



ST. JEROME'S
UNIVERSITY
Federated with the University of Waterloo

UPDATE

Magazine

VOLUME 38 | 2020



SJU Welcomes 8th President and Vice Chancellor Dr. Peter Meehan

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Front cover photo: Bryn Gladding Photography



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my great pleasure to introduce the 2020 edition of *Update* alumni magazine, offering you some sense of the remarkable developments and life that continues here at St. Jerome's University, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

For generations, St. Jerome's has been an important place of leadership formation. It has played a vitally important role in shaping our students' lives. Our graduates continue to reflect the values they learned here, serving their communities with compassion and care. There has never been a time when this work has been more important.

In my first few months as President and Vice Chancellor, I have been so struck by this powerful sense of community at St. Jerome's: clear even as I have related with individuals and groups here in mostly virtual ways.

I think this extends from the way we understand the importance of our mission as a federated partner in the University of Waterloo (UW). This mission calls on us to be *unique*, through our courses and programs, through the use of our voice and our thought leadership, through our adherence to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and our commitment to providing formative student experiences.

We are also called to a *complementary* role with UW, by providing a hub for high quality teaching, learning, and research, and by preparing our students to complete UW degrees in an environment that attends to their unique, individual needs. Together, these roles make us an important aspect of the diversity of the broader University of Waterloo community.

The imperatives of education, formation, and service demand that St. Jerome's be more than a denominational presence on the campus of a large secular university. We must be understood as a place of inclusiveness and welcoming to students of all backgrounds at every stage of their journeys. Because we are a Christian university, we must do so with dynamism, joy, and hope.

The theme of hopefulness is central to Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, in which he looks forward to life after COVID:

God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of "them" and "those", but only "us". If only this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing...If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might rediscover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human family can experience a rebirth, with all its faces, all its hands and all its voices, beyond the walls that we have erected.

May this spirit of hopefulness help us to address the challenges still before us, and inspire us to still greater expressions of community, of service to others, and of love. Thank you for your important role in supporting us and this shared mission.

Peter Meehan
President and Vice Chancellor

Administration | Facilities | Food Services | Residence | Cleaners



THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

For working on campus to care for and serve our community.



Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography



Qs AND As

WITH OUR NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR

Dr. Peter Meehan

How has your experience working as a president for another postsecondary institution prepared you for your role at St. Jerome's University?

I think that senior administrative roles, particularly in education, allow the individual to build experience that feeds their sense of vision. Many of the university presidents I admire say that they didn't seek to become a president, but that they found themselves developing, often quite unwittingly, into one.

I have been fortunate to have had ranging experiences – from teaching high school, undergrads and grad students, and administrative experiences in both Catholic and public institutions. As my experiences began to shape my own philosophy of education and my sense of vision, I found myself presented with new opportunities to grow, including as an academic dean and later, as President of Corpus Christi/St. Mark's College at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

What all of this has taught me is that, rooted in my commitment to Catholic higher education, my role here is to serve and to bring my sense of vision to the community I am serving. I had many great experiences working to shape the vision and mission of my community out west, and I am looking forward to doing the same here at St. Jerome's University.

Do you think that Catholic institutions of higher education are different than others with secular roots?

That's an interesting question. I would say that they are if they are rooted in and have a focused sense of mission and vision. That should shape their identity, which is an ongoing and evolving project. A secular institution can have this too, depending on its leadership and the will of the university community they serve.

A Catholic university is one rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, which is about questioning and exploring the world in all of its complexity. A long time ago someone referred to it as the "2,000-year conversation between the Church and the world."

I like that. Its goal is the never-ending pursuit of knowledge and truth by emphasizing the unity of faith and reason.

Catholic universities are confident that truth exists. For me, it is "the way" that a Catholic university is catholic that matters.

Catholic universities understand education and formation together. They should be open to everyone, and emphasize the needs of the "whole person" in their mind, body, and spirit. They are not clubs or a sect, and one of their important goals should be to make people feel included. Anything that would encourage exclusiveness or a lack of inclusion would not be truly Christian. Read the Gospel accounts. Jesus is the model. He is always including, always at the margins or the peripheries of his world.

What has your role as the Vice Chair of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada (ACCUC) taught you about the future of institutions rooted in the Catholic tradition?

First of all, it has reinforced for me that there is a great network of Catholic institutions across this country which are vibrant and strong and have exemplary leaders. One of my predecessors in this role, Fr. Norm Choate, CR, was one of the founders of the ACCUC, and former SJU presidents

Drs. Doug Letson and Michael Higgins were both prophetic voices in its work on behalf of Catholic higher education. Since becoming a president six years ago, I have been very interested and involved in the work of the ACCUC. We meet formally twice per year, normally in conjunction with Universities Canada, and I have many more informal meetings with my ACCUC colleagues throughout the year.

Many of our institutions, particularly in Ontario, are the founding institutions for our partner public universities, and we understand the importance of working with them and of engaging with the world in order to realize our Catholic missions. Again, for these institutions to be both Catholic and catholic (meaning "universal") I think we realize that our institutions have to offer more than tradition.

I am an historian, so I am naturally drawn to the idea of tradition, but we also need to be vital – by which I mean to be in regular dialogue with our students in order to understand their challenges and frustrations and desires in this moment in time.

Pope Francis talks about the importance of creating cultures of "encounter and dialogue." I think that is very important. Truth is unchanging, and my acceptance and belief in Christian truth grounds me, but for our Catholic universities to be truly present to our communities of students, faculty, and staff, we must be open to truly encountering them – meeting them "where they are."

What do you see as the greatest challenge facing all universities in Canada in the next decade? How will you prepare SJU for it?

Notwithstanding COVID, which is presenting serious challenges to all of us right now, we are seeing a number of trends in higher education across the country. The decline of domestic student numbers in most provinces is taking place at a time when public funding to our institutions has been significantly decreased.

Born

Toronto, ON

Education

B Ed and Ed D, University of Toronto
MA, University of Windsor
BA, Hons, St. Michael's College,
University of Toronto
St. Michael's College School

Major

History

Past Roles

President and Vice Chancellor -
Corpus Christi/St. Mark's College
Affiliated with the
University of British Columbia

Chair, School of Liberal Arts;
Dean, Seneca's Faculty of Liberal Arts
and University Partnerships -
Seneca College/York University

Teacher - St. Mary's Catholic High
School, Pickering, ON

Connections

Canadian Catholic Historical
Association
Canadian Historical Association
H-Catholic Scholar's Network

Fun Fact

Peter likes traditional classical music
and classic rock (Gustav Holst, Verdi,
Neil Young, King Crimson, Led Zepplin,
Rush, and Yes).

When I was an undergraduate student in Ontario, I recall the governments of the day speaking freely about the fact that fifty cents of every higher educational dollar spent on my education was being covered by the government. With increases to the cost of higher education and government funding not keeping step, that figure has decreased significantly. For us to be able to continue to offer our high-quality teaching, learning, and research environments, as well as to provide the extraordinary student experiences that St. Jerome's University is known for, fundraising to support our mission and vision - our very reason for existing - are going to be very important priorities for me.

Why did you choose SJU as the next step in your professional journey?

My family and I truly loved our six years in Vancouver. We made so many great friends at the university, and I have two brothers and a sister all in BC, and we are all very close. And now we have our two daughters, Bridget and Claire, both studying at UBC. But as my wife Laura and I discussed it, we came to the conclusion that we are Ontario people. However, we didn't know that we would be coming back so soon!

Ultimately, I see this work as vocational. Vocation is about God's voice speaking to you in your life and experiences. I feel called to Catholic higher education as vitally important work, and I am absolutely privileged to be in this important leadership role at St. Jerome's University, which has played such an important part in the history of Catholic higher education in Canada.

How has the pandemic impacted your transition to the university?

It has made things a little awkward – particularly with regard to meeting people. A significant aspect of my work is relational – building relationships with students, faculty, and staff in order to serve the mission of the university. Not being able to do that – at least in person has made that a bit challenging. But people here have been very warm and generous with me in my early days – and very patient with me as well! I am looking forward, as the pandemic recedes, to building more relationships with people in person, and to getting to know our students, faculty, and staff as well as Kitchener-Waterloo.

Why are alumni so important to the mission of any university?

Alumni are our ambassadors. They keep alive the best moments of their experiences here at St. Jerome's in their hearts and their minds. This allows them to bring a contagious enthusiasm for St. Jerome's to those they interact with within the local Kitchener-Waterloo community, and to wherever they settle after they leave the university. I have already had numerous interactions with our alumni, many of whom left here more than 50 or even 60 years ago, as well as many of our young alumni. They all have that sense of contagious enthusiasm in common, which is an expression that I think is associated with good teaching.

What does a president do to find 'work, play' balance?

Right now down time means getting out of boxes! After moving back to Ontario, we have a lot of unpacking to do. Mostly I like to spend time with my family. It has been an unbelievable journey for Laura and I to watch our four children grow and develop, and we are very proud of all of them. After living out the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Vancouver, with the six of us and two dogs living under one roof, we are now getting used to having only one child, our youngest, Rory, at home.

Balance is always something that I have struggled with, particularly with such a busy home life. But I realize how important it is. When I have any free time, I continue work on my biography of Philip Pocock, the seventh Archbishop of Toronto, which is nearing completion. Pocock's life has been a remarkable prism through which to understand a number of developments in the church and the world during the 20th century. I also enjoy golf, tennis, and reading.

Where does your inspiration come from?

I am grounded in my faith, which teaches me to lead with kindness, compassion and understanding. I tell my kids that if they have done their best, that is all anyone, including God, can ask of them. I try to live that out too.

I also find inspiration in the church and the world right now from Pope Francis. His emphasis on the importance of mercy and compassion, as well as his writings (including his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, and his blueprint for the renewal of the church, *Evangelii Gaudium**), are the results of his deep pastoral sensitivity and have resonated with me very strongly. His newest encyclical letter, *Fratelli tutti*, "On fraternity and social friendship" was just released, and it too is so profound. Addressing the importance of fraternity and social friendship, Francis cuts across lines of difference to speak to all people of goodwill with a positive message delivering what the world needs, when we need it.

