

# iPods? New pods. uPods!

by Dana Woito



The uPod of uPods!

*"You don't plug them in (but we think they'll be music to your ears!) You don't grow them in the garden (but we know they'll be good for you!) They're uPods—and you belong to one!!!!"*

So began the invitation that welcomed the first-year class of 2006 to St. Jerome's and its new mentoring program known as uPods. The innovative new program partners small groups of 10 or 12 first-year students with a member of the faculty or staff. Designed to help students make the transition to university life, meet each other, and access opportunities for involvement, enrichment, and fun, uPods address SJU's mission of educating the whole person. They also introduce students to the St. Jerome's spirit of community—for many graduates the hallmark of the SJU experience.

The program was launched on Tuesday, September 5, during Frosh week. A lecture hall full of students sporting "uPodder" sweatshirts listened to welcoming remarks from the Interim President, Myroslaw Tataryn, and enjoyed a lighthearted skit performed by current members of the Students' Union dramatizing potential transition issues they might encounter. The dinner that followed allowed uPodders to meet their mentor and each other.

Since that time, mentors have organized get-togethers that included dinners out, dessert and coffee, and snacks in the Community Centre. (It is apparent that the pairing of students and food remains a universal constant!) Mentors have helped individual students in their uPods with such issues as course selection and navigating the bookstore.

Mentoring activities have ranged from being online on MSN one night a week answering questions to organizing a bake sale to support a refugee student sponsored by the World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Program.

The program continues to evolve, seeking the most meaningful ways in which to engage students. "The uPods program allows us to involve students in the academic and social life of the community," says Tataryn. "At the same time, it allows us to conduct institutional research into how and what students are actually learning. This is critical to our plans for deepening and broadening our educational perspective, and for continuing our tradition of providing all SJU students with opportunities to enrich their undergraduate education." ☺

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St. Jerome's University  
Volume 25 - Number 2  
Fall/Winter 2006



# SJU and the Future: Measured Steps Forward

by Myroslaw Tataryn, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor



photo: Bryn Gladding

University life, and especially university life in a small, Catholic liberal arts institution, is no longer simply about “what I do in my classroom.”

The recently published book *Catholic Higher Education: A Culture in Crisis*, by Melanie Morey and John Piderit, examines the views of senior administrators of Catholic universities and colleges and draws this conclusion: “If there is to be a future for Catholic culture in Catholic colleges and universities, those concerned and involved must be able to do three things. First, they must differentiate the elements that constitute a rich, coherent Catholic culture from those that dissipate it. Second, they must be adept at identifying new actions or strategies that will strengthen the Catholic culture. And third, they must be capable and willing to promote these new actions and strategies over a long period of time within their own institutions.”

Fortunately, we are assisted in these endeavours by the changing interests and values of our students. Research into the attitudes of university students today suggests that they are searching for venues in which they can engage life’s big questions, holistically grounding themselves in our increasingly pluralistic society. Morey and Piderit characterize institutions which respond successfully to these expectations as “transformational in nature, not just transactional... [teaching] people not only how to earn a living but how to live a life in a moral sense, an ethical sense, in a value sense.”

They identify two conditions necessary for the existence and continuance of a Catholic university: “distinguishability and inheritability.” How does St. Jerome’s perform using measures of this kind and how can we build on the achievements of the past?

We have inherited an academic regime that includes a professoriate known for strong teaching, classes that remain relatively small, innovative interdisciplinary programs, and superb students who go on to be significant contributors to society in many fields. Using the standard of “inheritability,” St. Jerome’s is strong and able to hold its own in the highly competitive post-secondary environment in Ontario.

To meet the measure of “distinguishability,” we need to give real substance to the four words which characterize what we call “the St. Jerome’s advantage”: “tradition,” “wonder,” “reason” and

“passion.” Living our mission, living up to the claims made by these four words, would foster our distinguishability and help make us the transformational and life-giving institution that we wish to be.

We embellish our tradition in the newly launched Master of Catholic Thought program, in our partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University’s new Faculty of Education and local Catholic school boards to supply pre-service instruction for Catholic teachers, and in our agreements with a number of international Catholic universities.

We encourage wonder when we provide opportunities for more holistic human interaction than is usually possible in the classroom environment. Our pilot uPod project—creating relationships and contexts for students outside the classroom—is just one example. But we also need to facilitate the vocations of our younger faculty and staff, and create venues which will allow us to engage each other in our own big questions, our questions of vocation, our questions of life.

We engage reason—that watchword of the academy—when we commit to planning for the foreseeable future, recognizing our strengths, our potential and our limits. Reason compels us to measure and assess our students’ experience and the way our graduates perceive their SJU experience in retrospect. Recent enhancements in support for faculty research must be augmented by innovations in our approach to teaching. The scholarship of both teaching and learning must be nurtured at St. Jerome’s.

We spark passion when we demonstrate what we all know to be true: the measurable benefits of a liberal arts education in creating future leaders; the importance of service learning as an expression of social justice through international placement programs like Intercordia-Beyond Borders; the critical need for student engagement, creating an environment for our students that models the kind of society which we would like to build; the fostering of a true spirit of collegiality by selecting and developing the right faculty and staff for the SJU community; and the embracing of our position as a leader in Catholic higher education in Canada.

