Over the years, Link has done both chaplaincy and parish work, as well as serving as Assistant Rector of Resurrection College Seminary and Vocation Director for the Ontario-Kentucky Province of Resurrectionists.

Armed with a recently-completed M.A. in homiletics from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri, Link came to the College well-prepared to carry on the tradition of stimulating preaching at St. Jerome's. "This is a very intellectual, very intelligent community," Link says. "They are very challenging. If I say something that is questionable, I will hear about it."

It's also a large community. Each weekend, between 1,000 and 1,200 people attend mass at the College. "That number of people generates a lot of activity," Link says. "Approximately 80 little children come with their parents to the 9:30 mass, so we offer a separate Sunday school program and babysitting. We had 60 baptisms here last year, about 17 weddings – we even had three funerals."

"It's like running a parish," Link acknowledges. Though many of the people who come to mass are students, faculty, and staff of the University, many others are what Link calls "the permanent people," former students and



Photo: Ryan Newson

other people connected with St. Jerome's in some way who have never really left. Part of the purpose of campus ministry at St. Jerome's, Link says, is to provide students with a vibrant, meaningful experience of parish that they can take back to their home parish. But many of them never leave.

The integration of the campus community and the permanent community can cause tensions, Link observes, but there are good things about it, too. The students bring life and energy to the community. They participate in the services, provide much of the music, and help out with babysitting and the Sunday school program. The permanent community provides stability, taking on increased responsibility during exam periods and other times when students are especially busy.

But serving both communities can be exhausting. "Students aren't always on the same time schedule as other people," Link comments. "And though I treasure the opportunity and privilege of being able to journey with them as they explore their identity and relationship with the world and God, I can spend well over 35 hours a week just counselling students. Most evenings I'm so tired that I don't have much energy left. And I can't get away for a weekend very easily because I'm tied in here with the masses. I usually only take one day a week off, if that."

So what gets him out of bed in the morning? "There is, in the life of students in particular and in the people I deal with in general, a tremendous hunger for the deeper part of life, for the spirit – for God and for connectedness, for love and justice," Link says. "I see campus ministry as helping people to name God, to see God, to know what God feels and smells like and how God rustles through our life, how the wind of the spirit blows. I've always had this sense of God as a shimmering presence just below the surface tension of life, ready to break through at any moment. I wake up each day with the expectation that somehow, today I will see God. And invariably it happens." ☪

For College chaplain Jim Link, life is right here, right now

*"There is, in the life of students in particular and in the people I deal with in general, a tremendous hunger for the deeper part of life"*

– Jim Link

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SJC

## Grail Scholarship established

Though scholarships are often established to honour loved ones who have passed away, that's not the case this time. *Grail* is alive and well and still very much a presence at the College. St. Jerome's is no longer the publisher of the journal – that role was assumed by *Novalis* in the Fall of 1994. But members of the College community maintain a strong editorial presence and frequently contribute to *Grail*, and in honour of the College's long-term relationship with the journal, *Novalis* has decided to establish a scholarship in *Grail's* name.

According to an innovative arrangement, the journal is co-edited by St. Jerome's College and St. Paul University in Ottawa. Doug Letson, the founding editor of *Grail*, and J.A. Loftus serve as members of the editorial board, along with two faculty members from Saint Paul. Christopher Humphrey, also of Saint Paul, and Michael Higgins serve as co-editors of the journal. Each year, the March and June issues are edited by the St. Jerome's team and the September and December issues by the team at Saint Paul.

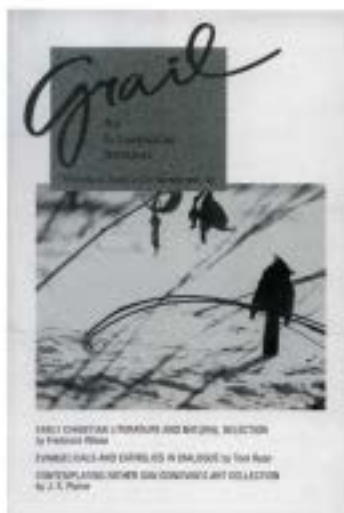
In addition to providing editorial expertise, members of the St. Jerome's community frequently contribute to *Grail*. Recent issues have included reviews by Peter Hinchcliffe and Gerry Stortz. "In the December issue," Higgins notes, "we had a piece by Mary Malone on her travels in Ireland during her sabbatical. Gary Draper, our librarian, has written a splendid review of the most recent collection of stories by Ann Copeland, which will appear in the June issue. And Betsy Abbott of our French Department has co-authored an historical essay, with Hannah Fournier on the main campus,

based on their examination of the role of women in 17th-century France."