*Source: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Vocation is about God's voice speaking to you in your life and experiences. I feel called to Catholic higher education as vitally important work, and I am absolutely privileged to be in this important leadership role at St. Jerome's University, which has played such an important part in the history of Catholic higher education in Canada.

A NEW CHAPTER IN LIBRARY SERVICE

Five years of research, community outreach, program assessment, design, and construction. A \$2.25-million investment in the process. Just over 16,000 square feet of state-of-the-art learning, research, and collaborative and quiet study, meeting, and classroom space. Hundreds of hours of teamwork.

The numbers behind the next chapter in library service at St. Jerome's University are significant, adding up to its reopening in January 2020, and the conclusion of the final stage in a six year \$47-million Campus Renewal Project.

Growing for the Future

"When I started my job at the St. Jerome's University Library 13 years ago, I was delighted to work in such a cozy and welcoming space. Students loved the homey feel of the Library, the friendly staff, and the quiet atmosphere," notes Lorna Rourke, SJU's associate librarian.

The Library's reputation campus-wide as a quiet comfortable place to study, Rourke adds, often meant computers, study carrels, and tables were in full use, with students waiting or having to leave to find study space elsewhere. Group spaces in particular were in high demand as courses increasingly required students to work on assignments and presentations collaboratively.

In 2014, Phase 1 of the University's Campus Renewal Project began, in response to the need to prepare for continued growth and demand on services. The project was focused on the development of new infrastructure and redevelopment of existing spaces on campus. Over the next six years it included improvements and/or additions to classroom, residential, research, student, and wellness spaces, the Notre Dame Chapel, and the Library.

A Collaborative Effort

"The first step of the process was to conduct a needs assessment to understand better what our campus community wanted and needed in a new library," notes SJU Assistant Librarian Zack MacDonald, whose main responsibility since 2015, has been leading the build.

"We began gathering information from students and faculty in interviews, surveys, and focus groups, studied patron behaviour through observational studies in the Library and other SJU spaces, and toured new and renovated libraries at other Ontario Universities," adds MacDonald.

"The needs assessment made it clear to the team that the SJU Community loved the quiet study space, but there was also a great desire for much more collaborative and group study space. Similarly, several faculty members had growing research teams which would benefit from collaborative workspaces."

SJU's Research Hub Emerges

The "SJU Research Hub" concept emerged, following the team's research and inspired by digital scholarship centres at other university libraries. MacDonald and, the then Director of Facilities, Justin Black, worked with two SJU internationally recognized research scholars to take the concept to the next step.

Dr. Maureen Drysdale is a professor of Psychology at SJU, an adjunct professor in Applied Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo, and director of the Well-Link Lab on campus. Well-Link researches the mental health of emerging adults and the psychological variables linked to their success in school-to-work transitions. Dr. Steven Bednarski is the director of the Medieval Digital Research in Arts and Graphical Environmental Networks Laboratory (DRAGEN Lab). The lab is at the centre of the "Environments of Change" project, aimed at shining light on the historical relationship between pre-modern people and the natural world in southeastern England. Together with the Library team they developed a plan for an adaptable research infrastructure to support digital scholarship.

Dr. Scott Kline, the Vice President Academic and Dean at the time, encouraged the team to explore a vision of the SJU Library that encompassed the entire second floor of the SJ1 building, where collaborative study areas, classrooms, and dedicated research labs could be built, while still maintaining quiet study spaces. Former SJU President Katherine Bergman signed off on the expanded library concept and the team was ready to take the next steps.

Final Preparations

ABA Architects was selected as the architectural and interior design consultants for the Library renovation, having consulted on work for both the Finn and Sweeney Hall buildings. MacDonald, Black, and Rourke continued as members of the core renovation team with SJU's former Vice President Administration, Scott Keys also involved. The group worked on developing a design that ensured a safe, accessible space compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements. By 2018 the plans were finalized.

"The last major hurdle for the team before implementing the project was the budget," notes MacDonald, adding that the change from just "improving" the library space to it being a substantial expansion that improved accessibility, and establishing new library spaces geared toward "knowledge creation, collaboration, and research," impacted the original \$500,000 budget significantly: for example, the use of mobile compact shelving units, removing a block wall, and additional structural retrofits in the new open concept space. The SJU Board of Governors approved the \$2.25-million budget moving the project into the final planning phase.

Thank you Supporters!

Throughout the project the Library team worked closely with SJU's Advancement team to fundraise for the new library. Donation appeals were made through crowdfunding, several Giving Tuesday campaigns, promotion at the annual Feast of St. Jerome and "Snacks in the Stacks" events, and a Medieval Studies "High Tea" (featuring a guest lecture and display of several medieval manuscripts on loan from the Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies). The SJU Academic Staff Association (ASA) added to these fundraising efforts by making a pledge of \$10,000 to sponsor a new reading room in the Library. Annual gifts and bequests continue to be welcomed.

By February 2018, the library and research floorplan was finalized, followed in the winter by the selection of Rossclair as the General Contractor. A full inventory of the Library collection was prepared by Library Associate Deb Adesso, in conjunction with the library student assistants. The book collection was moved off site for safekeeping and storage. Modified temporary library services were set up in the Finn building, where the DRAGEN Lab and Well-Link Lab were also housed during the build.

"Through careful design and planning, (it) has managed to maintain the best of the 'old' Library...while meeting the changing needs of our students, faculty, and staff in a beautiful new space."

-Lorna Rourke, SJU Librarian

The New Chapter Begins

Demolition and structural work took up much of the summer of 2019. Walls were removed, framing and drywall began, and new glass walls started to appear for group study rooms. To complete the transformation, a plan for a third-floor research space was approved, expanding the Research wing's footprint. Classes moved back into the building in time for the start of the fall term, when MacDonald describes the final "full-on sprint to the finish" took place to complete flooring, tiling, and millwork.

By the time the first books returned to the site, were unboxed and re-shelved, and furniture had started to arrive, it was December. "The last book was placed back on its shelf on Christmas Eve," MacDonald shares, adding that work continued throughout the holiday break and into January.

The collections space remained closed at the start of 2020, as the final pieces of the 40-plus foot tall fireplace feature wall was hoisted into place; the new elevator lift received its final safety checks; and the carpenters finished the last of their detail work in the ASA room and on the Information Desk. The Library staff took this time to clean, shelf-read and shift



Associate Librarian Lorna Rourke (far left), Library Associate Deb Adesso (centre), and Assistant Librarian Zack MacDonald (right) look forward to the library reopening when the new electronic compact shelving will be available to provide users access to the library's collection. | Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography



The library's collection was boxed up and moved to off-site storage.

BEFORE



Scaffolding was set up to work on the 40-plus foot fireplace feature wall.



The track system is put in place and ready to receive the mobile shelving units.



AFTER



A variety of new work, study, and group gathering areas will welcome library users when it reopens for full service.



the collection, which became available to the public again in February. The researchers and interns in the DRAGEN Lab moved into their research space on the second floor, while Well-Link waited for the completion of its lab on the third.

“I was never able to study in a library before but I basically lived here during winter 2020. I love it!”

-Katie Szajbely, Instagram post

“In addition to the changes in the physical library space, the library software also changed at the same time,” adds Addesso. “In December 2019, the University of Waterloo libraries, including ours, joined 13 other Ontario university libraries launching OMNI, an academic search tool to support research and coursework. OMNI joins 14 Ontario university libraries into one catalogue allowing easy discovery of scholarly materials. Patrons now have access to more resources than they have ever had in the one catalogue.”

Immediate impact

The impact of all of these efforts was immediately apparent once the library was opened. Students posted their praise on social media, affirming that the University’s mission for the renovation was successfully accomplished. Students like Kate

Szajbely said she “was never able to study in a library before,” but “lived” at SJU’s during winter 2020. Claudia DeFazio identified that “there were so many good study spaces!” And Victoria Blazevic said “I LOVE IT! It’s a great and productive space and all the furniture is comfy.”

“Our physical space has almost tripled in size, allowing us to accommodate the increasing number of students who want to spend time in our beautiful Library,” states Rourke. “In the future, spaces such as the St. Jerome’s ASA Room will allow us to host events including author readings, and enrich our outreach into the community. The inclusion of two classrooms in the space will continue to bring professors and their classes right into the Library. It enhances the Library as the academic centre of the University.”

Despite the building closures and remote learning environment set up as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the library staff remain accessible to students and faculty online. Although library service has been modified and continues to change as circumstances will allow, staff members Deb Addesso, Lorna Rourke, and Zack MacDonald, all look forward to the safe reopening of the Library and celebrating the beginning of this new chapter in person.

“It was an absolute joy to open the new St. Jerome’s Library back in January 2020,” notes Rourke. “Through careful design and planning, (it) has managed to maintain the best of the ‘old’ Library, with its cozy and comfortable atmosphere, while meeting the changing needs of our students, faculty, and staff in a beautiful new space.”

For the moment, a reminder of how well these new spaces were received pre-pandemic, keeps staff looking forward to in-person library services returning, when this new chapter will continue to serve the SJU community it was built for.

Photos: Zack MacDonald

Check Out What’s New

- Silent study and collaborative work spaces
- Compact shelving
- Comfortable seating throughout, and surrounding a feature fireplace wall
- Study rooms with writable walls
- In library accessible washroom
- Increased study carrels and seating
- Wider aisles in the shelves
- Display areas for new books and leisure reading materials
- Feature shelving to display faculty publications
- An accessible lift and more room for moving through spaces
- Three TVs to convey library events/programming
- New collaborative library catalogue – OMNI
- Centrally located Welcome/Information desk
- Two SMART technology classrooms within the library
- More opportunities for student engagement

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

2020 Chancellor John R. Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership

The John R. Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership is annually presented by St. Jerome's University to an individual or group who has demonstrated, through action or initiative, a concern and care for the greater community. Named for John Sweeney, the first lay Chancellor of the University, the award recognizes the ongoing need for a Catholic presence and voice in shaping future leaders, and engaging in the challenging issues facing the world today.