These are the measures by which our mission is extended beyond the academy to become a living image of our foundational values. ☪



# Archbishop Thomas Collins: A Distinguished Graduate

by Harry Froklage

It is entirely possible that last summer, at the same moment as the St. Jerome's Graduates' Association was choosing its distinguished graduate for 2006, Pope Benedict XVI was contemplating whom he should select as the next Archbishop of Toronto. Both deliberative processes arrived at the same name: Thomas Collins.

Collins was, at that moment, the Archbishop of Edmonton, a position he had held since 1999. Prior to that, he had been Bishop of St. Paul's in northern Alberta, an appointment he received in 1997 after serving for nineteen years at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. In a career filled with academic accomplishments—a Bachelor of Theology, an M.A. in English, a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture, a Doctorate in Theology—the first degree he received was a B.A. in English from St. Jerome's College in 1968.

Collins was born in Guelph in 1947. Among his childhood friends was Gerry Stortz—until his death in 2003 a professor of history at SJU. While attending Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School, Collins was powerfully influenced by Fr. John Newstead, a joyful and charismatic mentor who sparked his interest in both English literature and the priesthood.

Collins wanted to enter the seminary, but remembers that “my father was ill so I was needed at home. I thought it would be great to attend a Catholic, liberal arts college and St. Jerome's was fairly close at hand.” He enrolled and, for the first three years, drove to the still-new campus every day. “In my last year, I lived in the residence at St. Jerome's. That was a new experience, the first time I'd really been away from home and it was a great thing too.”

He majored in English, and was among the many students in the 1960s who were influenced by Dr. Larry Cummings: “His Old English course was spectacular. I really loved Old English, Middle English, Shakespeare—it was great.” But he was also careful to take the philosophy credits he would need to study theology.

Upon entering St. Peter's Seminary, he concurrently pursued postgraduate studies in English, finding that there was “a great synergy” between the spirituality of such Old English poems as “The Dream of the Rood” and his studies in spiritual

theology. Following his ordination in 1973, he taught for two years at Cathedral High School in Hamilton before pursuing advanced studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and returning to St. Peter's as a lecturer in Scripture. In 1984, he returned to Rome to the Gregorian University for doctoral studies, writing a dissertation which focussed upon the moral teaching and exhortation contained in the final sixteen lines of the *Apocalypse of John*. In 1992, he was appointed Dean of Theology at St. Peter's, and became Rector in 1995.

In 1997, he received a call from the Papal Nuncio inviting him to Ottawa for lunch the next day. “He told me the Pope had made me Bishop of St. Paul, Alberta.” He moved west following his Episcopal ordination by Bishop Anthony Tonnos of the Diocese of Hamilton; two years later, he was appointed Archbishop of the Metropolitan See of Edmonton.

And now, after a similar call, Collins is returning east to assume responsibility for the Archdiocese of Toronto—the largest English-speaking diocese in Canada—upon the retirement of Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic in December. Collins' installation as Archbishop takes place on January 30th, 2007.

Less than three weeks later, on February 16th, Archbishop Collins returns to St. Jerome's as the recipient of the 2006 Fr. Norm Choate Distinguished Graduate Award. He will also deliver the Graduates' Association Lecture in Siegfried Hall at 7:30 p.m., examining the topic that preoccupied him during his doctoral studies: *The Apocalypse of John: A Great Book of Hope*.

“I love the *Apocalypse*,” he says. “It's meant to be a revelation, not a confusion. It's not written to predict who's going to win this or that election or what's going to happen in our age in terms of politics. It has to do with the plan of God. It's meant to help people live a better life.” ☪





# Beyond Borders:

## *Student Encounters with the Developing World*



*Kristen Demaiter spent her three-month Intercordia placement in Ecuador.*

In May of 2006, eleven St. Jerome's students left for locations in developing countries around the world, including Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ecuador, Honduras, and Ukraine. For three months, they lived with families whose everyday existence is very different from their own, and worked with organiza-

tions that allowed them to "get their hands dirty," says SJU program director, Scott Kline. In August, they returned, minds changed and hearts opened.

Intercordia Canada, which provides the structure for the experience, partners with universities to promote cross-cultural understanding, giving students an opportunity to build relationships with marginalized individuals. Inspired by the vision of Jean Vanier, founder of the international L'Arche federation, Intercordia is a natural fit with St. Jerome's, says Kline. "The program allows us to provide an educational experience outside of the classroom, which addresses our mission of educating the whole person. It gives us the opportunity to put theory into practice, faith into action. And it allows students to develop a compassionate and moral response to situations of injustice and poverty."

The St. Jerome's Intercordia program officially began in the Fall of 2005. In September 2006, enrolment had grown to 18 students, with many

more anticipated as the program establishes itself. In fact, Kline is developing his own connections in other developing countries to meet student interests and demand. The expanded program will be called Beyond Borders.