Though Higgins has been involved in editing the journal since its inception, his enthusiasm hasn't waned. "The March issue has been particularly pleasing for me to do," he says, "because its content is largely the kind of thing that I've spent most of my life working with: the relationship of religion to the imagination. We have a piece by the Canadian short story writer Ann

Copeland, based on the Devlin Lecture that she gave at St. Jerome's College last fall. It's an extraordinarily perceptive analysis of five writers, four American, one Australian. Professor Michael Storry from Liverpool does a very interesting piece on the post-modern Catholic novel, particularly in England. And there's a very stimulating, occasionally discordant, but quite insightful piece by another *Grail* regular, J.S. Porter, on the theme of hunger – in the emotional sense, hunger in the deeper metaphysical and spiritual sense – in the poetry and prose of Dennis Lee."

Under the co-editorship of Michael Higgins and with the involvement of many members of the St. Jerome's community, *Grail* continues to thrive. "We cross borders," Higgins explains. "We blend the literary, the religious, the cultural, the social, the political. We publish poetry, fiction, interviews, reflections, meditations, artwork, and reviews along with the traditional learned article, modified and made accessible to the general reader. It seems to me that there is no other magazine or journal in the country that does quite that." 🌱



### Don't miss the 2nd Annual St. Jerome's College Golf Tournament!

Friday, July 12, 1996 at the Dundee Country Club • Shot-gun start at 12:30 p.m. sharp

• Green fees, cart, and dinner: \$95 • A tax receipt will be issued for \$40 • Dinner only: \$30

Come out and meet faculty, staff, grads, business associates, and friends of the College. It's a best-ball tournament, so the only pressure is to have fun! There will be prizes for everyone. We anticipate a great turn-out again this year, so book early by filling out the form below and returning it to the College before June 30.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in sponsoring a hole? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you bring a prize? \_\_\_\_\_

You may arrange your own foursome, if you'd like to. Just list the names and telephone numbers of the members of your group below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fax or mail this form to: Rhonda Flewelling, Office of Development, University of St. Jerome's College  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G3 Fax: (519) 884-5759 Phone: (519) 884-8111, ext. 254



## Bach Kantate Singers fill Siegfried Hall

On February 23, a year to the day from their first rehearsal, The Bach Kantate Singers presented their debut performance with orchestra at St. Jerome's College. A capacity crowd gathered in Siegfried Hall to hear both the performance and the accompanying commentary by Alfred Kunz, artistic director and conductor of the choir.

Prior to its appearance at St. Jerome's, the choir had performed both *a cappella* and with keyboard accompaniment at a number of local churches. As its name suggests, the choir focuses on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, particularly his sacred cantatas, though the group's repertoire also includes other music, both sacred and secular, from the Baroque period and earlier. "The church music of Johann Sebastian Bach is rarely performed," comments Kunz. "It was written for church performance, but is too difficult for the average church choir."


The Bach Kantate Singers is made up of some two dozen non-professional singers. "What they have in common," says Kunz, "is that they enjoy singing Bach and are willing to make the commitment this difficult repertoire demands."

One of the Bach Kantate Singers is Michael Higgins, Dean of St. Jerome's College. Asked what drew him to the group, he explains, "I think it was my mid-life crisis. It's very unlike anything I've ever done. The pieces are very complicated, and I



Photo: Ron Newson

don't read music." But he enjoys singing, and was pleased at the number of people who came out to hear the group perform at St. Jerome's. "It was very gratifying to see the crowd."

The choir's performance at the College was part of the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience's ongoing examination of the relationship of religion to the artistic and creative sensibility. 

## Peter Hinchcliffe co-edits authoritative edition of a grim moral tale

A handsome critical edition of *The Ebb-Tide*, the last novel Robert Louis Stevenson completed before his death in 1894, is now available, thanks to the scholarly efforts of Peter Hinchcliffe, Associate Professor of English at St. Jerome's College. The book is the second in a series of authoritative editions of Stevenson's works, launched by the Edinburgh University Press on the centenary of his death. "While many of Stevenson's works have remained in print," writes Catherine Kerrigan of the University of Guelph, who is general editor of the series and co-editor of this book, "it has become increasingly apparent that these works are corrupted texts which impair the reader's full appreciation of the writer."


Like many nineteenth-century novels, *The Ebb-Tide* was first published in serial form in magazines in England and the United States, then as books in both countries. "My task as co-editor," Hinchcliffe says, "was to compare these four printed versions with the original manuscript, looking for evidence of revision by the author, so as to establish a version

of the text that is as close as possible to Stevenson's final intention."