The recipient of the award is identified as someone who has made a continued commitment to Catholic leadership and publicly lives out the Gospel values in a distinguished life. In the year of a pandemic, identifying just one person living these values was a challenge.

In March 2020, the Province of Ontario mandated that non-essential workers go into lockdown. For many life was put on hold. Essential Workers – like many in our St. Jerome's community – kept working. Alumni working in retail, industry, healthcare, education, and end of life services, all continued to do their jobs, despite these challenging circumstances.

With the support of Kay Sweeney, John's widow, this year the University is pleased to recognize those alumni who stepped up to the challenge as Essential Workers, acknowledging their contributions with this award.

"Essential Workers are a fitting representation of the year 2020 we have had and continue to have," notes Kay Sweeney. "Without the efforts of Essential Workers – be it the delivery driver from the pharmacy or staff who constantly keep our living spaces in retirement homes sanitized, and in turn keep us safe and well - we would be lost. Congratulations to this year's recipients."

The pages of *Update* magazine could be filled with individual stories from alumni that are being recognized for this award, but we focused on just three. Together they represent the collective community of graduates, who have exceeded in demonstrating "a care and concern for community" that has been so important in a year, and in a world, faced with significant challenges.



Patrick (Pat) Lynch
BA '76 - Psychology/
Sociology

Patrick (Pat) Lynch has seen the pandemic from a difficult perspective: after the impact of the virus at its worst has affected families and individuals.

As a Funeral Director Assistant (FDA) at Henry Walser Funeral Home in Kitchener-Waterloo, he has worked with grieving families for the past 12 years. Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Pat made this career change prompted by a downsizing at BELL Canada, where he was a Sales-Account Manager for 29 years. He is a self-described "people person", who enjoys his role at the funeral home, helping families do what he can "to ease their pain and grief at a difficult time."

During the pandemic, the management of loss and the grieving process has been forced to change.

Safety measures in place for funeral services at Henry Walser Funeral Home include staff wearing masks, contact tracing, and additional diligent

measures for sanitizing. They are no longer able to host open receptions for funerals.

"This has been quite hard for most families," says Lynch, who feels for them, as this important step of saying goodbye is no longer an option. Despite the loss of these gatherings, he says that "business must go on" and so they remain ready, willing, and available to assist all families in need.

"We all experience death and grief in our lives," says Lynch, who chooses to see the pandemic as an important and positive life lesson. "We take a lot of things in life for granted" he says, noting that he sees how important our health is and how connectivity in community and family matters. He is "honoured and humbled" for the recognition of being a recipient of the John R. Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership.

Sabrina Barlow
BA '18 - Sexuality,
Marriage, and
Family Studies

The paths we start on are not always the ones we end up on. For Sabrina Barlow, a recent graduate from St. Jerome's University, volunteering at a University of Waterloo placement changed "toying with the idea of becoming a teacher" into a found passion for childcare. After a three-month closure at the peak of the pandemic, Sabrina returned to work at Kids & Us Community Childcare in Holstein, Ontario, when the centre reopened.

By law, strict safety protocols are mandated in childcare facilities, but 'safety' took on a new



"Without the efforts of Essential Workers... we would be lost."

-Kay Sweeney
John Sweeney's Widow

meaning with the pandemic. These changes, Barlow says, have been a "big adjustment" and that "cleaning everything constantly, no communal play, and separating all the children based on age groupings" have been just some of the ways her centre has changed.

"It is hard to get collaboration going in terms of the children," Barlow adds, and without parents or guardians allowed in the centre, staff are missing one-on-one chats with them about their children: an important part of their daily routines. Instead, the centre has a new app that helps them to communicate with parents and to send photos and updates online.

Barlow sees this as a time when "everyone is doing their best to take care of themselves, and also help take care of those around them." One of her biggest takeaways from the pandemic has been the need for "community-based compassion."

"We all need to keep an eye out for those near us," she says. "With families living further away it can be hard to visit. So, taking the time to check in with neighbours...can help to relieve some of that feeling of being overwhelmed and the feeling of stress that many are facing."

In keeping with Barlow's view of shared compassion, she notes that receiving the John R. Sweeney Award acknowledgement from SJU is "validating the important work that everyone does on a community level" that she hopes will "affect positive change."



Sonia Ellison, nee Beattie
BMATH (Hons) '94 - Co-op - Interdepartmental studies

Work is no stranger in the Ellison household. At a time when many are struggling with employment loss,

Sonia Ellison's family knows how lucky they are to be at work.

Ellison is a Vice Principal at the Halton Catholic District School Board's St. Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School. She worked from home throughout the pandemic up until September, when she returned to her school. Her husband Brian works full time at Costco, while sons Adam and John work at Canadian Tire and Fortino's grocery store respectively. Her family is proud to be Essential Workers, who are ensuring the community has its needs met because of people like her family who are at work.

"Even though there is a risk, (our) family is putting the needs of others first and making a difference in our community," Ellison says, although doing so has changed family routines "drastically," taking all necessary precautions as a family to ensure everyone is safe.

The pandemic has reminded Ellison that we need to have more patience and compassion in the world and to take better care of the environment. She quotes Pope Francis in a reminder that "everything is interconnected and that genuine care of our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice, and faithfulness to others."

"As a family of Essential Workers, the Sweeney Award acknowledges our call to share faith in action and make a difference, even in a small way, in the lives of others."

**-Sonia Ellison, nee Beattie
 BMATH '94**

Ellison's faith was deepened through her education at St. Jerome's University, and she notes that "Leadership that is rooted in truth, faith, and justice puts others first and reminds us that when we serve others, ultimately we are serving God." She is "pleased to share [her] faith with [her] family, colleagues, students, and with the community."

"As a family of Essential Workers, the Sweeney Award acknowledges our call to share faith in action and make a difference, even in a small way, in the lives of others."

Thank you, Pat.

Thank you, Sabrina.

Thank you, Sonia.

Thank you to all of our alumni working in essential services.

These two words will never be enough to really demonstrate how much we appreciate what you are doing as Essential Workers. Through your concern and care for the greater community, and your compassion in a world challenged by the pandemic, we are proud to acknowledge you as 2020 recipients of the John R. Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership.

Fr. Norm Choate, C.R., Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award

Great achievements are not new to Cheri Chevalier, BA '96.

Chevalier has built a successful career at Microsoft, where she has held a number of progressively senior roles within the organization, beginning with the launch of Windows 95. Chevalier is the company's current Worldwide Sales Director for Emerging Solutions (Dynamics), who has been recognized within and beyond Microsoft for her strategic marketing and leadership skills. She has appeared in *Marketing Magazine's* "Top 30 Under 30 List," and received Microsoft's Chairman Award - the highest award given to employees globally. In 2020, Chevalier adds the St. Jerome's University Fr. Norm Choate, C.R., Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award to her list of successes.

Chevalier leads a team of Microsoft professionals responsible for bringing the latest technology innovations to market. She first became connected to the company through a cooperative placement during her time as a student in Waterloo, beginning a career she describes as being "anchored on the St. Jerome's experience."

"SJU influenced my career and life's work through its mission of *building leaders who contribute to the community in meaningful ways*," Chevalier notes, adding that she was drawn to St. Jerome's University for the "extended community" experience. Most of her most memorable moments at the university were ones shared with fellow students, many of whom she remains in touch with today.

The SJU mission of community and making a positive difference in the world has played a large role in Chevalier's life. Beyond her Microsoft career, she has spent a lot of her volunteer time supporting the community around her. Among her volunteer work roles she has advocated for Women's Leadership through The Judy Project (a Leadership Forum for Executive Women at the University of Toronto); and has been an active voice in support of the Faculty of Arts and Co-op Education, specifically working with the University of Waterloo. Chevalier is also currently



a member of the SJU Board of Governors.

"St. Jerome's was never just about a static education. It was about bringing your education to life in ways that help others and about leaning in and making a difference in the world around you."

Chevalier refers to herself as a "talent enabler" recognizing that she "feels success when (she's) helped others be successful." Seeing people realize their aspirations and knowing that she has been a part of that is what motivates her. She

believes success comes from following what you are passionate about and encourages students and graduates to "hone in on what (your gifts) are and how you can give back to the world and make a difference with that."

The Fr. Norm Choate, C.R. Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, honouring the former president of St. Jerome's University (1979-1989), represents the highest level of recognition given by the University to a member of the alumni who has demonstrated extraordinary accomplishment in their professional life. Congratulations to Cheri Chevalier, for her success giving back to the world and for making the difference she is recognized for.

"St. Jerome's was never just about a static education. It was about bringing your education to life in ways that help others and about leaning in and making a difference in the world around you."

**-Cheri Chevalier, BA '96
 2020 Fr. Norm Choate, C.R. Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient**

Why Do We Need Catholic Universities?

Dr. Peter Meehan explains why “the journey to truth includes both faith and reason”

A number of years ago, an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* charged that denominational universities should be refused accreditation for “systematically undermining... skeptical and unfettered inquiry” and “the primacy of reason.” Asked for my take on this question, I instinctively responded “this isn’t true!” and began a deep, personal reflection on why Catholic universities such as St. Jerome’s are so important.

The standard Catholic philosophy of education has always understood intellectual development and human formation in tandem. Emphasizing the needs of the “whole person” in terms of their mind, heart and spirit, is as catholic (meaning “universal” and for everyone) as it is Catholic. It presumes an understanding of the importance of the metaphor of a journey that has often been used to explain human development and our search for truth.

Somewhere along the way, however, our appreciation for the journey has been lost. With regard to higher education, we have come increasingly to think of it as a short excursion focused first on what we *want* — perhaps a hefty income and a big job, before first understanding what we *need*. The reality is that learning — real, meaningful, life-changing learning, does not have a fast track. Classical, non-Christian sources confirm this. Read Homer. Journeys are important because they are epic, life-altering encounters with the world, both intellectual and physical. From them we emerge learned and wise, and better able to deal with challenges and hardship.

Because Catholic universities such as St. Jerome’s are not exclusively for Catholics, I think they are truly Christian. Our commitment to smaller classes, accessible faculty, the importance of critical thinking and intellectual rigour, all emphasize the value of education for everyone. This is an important distinction in an era of rapid change where students are often preparing for careers that have yet to be created.