When asked to describe her experience in Ukraine, third-year student Sarah Noonan says, "It was challenging and frustrating—but I needed it to be that in order for me to learn what I learned." Sarah worked in an orphanage with children with various disabilities, and her host family consisted of a single mother and her 11-year-old daughter. Both situations provided her with warm memories and lots of opportunities to grow. "I learned more from this experience than from any other experience I have ever had," she says.

Mike Little, who worked at a youth centre in Bosnia, says that before his immersion experience he "couldn't really grasp the immensity of what going to Bosnia meant." A political science student, his interest in the Bosnian political scene made him more conscious of his own Canadian political context. "As a Canadian," he says, "I didn't look at ethnicity as any kind of political factor, but spending time in a country with a deep nationalist division that is based on ethnicity, I was made aware of how complex the issue really is."

Amanda Grobbecker, who



*Mike Little during a reflective moment in Bosnia.*

### **Presidential Search and Senior Administrative Appointments**

The Search Committee established by the Board of Governors to identify prospective candidates for President and Vice-Chancellor worked diligently for eight months and brought forward two candidates in September 2006. Following considerable consultation and deliberation, the Board has asked the Committee to resume its search.

Since Michael Higgins' departure in July 2006, the Dean and Vice-President, Myroslaw Tataryn, has been fulfilling the responsibilities of the Acting President and Vice-Chancellor. Recognizing that the appointment of a new President may take some time, the Board of Governors voted unanimously on January 22,

2007, to appoint Tataryn the Interim President and Vice-Chancellor. The Board also unanimously appointed Ted McGee, an Associate Dean, to the position of Interim Dean and Vice-President. Cynthia Struthers, who is also Associate Dean, will continue in that role until her sabbatical begins on July 1, 2007.

In communicating this decision to faculty and staff, Board Chair Dorothee Retterath stated that "the Board of Governors has full confidence in the senior administrative team. On behalf of the Board, I wish to express our gratitude for the work they have done and our appreciation for their willingness to take on additional duties during our period of transition."

For ongoing information about the Presidential Search, check our website: [www.sju.ca](http://www.sju.ca)



by Dana Woito

also went to Bosnia, cities one incident that made that division frighteningly real. "One night when the Croats were playing in the World Cup, I was out watching a game with a Muslim friend of mine," she says. "As many of the people watching the game spilled out of bars and coffee houses, things got rowdy in the streets.

The European Armed Forces were called in to control things. It was really scary." But the awareness of that division is always present, she adds.

"The tension between the two groups is such that, if you're not for one side, you're against them. So, even though I have friends who were Catholics and friends who were Muslims, I couldn't spend time with them together."



Megan Lassaline and her friend, Vasil, in Ukraine.

A correction: in the last issue of *SJU Update*, we incorrectly identified **Christine Donaldson's** (BMath'89) position at Onex Corporation. She is the Director of Finance, as well as being the new Graduates' representative on the St. Jerome's Board of Governors.

**Carol Acton**, English, will have her book, *Grief in Wartime: Private Pain, Public Discourse*, published in February by Palgrave Macmillan. Acton also presented a paper in November entitled "My Darling Englishman: First World War letters and the construction of a shared story" at a conference called "Doing Gender History: Methods and Models" at the Women's History of Ireland Association Annual Meeting held at Trinity College, Dublin.

An essay by **Tristanne Connolly**, English, "The Authority of the Ancients: Blake and Wilkins' Translation of the *Bhagvat-Geeta*," was included in *The Reception of*

"One of the rewarding elements of this program," says Kline, is how students have "their eyes opened to injustices in other parts of the world and in our own back yard. They see how complex the

issues of poverty and marginalization really are." This, he believes, is at the heart of the

program's intent. "We're a human community, and, while there

is joy, hope, and life on the margins, true human freedom means working together to overcome social injustices."

For Sarah Noonan, that recognition has the face of a nine-year-old disabled girl named Vassilana. "Every time she saw me," says Sarah, "she would throw herself at me and hug me until it was painful. It got to the point where I felt terrified every time I saw her. When I explained to her how I felt, I watched her change her understanding of me and my presence in her life. If I had not felt so vulnerable, I would not have been able to put myself in her position and understand her own vulnerability. That, to me, is the true definition of cross-cultural understanding. To look at someone else through eyes of compassion and love." ☺

*Blake in the Orient*, edited by Steve Clark and Masashi Suzuki and published by Continuum. She also has an essay—"Transgender Juvenilia: Blake's and Cristall's *Poetical Sketches*"—included in *Women Reading William Blake*, edited by Helen Bruder and published by Palgrave Macmillan. In the latter, Connolly notes, "modesty aside," that another contributor—Germaine Greer—cites her book.

St. Jerome's welcomes visiting professor **Cynthia Crysdale** for the 2006-2007 academic year. Crysdale, a professor of theology from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., is spending her sabbatical year at St. Jerome's teaching in the Master of Catholic Thought Program.

**Maureen Drysdale** and **B.J. Rye**, both of Psychology and Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies, jointly



Sarah Noonan worked with orphaned children with disabilities in Ukraine.

