

# Continuing CONNECTIONS

## *Remembering Sister Leon White, SSND*

Women who resided at Notre Dame College from its inception in 1962 until 1980 were profoundly influenced by the character and values of the College's founding Dean of Women, Sister Leon White. In recognition of Sister Leon's historic contribution to the education of women at St. Jerome's, a

which Sister Leon exemplified that commitment.

The plaque was dedicated by a prayer service conducted by Fr. Jim Link, C.R. and Melinda Szilva. On it were inscribed the following words: "Sister Leon was an inspiring educator whose leadership as Director of Notre Dame College helped pioneer post-secondary educational opportunities for women at St. Jerome's. Her declared conviction was that 'Women have taken their place in careers and professions alongside men. They have a distinct and very important contribution to make. The calibre of that contribution will depend upon the depth and quality of the education they have received.' She served as Dean of Women and Associate Professor of English from 1962-1980 and, in recognition of her leadership and influence, was made an Honourary Member of the University of Waterloo in 1996."

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newly renovated conference and study room in the women's residence was named in her memory on September 25, 2004.

The Chair of the Board of Governors, **Deborah Pecoskie (BA '72, Sociology)**, herself a former resident of Notre Dame College, shared her memories both of Sister Leon and of residence life, memories echoed by many of the female graduates who attended.

President Michael W. Higgins characterized the decision to name the former food services room and study area after Sister Leon as a significant act of remembrance, stating that "By remembering, we make present." **Sr. Delia Calis, SSND (BA '64, Latin)**, who lived in Notre Dame College as a student and is now the Provincial Leader of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, spoke passionately about the enduring commitment of the SSNDs to the cause of educating the whole person, and the manner in



*Sr. Delia Calis and Deborah Pecoskie unveil a plaque honouring Sr. Leon White.*

Photo: Harry Froklage

## Grad Notes

**'94 Genevieve Anderson (BA '94, Religious Studies)** has moved to Cape Breton to join L'Arche for one year. She writes: "My house is called Stareghan, and is located just outside the town of Mabou, on the west side of the island. There will be five people in my house, at least for the fall. We get assigned to a different buddy every day within the house. The adults with mental disabilities are referred to as 'core members' or 'the folks.' I will have to learn how to cook for the five of us every other day! Fortunately, we get invited to the other houses for supper every Tuesday night before community night at the Lodge on the main property outside Whycomomagh." You can contact Gen at [genevieve\\_anderson@yahoo.ca](mailto:genevieve_anderson@yahoo.ca).

**'96 Matt Devine (BA '96, English and Sociology)** and his brother **Tim** have

released a CD entitled *Not Ordinary*. Following up on their earlier successes with the award-winning Catholic rock group Critical Mass, the duo was showcased this past spring at New Beginnings: A Salt + Light Easter. Tim, who attended St. Jerome's from 1993-96, was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 with the Companions of the Cross, Ottawa. He is currently serving at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Matt is a Catholic secondary school teacher in Brampton, Ontario. He and his wife, **Kate Moffat-Devine (BA '96, English Rhetoric and Legal Studies)**, have one daughter. Matt is also a member of the praise band Cross Member and performed at the Lasting Treasures conference in Midland, Ontario in August, 2004. To learn more, visit [www.catholicrock.com/devine.html](http://www.catholicrock.com/devine.html).



Album Cover: *Not Ordinary*

by Harry Froklage




Sr. Delia Calis and Sr. Marie Taylor

Photo: Harry Froklage

Among those attending were many graduates from the '60s, '70s and early '80s. A number of them had become members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, including

**Sr. Elizabeth Lackenbauer (BA '69, English), Sr. Barbara Frank (BA '69, History), Sr. Audrey McCarville, (BA '71, Religious Studies), Sr. Marie Taylor (BA '71, English), Sr. Marylin Fedy (BA '76, English) and Sr. Celeste Swan (BA '81, Religious Studies).**

Among the other women residents there to remember and honour Sr. Leon were **Margaret Boyd (BA '76, Psychology), Doreen Ciamarra (BA '76, Psychology), Carol A. Copeland (BES '75, Geography), Gayle Dzis (BA '63, History), Barbara Kerr (BES '75, Geography), Susan F. Koval (BSC '68, Biology), Anke Naus (BA '75, Psychology), Josephine O'Connor (BA '73, Arts), Evelyn Reniers (BMATH '75, Mathematics), Donna Rich-Bradie (BA '70, French), and Catherine Szak (BA '75, Arts).** 

**'01 Kimberley McIlwrath (BA '01, Medieval Studies)**

has been studying in Eretz, Israel since June, taking Hebrew and Jewish studies classes at the W.U.J.S. Institute in Arad. She has both Arab and Jewish friends; several of the latter are currently serving in the army. While living in Jerusalem, she volunteered for an organization called One Family, which she describes as "one of the most important and terrifying things I've ever undertaken." The group provides support to those who have survived attacks and their families. "The situation here is too complex for me to ever break the surface," she writes. "I've learned so much about mankind,



Kimberly McIlwrath

compassion, conflict and above all, faith...I am a different person now, just for having been here."

**'03 Natalie Dushney (BA '03, English Language) and Jason Postma (BA '02, History)**

were married on July 31, 2004 at Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. Natalie works in the Communications Branch at the Ministry of Education and Jason is completing his Masters degree in philosophy at the Institute of Christian Studies in Toronto. They plan on moving to Japan in September 2005. You can contact them at [Natalie.Dushney@edu.gov.on.ca](mailto:Natalie.Dushney@edu.gov.on.ca).

**Sister Jeannette Niedzwiedz, SSND (1934-2004)**

Residents of Notre Dame College will be saddened to learn of the death of **Sister Jeannette Niedzwiedz, SSND** on March 10, 2004, at Notre Dame Convent, Waterdown. Sister Jeannette was 69 and in the 50th year of her religious profession. She was the Dean at Notre Dame College at St. Jerome's University from 1973 to 1979.

For seventeen years, she served as a teacher and principal in elementary and secondary schools in Waterloo, Kitchener, Walkerton, Hamilton, Welland and at Notre Dame Academy, Waterdown. Her dream of working in pastoral ministry was realized following two years of study at St. Paul University, Ottawa. Jeannette ministered in parishes in Owen Sound, Kitchener, Regina, Banley in England and Hamilton. In 2001, Jeannette joined the leadership team in Waterdown's Motherhouse, taking special responsibility for the chapel and liturgical life of the community. She continued in that service until her death.

**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)

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Degree/Year/Programme

**Are you working?**

Job title

Employer

Address

Telephone

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**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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