Our commitment to smaller classes, accessible faculty, the importance of critical thinking and intellectual rigour, all emphasize the value of education for everyone. This is an important distinction in an era of rapid change where students are often preparing for careers that have yet to be created.

We also understand that the journey to truth includes both faith and reason. Uniting the heart and the mind, faith and reason allow us to explore the questions facing humanity, from biological and business ethics, ecumenism, aging, death and dying, to the ecology, globalization, and issues of responsible citizenship and government. Confident in Christian truth without being proselytizing or triumphal, we see liberal arts education as underlying a deeper human need to grasp the world in all of its complexities. We encourage discussion and investigation of the difficult questions of life in an environment of hopefulness making no room for the paralyzing effects of existential angst and despair.

Catholic universities understand the student experience in terms of their obligation to human formation and the development of leaders. Combining education with an emphasis on service and justice, we are focused on developing people who are capable of both reflection and action. In an era focused on the importance of sustainability, the radical values of this brand of education should be readily grasped by all: love of neighbour vs. love of self; giving and contributing vs taking and accumulating; acceptance of diversity and inclusiveness versus exclusion and ostracism.

We are also communities of faith and worship that exist and function according to the Greek term *Koinonia*, the idealized state of Christian communion and sharing.

At St. Jerome’s University, our community is animated by the Spirit of Christ, and nurtured by liturgical celebrations and sacramental life. This includes the importance of lay pastoral ministry to helping our students recognize and respect the sacred, to discover and promote the dignity of others, and to understand the value of sacrifice, humility, hospitality, and gratitude underlying the ministries of our founders, the Congregation of the Resurrection and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Understanding that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26), our community is called to be both reactive and proactive through programs of community outreach and service learning. In addition to responding to the need for social justice and the problems of marginalization and alienation, we are also obligated to think critically about the world, and to contribute our voices and our thought leadership to those at the University of Waterloo as, together, we address the different problems facing humanity.

Finally, I think Catholic universities such as St. Jerome’s play an important role in helping our students understand that they have a *vocation*. At the heart of the Church’s sense of this word is that God calls individuals differently, and all according to their unique gifts. Vocation attaches calling and purpose to what we do. As a colleague of mine once observed, “To most of the world, a job is just a job. But a vocation is who you are.”

Why do we need Catholic universities? We need them because they serve humanity in so many ways that shape the world in which we live. We need them because they attend to the needs of the whole person, because they are for everyone, because they emphasize human formation and leadership development, social justice, outreach, service, and vocation, and so many other things. In my life I have always valued what I have understood to be “important work.” Catholic universities are at the service of humanity. What is more important than that?

Catholic universities understand the student experience in terms of their obligation to human formation and the development of leaders. Combining education with an emphasis on service and justice, we are focused on developing people who are capable of both reflection and action.

Back to campus in a COVID-19 world

By Heather Bean, BA '98, MA (McGill University '00)

The return to campus was more than a little different for St. Jerome's University students this year. At a time when smiles are masked and gatherings are not possible, it may have seemed challenging to convey the warm welcome and build the strong connections that make St. Jerome's University special. But the restraints imposed by COVID-19 have also offered new opportunities for staff, faculty, and students to show care, build resiliency, and strengthen community.

Acting Director of Student Affairs John Arnou knew that upper-year student leaders would be central to preserving the St. Jerome's community and spirit. Student leaders take on a wide range of community-building tasks at SJU, including planning and running student activities and charity drives, acting as residence dons, serving as student ministers, and helping to recruit new students. A critical piece of ensuring continuity in their roles was keeping the student leadership program on track.

"They have the creativity. They have the ideas," says Arnou. "The question was: how can we support what they're doing and the ideas they're bringing to us, while recognizing that community and student life at SJU will look different in the year ahead?"

Student leaders usually spend two and a half weeks in an intensive on-campus training program. In August, that training happened online, which, Arnou discovered, opened up the leadership program to students who might not have been able to spend those extra weeks on campus. It also presented some challenges in shifting the learning and training to virtual settings on a very tight timeline.

This year's cohort of student leaders have made the most of their status as digital natives — members of a generation

that grew up with the Internet. They have worked hard to create new, virtual meeting places for all students using tools such as online meetups, virtual movie nights, and games, while building in flexibility to respond to student needs on and off campus as they evolve. Their work has also supported student connectivity in residence.

SJU's Student Affairs has aimed to find continuity in service and a balance between safety and togetherness for the 90 students living in residence, despite some public common areas being closed this term. Each student is able to retreat to a private residence room, arranged around smaller common areas, called pods, restricted to groups of about 10 students. Students who share a pod create a family unit of sorts, so students can bond with their floor mates.

The pandemic has also transformed how Student Affairs delivers services in ways that increase equity and access for many students. Academic advising now takes place virtually — a big advantage for out-of-town and international students. These changes are part of the ongoing assessment of services that are required as the world's circumstances evolve daily.

"We plan and pivot based on the information we have, and what we are hearing from students," adds Arnou.

While Student Affairs spent the summer getting ready to welcome students to the St. Jerome's University family in person or online, faculty were preparing to welcome students to their new virtual classrooms.

Online courses have been part of higher education for more than a decade, but under normal conditions, says Interim Vice President Academic and Dean, Cristina Vanin, they can take as long as a year to prepare and involve trained specialists to develop.



Student leaders Brendan Whittle (Students' Union), Mike Meleka (Residence Don), Meaghan Hymers (Students' Union), and Carter Watkinson (Students' Union) model the new look at SJU, where face masks are mandatory. Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography

These are not normal conditions. As is the case at most other Canadian universities, St. Jerome's University staff and faculty face the challenges of balancing work and life during the pandemic: home might be the office, daycare, and schoolroom all at the same time. In the space of a few months, faculty put in long hours adapting their classes to online learning spaces and practices.

"Along with thinking about the content and learning outcomes of courses," Vanin notes, "online instruction introduces a range of new technical issues and the need to find new ways to interact with students."

Apart from the obvious challenges of building community and engagement, digital course design involves choosing and moving to appropriate digital platforms, locating digital copies of assigned texts, and securing copyright permissions for digital formats. To help faculty adapt, St. Jerome's University had the help of two co-op students as Online Learning Assistants. Library staff also shifted their support for instructors to a variety of virtual options, including finding digital versions of the texts they would have put on reserve in the past.

"I've been so impressed with faculty and staff throughout this experience," says Vanin. "They've been flexible, patient, tolerant, understanding. It really shows their commitment to wanting to do the best they can for our students."

Examples of this commitment are plentiful at SJU. In the Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies, Assistant Professor Denise Whitehead collaborated with Lecturer Carm De Santis last spring to redevelop their department's introductory course, SMF 101, on Relationships and Families. The course usually attracts a diverse group of up to 200 students from a wide range of disciplines across campus. Among their first tasks: imagining new kinds of assignments and modes of assessment.

"There's no way to control the environment," Whitehead points out. "Any exam is potentially open book." So, Whitehead and DeSantis designed weekly open-book quizzes and an online book club for participation grades, during the spring term. As a capstone assignment, students interviewed a family member or friend about a family or relationship experience and connected their analysis to course content.

Students' Union Keeps Community Connected

“We’ve learned that we can pivot and adapt when the unexpected happens.”

**-John Arnou, Interim Director,
Student Affairs**

“It’s innovative in the sense that we’re approaching the development of a course from a very heart-centred place — with academic rigour, but with learning outcomes that are focused on the whole person,” says Metzger.

“These values are really foundational to the mission of our University. How we teach them has always changed from year to year, depending on the students in the program. St. Jerome’s has traditions that we honour, but we’re also very creative. We’ve always been fluid.”

Whatever new teaching practices or student services might come from this experience, the pandemic has reaffirmed the value and importance of physical togetherness for the St. Jerome’s University community. For Vanin, the lesson that teachers have drawn from this experience so far is “how important face-to-face teaching really is.” Whitehead, too, looks forward to a time when everyone can return to campus. “It’s teaching into the void. We miss eye-to-eye contact,” she says.

Arnou agrees. “We’ve really come to realize how much our staff and faculty, as well as students, value face-to-face community. That’s something we lean on. It’s a big part of the SJU experience.”

For now, the St. Jerome’s University community is finding different ways to grow and connect. “We’ve learned that we can pivot and adapt when the unexpected happens,” says Arnou.

“St. Jerome’s has come together in difficult times in the past. We can do it again.”

Whitehead sees some advantages to the online model. “This situation forced us to move away from multiple choice exams to assessments that were more thoughtful and reflective,” she says. “Students were able to take asynchronous courses from the other side of the world and, perhaps most significant in an introductory course on family and relationships,” she notes, “the online format allowed greater discussion about sensitive topics.”

At the Centre for Responsible Citizenship, international programs are on hold. But Service Learning Program Coordinator Michelle Metzger and Department of English Lecturer Sylvia Terzian have reimaged and redesigned the Encounter KW program: a service learning course that usually takes students out of the classroom and into the community to study issues such as food justice in Waterloo Region.

Service learning, Metzger explains, is built on four pillars of personal development. Students reflect on their purpose and values, extend their sense of community and equity, build resiliency through relationships and encounters that might bring some discomfort, and develop habits of critical reflection. To reimagine the course for an online environment, Metzger explains, they focused on the self-reflection and self-awareness pieces. The program will bring in guest speakers from local organizations, and Terzian has developed a wide reading list on the subject of food and community to expose students to diversity of thinking.

The Students’ Union’s role in enhancing the overall student experience at St. Jerome’s University took on a new challenge this year. The group continues to work as an independent, self-governing student society representing the interests of its membership; with a mandate to facilitate and instill a sense of community within the university, through on-campus services, clubs, and events. In spring 2020 the delivery of that mission moved to an online format.

“The Students’ Union executive team are operating this year in line with a set of values we identified to guide intentional work for the benefit of our student body,” notes the group’s President, Meaghan Hymers. “We are committed to promoting equity, accessibility, transparency, compassion, and student well-being in everything we do.”