**SJU News**



# The Choate Reunion: *A Party, not a Function*

by Harry Froklage



Dedicating Choate Common  
photos: Mike Christie

“There’s a difference between a party and function.” Of the eight things which Fr. Norm Choate, C.R. taught her, Dana Woito (BA ’84) lists this as the first. One attends a function out of a sense of obligation. One attends a party for fun.

On Saturday, September 16th, 2006, there was a party for Fr. Norm at St. Jerome’s.

Graduates, friends and colleagues who knew him during one of his three SJU incarnations—as a lecturer in Sociology (1964-67), as university chaplain (1974-79), and as president (1979-89)—gathered in the quad outside Siegfried Hall during the afternoon to dedicate it in his name. Henceforth, it will be known as “Choate Common,” in recognition of his pastoral presence, committed leadership, and New England heritage.

Myrosław Tataryn, Interim President of St. Jerome’s, praised Choate for demonstrating “that Catholicism, rigorous intellectual inquiry, and caring for students could harmoniously

interact for the benefit of all who participated in the life of St. Jerome’s.”

Throughout the dinner that evening and the speeches that accompanied it, the warm memories and entertaining anecdotes came



so thick and fast that Choate prefaced his own remarks by asking, “Is there a presentation of a casket at the end of this program?”

There were words of praise from his former colleague, Fr. Bob Liddy, and from Rob Donelson

(BA ’81) who declared, “We are the people we are today in large part because you have lived and shared your life with us.” Peter Naus, the former Dean, now retired, and Ted McGee, a longtime professor of English, extolled Choate’s defense of academic freedom and support for scholarship, and graduate after graduate rose to share humorous recollections and to quote Choate’s influential words of advice.

For his part, Choate remembered asking Fr. Zach Ralston for counsel upon first arriving at St. Jerome’s. “How do I get started? How do I do this? How do I begin?” And Zach said, “You get to know the students and you will come to love them, and everything will fall in place.” And that is exactly what happened. I fell in love.”

“You were and continue to be the love of my life. I guess I broke all the rules about professional distance and boundaries and so on and so forth. I became friends, probably, with too many of you. But I don’t regret that for one minute.”

For pictures and a list of attendees, visit [http://www.sju.ca/graduates/past\\_events.html](http://www.sju.ca/graduates/past_events.html)



Fr. Norm Choate, C.R.

## SJU News

published *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Adolescence* as part of the McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series.

**Stan Fogel**, English, has an article entitled “El Cuerpo y el Texto” (“The Body & the Text”) in the current issue of *Miradas: Electronic Journal of The International Film School (Cuba)*. He also chaired a session, “Capitalism & the Teaching of the Arts,” at the 30th anniversary conference of Cuba’s Higher Institute of the Arts in December.

**Dorothy Hadfield**, English, will have her book *Re: Producing Women’s Dramatic History: The Politics of Playing in Toronto* published by Talonbooks.

**Norm Klassen**, English, published an article on Chaucer’s *Parliament of Fowls* in *Notes and Queries* in June (“A Note on ‘Hyre’ in *Parliament of Fowls*, 284”) and has had an article entitled “City of Lights: Natural and transcen-

dent light sources for Ambrogio Lorenzetti’s ‘Good City Republic’” accepted for publication in *Quaderni d’Italianistica*. Another article, co-authored by Jens Zimmermann and entitled “Simon Critchley: The Ethics of Deconstruction or Metaphysics in the Dark,” will be published in *The Strategic Smorgasbord of Post-Modernity: Literature and the Christian Critic*, edited by Deborah Bowen and Jane Hogeterp-Koopman, and published by Cambridge Scholars Press.

**Whitney Lackenbauer**, (BA’98) History, had his book *Battle Grounds: The Canadian Military and Aboriginal Lands* published by UBC Press.

**Ted McGee**, Interim Academic Dean and professor of English, will write the program notes and offer a table talk for this summer’s production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Stratford Festival.



# St. Jerome's Feast honours Rev. Dr. James McConica

The 2006 St. Jerome's Feast took place September 29th and the recipient of the Chancellor John Sweeney Award was the Rev. Dr. James McConica, C.S.B., President of the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto. He spoke eloquently about the importance of the liberal arts and we excerpt his comments here.

Are the liberal arts important? It seems I have been exploring this question all my adult life....

The liberal arts are where we find the living voice of the human spirit...and it is in the liberal arts that we see who we are and have been.... In antiquity, it was thought absolutely imperative to prepare people to live in society, and...to be effective in promoting the common good. And in order to prepare them for this role, they were to study the liberal arts.

Why? So that they would become familiar with the human odyssey—with history, poetry, drama and philosophy—in order to achieve wisdom, informed judgment in the tested experience of our race. This idea made a very happy marriage with the Christian gospel, which, of course, was first proclaimed amid the full blossoming of classical culture.

In my undergraduate years, I was struck by the fact that my professors could never really explain effectively why it was important for the university to support the humanities.... There was no trace of the ancient conviction that the

humanities and the liberal arts prepared the young for the political life—that is, to work for the common good.... To admit that was to admit that there was a moral end to education. And that was not at all appealing to the positivistic and highly secular outlook of our teachers. Unfortunately, this attitude is today's orthodoxy....

