

Making a Home Away from

Centre for Catholic Experience Lectures

Winter/Spring 2005

All lectures take place in Siegfried Hall.

Friday, January 28

7:30 p.m.

God of the Outdoors

Jim Profit, SJ

February 18

7:30 p.m.

Healthcare and Canadian Values

Roy Romanow

Friday, March 4

7:30 p.m.

Many Churches/Many Faiths/One Planet

Douglas John Hall, PhD

Friday, March 18

7:30 p.m.

Lessons from Iraq

Hans-Christof Graf von Sponeck

Friday, April 8

7:30 p.m.

Beyond Borders: Diversity as a Moral and Spiritual Resource

Marilyn Legge, PhD

For more information, please visit our website: www.sju.ca

It's Day 2 of Frosh Week and the annual SJU faculty/staff/frosh barbeque is in full swing. Frosh who moved into residence over the weekend and day students who commute from home contribute to the cheerful clamour of people getting to know one another.

Lisa, a first-year student from Exeter, lives in residence and has already met all of her floor-mates. "We stayed up talking until 3 a.m." She doesn't look tired at all. Shannon is living at home in Guelph and commuting; this morning, her car broke down. Sandra is so excited about classes starting that she's impatient for Frosh Week to be over. Everyone has a story to tell.

Magda is helping create the buzz. She is a third-year student who is an off-campus don and part of a new program that helps off-campus students connect with the St. Jerome's community through activities and support. "Last night, we went bowling," she beams. "We'll have barbeques, bonfires; we might go skiing this year."

Most of these students were accepted at other universities but chose St. Jerome's. Smaller class sizes were an important factor, along with more individual attention in class. "I don't want to be lost in a large group," laughs one. "I like to be the centre of attention."

Residence was another key consideration. "I chose St. Jerome's because of the atmosphere,"

says Nikki, returning for her second year in residence. "I took some tours before I came and the people were always really welcoming and kind. There was a good mixture of frosh and upper years. It works. Also, there are always so many events going on, so many ways to be involved." Her conclusion: "St. Jerome's is a wonderful community, a home away from home."

Making that home away from home a reality is the work of a team of staff and students led by

Darren Becks (BES '94, MAES '01), the residence and facilities director. "You should have been here on Sunday when everyone moved into residence," he explains as he recovers from a weekend of introducing roommates, reassuring parents, and ensuring that computers are compatible with ResNet, the wireless network. His team of



Off-Campus Don Jeff Akomah leads the Frosh Cheer

staff, dons, orientation leaders, and ResNet technicians made the transition for new students as smooth as possible.

Darren and his staff—Cris Hawkins, his assistant and the conference coordinator; Richard Crispin, information systems administrator; Jim Robson, maintenance lead hand; and Ed Gover, maintenance—oversee two residences and an administrative building, conferences (which have increased tenfold in ten years), food services,

Emir Delic, French, and **Mark Otto Kronwald**, Religious Studies. The University of Waterloo's Alumni Association Gold Medal was awarded to SJU grad **Ian Douglas McIntyre**, Honours Computer Science, Pure Mathematics Minor.

For his commitment to local heritage, **Kenneth McLaughlin** (BA, '65) History, has been honoured by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation with the Sally Thorsen Award. The terms of the award require that the recipient must have demonstrated "in the course of at least 10 years of their professional lives, an outstanding and active level of commitment to heritage concerns." A former chair of the Foundation, McLaughlin helped establish the Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener and served as president of the Ontario Historical Association.

Ted McGee, English, recently published an article in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* on "The Presentment of Mr. Bushell's Rock"—a theatrical device by which Bushell introduced King Charles I to his underground grotto and secured for himself control over the silver mines of Wales. He spoke at the Stratford Festival again this season on "Staging the Supernatural" at the 23rd Annual Teachers' Conference (14-15 October '04).


David Seljak, Religious Studies, has co-edited *Religion and Ethnicity in Canada*, with Paul Bramadat of the University of Winnipeg. The book explores six major religions in Canada (Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam, and Chinese religions) and the place of religion in Canadian society as it pertains to government policies, immigration and the economy, and the laws and standards of education.

Home *by Kate Holt*

maintenance, parking, and information technology. Good and effective working relationships are vital.

For students, the residence experience is determined by other students who serve as dons. “Dons are connected to the students on their floors,” says Cris Hawkins. “They really work at building community throughout the year.” She and Darren run a two-week program to orient dons to the kinds of challenges they may face and the resources available to assist them. The program also builds the team. “Our dons deal with so much—they’re on the front lines, they’re my eyes and ears—and I need to equip them as best I can,” says Darren. “Our expectations are high, and it’s not an easy job.”

Darren became familiar with those expectations as a frosh and later as a don himself. He credits former president Doug Letson and former residence director Steve Sabourin with encouraging his current philosophy of residence life and praises Sister Celeste Reinhart, former director of residence at Notre Dame College, for modeling the importance of pastoral presence.

These are values that continue to find expression in new initiatives like the introduction of a Residence Life Coordinator who will organize tutorials and events for residents on an ongoing basis. And they are values that have been passed on to the current group of dons. Joel, a new don, says, “My goal this year is to make my floor a home. I have a floor of upper-year students and during frosh week most of my students were leading frosh activities. Being out there with them as they welcome new residents is fantastic; what better way to drive home the real spirit of St. Jerome’s?” 

Photos by Mike Christie

St. Jerome’s Reading Series will feature five outstanding writers of prose and poetry. **Diana Fitzgerald Bryden** of Toronto has published two books of poetry: *Learning Russian* (2000) and *Clinic Day* (2004). **John Gould**, a Victoria-based writer, has published two collections of very short fiction. The second, *Kilter: 55 Fictions* (2003), was nominated for the 2003 Giller Prize. **Goran Simic**, a prominent writer in the former Yugoslavia, has published eleven volumes of poetry, drama and short fiction. His most recent book, *Immigrant Blues* (2003), is his second volume of poems in English. **Carrie Snyder’s** first book of short stories, *Hair Hat* (Penguin, 2004), was published to rave reviews. A graduate of St. Jerome’s University, she now lives in Waterloo. **Lewis DeSoto** emigrated



Eric Sillius



Leanne Philbert and Tobi Dipo



First-year student Barbara Strgar



Katie Hillis and Sue Brubacher, Assistant to the Registrar

Fresh-faced Frosh

from South Africa. His first novel, *A Blade of Grass* (2003), received a Booker Prize nomination. For more information, contact Gary Draper at (519) 884-8111 x220 or via e-mail to dgdraper@uwaterloo.ca.

SJU Academic Dean **Kieran Bonner** served as Ph.D. supervisor for this year’s winner of the 2004 Alumni Gold Medal for outstanding achievement at the Master’s level at the University of Waterloo, Elin Moorlag.