Advocacy Role Continues

The Students’ Union has identified the following four priorities this academic year:

1. advocacy focused on creating an equitable and supportive environment for all students,
2. student representation,
3. wellness initiatives to support students’ mental, physical, and emotional well-being, and
4. community programming to bring students together and build relationships.

While the Union’s priorities are clear, in a remote learning environment where day-to-day in-person interaction has all but disappeared, their efforts could have been slowed. Buildings are closed. Pandemic protocols limiting activity for those living on campus are in place. In response to these challenges, Students’ Union has kept the student community, living both in residence and off-campus, connected to the University in new ways.

New Ways to bring Community Together

Resource Guide

“The Students’ Union team released a live collaborative resource guide for students accessible online at www.sju.ca/services and on Instagram @sjustudentsunion,” notes Hymers, adding that the guide includes information for students about accessing everything from mental health support to academic resources, and community care to financial aid, all while operating remotely. Hymers notes that they welcome further collaboration with the community to keep the document updated and comprehensive, and that suggestions should be sent to her email at pres.su@sju.ca.

Wellness Challenge

“In October, we launched the Students’ Union Wellness Challenge on Instagram to engage students in taking care of their physical, mental, and emotional well-being while learning remotely,” says Hymers. As part of the initiative students had the opportunity to participate in weekly challenges, including a virtual yoga class, taking a walk around their neighbourhood, and encouraging themselves to read for pleasure. The challenge will continue throughout the term as students that participate have a chance to win prize draws at the end of each month.

Clubs

Students’ Union sponsored clubs - Prism (the St. Jerome’s Gender-Sexuality Alliance) and Stocks Club (supporting the education of students about the stock market so that they can feel more comfortable investing money on their own) – also began to operate online. Stocks Club started the term with an active social media presence. Prism continues to provide a safe and inclusive space for queer and questioning students through online weekly meetings.

Alumni Invited to Connect

There is also a place for alumni to have a role in the work of the Union's community building mandate. In particular, their support is welcomed in the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) work being done on campus.

Student representatives that have been recommended by the Students' Union are part of the University's EDI working group, led by the Interim Vice President Academic and Dean, Cristina Vanin, and Executive Director, Finance and Administration, Mike Gourlay. The EDI working group is also made up of university staff and faculty.

The group is focused on the preparatory work required for the development of a comprehensive University EDI action plan that covers hiring systems and practices; curriculum and programs; outreach, recruiting, and

marketing; facilities; and campus culture. They are consulting with and seeking feedback on current EDI initiatives and practices, from students, faculty, and staff, as well as other key external stakeholder groups. Students' Union has already provided their own list of action items to the university's senior administration and the working group.

"We have found that the greatest impact comes from a community standing together in being actively anti-racist and anti-oppressive," says Hymers, who sees this as an opportunity for alumni to support students advocating towards a community "we can all be proud to call home."

For more information about the Students' Union's mandate or initiatives, please contact Meaghan Hymers at pres.su@sju.ca.



Students' Union Executive Members (left to right) Vice President Academic Carter Watkinson, President Meaghan Hymers, and Vice President Internal Brendan Whittle. Absent: Vice President, Finance, Shanelle Leo
Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography

Cover to Cover

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

For a complete list of edited journals, articles, and book reviews, visit our faculty profile pages on www.sju.ca.

ACTON, Carol, ed. *British Women and War Nursing*, Volume V of *Women and War*, Routledge History of Feminism Series. Routledge, 2020.

BONNER, Kieran and Stanley Raffel. eds. *Redefining the Situation: The Writings of Peter McHugh*. Montreal, Kingston; London; Chicago: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019.

BRABAZON, Honor, ed. *Neoliberal Legality: Understanding the Role of Law in the Neoliberal Project*. Routledge, 2017.

GREENWOOD, John, ed. Ben Jonson: *The Alchemist*. A Broadview Anthology of British Literature edition. Broadview Press, 2020

McLAUGHLIN, Kenneth, and Murray G. Brooksbank. *Preserving Our Past: the Ormston Heritage House: A Window into Waterloo Township's History*, Waterloo, ON: Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin, 2020.

NICCOLI, Gabriel, ed. *Patterns of Nostos in Italian Canadian Narratives*. Special Issue of *Italian Canadiana*, Vol. 35 (2021). Toronto: The Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies, University of Toronto. With contributions from Veronica **AUSTEN**, S.Bancheri, F. Cadel, L. Canton, S. Casini, Roberta **CAUCHI-SANTORO**, C. Concilio, R. Culos, K. Eisenbichler, S. Floriani, T. Guma, G. Iacobucci, F. Loriggio, S. Migliore, V. Pietropaolo, S. Piraro, J. Pivato, F. Sturino, Sylvia **TERZIAN**, and V. Teti.

PERRIN, David B. *The 20-Minute Retreat: 18 Sessions with the Saints to Nourish Your Faith*, Novalis Publishing and Twenty-Third Publishing, 2019.

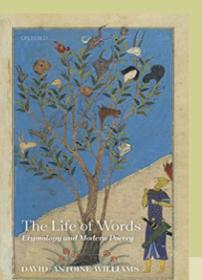
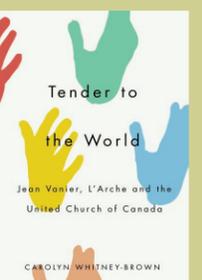
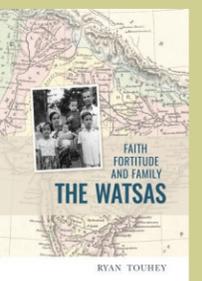
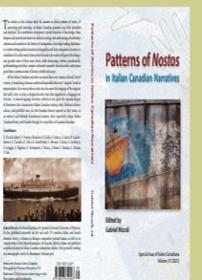
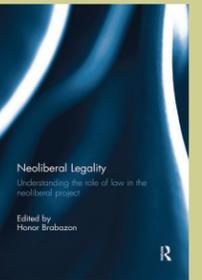
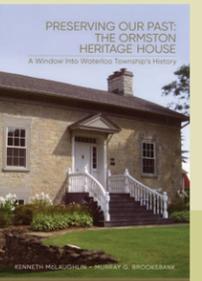
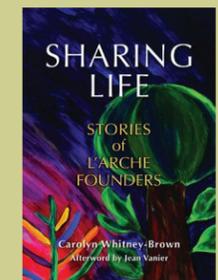
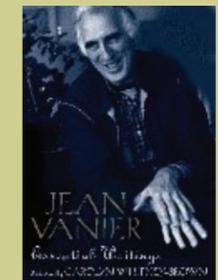
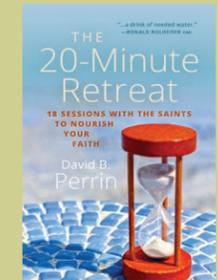
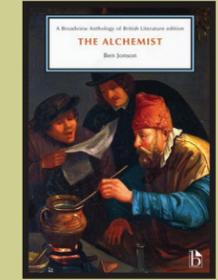
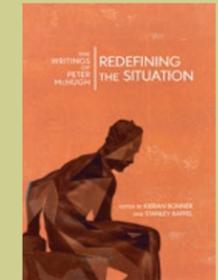
TOUHEY, Ryan. *Faith, Fortitude and Family: The Watsas*. Navo Chinoy, 2019.

WHITNEY-BROWN, Carolyn, ed. *Jean Vanier: Essential Writings*. Darton, Longman & Todd, 2008. 2nd new edition 2019.

WHITNEY-BROWN, Carolyn. *Tender to the World: Jean Vanier, L'Arche, and the United Church of Canada*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019.

WHITNEY-BROWN, Carolyn. *Sharing Life: Stories of L'Arche Founders*. Paulist Press, 2019.

WILLIAMS, David. *The Life of Words: Etymology and Modern Poetry*. Oxford University Press, 2020.



Lab Reports

Updates from SJU's Research Hub

The **MEDIEVAL DIGITAL RESEARCH IN ARTS AND GRAPHICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORKS LABORATORY (DRAGEN LAB)** is at the centre of *Environments of Change*, a seven-year project using emerging technologies to investigate the historical relationship between climate and culture in the late Middle Ages.

DIRECTOR

Dr. Steven Bednarski
Professor of History and Co-Director, Medieval Studies Program (University of Waterloo)

Dr. Bednarski is an award-winning Canadian historian of the Middle Ages who specializes in 14th-century environment, crime, sex, gender, and microhistory.

TEAM

Co-Director Dr. Ann Marie Rasmussen; Associate Directors Dr. David Porreca and Zack MacDonald; Assistant Director and Lab Manager Dr. Caley McCarthy; Research Facilitator, Andrew Moore; and a team of senior research scholars, doctoral and graduate fellows, online interns, and international collaborators and partners.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- *Virtual Northeye*: An educational video game centred on a digital recreation of the deserted medieval village of Northeye and designed to teach elementary-school students about the relationship between communities and their environments. The video game is designed in collaboration with Queen's University's EQUIS Lab and a number of education partners, including the Waterloo Region District School Board and Kitchener-Waterloo Bilingual School. A completed prototype is anticipated in 2020 – 2021.

- Dendroclimatology: Partners at the Swansea University are conducting isotope analysis of tree rings to determine climatic conditions in late medieval Sussex.

- Sedimentological coring: Project co-investigators from the UW Faculties of Environment and Science have begun research that will lay the foundation for sedimentological coring in Sussex. This will be used to determine environmental conditions in medieval Sussex.

- Tourism App Development: Graduate Research Assistants in the DRAGEN Lab have begun creating immersive mobile tourism apps that will allow people to access historical sites in the UK remotely and to experience the historical environmental conditions that affected those sites.

NEWS

- The 3,600 square-foot DRAGEN Lab opened in the SJU Research Hub, completed as part of the Campus Renewal Project and SJ1 building and Library renovations.

- In 2019 – 2020, *Environments of Change* made an investment of \$336,000 in student training opportunities to develop Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP), despite COVID-19 restrictions, which prevented UW undergraduate and graduate students from participating in the annual Archaeology Summer Field School held at Queen's University's UK campus, the Bader International Study Centre (BISC) at Herstmonceux Castle.