Honestly, I am fascinated by the utter refusal...to recognize any ethical goals in liberal

education—not even in a secular one. Similarly, it is impossible even to admit that the historic goals are moral: the formation of an individual who was to be a morally good person, striving within the community for the common good.

This is where we come in. We have something better to offer.... For any college in the Catholic tradition, this should be the meat and potatoes of the academic menu. As an incarnational religion, we have always been eager to enjoy and amass the fruits of secular learning within the mandate of our faith. We are here to celebrate the glory of God's creation and the light of the resurrection, to bring to bear on the darkness of human want and misery the fruits of human intellect and the Holy Spirit. We have at our disposal the immense legacy of those who have gone before. Let's get on with the task. ☪

*The liberal arts are where we find the living voice of the human spirit.*



Rev. Dr. James McConica  
photo: Mike Christie

**Kenneth McLaughlin**, (BA'65) History, published a revised edition of *Hespeler: Portrait of an Ontario Town* along with a companion volume, *A Driving and Architectural Tour of the Historic Town of Hespeler*. He will also deliver the annual Friends of the Library Lecture to launch *Out of the Shadow of Orthodoxy: Waterloo @ 50*, which is being published to celebrate the University of Waterloo's 50th anniversary. The City of Waterloo is publishing a revised edition of *Waterloo: An Illustrated History* to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Village of Waterloo in 1857.

**Michele Mosca**, (BMath'95) Mathematics, has written *An Introduction to Quantum Computing* with colleagues Phillip Kaye and Raymond Laflamme. It will be published by Oxford University Press.

**Gabriel Niccoli**, Italian and French Studies and Medieval

Studies, had a busy sabbatical. He spent four months in Grimaldi collating stories about Grimaldese and Calabrese immigrants after spending the summer touring Canada and collecting stories of the immigrant experience. He was a visiting professor at Middlebury Graduate Italian Program and was invited to speak at the University of Florence, University of Macerata, Rome's La Sapienza, Venice University Ca' Foscari, and University of Calabria, mostly on Renaissance comparative literature. He also taught a two-month course on Italian Canadian literature at the University of Calabria.

**David Seljak**, History/Religious Studies/Sociology/Medieval Studies, received a government contract for a \$22,000 research project on "Religion, Human Rights, and Multiculturalism in Canada: The Challenge of Religious Discrimination and Intolerance."



## Hanging Up the Abacus: Don Strickler Retires



photo: Chris Hughes

After 21 years of budget lines, spreadsheets, and financial projections, St. Jerome's Comptroller Don Strickler has checked his last bottom line. Strickler retires in January, 2007—but just from the accounting life. "I have lots of plans," says SJU's soft-spoken comptroller of nearly 22 years.

Many of those plans revolve around athletics. An avid hockey player, Strickler currently plays for a KW Oldtimers hockey team. Retirement will allow him to join a second hockey team that plays three days a week in the mornings. He also plans to play golf—and learn to like it. "I've played golf before," he says, "but I always felt that I had a lot of better alternative uses of my time. Now, I'm going to set out to learn to enjoy golf!"

Strickler also hopes to spend some time volunteering. "I'd like to help out at community events like the recent Four Nations Womens' Hockey Tournament held here in Kitchener. I have some retired friends who volunteered to drive referees and officials back and forth to the airport. It's a great way to meet interesting people."

Strickler's wife, Anne, retired some time ago, but "we're best buddies," Don says. "We're not worried about getting in each other's hair!" The couple have always enjoyed traveling, so they plan to continue to take trips, but without the constraint of strict timelines. "We're planning to drive to Anne's sister's in Las Vegas," he says, "but we're going to take several months to do it. There's lots to see between here and there, so we're planning a leisurely trip with lots of stops along the way. And there's no rush to get back to work." The couple also have three grandchildren; "we hope to spend more time with them," says Strickler.

"I'll miss working with people here at St. Jerome's," says Strickler, "but there comes a time to move on. I've had a really good life, so now there's an opportunity to give something back." It's clear that Strickler doesn't see a rocking chair in his retirement plans. "I have lots of retired friends," he says, "but it's been hard to keep up with them when I've had to go to work. Now I can give them a run for their money!" ☺

## A Travel Opportunity: The Way of St. James

Compostela is the ancient Spanish shrine which is believed to house the relics of St. James the Great and which has been the destination of thousands of pilgrims each year since the first millennium. St. Jerome's, in partnership with the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, is working with Pauwels Travel Agency of Brantford to offer a special cultural tour for graduates and friends to

Compostela in spring 2008. Pauwels has been offering similar travel opportunities through the University of Waterloo for twenty years.

The full travel itinerary will be available in March. Anyone interested in knowing more can contact Harry Froklage by email at [froklage@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:froklage@uwaterloo.ca) or by calling 519-884-8111 x28255 ☺

## Grad Notes

'55 **Rino Stardiotto** (BA'55) received the Ontario Bar Association's Award for Distinguished Service in recognition of his work in the field of health law. A specialist in health law and products liability with the Toronto office of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Rino has defended hospitals and other health care facilities against various kinds of litigation and been a frequent speaker on these issues in presentations to the Ontario Hospital Association, the Canadian Hospital Association, and the Ontario Medical Association.