Hinchcliffe's research took him to England and Scotland to examine the archives

of the British publisher and printer of *The Ebb-Tide*. He also travelled to Harvard, to view some unpublished letters, and to Yale University, where Stevenson's manuscript of the novel is preserved. "I was probably the first person to read the manuscript in 100 years," notes Hinchcliffe. "Some marks that had been interpreted as punctuation marks were actually squashed tropical bugs." By the time he was finished, Hinchcliffe had found more than 300 errors in earlier printings of the novel.

Often dismissed as a writer of stories and verses for children, Stevenson was, in fact, one of the most innovative writers of the nineteenth century. *The Ebb-Tide* is

not a swashbuckling romance like *Treasure Island*, but a grim moral tale of corruption and weakness, says Hinchcliffe. "Stevenson's influence on the modern novel has yet to be fully explored." 



### Upcoming events

The following Centre for Catholic Experience lectures are planned for the Fall of '96. More details on these and other Centre events will appear in the next issue of SJC Update.

#### September 28, 1996

##### **Dance in Worship: Reclaiming the Sacred Circle**

by Robert VerEecke, S.J.

#### October 25, 1996

##### **Whither the Catholic Church? Pre-Millennial Dreams**

by Michael Fahey, S.J.

#### November 29, 1996

##### **Psalms of the Children: Their songs and laments**

by Dr. Ursula Anderson

# Meet the new Grad Exec Team



Photo: Ron Hewson

Members of the new Executive Team of the St. Jerome's Graduates' Association (from left to right): Brad Kelly, Steve Caron, Nadina Jamison, Deborah Pecoskie, Gerry Shea, Kathleen O'Mara, Dave Augustyn, and Kim Lekavicius.

(BA'87, Political Science), who works as a lawyer in Hamilton and Brantford; and Patti Tusch (BA '80, English), the Administrator at Resurrection College in Waterloo.

The team is co-chaired by two new members of the Graduates' Association Executive: Kathleen O'Mara (BA'94, Religious Studies), who is a Chaplain at Blessed Trinity High School in Grimsby, and Gerry Shea (BA'96), a Sales Representative for Russel Metals in Mississauga.

Other new members include Steve Caron (BA'81, Psychology), Manager of Employee Relations at J.M. Schneider in Kitchener; Nadina Jamison (BA'94, History), now at York University, where she holds the McConnell Fellowship for post-graduate work in university development; Kim Lekavicius, a third-year Religious Studies student at the College; Brad Kelly, also a third-year St. Jerome's student and currently President of the SJC Student Union; and Cathy Szak (BA'75), who lives in Brantford and works part-time as Vice President of Glenwell Ltd.

"The team sees itself as more than an advisory committee," says Dave Augustyn (BA'95, Political Science). "This is a hands-on group. The members will follow through on the decisions that they make and help plan and organize events that SJC grads want." Augustyn, who is Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs at the College, serves as the Team's Secretary.

The Team is currently making plans for a "Bringing down the house" deconstruction party at the J.R. Finn Residence and a trip to a Raptors basketball game. They are also hard at work planning the Annual Graduates' Association Lecture. Watch for details in the next issue of *SJC Update*. ☺

The Graduates' Association of St. Jerome's College has a new Executive Team, a mix of members of the previous Executive Committee and new members, including two current St. Jerome's students.

Members of the previous Executive Committee who have joined the new Team are Past President Deborah Pecoskie (BA'72, Sociology), from Mississauga; Larry Brock



## SJC Web site under construction

### What is the World Wide Web?

The Internet is a network of high-capacity communications cables linking computers all over the world. Before the World Wide Web came along, the Internet was quite difficult to use. The World Wide Web is a global, interactive, dynamic system that allows you to link to Web sites around the world and access information – including text, graphics, sound, and even movies – in manageable chunks.

St. Jerome's College is in the process of setting up a site on the World Wide Web, and would like to know what readers of *SJC Update* think about it. Please take a minute or two to answer the following questions.

- Would you be interested in accessing the College website?
- Do you currently have access to the World Wide Web?
- If so, do you access it from home, or from your place of work?
- What kind of information would draw you to the College website?
- Would you like to see the College set up a webpage for SJC graduates?