- John Johnston (University of Waterloo) delivered a workshop in the DRAGEN Lab on the use of Google Tours and Google Glasses. Once the BISC field school can accept students again, EOC will purchase a mobile set of Google glasses to use at Herstmonceux. A draft prototype of a tourist application that includes archival research, audio commentary, and innovative 3-D modelling of historical buildings, is also almost completed.



www.dragenlab.ca

The **WELL-LINK LAB** at St. Jerome's University, aims to investigate the mental health and well-being of emerging adults. The lab also researches various psychological factors that impact students' success in higher education and afterwards – during the transition to the workplace following graduation.

DIRECTOR

Dr. Maureen Drysdale
Professor of Psychology and Adjunct Professor in Applied Health Sciences in Public Health (University of Waterloo)

Dr. Drysdale is an acclaimed global expert on work-integrated learning (WIL) and hence focuses much of the research in the lab on the mental health and well-being of students during WIL placements.

TEAM

The lab currently consists of a diverse, multidisciplinary team of undergraduate and graduate research interns, clinicians (e.g., registered psychotherapists, crisis centre counsellors, wellness coordinators, medical students), and international collaborators and partners.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student wellness; and seasonal variations as a determinant of perceived stress, mental health, well-being, and quality of life. Partner: University West, Sweden

- The mental health of university students. Partners: University West, Sweden; Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University, Germany

- Gender disparities in work-integrated learning placements. Co-Lead Dr. T. Bowen, University of Toronto Mississauga Partners: University West, Sweden; University of Canberra, Australia; Edinburgh Napier and Heriot-Watt universities in Scotland; and Drexel University, USA).

- Employment precariousness, mental health, and well-being; the mental health challenges, barriers, and solutions associated with finding work after graduation.

- The mental health of gifted students; mental health and well-being of student employees during work placements.

- Access to higher education for vulnerable populations.

- The lab is also developing a peer support e-Mental health platform which, in addition to online peer support groups, will also offer tools and strategies for enhancing mental health and well-being.

NEWS

- The Well-Link Lab has relocated to a workspace in the newly renovated SJ1 building, where lab members look forward to meeting and working together once it is safe to return to campus.



www.well-linklab.com

MILESTONES

Updates provided by our Alumni

1960s

John **CULLEN**, BA '69, launched the Enterprise Co-op at the University of Waterloo in 1997, with the help of three University of Waterloo professors – Doug Sparks, Geoff Malleck, and Larry Smith. He was the Program Lead Business Consultant until his retirement in April 2020.

John **MORRIS**, BA '69, (Economics), LLB Western '72, retired from Morris & Shannon Law Office, on December 31, 2019.

1970s

Mary Louise **OTTOMAN**, nee Kobel, BA '70, (Arts) celebrated her 50th Wedding Anniversary this past July 25th with husband John. Because of COVID-19 they could not have a big group celebration, but were able to have a Mass at St. Clement R.C. Church, St. Clements, ON with their children and grandchildren present.

Ted **MCKECHNIE** – BA (Hons) '71, (History) is a senior entrepreneurial executive with extensive Board and Senior Management Experience in the consumer goods, resource, and service industries. He is Chairman/CEO, The Davies Group, and has been Chairman/

CEO for Canada's Food Starter and Advanced Technology For Food Manufacturing; Founder/Chairman/CEO of Canada's Technology For Food, The Davies Group (C); Founder/President/CEO of Ethnic Food Group International, Inc.; and President/COO/Owner of Humpty Dumpty Foods; President/COO of Maple Leaf Foods, Inc., and President/CEO of Menu At Home .Com. He received the Philip Morris Chairman's Award for recognition of "extraordinary contributions having a significant and lasting impact on the Corporation." Philip Morris is among the 100 largest companies in the world, based on market capitalization.



Tim **MCKENNA**, BA '75, (English Literature) retired from *The Globe and Mail* in 2019, after 41 years working in newspapers as a photojournalist and photo editor at six different newspapers. Tim began at the *Woodstock Sentinel Review* in 1978 and worked at *The Windsor Star*, *Toronto Sun*, *The National Post*, *Toronto Star*, and *The Globe and Mail*.

"The timing proved fortuitous. My daughter returned to work from maternity leave in April. Since daycares were closed because of the COVID pandemic lockdown, my wife and I have become full-time babysitters. It's hard work but the relationships we're building with our grandson will be deep."

Find out how to keep us connected to your milestone news on page 28. Submissions for the 2021 edition of *Update* magazine will be accepted up until September 1, 2021.

1980s



Annabel **QUINN**, BA '83, (Religious Studies and Studies in Personality and Religion), MA '07 Theological Studies and Pastoral Counselling (Wilfrid Laurier University and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary), is trained in chaplaincy through the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care and presently works as a chaplain with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board at St. David's Catholic Secondary School, following 13 years working at St. Mary's High School.

Helen **YANCHUS**, BA (Hons) '86, (English Major/History Minor), has worked as a full time English teacher with the Durham Catholic District School Board since 2004, and tries "as often as possible to come back to St. Jerome's for Sunday mass. She misses the area and "would love to come back to teach in Waterloo some day."

1990s

Bonnie **RUDNISKY**, BA '93, is celebrating her 50 year connection to St. Jerome's University in 2020! Bonnie has worked as the University's archivist for the past 24 years.

Heather **BEAN**, BA (Hons) '98, MA (McGill University '00) is working in Waterloo, ON as a freelance writer, editor, and proofreader. She is also a contributor to this edition of *Update* magazine.

2000s

Maria **CAPULONG**, BA '02, (Arts - Major Psychology, Minor Philosophy, Interdisciplinary Option in Legal Studies and Criminology), completed the LL.M. (summer 2020) and is currently an adjudicative board member for the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board /Health Services Appeal and Review Board - reviewing and hearing matters as they relate to health services, professional health regulation appeals and registration matters. Prior to her work with the Boards, which started in 2017, Maria was partner in a mid-sized law firm with an emphasis on culturally competent legal representation in the area of civil litigation and immigration. She was awarded the 2011 Ontario Trial Lawyers Association Award for Outstanding Young Lawyer in recognition of her work advocating with Live-In Caregivers for employment law protections and immigration law reform.

Maria notes that her focus has been her career but always with an emphasis on stewardship and service, which is something she learned as a student at SJU and has attempted to cultivate since.

2010s

David **THIESSEN**, BA (Hons) '10, MA '11, PHD '20, recently completed a PhD in English Literature at the University of Waterloo where he has started in a new role as Educational Developer, Curriculum and Quality Enhancement at the Centre for Teaching Excellence.

Jennifer **SMITH**, BA (Hons) '17, completed her Master of Health Science in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto in August. Jen's placements while preparing to become a Speech-Language Pathologist included, providing therapy services to indigenous children in Sioux Lookout; and working in the traumatic brain injury unit at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She is currently an independent contractor working for Speech Therapy Works, and Bowden Voice & Speech in Toronto, focusing on speech, language and social communication intervention for preschool and school-aged children.

Melissa **SMITH**, BA (Hons) '17, completed her Early Childhood Education program at Sheridan College, and is now working as an Early Childhood Educator at an elementary school in Mississauga, ON.

Olivia **CARVALHO**, BA (Hons) '19, (Fine Arts), was featured in a show last spring at The Museum, located in Downtown Kitchener, ON.

2020s



Maya **VENTERS**, BA (Hons) '20, (English Literature and Rhetoric) began her role as the Manager of Student Affairs at the Newman Centre at McGill University this summer, where she is managing student programming at the residences. Maya is also developing a Catholic Fellowship Program for undergraduates, graduates, and doctoral students at McGill University, which will aim to prepare young Catholic leaders for post-university life by understanding how their chosen discipline can be understood from the perspective of their Catholic faith. Maya and her fiancé, Andrew Clubine (BKI '17) became engaged in August and are marrying in Guelph in November. The two met while working together in the University of Waterloo's Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA). Andrew is currently in his last year of the B.C.L/J.D in the Faculty of Law at McGill University. The couple plan to move to Scotland in 2021, where Maya has been accepted at St. Andrews University to complete her MLitt in Theology and Arts. Maya plans to return to Montreal and the Newman Centre in 2022, where Andrew will write his bar exams and begin articling.

PASSAGES

Dr. Thomas **BRZUSTOWSKI**, husband of Louise M. Brzustowski, MA '85, passed away on June 19, 2020 after a brief illness.

Fr. Murray McDermott celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Michael's Parish, Waterloo on July 3rd. This unique celebration also included the wonderful musical contribution of Mike Kelly and his spouse Cristina Vanin. Dr. Brzustowski graduated from the University of Toronto in 1958 and Princeton University in 1962. As professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Waterloo from 1962 - 1987, he served as Chair of that department from 1967-1970, Vice President Academic from 1975-1987, and later Provost. Subsequently, he served as Deputy Minister in the Ontario Government Ministries of Colleges and Universities from 1987-1995, and in the Premier's Council. In October 1995, he was appointed President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), serving for 10 years. An Officer of the Order of Canada, Tom also served on the Board of the Council of Canadian Academies and IQC. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he is deeply missed by his family, as well as the St. Jerome's worship community, which he belonged to for seven years.

KEEP CONNECTED

Help us to keep in touch with your life milestones as we gather news to share in *Update* magazine.

Our next edition will be released in November 2021.

We look forward to receiving your contributions throughout the year so that we can celebrate with you and our SJU community around the world.

Deadline for Alumni "Milestones" submissions for the 2021 edition: September 1, 2021

Please send us your news by email at info@sju.ca using "Update 2021 Alumni News" in the subject line.

Submissions should be 100 words maximum, with your name, graduating year, degree, and program clearly identified in the email. A member of our communications team will connect with you to confirm that we have received your email.

We also welcome high resolution photos (300 dpi) that help us to tell your news, but please note that we will only use photographs as space permits.

Thank you for keeping us connected!

