

# An historic step forward

A number of historic firsts converge at St. Jerome's this coming September. For the first time in its 140-year history, SJU will offer a post-graduate course in theology that will lead, ultimately, to its own unique degree: the Master of Catholic Thought (MCT).

The idea for the program emerged after extensive consultation around the need for greater theological formation for Catholic lay leaders and for those seeking a deeper understanding of the Roman Catholic tradition. One mobilizing concern was that Catholic institutions – school boards, hospitals and social service agencies – are increasingly reliant upon lay people to articulate their own unique traditions and missions.

"It became clear," says President Michael W. Higgins, "that leadership of these Catholic institutions was devolving to lay people who, however capable as board members and administrators, felt less certain of their qualifications in the area of theological understanding. As the only Roman Catholic university in the Diocese of Hamilton, it was incumbent upon us to address this growing need."


The program, which is open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, has been approved by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS). It is intended for people in mid-career wishing to pursue studies on a part-time basis. "We purposely

designed this as a part-time program, to be offered at times convenient to those who work," says Dr. Cristina Vanin, Director of the program. "This is a course-based degree that can be completed within four to seven years, depending upon the student's needs and personal circumstances."

Core courses focus on Roman Catholic theology, history, morality, and spirituality, while electives explore issues of social justice, education, ethics, and feminism within the Roman Catholic tradition.

St. Jerome's has received generous support from many donors to help launch the program, in particular the Congregation of the Resurrection, the University's founding order, and the Diocese of Hamilton.

Historically, St. Jerome's offered post-secondary degrees through the University of Ottawa before federating with the University of Waterloo in 1959. At the time of federation, SJU waived all degree-granting rights with the exception of theology.

The launching of the Master of Catholic Thought will mean that St. Jerome's will, for the first time, confer its own degree. "This is an exciting prospect for us," Higgins observes, "in terms of both our service to the Roman Catholic community and the evolution of our own academic aspirations." 

*For more information, please consult the full program outline on page 7 or visit our website at [www.sju.ca](http://www.sju.ca).*



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DECADE

## Inside this Issue:

The retiring Douglas Letson . . . . .	3
A tale of two Deans . . . . .	4
Roy Romanow at SJU . . . . .	6
Honouring "Dr. Cummings" . . . . .	10
Mind, Heart and Spirit Donor Report . . . . .	centre insert

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# Something new about something old

by Michael W. Higgins



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

Photo: Ron Hewson

We are winding up this current academic year and anticipating many new things on the immediate horizon. As you will see as you browse through your *SJU Update* there are many changes afoot at St. Jerome's University: there are resignations and retirements among the faculty, staff and Board of Governors, and anniversaries galore. We have hired new personnel in several departments including a new Vice-President and Academic Dean. And we have plenty of new initiatives, most especially the inauguration of our Master of Catholic Thought program. This latter item is of special interest given that we have been working

for years to establish the proper groundwork for this exciting new academic undertaking at St. Jerome's University.

Few in our culture would deny the need for a critically informed laity, a laity committed to nurturing the fundamental values that inform Catholic leadership in our time. This leadership requires imagination, courage, generosity of spirit, an educated sensibility, and a broad awareness of the ecumenical and interfaith challenges that face all of us in Canadian society.

By establishing this program in Catholic Thought our intention from the outset was to insure that an appropriate pool of candidates be created for leadership positions in our Diocese, in other jurisdictions in the province of Ontario, and elsewhere in Canada. This pool of candidates would ideally consist of individuals from various disciplines, professions, walks of life, etc. who see the importance of developing the critical skills to appropriate the tradition, to articulate clearly the mission of the institution that they serve, and to contribute to the creation of a culture of reciprocity, enlightened dialogue, and open understanding.

St. Jerome's University is committed to this particular project because we recognize that it is an appropriate extension of our mandate as an institution of higher learning, that the needs of our diocese for such a body of informed leaders is increasingly urgent, and because we think that the role of the intellect and of the spirit have a mutually creative role to play in the shaping of a genuine society marked by civility and common respect. I think we can all agree that such qualities appear in short supply, in the political arena if nowhere else.

We have many other wonderful academic developments that will begin to unfold this fall, we will welcome many new faces onto our campus (both employees and new students), and we are exploring some new ventures and partnerships with other institutions and think-tanks that will go a long way to expand the continuing-education endeavours that have been an important part of St. Jerome's larger academic and pastoral mission.

Our new admissions appear to be a most promising crop, our residences are over-subscribed, many of our new undergraduate interdisciplinary projects are enjoying accelerated success, and we continue to work in as many ways as we possibly can to deepen the bonds that tie us with our alumni, our donors, our numerous

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friends, and our many partners in our shared educational project with the other University Colleges and our constituent university, the University of Waterloo.

There is a lot of meat to chew on in this issue, so let's get to it. ☪



# A retiring Letson is “gently basted”

It was a classic Letson evening: an exotic meal, a good cause, a roomful of laughter. On April 29, however, the honoured guest and affectionate target was Doug Letson himself. As he retired from St. Jerome's, friends and colleagues celebrated his service to the University and a host of community groups.

