

Let the Dialogues Begin

It took a number of great dialogues—within St. Jerome's and in partnership with the University of Waterloo—to launch two unique academic courses of that same name.

The Great Dialogues courses are designed, in the words of Academic Dean Kieran Bonner, to explore contemporary issues within the context of our evolving intellectual tradition. "We face concerns today—some of which are universal, timeless issues—that other ages have struggled with; the solutions they've arrived at are often embodied in key texts."


Bonner and Carol Acton of the English department envisioned courses focusing on texts drawn largely—but not exclusively—from the Western tradition that leant themselves to "dialogue between the teacher and the student, the teacher and the text, and the student and the text." Chancellor Richard Gwyn actively supported the new courses and suggested the thematic, issues-oriented focus of the courses.

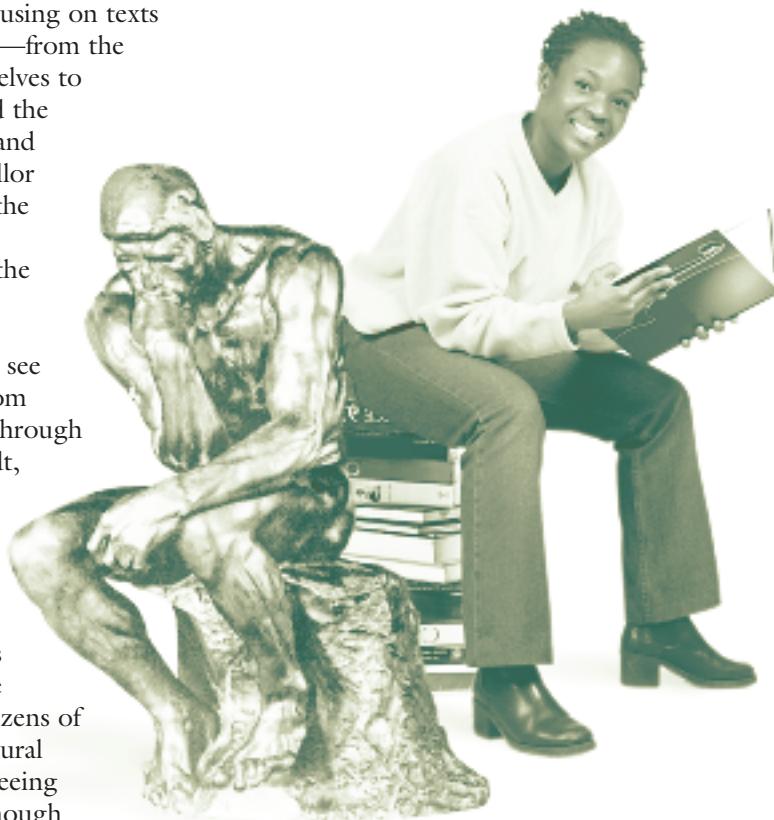
This fall, two courses are on offer. "Reflection and Action" will see students interacting with works from Homer, Plato, and St. Augustine through to James Joyce and Hannah Arendt, while "Politics and Morality" challenges contemporary views with works by Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Karl Marx, and Joseph Conrad.

John Greenwood, who teaches both courses, says that "the course texts are part of our identity as citizens of the West, part of our ongoing cultural inheritance. The excitement is in seeing their continuing relevance, even though

they speak to us from a period different from our own."

Bonner elaborates: "From our contemporary point of view, the answers advanced at other times may seem primitive, strange or even unintelligible. But as we try to understand the culture that birthed those solutions, we get some distance on our *own* culture, and some perspective on current issues as well."

As for the future, Bonner says, "We'll see where it goes—what kinds of other courses we can develop that will pick up different threads." 



Legal Studies Expands

In 2003-2004, St. Jerome's began to house the Legal Studies program and honours, general and joint honours degree programs have been approved for September, 2005. Dr. Fred Desroches, the program Director, says that "The new Legal Studies degree has stimulated both student and faculty interest. The LS&C Advisory Board hopes to add new and exciting legal studies and criminology courses in the next couple of years."

The program draws on courses from many disciplines including sociology, political science, psychology, history, English, philosophy, accounting, statistics, actuarial science, peace and conflict studies, environmental studies, planning, and classical studies.

School. He has had the opportunity to assist in starting the Terry Fox Run in Budapest ('91-'96), in Taipei, Taiwan ('97-'02), and in Zurich ('03-'04). Contact Kevin at keeverkm@hotmail.com.

Darcy Brioux (BA '86, Recreation & Leisure) is currently manager of the Citizenship and Leadership Development Office in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Physical Education and Health. After graduating from the University of Waterloo, he took an M. Ed. from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and embarked upon a career advising post-secondary students, staff and faculty on leadership and physical education programs. In his current position, he is developing a mentoring program to ensure exceptional leadership opportunities. You can reach Darcy at darcy.brioux@utoronto.ca.

'87 Anita Ploj (BA '87, English) married Basile Noël on September 6, 2003 in Ottawa, Ontario. Anita graduated from Dalhousie in 1990 with her law degree and from the University of Ottawa in 1993 with a professional specialization in Civil Law. Anita is legal counsel to the National Research Council and to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

'92 Sheila Arnold (BA '92, English) graduated with a B.Ed. from Queen's in 1994 and is currently teaching grade four with the Avon Maitland District School Board. She and her husband, Rob Schnurr, had a baby boy in April, 2003. His name is Connor Braeden Schnurr, and his six-year-old triplet brothers Jordan, Brett, and Caleb are "very proud of him and love him to pieces."



Anita Ploj