Deadline for Alumni "Milestones" submissions for the 2021 edition: September 1, 2021

MILESTONES

Celebrating SJU Faculty, Contract Academic Staff, and Staff News

STAFF

Tommy **MAYBERRY**, BA (Hons) '10, (English Literature and Fine Arts: Studio Specialization), MA '11 (McMaster University), ABD PhD (University of Waterloo), and Manager Outreach and Recruitment, was selected as the keynote speaker for the University of Alberta's Online Teaching Institute's "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) across the digital teaching and learning divide," which took place on August 6, 2020. Mayberry spoke on "Gender Pronouns, Teaching and Learning, and Cultures of Respect".



From left, former SJU Chancellor, Jim Beingsner; President and Vice Chancellor, Peter Meehan; Chancellor, Bruce Rodrigues; and former Interim President and Vice Chancellor, Scott Kline; get ready to tee up for the 6th Annual Legacy Golf Tournament. The event, founded by SJU alumni, fundraises post-secondary scholarships distributed throughout the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

FACULTY

Roberta **CAUCHI-SANTORO**, our newly hired Assistant Professor in the Department of Italian and French Studies, has been awarded a University of Waterloo/SSHRC Explore Grant for her project entitled "From Leopardi to Joyce, Beckett and Levinas: Aesthetic Melancholy in the European Quietist Tradition."

Maureen **DRYSDALE**, Professor of Psychology and Adjunct Professor in Applied Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo, has been awarded an honorary doctorate at University West in Trollhättan, Sweden, for her work with work-integrated learning (WIL).

Dr. Drysdale first visited University West in 2008 to learn about WIL. Since that time she has worked together with academics at University West and with other international partners, advancing the knowledge and practice of WIL. Her research has focused on the transition from education to professional life and the attitudes and behaviours considered important in making that transition a successful one, including self-esteem, study methods, mental health, work ethic, and motivation. In particular her focus has been on the shift from student life to work life. Operating out of her Well-Link lab at St. Jerome's University, Dr. Drysdale has contributed to creating global research networks around the topic.

Norm **KLASSEN**, Department of English, was promoted to Professor. Norm has worked at SJU for over 20 years, and teaches a number of courses, including introductions to literature and literary theory, a survey of British literature, and his specialties Chaucer and pre-modern rhetoric.

Diana **LOBB**, Contract Academic Staff, Department of English, is the Director of "Elizabeth Cary's *The Tragedy of Mariam*," Episode 1 for Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre's Black Box Radio.

Andrew (Andy) **STUMPF**, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Acting Director, Master of Catholic Thought, Acting Director, Human Sciences Program, is the principal investigator working with professor Kieran **BONNER** on a SSHRC* Insight Development Grant focused on recent changes in legislation concerning Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). Andrew already has one article accepted for publication with the *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*, connected to the first phase of research on this project. The second phase, which will include interviewing physicians in order to understand their experience with medical assistance in dying and withdrawing life-sustaining treatments, is now moving forward.

*SSHRC refers to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports postsecondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences.

VISITING SCHOLARS



Dr. Rhea Ashley **HOSKIN**, was recently welcomed to the Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies at St. Jerome's University and the Department of Sociology and Legal Studies at the University of Waterloo, as an AMTD Waterloo Global Talent Doctoral Fellow and an Ontario Women's Health Scholar, from September 14, 2020 to June 13, 2023. She will be working under the supervision of Drs. Toni Serafini and Andrea Quinlan (respectively).

The AMTD Waterloo Global Talent Postdoctoral Fellowships invite applications for a prestigious one or two year fellowship; which includes funding for an annual salary, an engagement fund, plus access to additional funds to create disruptive research dissemination opportunities.

Dr. Hoskin holds a PhD in Sociology from Queen's University and was the Recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal. She held an Ontario Women's Health Scholars (OWHS) Postdoctoral Award at Queen's University (2019) and was awarded a second OWHS to be completed at the University of Waterloo (2020). Her research as an AMTD fellow will focus on critical femininities, including femme identities; femmephobia; social prejudices; violence; and the links among gender, gender expression, health, and relationships.

Dr. Mathew S. **WISEMAN**, was welcomed to SJU as a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow, from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2022. The Government of Canada's Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program provides funding to "the very best postdoctoral applicants, both nationally and internationally, who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social and research-based growth." Dr. Wiseman will join the Department of History as a fellow under the supervision of Dr. Jane Nicholas. His research promises to use trailblazing women's experiences to understand their contributions to federal science policy and the disciplines of the natural sciences. Overall, the research seeks to shed new light on the role and value of studying science to understand the challenges of gender equality, the gendered nature of work, and the development of women's rights in Canada.



RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Caley **McCARTHY**, Research Associate and Environments of Change Project Manager, defended her PhD at McGill University in June 2020. Her dissertation "Medieval Marseille: the Hospital of Saint-Esprit, 1306-1457," explored the hospital financial records to reconstruct the institutional culture surrounding healthcare.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

5 YEARS

Saphron **MOULE**
Director, Finance and Accounting

Jane **NICHOLAS**
Associate Professor,
Department of History | Cross
appointment to Department of
Sexuality, Marriage, and Family
Studies | Director, Tri-University
History Program

Tom **SLABY**
Director of Facilities

Viola **POLETES-MONTGOMERY**
Director, Advancement and
Donor Relations

Mark **SPIELMACHER**
Lecturer, Department of English

Erika **TOFFELMIRE**, BA '12
Spiritual and Student
Development Advisor

Stephanie **ZEPF**, BA '14
Student Affairs Administrative
Assistant

10 YEARS

Melissa **CARVALHAL**, BA '09
Business Operations Coordinator

David-Antoine **WILLIAMS**
Associate Professor,
Department of English

15 YEARS

Nikolaj **ZUNIC**
Associate Professor,
Department of Philosophy

20 YEARS

Deb **ADDESSO**
Library Associate

Martha Fauteux Retires

as Director, Campus Ministry

Martha Fauteux was recently granted the Papal Honour of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross by Pope Francis. The honour recognizes outstanding service to the Pontiff or the Catholic Church. The following is a tribute to Martha's work, written by Erika Toffelmire, SJU's Spiritual and Student Development Advisor.

For Martha Fauteux, the outgoing Director of Campus Ministry at St. Jerome's, the education of the whole person has always been an integral part of her work and life ethos. It was her belief in the transformative power of learning that led her to join the staff team over ten years ago.

"I was drawn to St. Jerome's because of our call as a Catholic university to educate the whole person" she says. "It is really important to me to help students discover their own uniqueness and come to understand their spirituality and faith as their own."

Along with her skills as an educator from teaching experiences in northern Alberta and rural Peru, to name a few, Fauteux also brought her gifts of pastoral care to her work. In her accompaniment of students, staff, faculty, and community members she drew on her Masters in Ministry and Spirituality from the Toronto School of Theology, and her training as a Spiritual Director and a Spiritual Psychotherapist. More recently, her passion for ongoing learning led her to train as a Certified Zentangle teacher, sharing this unique practice of meditation and artistic expression with the entire St. Jerome's community.

Under Fauteux's guidance, Campus Ministry has become a department synonymous with belonging. "The desire to be totally welcoming to everyone is very important to me" she says, noting the creation of the Fr. Bob Liddy C.R. Spirituality Centre as a point of pride in attaining this goal, recognizing the responsibility to support the spiritual needs of all community members and ensuring all students had access to spiritual spaces. Through her consistent presence, welcoming spirit, and listening ear, she has helped ensure that the Spirituality Centre is a space of reflection and belonging for all.

Fauteux has also been a highly collaborative leader and has worked hard to ensure that Campus Ministry is integrated with other student services. Integrating the spiritual support of students into larger

conversations about student development has been essential to her work; a goal she is confident will continue after she has left her role.

"From my time at St. Jerome's I believe more deeply in what it means to be a Catholic and I believe in all that the university stands for. We have something good to offer and it is important to have hope in it and see where it will go."

Fauteux notes that this time of transition comes with mixed feelings of sadness and gratitude, "I have been greatly nurtured through my encounters with others and I have taken to heart many of their questions. It has been a privilege to walk with others on their journeys."

Fauteux is looking forward to retirement as a time to use her gifts as a spiritual director and Zentangle teacher balanced with rest and time outdoors. She also hopes to remain connected with St. Jerome's, especially through the Sunday worshipping community and the Lectures in Catholic Experience.

We are grateful for Martha Fauteux's many years of dedication to St. Jerome's and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography





Looking Back On 50 Years at SJU

There are not many people that can say they have spent half a lifetime connected to any one organization. Bonnie Rudnisky, who in 1971 enrolled at the University of St. Jerome's College, and who has worked as SJU's Archives' Assistant for the past 24 years, may be the exception to the rule.

"I came to Waterloo in 1970 to work at the University of Waterloo in the Philosophy Department," says Rudnisky, who a year later enrolled to study History at the College. At that time the school was run by clerics and she was drawn to a Catholic institution that supported her recent conversion to Roman Catholicism

"I wanted to continue to deepen, experience, and learn more about my faith," she notes, adding that the smaller classes and close interaction with professors was also appealing.

Rudnisky says that working full-time and studying was difficult and so she had to pause her education. After marrying her husband Jim (BA '71), and having children, she returned to St. Jerome's to complete her degree as a part-time mature student. She graduated in 1993 with a BA (Hons) in Medieval Studies. Rudnisky also completed a three-year pastoral ministry course through Resurrection College.

"As one can imagine with young children at home, it was a pleasure to go to class to participate in more intellectual conversations and research. I also really enjoyed being among the younger students and seeing the world from their

perspective. I did take a number of night classes where I met other mature students who were also pursuing higher learning so we had a lot in common," says Rudnisky.

Studying History and Medieval Studies in the 1980's was "nothing like it is today." Rudnisky notes that she was the *only* one to graduate from Medieval Studies in 1993, and that Dr. Steven Bednarski's current work with the program is "much more extensive" than what was taught in her day.

Fr. Jim Wahl, C.R. inspired Rudnisky's interest in the program. Rudnisky says she "wanted to take every class that (he) taught," and that having that connection was so important for her. He eventually became the archivist for the Congregation of the Resurrection, allowing their connection to continue when she became St. Jerome's University's archives' assistant.