SJU President Michael W. Higgins set the tone by recounting *The Escapades of the Cuban Door*, the *Monte Cassino Jitterbug*, and the *Deranged Popcorn Assailant* – adventures experienced while traveling with Letson. Letson later responded with *The Case of the Annoying Goldfish* and *The Case of the Defenestrated Faculty Member*. (“It means he climbed out a window.”)

In between, he was “gently basted” by Vivian Zochowski of St. Mary's Hospital, Ken Murray of the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, the Hon. Elizabeth Witmer, MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo, and David Graham who, along with his wife Pat, was co-chair of St. Jerome's *Building Together for the Future* campaign.

Higgins announced that the SJU Community Centre – which was expanded and renovated during Letson's presidency – would be renamed the Douglas R. Letson Community Centre. “This is the perfect consummation for this evening: dedicating this room after somebody whose labour and energy were committed strongly and constantly, not only to talking about community, but to creating it.”

Witmer characterized Letson as “a man of integrity, compassion, conviction: a very passionate advocate for education and the students here.” Murray praised Letson's commitment to the Walter Bean Trail, which “would not have been brought to its current state of completion had it not been for his dedication, resolve and personal commitment.” Charles Ormston of the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation surprised Letson with the presentation of the Walter Bean Award for his “extraordinary contribution to our community.”

Letson retires after a distinguished academic career that began in 1967. A graduate of the University of St. Jerome's College, he returned to join the English department after receiving his doctorate from the University of Toronto. He

served as Academic Dean (1975-81 and 1987-89) and was the University's first lay president from 1989 to 1999. With Michael Higgins, he has co-authored many books, including *My Father's Business: A Biography of His Eminence G. Emmett Cardinal Carter* (1990), *The Jesuit Mystique* (1995), and the best-selling *Power and Peril: The Catholic Church at the Crossroads* (2002).

In reflecting upon his career, Letson paid tribute to his wife, Donna, and their children, Cheryl, Nadine and Rick. He likened his own character to that of the evening's entrée: “Elk is a social critter that once ran free-range and is now domesticated. It's unpredictable under heat, a bit tough if aged too long.

Nonetheless, experience shows that it can be amusing to have at the dinner table if it's thoroughly basted and properly tenderized.”

As for the work, “Ken McLaughlin is fond of reminding me that we've had a great job here. No heavy lifting and an opportunity to do something we really enjoy.”

He thanked those assembled for contributing over \$8,500 to the Douglas R. Letson Scholarship/Bursary. “Many of our students are holding down part-time jobs while they are struggling to be successful in their full-time academic lives. Those students need all the support that we can give them.”

“Life,” he concluded, “is a community experience, a social give and take, and I am grateful for what you have all given me.” 🍴



Doug and SJU Grad Kelly Teahen (BA '83)

Photo: Mike Christie



Donna and Doug Letson

Photo: Mike Christie

## Roasts and Toasts

Vivian Zochowski on “Doug-alogues”:

“At a recent hospital committee, Doug had a debate with himself about whether it was ‘alumnae’ with an ‘æ’ or ‘alumni’ with an ‘i’. The good news is that he won.”

David Graham on “Doug-speak”:

“Doug loves the word ‘lacuna’. ‘Lacuna’ means ‘gap’. To be used in such sentences as ‘There's a lacuna in her argument’ or ‘There's a lacuna between his ears.’”

Michael Higgins on “Doug-cuisine”:

“For many years, Doug has laboured to eliminate the few remaining endangered species on the planet. You ate the last elk tonight. But in the past, we've also had yak, yeti and mongoose.”

Douglas Letson on being “unroastable”:

“If I'd known this was going to happen, I'd have lived a more kinky life.”



# A tale of two Deans

## Kieran Bonner: On doing the right thing



Kieran Bonner and Myroslaw Tataryn

Photo: Bryn Gladding

“Obviously, nobody likes the stress,” muses Dr. Kieran Bonner as he contemplates his six years as SJU’s Academic Dean. “But the interaction – being with people, problem-solving – I like dealing with that, and I’ll certainly miss it. As a socially interactive person, it’s always interesting for me to try to figure out a solution to a problem while taking all the people involved into account.”

President Michael Higgins confirms Bonner’s success in this regard over the duration of his term. “Kieran’s role as an advocate, conciliator, and promoter of new ideas and initiatives has been stellar.” The current Associate Dean, Dr. Vera Golini, characterizes him as “intelligent, wise, understanding, knowledgeable, passionate about his work, and compassionate about all the people that he works with.”

Bonner acknowledges that St. Jerome’s is a great place to exercise his leadership style: there’s “goodwill and tremendous ability to deal with things honestly and at face value.”

As an academic, he footnotes his reflections on leadership, citing thinkers from Plato to Hannah Arendt. He employs the Aristotelian principle of *phronesis*: practical wisdom pertaining to ‘acts that are just, admirable and good.’ “People,” Bonner says, “exercise judgment in political situations by asking themselves what the right thing to do is at this time, in this situation, with these people, in light of what is right in general.”

This balancing act can be daunting when the parties may include any combination of the Board of Governors, the President, faculty, staff and students, the University of Waterloo, government

ministries and external accreditation bodies, not to mention his wife, Margaret, and their children – all three of whom have been at St. Jerome’s.