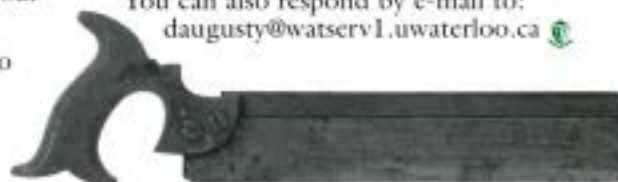
- What kind of information should appear on the SJC graduates' webpage?
- If you are an SJC grad, when did you graduate?

Please mail or fax your responses to:

Dave Augustyn  
Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs  
University of St. Jerome's College  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G3

Fax: (519) 884-5759

You can also respond by e-mail to:  
daugusty@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca ☺



# CLASS notes

**'60** Bill Klos (BA'60) currently serves as a Trustee and the Vice-Chair of the Waterloo Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board. He retired three years ago from a full career as an English and Dramatic Arts teacher. Bill taught for 30 years at St. Jerome's High School and for three years at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School, both in Kitchener.

**'65** Wayne Smith (BA'65, Economics), a partner in the law firm Smith & Darst, just relocated his law office in Walnut Creek, California. Wayne and his wife, Barbara, live in Martinez, CA.

**'74** Margaret Anne Voll (BA'74, Philosophy) and husband, Colin Westman, are ecstatic about Sara-Margaret, their second "miracle baby," born on January 16, 1995. Here's a family photo, taken on son Ryan's third birthday in September 1995.



Margaret Anne Voll (BA'74, Philosophy) and family.

**'81** Promoted to a Vice-Principal in the Durham Board of Education in March 1995, Simon Faulkner (BA'81, English) lives in Oshawa on a 37 foot sailboat, year round. He has arranged an approved leave in 1999 to cruise the Caribbean for 12 months.

**'83** On September 5, 1995, Scott Milligan (BMath'83, Mathematics) and Bev (née Beauchamp, BA'85, Accounting) welcomed the birth of Gregory, a brother for six-year-old Erica. The Milligans moved to Denver, Colorado in November 1995, where Scott is the Chief Financial Officer/Director of Planning for the Pepsi-Cola Company.

**'87** Mona (née Armstrong, BA'87, Social Development) and Nick Woodfine welcomed their son Gavin Jerome into their lives on June 20, 1995. Mona graduated from WLU with a Masters of Social Work degree in 1991 and works as a Social Worker/Therapist at Pembroke General Hospital in Pembroke, ON.

**'88** Ruth Aitchison (BA'88, Psychology) and husband Stephen Woo happily announce the arrival of their daughter, Heather Elizabeth Woo, on September 16, 1995. Ruth is employed as a Medical Social Worker at Victoria Hospital in London, ON.

Nadine (née Bauman, BA'88, Psychology) and Kevin Higgins (BA'88, History) were married July 21, 1990. On June 26, 1995 they were blessed with a daughter, Emma Kathleen (8 lbs., 14 oz.). Nadine teaches a Grade 1 and 2 class at St. Matthew School in Waterloo and Kevin teaches French as a second language at St. Boniface School in Maryhill. Thrilled to be parents, Nadine and Kevin are "enjoying life with their future SJC Grad!"



Nadine (née Bauman, BA'88, Psychology) and Kevin Higgins (BA'88, History), and daughter Emma Kathleen.

Anthony Pracovics (BMath'88, Combinatorics & Optimization) married "lovely Liz," from England, in December 1993, and they have a daughter, Sarah, born November 1994 and a son, Daniel, born March 1996. Tony has lived in Bermuda since January 1990 and teaches computer studies at the Berkeley Institute. He has become a keen sailor, internet surfer, and scuba instructor.

Edward Sitarski (BMath'88, Combinatorics & Optimization) married Anne Cobban, a U of T grad, on April 23, 1995. After leaving Microsoft and Seattle, Edward returned to Toronto and designed and developed two successful software products at Numetrix Ltd. He was recently promoted to VP of Research and Development. Anne works in marketing and development in the performing arts.

**'89** Denise Battilana-Tirimacco (BA'89, Psychology) and the Tirimacco family have moved to Evans (a suburb of Augusta), Georgia. When Morris, her husband, accepted a job transfer in October 1995, Denise left her teaching job. Until she receives her work permit in three or four years, Denise will be kept busy with their girls: Marisa, 3, and Alana, 2.

**'90** Michael Dennis (BA'90, History) recently completed a doctorate in American History at Queen's University in Kingston. Currently, he works as an instructor in the Department of History at Queen's.

**'93** Elaine Demaiter-Boyd (BMath'93, Teaching Option) and husband Paul Boyd welcomed their first child, James Gerard, on September 30, 1995. Elaine teaches at Central Elgin Collegiate Institute in St. Thomas, ON. She and Paul recently purchased a home just outside of Tillsonburg.