Rudnisky's work in the library as an undergraduate student, and occasionally thereafter, continued when she filled in at the circulation desk. In April 1996, she mentioned to the librarian at the time Gary Draper and co-worker Carolyn Dirks, that she had seen an article in *Update* magazine about organizing the university's archives, and thought it sounded "really interesting." She was recruited on the spot to volunteer that summer, and the rest, well - is history!

Twenty-four years later, Rudnisky describes her part-time employment manually (and more recently digitally) archiving the university's history as "rewarding". Her first 10 years were spent processing the records of the Congregation of the Resurrection (founders of St. Jerome's College in 1865), now stored at SJU. Thereafter, she focused on the university. Among the most interesting artifacts she likes are the earliest historical documents, school calendars, and photos from a time when St. Jerome's operated as a school for young men being trained for the priesthood. One of her favourite items in the collection is a photo of a pool table in the library.

"It has been a wonderful experience to oversee and look after the ongoing history of the institution. There is no better way to keep informed of the progress being made from year to year."

Rudnisky further asserts, "You need to have a repository of the past and the present day history as you journey into the future. I think it is very, very important that you retain the sense of who you are and where you came from as an institution. I have been lucky to do a job that I have very much enjoyed."

For someone who has touched every item in the archival collection currently stored at SJU, it does not get much better than that.

To find out more about the St. Jerome's University or Congregation of the Resurrection archives housed on campus, please contact sjuarchives@uwaterloo.ca

Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography

WHAT'S NEXT?

Dr. Scott Kline heads west to be Visiting Scholar in Ethics

What do presidents of universities do after they finish their term? For Dr. Scott Kline, whose time as Interim President and Vice Chancellor at St. Jerome's University concluded in June, the answer is go west. Dr. Kline was recently appointed a one-year role as the first Visiting Scholar in Ethics for St. Mark's College at the University of British Columbia and Providence Health Care. The position begins in January 2021.

The Visiting Scholar in Ethics is a component of the Catholic Health Care Ethics Fund, established in 2019 by the Archdiocese in Vancouver. St. Mark's and Providence Health Care have united to address the need for enhanced ethics in Catholic health care, by using clinical experiential learning, academic research, and teaching at St. Paul's Hospital and at St. Mark's. Dr. Kline's work while in this role will focus on teaching courses, continuing his research, and providing lectures to both organizations and the public.

"Scott Kline has worked productively and creatively for many years at the interface of ethics, public policy, and Catholic thought. His professional expertise and engaging leadership will be a boon for all," stated Dr. Michael W. Higgins, former St. Jerome's University President (1999-2006), and current St. Mark's College President and Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Kline has a PhD in Christian Social ethics, and works as an associate professor in St. Jerome's University's Religious Studies department. He brings experience as St. Jerome's University's Interim President and Vice Chancellor (2019-2020), and extensive knowledge of academic teaching, researching, and work as a theologian, to the Visiting Scholar role. He is also author of *Ethical Being: A Catholic Guide to Contemporary Issues*. Dr. Kline's current research, which he conducts with his wife Dr. Megan Shore, focuses on the role of faith-based organizations in systems approaches to homelessness. He is also involved in a neighbour saving neighbour research project with Dr. Jim Christenson at Providence Health Care, focused on rapid and effective responses to cardiac arrests.

"St. Jerome's University is pleased to support Dr. Scott Kline's appointment at St. Mark's College/UBC and Province Healthcare's inaugural Visiting Scholar in Ethics," notes SJU President and Vice Chancellor Peter Meehan. "This represents not only an endorsement of Scott's body of work in the field of Christian ethics as both a scholar and teacher, but also his commitment to bringing his very accessible approach to addressing the complex moral and ethical challenges facing the world today."



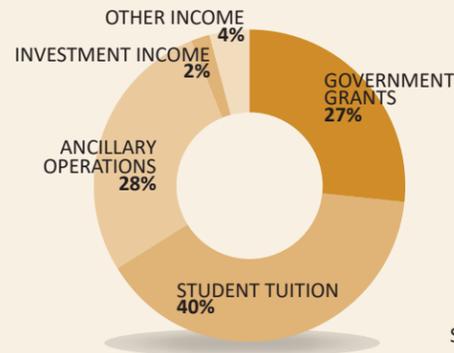
Photo: Bryn Gladding Photography

THANK YOU!

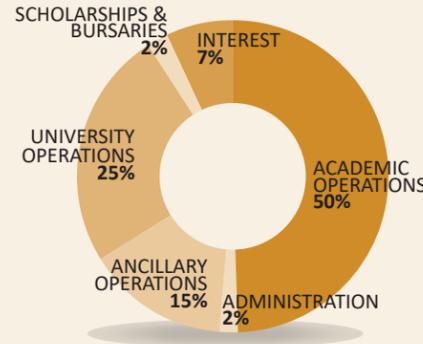
St. Jerome's University recognizes the generosity of the following individuals who contributed to our 2019-2020 fundraising efforts.

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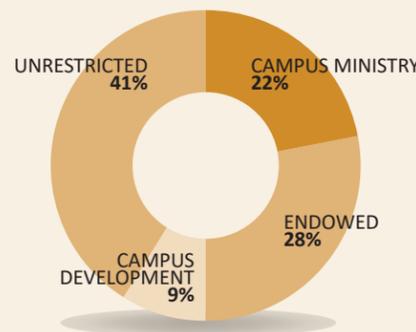
REVENUES \$20,142,290



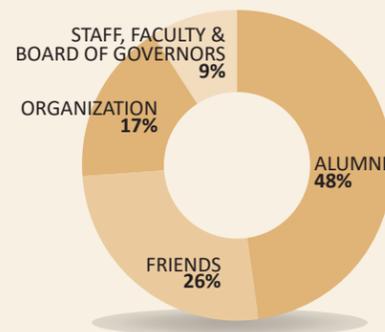
EXPENSES \$18,801,390



DONATIONS \$321,519.00



GIVING DESIGNATIONS



2020

FINANCIAL REPORT

Reporting on the Fiscal Year May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020

REVENUES

	Amount
Government Grants	\$ 5,423,137
Student Tuition	\$ 7,978,121
Ancillary Operations	\$ 5,576,596
Investment Income	\$ 364,672
Other Income	\$ 799,764
Total Revenues	\$ 20,142,290

EXPENSES

	Amount
Academic Operations	\$ 9,441,326
Administration	\$ 331,051
Ancillary Operations	\$ 2,769,483
University Operations	\$ 4,674,432
Scholarships & Bursaries	\$ 357,607
Interest	\$ 1,227,490
Total Expenses	\$ 18,801,390

Source: 2019-2020 Audited Statement of Operations, available on the St. Jerome's University website – www.sju.ca - on the Financial Accountability page.



BUILDING TOGETHER

A Message from our Director, Advancement and Donor Relations, Viola Poletes-Montgomery

Community – it is a word that describes people associated with St. Jerome’s University. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, friends. Whatever your connection, you are part of a group of people forever linked by a place that has meaning to all of us.

When COVID-19 restrictions were imposed in mid-March, students had to immediately leave on-campus residences or rented apartments and return home for what was then an unknown period of time. In the short-run, many students had nowhere to go. Others struggled with going home, where a parent may have lost a job.

Through this period of struggle for so many of our students, the St. Jerome’s community has been there to help. When we asked for our community’s support of the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund last May, you responded generously. Within two weeks, we raised more than \$80,000! Many of you sent me messages, sharing “It’s not much but, I want to help the students,” and asked out of genuine concern how the students are doing

The fact is, students are struggling. It was one thing to have to finish the last academic year online in April 2020, but no one thought it would continue into September. Now the news that the entire 2020-2021 academic year will be online has been hard to deal with. Another year of not seeing friends, roommates, and professors, having a part time job to help make ends meet, or even having a last Green and Gold Gala after four years of being together. No graduation ceremony. No goodbye to an important and pivotal life chapter.

For many of our students the result of this prolonged isolation has impacted their mental wellness. Our Students Affairs staff talk about their interactions with students, who have feelings of despair and despondency; worries about how they will afford university; or fear that they will never see friends again in person. In short, they see uncertainty all around them, and they are worried about life.

Students need our SJU community more than ever. I ask that you consider making a donation to support our important mission to our students here at St. Jerome’s University. Our future leaders of social justice, innovation, and research, need your help now. Any amount will have a significant impact at this critical moment in their education and their lives.

How will you be remembered?

“We have been very, very blessed over the years. We feel we have to give back. You just can’t carry on and not. Our parents helped us through university and so we set up the fund, the MacDonald-Young Scholarship in 1986 to honour our parents and to help students. When you read some of these letters from the students who have received awards from the scholarship, it’s very satisfying to know we have helped them with their educational pursuits.”

- Gail Young (nee MacDonald), BA '66

- Bruce Young, Retired Ontario Superior Court Justice, QC, BA '66

Gail and Bruce have left a bequest in their wills to St. Jerome’s University.

To learn more about how you can make an impact through your estate planning, please contact:

Viola Poletes-Montgomery, Director, Advancement and Donor Relations
vpoletesmontgomery@uwaterloo.ca | 519-884-8111 x28277



OUR MISSION

St. Jerome’s University is a public Roman Catholic university federated with the University of Waterloo and historically associated with the educational vision of the Congregation of the Resurrection.

We are committed to learning and academic excellence; the gospel values of love, truth, and justice; and the formation of leaders for the service of the community and the Church. In all of our activities and practices, St. Jerome’s University functions within the context of the Roman Catholic tradition and the principles of academic freedom.

OUR VISION

At St. Jerome’s University we steward each students’ unique talents, nurture their ability to think critically, and inspire them to become life-long learners who seek knowledge and truth, act with compassion, and advocate for human dignity for all.

We educate our students to become informed, courageous citizens who have the humility to work together for the common good and the courage to lead by example to build a more just society.

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**ST. JEROME'S
UNIVERSITY**
Federated with the University of Waterloo



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there's
ALWAYS
a seat because
SJUBELONG!

What makes SJ so special is the people. The people here are amazing. They are strong leaders, they are talented, they are creative, they are supportive, and they are family.

- Meredith Poirier
SJU Grad 2020

DEAR.

FROM. [SJU.CA/CONNECT-WITH-US](https://www.sju.ca/connect-with-us)