“There’s a good deal of effort involved,” says Bonner with classic Irish understatement. He credits the collective efforts of faculty and staff, singling out Higgins, Golini, and former Associate Dean, Steve Furino. “It wouldn’t have worked half as well if we couldn’t have done it collaboratively.”

Bonner has shepherded through many significant changes. New majors in Italian, Sexuality, Marriage and the Family, and Legal Studies were approved. A series of Great Dialogues courses, Irish Studies courses and the Master of Catholic Thought program were launched. He oversaw, among other things, a 50% growth in teaching activity, additions to classroom and office space, revised evaluations, the hiring of eleven new faculty members, external review processes for tenure and research, and the overhaul of the University Handbook.

At the same time, he enhanced cooperative ties with the University of Waterloo. “We were well-integrated with the university when I arrived,” he says. “We haven’t taken away from what we’ve been doing well, while we’ve strengthened our inter-disciplinary programming. That’s something I feel good about.”

As Dean, Bonner taught one sociology course per term; now, he resumes full-time academic and teaching pursuits, including ongoing research in the Culture of Cities program. But his gift of conciliation will not be lost to the University. Looking ahead, Higgins affirms that “his gifts will be as much treasured in the classroom as in the administrator’s office and I look forward to his quiet leadership on many fronts.”

## SJU News

**Rana Ahmad** of Richmond Hill, Ontario, a resident of Sweeney Hall for two years and an Honours Economics student at UW, was one of only 27 students to receive an International Studies scholarship from Export Development Canada (EDC). The prestigious scholarships are awarded to “top undergraduate students in business and economics” and are valued at up to \$14,000 each. Rana is currently in her third year studying Honours Economics and Finance, with specializations in International Trade and Human Resources Management.

**Kieran Bonner**, Sociology, was a panellist for the English Society’s discussion “Building Research Networks and Government: Community Partnerships in Literature and Text-Based Disciplines.” He co-authored a conference paper entitled “Montreal and Toronto: Unique Cities in a Global Vortex?” at the *New Challenges, New Realities* conference at York University

in February. He is guest co-editor of *The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* issue examining “Continuity, Contradiction and Change in Contemporary Dublin”, to which he has contributed an article entitled “A Collaborative Essay on the Story of Dublin: the Vitality of an Old Place in New Times.”

**Chris Burrell** and **John Rempel**, Psychology, were awarded a \$90,902 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grant for their research project on “Testing a Motivational Theory of Love and Hate.”

**Fred Desroches**, Sociology, recently published *The Crime That Pays: Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in Canada* (Canadian Scholars’ Press Inc.), an examination of the drug trade from street couriers to high level traffickers and the police who investigate them.



## Myroslaw Tataryn: New voice, new vision

“Accidentally.” That’s how Rev. Myroslaw Tataryn, Th.D. characterizes the way he became acquainted with St. Jerome’s University. Initially, Cristina Vanin contacted him about appraising the new Master of Catholic Thought program and “the SJU website looked really interesting.” Shortly thereafter, he noticed an advertisement for the position of Academic Dean.

At the time, Tataryn was Chair of Religious Studies and Anthropology at St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. But he, his wife and their three children wanted to be closer to family in Ontario. So he applied. “I was short-listed, they offered me the job and we said ‘yes,’” he laughs.

The process was more arduous than he lets on. Tataryn was selected from four short-listed candidates after an international search. President Michael Higgins praised his “familiarity with the church universal, his deep working knowledge of religious studies in the Canadian context, and his vibrant interest in the art of teaching and the quality of research.”

Tataryn brings a unique perspective to St. Jerome’s since he is a priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, one of twenty-two Eastern churches which are part of the Catholic communion and which historically permit married men to be ordained.

While pursuing doctoral studies at the University of St. Michael’s College, he was a pastor in the Niagara region and also executive director of the St. Sophia Religious Association. His scholarly publications reflect his faith tradition: *Praying With Icons* (1988), *Christianity in the New Ukraine* (2002), *Augustine and Russian*

*Orthodoxy* (2000), and *Windows to the East* (2001).

His wife, Maria, is completing a dissertation on disability studies as applied to Canadian literature – an interest that springs from immediate experience. Their youngest daughter has Rett syndrome, which affects cognitive and psychomotor development. Still, she is finishing high school and has defied doctors’ expectations by functioning without a wheelchair. “The problem,” says Tataryn “is to get her to *stop* moving.”

Tataryn recognizes both the challenge and the opportunities afforded by a small, liberal arts university. “A liberal arts education helps us understand that being human is about something much more fundamental than economics; we have a task of revitalizing the dialogue in society about what it really means to be a citizen, what it really means to be a community.”

“We have a task of revitalizing the dialogue in society about what it really means to be a citizen.”

In this, he especially values the presence of a Faculty of Mathematics at St. Jerome’s since it “helps us recognize that we have partners who are outside of the traditional liberal arts who can help communicate our message.”

Tataryn’s future emphasis will be “to balance the historic emphasis on liberal arts and undergraduate education with nurturing research and graduate teaching,” something he sees as a growing area of focus in Canadian post-secondary education generally.

But his most heartfelt priority is clear: “Social justice. Social justice is a fundamental principle of all aspects of education.”