'78 **Peter Tassi** (BA'78, Religious Studies) writes that he and **Filomena Tassi** (BA'83, Philosophy) recently published a book on teenagers entitled *Opening The Door, Unleashing The Greatness In Our Teenagers*. Visit [www.fait-hope-charity.net](http://www.fait-hope-charity.net) for a full list of their titles. Peter has also co-written the feature film "3 days" with former boxer, Moe Masoudi,

which premiered in July 2006 in Hamilton, Ontario, where much of the film was shot. For more information, visit [www.petertassi.com](http://www.petertassi.com) or [www.3daysmovie.com](http://www.3daysmovie.com)

'80 **Kevin Empey** (BMath'80, Mathematics and Chartered Accountancy) received the Hospital Leadership Award at the Who's Who in Healthcare Awards in October 2006. Kevin was recognized for his work as Executive Vice-President of Clinical Support at University Health Network in Toronto, which includes Princess Margaret, Toronto General, and Toronto Western Hospitals.

'83 **Raymond Digby** (BMath'83, Actuarial Science and Economics) is Managing Director with AmCan Financial, LLC—based in Livonia, Michigan—with his colleague, Paul MacKinnon, formerly of the Winnipeg Jets and Washington Capitals. Ray has an MBA from the University of Western Ontario and his practice focuses on analyzing pension and life insurance plans. He has been



# New Faculty

## Steven Bednarski

The newest member of the St. Jerome's history department is a self-described medieval social and cultural historian. "My doctoral research looked at 1,500 criminal trials from the French town of Manosque," says Steven Bednarski. "I examined the role of a criminal court within a typical town at the end of the Middle Ages, focusing on issues such as witchcraft, rape, adultery, child abuse, wife assault, family life, neighbourly relations, lying, insult and slander, and bodily assault. You know: ordinary people and how they live!"

There was nothing ordinary about his childhood profession. Bednarski grew up as a child actor in a household of child actors. His brother Andrew—who now holds a Ph.D. in Egyptian archaeology—appeared in the series "He Shoots, He Scores" and "Katts and Dog." Brother Robert—a police officer with the Metropolitan Toronto Police—appeared on "The Road to Avonlea" and "Kung Fu: The Legend Continues." For his part, Steven performed in a variety of television and film roles for close to twenty years, doing voice work for various anime classics, including "Astroboy" and "Sailor Moon."

Bednarski's love of history was sparked when he was hired as a research assistant by a history professor at Glendon College (York University). "She was one of those charismatic teachers who just naturally imparted her passion for her subject."

Today, Bednarski, along with his wife and their three-year-old daughter, is enjoying life in Waterloo. "This is a really pretty part of the country. We feel like it's the best of both worlds—small and big, urban and rural. And we love the German baking!" ☺

a member of the Senate of UW and UWO and his research interests include Islamic finance and cross-cultural communications. Contact Ray at [ray@amcanfinancial.com](mailto:ray@amcanfinancial.com)

**'84** After a career in IT, mostly at Nipissing University in North Bay, **Jim Puddister** (BSc'84, Science) has followed a lifelong dream and opened a foreign car sales and service outlet, "World Motor Car", in North Bay. You can contact Jim at [jim@worldmotorcar.ca](mailto:jim@worldmotorcar.ca)

**'87** **Michelle DiEmanuele** (née Mallett—BA'87, Political Science) was named one of Canada's leading professional women in the *Globe & Mail's* "Report on Top 100 Women" in November 2006. Michelle is the Associate Secretary of the Cabinet for the Government of Ontario, serving also as the Deputy Minister of Government Services and Secretary to the Management Board of Cabinet.

## Duncan Greenlaw

At first glance, the evolution of Duncan Greenlaw's scholarly imagination might not be obvious. "I started with Beckett and Joyce and literary studies and moved to cultural studies and politics," says the newest member of the St. Jerome's English department, who is currently researching representations of national trauma in film, particularly those of British filmmaker Paul Greengrass. "In my work, I'm always aiming for interdisciplinarity. I specialize in Irish writing, with particular interest in theories of memory and history, and in discourses of political and cultural identity. Add to this the fact that I've always loved film and the leap to my current scholarly interests is not such a stretch."

Born in England, his family settled in British Columbia when he was a child. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Queen's University and his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta. He has held appointments at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, and, most recently, he taught at Thompson Rivers University in B.C. His return to Ontario affords the opportunity to renew old friendships and take advantage of the easy access to many academic resources.