## Hey SJC 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 SJC Update.

Name (Please include your birth name)

Address

Telephone

Year of graduation

Degree/Programme

I.D. #

### Are you working?

Job title

Employer

Address

Telephone

### Are you married?

Spouse's name

### Is your spouse an SJC grad?

Year of graduation

Degree/Programme

I.D. #

### What's new in your life?

Please return this form to:

Dave Augustyn  
Co-ordinator of Graduate Affairs  
University of St. Jerome's College  
Waterloo Ontario N2L 3G3  
Phone: (519) 884-8111, ext. 230  
Fax: (519) 884-5759

You can also send e-mail to:  
daugusty@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca



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**UPDATE**

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Living in Chatham, **Dave Dawson (BMath'93, Mathematics)** owns and manages The Instant Print Shoppe in Wallaceburg, ON. He sends greetings to all the other third floor guys from "Dave's World" and welcomes friends to e-mail him at ddawson@kent.net.

To clarify the notice that appeared in the last issue of *SJC Update*, **Michael Fisher (BA'93, English)** not only works at the MacDonal Steel Plant 2 in Woodstock, but has been the Plant Manager since March 1995. The 203 employees in the plant produce heavy equipment for the forestry, mining, and oil industries around the world.



Photo: Dave Augustyn

**Andrea Fryer (BA'93, Psychology)** joined the staff at SJC in November, 1995. She works half-time as a clerk in the Registrar's Office, helping with admissions and other student services. She continues to root for the Blue Jays.

**Audra (née Minchin, BA'93, Social Development)** and **Paul Zamora (BA'94, Religious Studies)** welcomed daughter Hannah Joan, weighing in at 8 lbs., on March 15, 1996. Audra works in St. Catharines and Welland as a Massage Therapist while Paul is working towards his M.Ed. at Niagara University, NY. The Zamora family currently lives in Welland, ON.

**David Psutka (BMath'93, Computer Science)** recently accepted a job offer with Fujitsu Communication Systems in Dallas, Texas. After the Cowboys' recent Superbowl victory, David says that living in Dallas automatically makes you a fan. "It's a law or something like that."

**'94** **Shari (née Biggar, BA'94)** and **Scott Chantler** were married on October 7, 1995 in Welland, ON. Shari works as a supervisor at a retail outlet in Cambridge and Scott is a freelance artist working out of their home in Waterloo.

**Susan Dujardin Trimble (BA'94, Medieval Studies)** married her "highschool sweetheart," **Jason Trimble (UW BMath'95)**, on December 30, 1994. Together with their black cat, Sammy, they moved to Ottawa where Susan works for Richcraft Homes, and Jason works for Digital Equipment of Canada in Kanata, ON.

**Carolyn Eckert (BA'94, English)** married Jean Paul Boileau (a 1992 Commerce grad from McMaster) in December 1993 at St. Jerome's College. Aidan Claire Boileau, their first child, was born on May 8, 1995.

**Eric Stuhlemmer (BA'94, Accounting, MACC'94, Accounting)** obtained his Chartered Accounting designation in 1995. He moved to Ottawa to work in the Finance Operations of the Export Development Corporation. Eric writes, "the company and the position are great, but it is way too cold up here compared to SW Ontario!"

**'95** **Mike Buseri (BA'95, Psychology & Economics)** lives in Waterloo and works half-time in the Psych Department at UW. The other half of the time, he concentrates on his musical career. Mike and his band, My Neighbour Ned, just released their first CD, *fish out of water*.

After graduation, **Lucy Reus (BA'95, Arts Administration)** journeyed to British Columbia in search of fun, adventure, and employment. She's found all three and works at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company as the Manager of Memberships & Special Projects.

**In Memoriam**

We regret to report the deaths of the following St. Jerome's College graduates:

**Lucyll A. Fleras (BA'72, English)**,  
January 18, 1996

**Robert E. Giavedoni (BA'81, History)**,  
November 12, 1995

**James M. Lannigan (BA'88, Psychology)**,  
January 2, 1996

**Richard J. Weiler (BA'63, Philosophy)**,  
July 9, 1995

**Will the winner please come forward?**

While preparing for this year's Awards Night, Darren Becks noticed that a nameplate has fallen off the House Spirit Award in the J.R. Finn Residence. If you were the recipient of the 1974-75 St. Jerome's Men's Residence House Spirit Award, or know who was, please give Becks a call at (519) 884-8110, ext. 251.