**Danine Farquharson**, assistant professor of English for the past four years, is returning to Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John’s to teach in the Irish Studies program there. She studied for her Master’s and doctoral degrees at Memorial and, despite her prairie roots, regards the return to Newfoundland as a kind of homecoming. She will be missed at St. Jerome’s, where she impressed colleagues and students alike with the commitment she demonstrated in the classroom, in committees and in the direction she gave to the Art & Spirit Festival.

**Harry Froklage**, Development and Graduate Affairs, wrote a commentary on correspondence and a novella written by author Edna Staebler which were excerpted for *The New Quarterly*.

**Scott Kline**, Religious Studies, attended the World Forum on Theology and Liberation in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January. This forum brought together theologians from around the world to discuss the future of liberation theology.

**Whitney Lackenbauer** (BA ’98), History, recently published articles on relationships between the military and Canadian communities in *Urban History Review* and *Ontario History*, and co-authored a revised version of *A Sketch History of Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian Military* for the Department of National Defence. An external associate with the Wilfrid Laurier Centre for Military and Strategic Disarmament Studies, he is organizer and co-chair of their 2005 Canadian military history conference which will be held at St. Jerome’s University in early May. He will be co-present-



## Roy Romanow: Healthcare as a value



Photo: Mike Christie

Roy Romanow began the third annual John Sweeney Lecture on February 18th by evoking the lecture's namesake: "John Sweeney's unwavering belief was that we need to look out for our fellow citizens.... He was constantly guided by his desire to help those who were disadvantaged through no fault of their own." These are values shared, Romanow believes, by the overwhelming majority of Canadians – a conviction that crystallized for him when he headed the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

"Canadians realize that illness and injury know no boundaries; they afflict us all," he told the overflow audience at the Centre for Catholic Experience. "Medicare is the convergence point where our values and even our spirituality come together. It underscores our belief that citizenship confers upon us certain rights that are based on the strength of our need, not on the size of our wallet."

His commission's report, *Building on Values* (2002), prescribed an expansion of Canada's healthcare system, defining sustainability as the provision of long-term resources needed for timely access to quality services addressing evolving healthcare needs.

While the commission examined healthcare systems worldwide, the most useful benchmark proved to be the American system. Research has demonstrated that Canada's system is much more cost-effective (\$307 per capita in Canada versus \$1059 per capita in the U.S.) due largely to administrative efficiencies. Moreover, "50 million Americans have no health insurance, while another 45 million are underinsured. In 2001, 1.5 million

American families filed for bankruptcy; half of those cited medical causes for their bankruptcies due to insurance that ran out or was inadequate."

Proponents of more private for-profit delivery have submitted no evidence that speaks to cost efficiency or improved health outcomes. "We have major problems of wait times in this country," Romanow conceded, "but it defies logic to suggest that the only possible solution is to allow more doctors to opt out of the system or to allow people to buy their way to the front of the line. How exactly does this reduce the wait time for everyone else?"

"We are now at a serious crossroads with respect to the future of Medicare as we know it," he cautioned. "Privatization takes place by stealth. This debate must happen publicly so that Canadians who own the Medicare system can have their say."

Romanow's conclusions were measured and direct. "Medicare is today as sustainable as our

“Medicare is the convergence point where our values and even our spirituality come together.”

society and our values will it to be. It depends on you. The good news is that Canadians continue to

support the vision of a caring and compassionate society of which Medicare is a reflection. It will be sustainable because of that belief.”

*The John Sweeney Lecture on Current Issues in Healthcare was established by the St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation to honour John Sweeney, who served on the hospital's Board of Trustees from 1991-2001.*

## SJU News

ing on the topic of Arctic sovereignty and security issues during the Cold War.

**Ted McGee**, English, who was recently promoted to Full Professor, published "The Older I Get, the Better I Was: A Sort of Memoir" in *The New Quarterly*. He is presenting a paper entitled "God, Sex, and Money: Libelous Poems of Renaissance England" at the University of Leeds this July, and a Table Talk about Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* at the Stratford Festival in August.

**Kenneth McLaughlin** (BA, '65) History, and **Douglas Letson** (BA, '62) English, were chosen as two of only fifty "Community Champions" for their contributions to the community by CKCO-TV – Doug for his many volunteer commitments and Ken for raising the community's understanding of its own history. In cooperation with

the University of Waterloo library, Ken is also directing oral history interviews and archival research on the process and development of technology transfer at UW and the impact of spin-off companies on the community. The project is funded with a \$50,000 grant from the J. W. Graham Information Technology Trust Fund.

**Gabriel Niccoli**, Italian Studies, co-organized and presented a keynote address at the 9th International Conference on Restoration and Preservation held at the University of Calabria, Italy, in April. He then taught a course in Florence for 45 UW students, providing the literary component of a course on Florentine literature and art before delivering the *lectio magistralis* for the launch of a book of poems by contemporary Calabrian writer Raffaele Saccomanno for which he also wrote a postscript.



# The MCT in detail

Students are registering now for the September launch of SJU's new Master of Catholic Thought (MCT) program. It is a program designed, says Dr. Cristina Vanin, its Director, to serve "Catholics who provide leadership in such areas as healthcare, social services, and education" as well as "Catholics and others alike who, for personal reasons, want to pursue a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Catholic tradition."