With his soft-spoken manner and affinity for writers like Beckett and Joyce, it comes as something of a surprise to hear Greenlaw admit to a long-held fantasy. "I used to have this dream of becoming an internationally renowned cowboy novelist—along the lines of a Sam Shepherd," he confesses. But time spent working on a sheep farm and cattle ranch in Australia took a little of the lustre off that dream. "The life of a cowboy isn't as romantic as we imagine it to be," says Greenlaw. "I used to like riding fence lines, though," he acknowledges. "That was my favorite part of cowboy life." ☺

**'89** **Blair MacIntyre** (BMath'89, Computer Science and Combinatorics and Optimization) has been promoted to assistant professor in the College of Computing at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia—one of the premier American research universities. He is an undergraduate coordinator and is also the designer and one of the directors of a new Computational Media degree. "I directly attribute my interest in undergraduate education," Blair writes, "to my educational experiences at UW and St. Jerome's." Blair is also "happily married and has two wonderful kids, ages 1 and 4." You can reach him at [blair@cc.gatech.edu](mailto:blair@cc.gatech.edu)

**Deron Waldock** (BA'89, English) and his wife recently welcomed their first child, Matthew James, who was born October 14, 2006.



Steven Bednarski



Duncan Greenlaw  
photos: Chris Hughes



# New Staff

## Nikki Bakes



photo: Chris Hughes

Fourth-year Legal Studies student Nikki Bakes has taken the newly created position of Residence Life Coordinator. The new position is a response to a growing need for the development of the residence program. "Our residence program is built on the premise that the residence is not merely a place to stay while you're at university," says Residence Director Darren Becks, "but rather a home for students while they are pursuing their studies. In light of that, we have been expanding our residence program to include such things as academic skills workshops, charity events, and social opportunities for students."

Bakes was very involved in residence life during her three years living in Sweeney Hall.

She held positions as Secretary and President of House Council, and was a Don in her third year. She sees the new position as "a culmination of everything I have been working toward while in residence."

A graduate of St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford, Bakes most enjoys the opportunity to help other students "find leadership qualities in themselves." "Not everyone has to be outgoing to be a leader," she says. "I was quiet in my first year here, and, with the encouragement of others, I really found my place in the residence and in the larger St. Jerome's community." Bakes will complete her degree on a part-time basis while holding down the Residence Life position. ☺

## M.J. Gaudet



Mary-Jane—she prefers "M.J."—Gaudet is nothing if not enthusiastic. SJU's new Development Coordinator's favorite word is "awesome," followed by "!!!".

M.J. joined the Office of Development and Graduate Affairs last August, succeeding Sarah Daly, who returned to college to pursue recreation and leisure studies. "Taking the job meant a big move from Barrie for my husband, Jeremy, and me, but we both were ready to embrace new opportunities and challenges in a community that has so much to offer."

She was already familiar with the university, having graduated from UW with a BA in political science in 1998. And she was well qualified for her role, having taken post-graduate courses in Fundraising and Resource Development at Georgian College in Barrie. Her work as a Membership and Fundraising Coordinator with Scouts Canada and coordinating Events and Donor Relations with Soldiers' Memorial

Hospital Foundation in Orillia gave her experience in working with volunteers and planning events. "I've learned that you need to jump in with both feet and run with it. I really enjoy the variety, working with donors, volunteers, students, staff, faculty, and the community at large."

Her arrival was a baptism of fire, plunging her into final preparations for the Fr. Norm Choate Reunion and the St. Jerome's Feast. But she survived. "St. Jerome's is a small place," says Harry Froklage, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, "so we need people who can juggle nimbly, who are personable, creative and outgoing, but who are also capable of working independently and being very detailed and organized. M.J. fit the bill." For her part, M.J. says, "I have learned that what sets SJU apart is the deeply rooted commitment of its staff, faculty, students, graduates, and donors. I'm happy to be a part of it." ☺

## Grad Notes

**'92** **Thomas Richards** (BA'92, Political Science) has moved back to Waterloo with his wife, Leona, after nine years in Toronto. He has been a tax accountant for nine years, operating his own small business with three employees, while Leona is a registered nurse with St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

**'93** **Kathleen Donohue Keaveney** (BA'93, English & French) writes of "another family that exists due to our start at SJU: after marrying back in '99, we now have a daughter Erin (3) and a son Matthew (1)." Husband Mike Keaveney (BA'95, Economics & Psychology) works in financial sales for TD Canada Trust, and Kathleen is taking an extra year off from teaching to be with the kids. They would love to hear from old friends by email. They can be reached at [donohuekeaveney@yahoo.com](mailto:donohuekeaveney@yahoo.com)

**'94** **Carolyn Eckert** (BA'94, English) is the editor of Manulife Financial's independent advisor magazine, *Dialogue*, which won first place at the Insurance and Financial Communicators Association Awards Program this past summer. She feels fortunate to be in a career where she is able to be creative, innovative, and challenged daily to do and try new things. Carolyn reports that her husband, J.P. Boileau, owns a successful swimming pool business and their daughters are equally successful: the eldest is a competitive figure skater, the second sings with the local Children's Philharmonic Choir, and the youngest has found her calling in dance.

**'95** After graduation, **Oscar "Hoover" Papel** (BMATH'95) worked for 11 years as head of software development for a small company in Mississauga. This past summer, he moved with his family to Redmond, Washington to work as a software designer for Microsoft



# 50 for 50: A Call for Creative Works

Deadline: March 31, 2007

**2007** marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the University of Waterloo. To celebrate, SJU is planning a special "50 for 50" exhibit in our art gallery of artistic works by graduates and friends, to be launched in September. We are looking for 50 creative works of all kinds to demonstrate the collective creativity of our community.