The program is offered on a part-time basis and is not intended to prepare students for further graduate studies or for a particular profession. However, teachers seeking administrative advancement could fulfill the requirement for an accredited master's-level degree by pursuing the MCT.

## Admission and Program Requirements

The basic requirement for admission is a four-year Bachelor's degree with a minimum of an overall B average and at least two years of work experience. However, applicants demonstrating equivalent qualifications may be considered for admission.

Students who qualify may register for individual courses appealing to personal or professional interests or may choose to audit courses instead. The cost per course is \$435.00 for registrants and \$215 per course for auditors.

The degree will require completion of five core courses, five elective courses and either a master's-level research paper or a profession-related project. An overall minimum average of 75 must be maintained.

## Course offerings

Core courses include The Books of the Church, The History of Catholicism, Foundations

**David Seljak**, Religious Studies, reports that a recent Centre for Catholic Experience talk featuring Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn, author of *Wherever You Go, There You Are* and *Full-Catastrophe Living: Using Your Body and Mind to Face Stress, Pain and Illness* drew overflow crowds. Co-sponsored by Words Worth Books, the talk raised over \$7,700 for the evening's designated charity, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which will use the donations to combat the spread of AIDS in Africa.

**Bruno Tremblay**, Philosophy, is collaborating on a project entitled "Development of a research database in Medieval Studies: a web-based, searchable electronic corpus of Albertus Magnus' complete works" which received a grant of \$18,110 from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

of Theology, Catholic Moral Life and Thought, and The Prayer of the Church: Spirituality and Liturgy.

Proposed electives are Catholic Sacramental Life, Catholic Perspectives on Ecology, Catholicism and Education, Catholic Social Ethics, Contemporary Bioethics: Issues of Life and Death, the Catholic Church in Canada, Christian Feminist Thought, Vatican II, and The Catholic Imagination in Art and Literature.

Students may take up to three electives from appropriate graduate-level theology courses offered at another university such as Conrad Grebel University College or Regis College, University of Toronto. ☺

## Further Information/Application Form

Contact:  
Dr. Cristina Vanin,  
Director, MCT Program

St. Jerome's University,  
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G3

E-mail:  
cdvanin@uwaterloo.ca

Telephone: (519) 884-8111, ext. 266

Or visit our Website:  
[www.sju.ca/MCT.html](http://www.sju.ca/MCT.html)

## Awards Night '05

SJU students, faculty and staff gathered on March 11th for Awards night at Federation Hall. Award winners were **Jeff Akomah** (Zach Ralston Award), **Michelle Benes** (D.R. Letson Community Award), **Nick Melfi** (Todd Earl Spirit Award), **Ashley Dietrich**, **Melissa Latour**, **Flavia Quintana-Escalona**, and **Julie Wonnacott** (Community Life Awards) and **Jason Cabral**, **Christina Gordon**, **Craig Howard**, and **Bridget Whittle** (University Life Awards).



**Jeff Akomah** (BA '05, Religious Studies) was visibly moved by the news that he had been named the Zach Ralston Award winner. President Higgins is amused.

## D.R. Letson Award

**Michelle Benes** (BMath '05, Computer Science) is this year's recipient of the D.R. Letson Community Service Award, presented by the SJU Graduates' Association, for her commitment to a number of charitable projects, including the Kenya School Build taking place this summer.





# The God of the outdoors

“Christians of the western world are not comfortable worshipping or praying to the God of the outdoors. We have many beautiful buildings, and our experience of God gets captured in those buildings, within the church itself. But what might the God of the outdoors be like?”

So began Fr. Jim Profit, sj, stilling the buzz of the overflow crowd attending this year’s Ignatian Lecture at the Centre for Catholic Experience on January 28.

The Director and Superior of Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph began by describing his own spiritual journey, rooted in a traditional Catholic family upbringing on P.E.I. His love of outdoor pursuits put him in touch with the God of the outdoors and led him to understand for the first time the “tragic disconnect” that separates human beings from the earth.

The consequences of that separation are a lifestyle that is beyond the carrying capacity of the

*“A spirituality of the earth takes for granted that God is present in the universe.”*

earth. With diminishing fossil fuels, an agricultural system out of balance, and a culture increasingly driven by consumerism, Profit believes that our distance from the earth has resulted in a mindset that is financially, socially, ecologically, and spiritually bankrupt. The ecological crisis is ultimately a crisis of spirit – a denial of our relationship with God, in word and deed.

How, then, do we remain hopeful and foster healing with the earth?

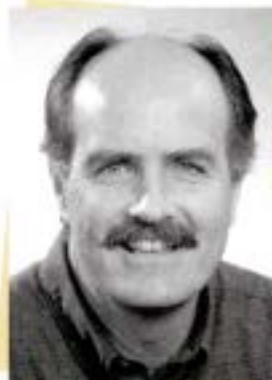
“A spirituality of the earth takes for granted that God is present in the universe,” Profit said. “God needs all species to reflect the beauty of God. We must allow our experience of God to expand.” At the same time, “The earth is sacred. To destroy the earth is to injure God. When we pollute a river, we are witnessing to the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross.”

His definition of what constitutes an ecological issue is an expansive one. “When we understand that human beings are part of the earth,” Profit explained, “then our concern for the poor becomes an ecological issue. We cannot be environmentalists without being concerned for the poor.”

Despite the challenge of this ecological crisis, Profit believes there is reason for hope. “We live in a time of great potential. Thomas Berry says that we live in a cosmological and religious moment of grace, and that such moments have occurred throughout our evolutionary history, causing great transformations to occur. The future of the earth is defined by these moments.”

“We become the ability of the earth to heal herself when we participate in that work, and it happens by one person, one community, acting at a time.”

“It’s the only way the world has ever changed.” ☪



## Grad Notes

**'75 Mick Matheusik (BES '75, Geography)** joined NAI Goddard & Smith Commercial as their V.P. of Retail & Resort Brokerage in Spring 2004. He is married to Nicole Beissner and they reside in West Vancouver.

**'77 Marny Beale (BA '77, English)** was the President of the Canadian Association of Principals in 2003-2004. During her tenure, Marny traveled across Canada advocating for Principals and Vice-Principals regarding access to federal funds for schools. She is currently in her last year as Past President for the CAP and attended a conference representing Canada at the International Confederation of Principals in Ireland in March 2005. Contact her at mbeale@cogeco.ca.

**'78 Peter Tassi (BA '78, Religious Studies)** is the chaplain at Cathedral High School in Hamilton and is also a published author of three books. His most recent, entitled *500 Prayers for Catholic Schools*, was released by Twenty-Third Publications in the U.S. and is now available for sale. Peter co-authored this book with his sister, **Filomena Tassi (BA '83, Philosophy)**. You can contact Peter at ptassi29@yahoo.ca.

**'87 Michelle DiEmanuele (née Mallett, BA '87, Political Science)**, who was selected as one of the “Top 40 Under 40” by *The Globe and Mail* in 1998, had the added distinction of being selected one of the top eight “Most Influential” winners by other recipients of this honour in May, 2005 when the newspaper celebrated the award’s 10th anniversary.



# St. Jerome's goes global

A newly formed partnership between St. Jerome's University and Intercordia Canada will be providing SJU and University of Waterloo students with opportunities to build relationships with some of the world's most marginalized populations.

Intercordia, which was inspired by Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, is a university-accredited educational experience that promotes cross-cultural understanding and moral responsiveness.

Participating students learn to integrate their conceptual and experiential knowledge under the guidance of trained mentors.

Beginning in September 2005, a group of 15 students, with a wide variety of majors, will begin the year-long program. In the fall and winter terms, they will be on campus taking courses geared to prepare them for their summer term abroad. At the year's end, students can receive three term course credits for an educational experience that cultivates hands-on cross-cultural understanding and solidarity with the global South.

Through an international network of partners – including L'Arche, Canada World Youth, and other well-established non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – Intercordia opens up a world of options to students seeking to put their faith and education into practice. Currently, Intercordia has placements available in Mexico, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Belize, and many other countries. Soon, students will have exciting new opportunities in the Ukraine and Bosnia.

Dr. Scott Kline, an assistant professor of Religious Studies currently heading up the program at SJU, says, "The partnership between

Intercordia and SJU gives students who are committed to social justice, peace, and development the option to receive academic credit for their work. It's also a good opportunity for co-op students who want to make a difference in the world – it's a win-win situation for all."

Indeed, the partnership between Intercordia and St. Jerome's is one way of actualizing St. Jerome's mission and its commitment to

learning and academic excellence; to the gospel values of love, truth and justice; and to the

formation of leaders for the service of the community and the church.

Anyone interested in learning more should contact Melinda Szilva at 884-8111 ext 215 (mmszilva@uwaterloo.ca) or Scott Kline at 884-8111 ext 289 (skline@uwaterloo.ca). ☎

*For students who want to make a difference in the world.*

## Female Frosh from 1990 to 1993:

*It's time to reunite!  
Saturday, August 6*

*Were you a female frosh registered at St. Jerome's or resident at Notre Dame College in 1990, '91, '92 or '93? If so, you're invited back to SJU for a special reunion. **Cathy Muegge** (née **Flachs** – BA '95 English), **Diana Cesa** (née **Valentini** – BA '95 English Rhetoric) and **Shana McTurk** (née **McCann** – BA '95 Psychology) are organizing a special day that begins with a BBQ at St. Jerome's at noon. Spend the afternoon getting reacquainted, touring the campus and sharing memories. A special dinner caps a special day!*

*For more details, please contact Cathy at [mugs@wightman.ca](mailto:mugs@wightman.ca) or Sarah Daly, Development Coordinator, at [s2daly@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:s2daly@uwaterloo.ca).*

Michelle has returned from the private sector to the provincial government in 2004 and is now the Deputy Minister and Associate Secretary of the Cabinet, Centre for Leadership and Human Resource Management. Michelle is married to **Tony DiEmanuele (BA '85, Economics)**.

**Anita Ploj (BA '87, English)** and Basile Noël welcomed the arrival of their son, Luc Simon Noël, on October 14, 2004. Anita is currently enjoying a full year of maternity leave, during which Luc is showing her that being a lawyer is not nearly as challenging – or as fun – as being a mom.

**'88 Tom Moloney (BA '88, Economics)**, along with his wife Helen, son Liam and daughter Fiona, is enjoying life in Waterloo, where Tom works in software sales. "To all the boys from St. Jerome's, I heartily say KAYAK!" Contact Tom at [tom\\_moloney@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tom_moloney@alumni.uwaterloo.ca).