Submissions can be made via the internet or by mail and will be selected by a committee chaired by Virginia Eichorn, Curator of the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery.

## It's Time to Re-Unite!

### Class of '67: It's Been Forty Years!

Saturday, July 7, 2007

**Margaret Downey** (née Brown—BA'67, French) and **Mary Fran Wallace** (née Walter—BA'67, English) think it's been too long since they've seen their fellow grads. They are helping us plan a special dinner and dance for members of the Class of '67. More information is forthcoming.

### Frosh of '97: It's Been Ten Years!

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Were you a first-year student at SJU in September 1997? Were you an Orientation Leader or Don that year? It's been ten years and **Kate Hano** (BA'03, Psychology & Sociology) and **Mary Drozd-Lutka** (BA'01, Fine Arts & Religious Studies) are hosting a reunion dinner, complete with a reenactment of the Frosh Dance.

The reunion is scheduled to coincide with UW's Homecoming '07, so you'll be able to meet friends, share memories and participate in UW's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Corp. He is happily married to Emily (née Anttia, UW BA'00) and they have three children: Maggie, David and Jack. Oscar would love to hear from friends old and new at [oscar@papel.ca](mailto:oscar@papel.ca)



Kelly McManus and Paul Creasy

**'00 Kelly Creasy** (née McManus—BA'00, History & English) is living in Arizona, where she teaches fourth grade at Ocotillo Ridge Elementary School. On March 17, 2006—St. Patrick's Day—Kelly married Paul Creasy, an IT Security Specialist at Casino Del Sol in Tucson, with **Suzanne McDonald** (BA'01, Religious Studies & English) as her maid of honour.

**Works of visual art or crafts:** please submit slides or email digital photographs.

**Music and performing arts:** please submit CDs, DVDs, videotapes or digital formats.

**Written word:** please submit published works, manuscripts, or digital formats.

Include full contact information with your submission.

For more information, please contact Harry Froklage, Director of Development and Graduate Affairs, by phoning 519-884-8111 x28255 or emailing [froklage@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:froklage@uwaterloo.ca)

## SJU Grads: We're Building Habitat for Humanity!

The SJU Graduates' Association is organizing a two-day volunteer build program in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region this coming July. Dates are still being determined, but we're looking for expressions of interest from grads who want to help with this year's build project in Kitchener. There will be an information evening in April providing full details.

Are you interested? **Let us know by March 15!** Contact M.J. Gaudet as outlined below.

### Curious? Interested? Brimming with ideas?

For more information or to register for any of these events, please contact:

**M.J. Gaudet**, Development Coordinator  
by calling 519-884-8111 x28277  
or emailing [mjgaudet@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mjgaudet@uwaterloo.ca)

**'01 Shannon Buchanan** (née Anderson—BA'01, English Literature) writes, "Ken and I welcomed a new baby girl, Emily Rianne, in June of 2006. She joins Eric and Sarah and completes our family nicely!" They will be moving back to Waterloo in April, since Ken (UW BMath'01) now works for Research in Motion. Shannon plans to continue teaching private piano lessons from home while looking after "the lively bunch" and looks forward to reconnecting with St. Jerome's. Contact Shannon at [kbuchanan@cogeco.ca](mailto:kbuchanan@cogeco.ca)

## Hey SJU grads!

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

Name (Please include birth name)

Address

Telephone

email/WWW

Degree/Year/Program

### Are you working?

Job title

Employer

Address

Telephone

email/WWW

### Are you married?

Spouse's name

Degree/Year/Program

### 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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Director of Development and Graduate Affairs  
St. Jerome's University  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G3  
Phone: 519-884-8111, X 28255  
Fax: 519-884-5759

You can also send email to:  
[froklage@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:froklage@uwaterloo.ca)



SJU Update is published by St. Jerome's University, federated with the University of Waterloo, and mailed free of charge to all graduates, former residents, students, faculty, and friends of the University for whom we have reliable addresses.

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## SJU Gallery



### His Worship, Dave Augustyn

**Dave Augustyn** (BA'95, Political Science) defeated the incumbent to become the Mayor of Pelham in the municipal elections in November. Pelham is located in the centre of Niagara Region, with a population of 15,272, and Dave will also sit as a member of council for the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Dave worked in graduate affairs and development at St. Jerome's before moving to the Niagara Region. He and his wife, **Carol Berkhout** (BA'95, Political Science & Sociology), have two children, Lucas and Krystyna, who are, Dave writes, "hopefully future SJU students." Contact Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca)



photo: Mike Christie

### An Historic Accord

On December 19, 2006, St. Jerome's University, Conrad Grebel University College and the University of Waterloo signed an agreement to create a conjoint degree in theological studies. Myrosław Tataryn, Interim President of St. Jerome's, UW President David Johnston, Conrad Grebel President Henry Paetkau and UW Provost Amit Chakma attended the signing ceremony.



### A Distinguished Visitor

The Italian Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Gabriele Sardo, visited St. Jerome's on August 22, 2006 to meet with members of the academic and business community and to discuss improved educational cooperation between Italy and Canada.



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Publications Mail Registration No. 40065122