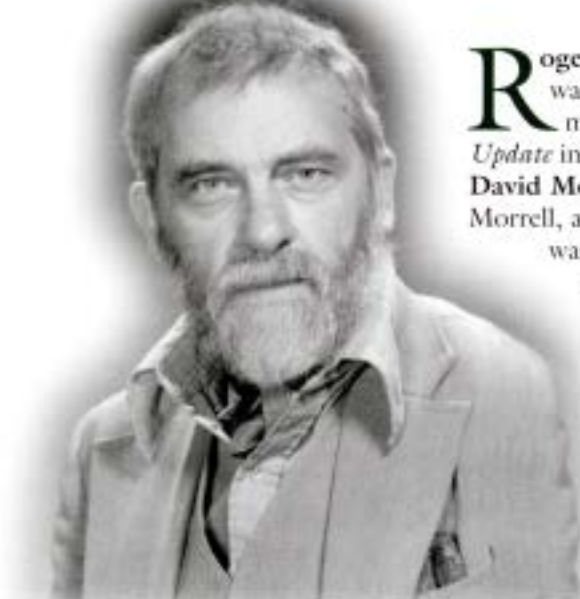
**'93 Pauline Olthof-Youn (BA '93, History & English)** and her husband Sukki Youn welcomed Gill Theodore on Sept. 16, 2004. He joins big sister Ena, who is now 3 years old. Pauline works as an English teacher at Columbia International College in Hamilton.



# Continuing CONNECTIONS

*“Dr. Cummings” remembered*

by Harry Froklage



Dr. Cummings in the '60s

**R**oger Spalding (BA '66) was prompted to contact me after reading an *SJU Update* interview with author **David Morrell** (BA '66). Morrell, a classmate of Roger's, was quoted as saying: "I remember taking literature courses with Dr. Cummings" and adding, parenthetically, "I still can't bring myself to call him 'Larry'." "Me too," confirmed Roger. It is a truth

universally acknowledged. Dr. Laurence Cummings, who taught at St. Jerome's from 1962 to 1972, demanded, and got, the best from students in his English courses and in St. Aethelwold's Players, a theatrical troupe he assembled to perform medieval morality plays. **Gwen Nowak McGrenere** (BA '65) remembers that "his challenge brought out the best in me." Still, she cannot bring herself to call him "Larry."

Such a formidable presence achieved impressive results. A survey of students whom Cummings influenced reveals several PhDs, a university administrator, a public servant, two judges, a poet, and a bestselling writer of fiction,

not to mention Roger Spalding himself – a successful educator and psychotherapist.

Roger wanted to recognize his mentor's influence in a palpable way. He expressed his intention to leave a bequest establishing an annual Laurence A. Cummings Lecture in Cultural History – in recognition of Cummings' pioneering work in the cultural history program he established at UW's School of Architecture.

Roger's idea was such a good one that we decided to offer the inaugural lecture this year and invite Dr. Cummings back to St. Jerome's for a reunion of 1960s graduates. A special appeal was launched to fund an inaugural lecture in 2005 and met with generous support from **John Browne** (BA '66), **Jerome** (BA '66) & **Marilyn** (BA '66) **Dufresne**, **Roger Fowler** (BA '66), **Douglas Hilker** (BA '66), **David** (BA '66) & **Donna** (BA '65) **Morrell**, **Gwen Nowak McGrenere** (BA '65), **Patrick O'Neill** (BA '67), **Joanne Stoodly Weeks** (BA '66), **Robert Wiljer** (BA '66) and **Bruce** (BA '66) & **Gail** (BA '66) **Young**.

Cummings' warm reaction to Roger's initiative belies his daunting reputation. He wrote to tell me "how much good it does one to hear from students one taught a lifetime ago who express their appreciation for one's efforts." The real test, however, takes place at the inaugural Laurence A. Cummings Lecture in Cultural History this September 16th. Will anyone be so intrepid as to greet him as "Larry"? ☺

## Grad Notes

**'97** **J.P. Pretti** (BMath '97, C&O and Pure Math) and **Judene Pretti** (née Bailey, BMath '97, Mathematics & Teaching, Computer Science) and big sister Janelle welcomed Jillian Ruth on April 6, 2005. Both J.P. and Judene work at the School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo; J.P. is a lecturer at St. Jerome's and UW, and Judene works in Instructional Support.

**'98** **Whitney Lackenbauer** (BA '98, History), who re-joined the St. Jerome's community last fall as assistant professor of history, and his wife Jennifer Arthur-Lackenbauer are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Harrison, on February 17, 2005. You can contact Whitney at [pwlacken@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pwlacken@uwaterloo.ca).

**'01** **Shannon Buchanan** (née Anderson, BA '01, English & Music) and her husband Ken would like to announce the arrival of their two children: Eric Michael, who was born on February 14, 2003 and Sarah Katelyn, born on October 26, 2004. The Buchanans reside in Milton and can be reached at [kbuchanan@cogeco.ca](mailto:kbuchanan@cogeco.ca).

**'02** **Maria Capulong** (BA'02, Psychology, Legal Studies & Criminology), a second-year law student at the University of Windsor, helped initiate and implement a pilot project for UWMS (University of Windsor Mediation Services). As a Dispute Resolution Intern, Maria had the opportunity to focus on a particular area in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution. She decided on Young Offenders and At-Risk Youth.



# The Inaugural Laurence A. Cummings Lecture in Cultural History

## "Art, Fame, and the Problem of Authenticity: Vincent van Gogh and Us"

Dr. Modris Eksteins.

Friday, September 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Siegfried Hall



Vincent van Gogh was an iconic figure for the twentieth century. Although he died ten years before it began, the events of the twentieth century would kindle a critical and popular interest in his work and life that exalted him, in time, to near-mythic status.

The catastrophic circumstances of his life – poverty, critical neglect, unrequited love, mental illness and suicide – coupled with his luminous artistry rendered him a tragic figure emblematic of a tragic time.

In the lecture, Dr. Modris Eksteins examines the iconic van Gogh and what his revolutionary transformation reveals about the cultural history of the modern age.

A Rhodes Scholar and a Professor of History at the University of Toronto (Scarborough), Dr. Eksteins is currently researching a book examining the cultural significance of van Gogh's iconic status. He is the author of *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* (1989), taking the controversial debut of *The Rite*

*of Spring* as a flashpoint demonstrating how the modernist impulses of Stravinsky's music and Nijinsky's choreography express the zeitgeist of a world being made ready for the atrocities of World War I. It won the Trillium Prize and the Wallace K. Ferguson Prize of the Canadian Historical Association, and Amazon.ca listed it as one of fifty essential Canadian books. *Walking Since Daybreak: A Story of Eastern Europe, World War II, and the Heart of Our Century* (1999) is an examination of Eksteins' family history in the context of the history of the Baltic states. It won the inaugural Pearson Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize and was selected as one of the Best Books of the Year by *The Globe and Mail*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Independent*, and *Times Literary Supplement*.

## 60s Grads & St. Aethelwold's Players Reunion

Saturday, September 17,

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us for brunch and memories the morning after the inaugural Laurence A. Cummings Lecture. Students of Dr. Cummings and those who were involved with the St. Aethelwold's Players are especially encouraged to come out and get re-acquainted with Larry, with each other, and with St. Jerome's. Bring your photos and other memorabilia from your university days: we'd love to scan them in for our records. Please register by contacting Sarah Daly at (519) 884-9111, x277 or at s2daly@uwaterloo.ca.

since they "have oftentimes been overlooked when it comes to Conflict Management or ADR skills." This pilot project is scheduled to run until May 2005. This summer she will be working in Windsor at L.A.W. (Legal Assistance of Windsor), a joint initiative with the Law School and Legal Aid Ontario, where she will be practicing poverty law and assisting those who need legal representation but are unable to afford a lawyer or paralegal.

**Sara Noble (BA '02, Psychology)**, currently living in Brampton, reports that she is moving to Japan to teach English for a year.

## Harry J. Boyle, 1915-2004

It was with sadness that St. Jerome's learned of the passing of one of its most eminent graduates: Harry J. Boyle. The pioneering CBC broadcaster and novelist attended St. Jerome's College in 1931 and 1932 and was President of the Junior Literary Society. He got his first job in broadcasting in 1936 before joining the CBC in 1942 and rose quickly to prominence as an innovative producer and no-nonsense administrator. In 1968, he was appointed vice-chairman of the CRTC, and became chairman in 1975. He was also a journalist, columnist and playwright, and his novels included *Memories of a Catholic Boyhood* (1973) and *The Luck of the Irish* (1975), which won the Stephen Leacock Award for humour.

## Hey SJU grads!

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

Name (Please include birth name)

Address

Telephone

e-mail/WWW

Degree/Year/Programme

### Are you working?

Job title

Employer

Address

Telephone

e-mail/WWW

### Are you married?

Spouse's name

Degree/Year/Programme

### What's new in your life?

(Enclose additional sheet if necessary)

Please do not publish this info in SJU Update.

Please return this form to:

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You can also send e-mail to:  
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# SJU Gallery

## Author, Author



SJU grad Dan Bortolotti (BA '92, English), author of *Hope in Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders*, spoke about the challenges faced by the international medical aid group at our annual donor reception February 4th.



## Charity Dance

This year's Charity Run demanded more coordination than usual. Instead of running the ring road, participants whirled smartly around the community centre to Celtic tunes at a Ceili that raised funds for the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support.

## Arrivals, Departures and Silver Jubilees

At the Board of Governors' Social on May 19th, the St. Jerome's community recognized Douglas Letson's retirement and honoured three faculty members who had completed twenty-five years of service: **Stanley Fogel**, English, **Vera Golini**,

Italian Studies, and **Kenneth McLaughlin**, History. Board Chair **Deborah Pecoskie** (BA '72) thanked four retiring board members for their committed service and welcomed four new people to the board.



▲ Retiring board members (left to right) **Patrick Flynn** (BA '68), **Joe Sinasac** and **Clare Beingessner**. **Rev. Lorford Keasey**, C.R. was unable to attend.

▼ Incoming members of the Board of Governors are (left to right) **Carlo De Pellegrin**, **Nancy Di Gregorio**, **Rev. Paul Voisin**, C.R. (BA '73) and **Gary Mousseau**.