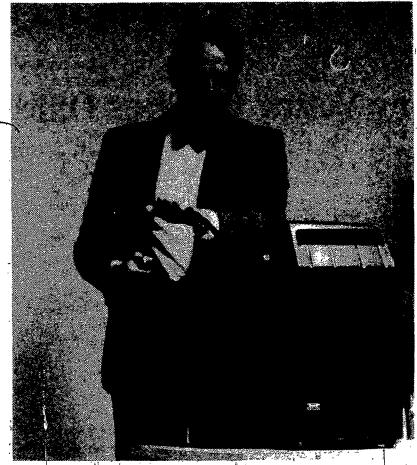# Shakespeare at Faculty Forum

By Kimberly Oshei

Thomas L. Berger, Craig professor of English, gave a presentation entitled "Looking for Shakespeare in Carolinian England" at the faculty forum held in the formal lounge of the Noble University Center Monday evening.

Approximately twenty St. Lawrence faculty members attended this final faculty forum of the semester, where Berger presented an argument discussing Shakespeare's revival during the reign of Charles I.

According to Berger, Shakespeare's works were less accessible during the Elizabethan period when they were first published, and were not popular until the Restoration period.

"While Shakespeare participated in the historical process with plays like Macbeth, he wasn't associated with Elizabeth the way he was said to have been," said Berger.

"The Restoration reinvented Shakespeare–people were tired of taxation and were remembering a time when the world made more sense to them," said Berger. "The Restoration had people looking back to the previous generation, yearning to recapture the simplicity of

Thomas Berger at a recent faculty forum
Photo by Scott Dickinson

Elizabethan England."

Berger showed slides of title pages taken from the first plays that were published. He stated that the initial title pages were very simple and plain, and were being marketed toward a limited group of people, while later title pages were more visual, reminding people that there is a theatrical experience involved.

According to Betsy Rezelman, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Associate Professor of Fine Arts, "A faculty forum is held about once a month, to give faculty the opportunity to present their works in progress, and to receive feedback from other faculty members."

Students are encouraged to attend.

Hunt Films in New York City

By Schaneick Robinson

A professor in the history department traveled to New York City to film a video tape on the Fortune Society, a group that helps convicts adjust to civilian life.

Chairperson of the history department, William Hunt, was accompanied by Stan Diamond, director of instructional media, and alumnus Rob Williams.

The filming took place in Manhattan. Hunt said they completed about four hours of filming.

He said the film is an educational video about the lives and adjustments of ex-offenders and he planned to use the video in his classes and for the freshman program once it is completed.

Hunt was elected to the board of directors of the Fortune Society. "The Fortune Society is a group of ex-offenders who are dedicated to educating the public about prisons, and addressing the

needs of ex-offenders and high risk youth.

"The Society originated in 1967 and the office is located at 39 West 19th Street, New York, NY, 10011," Hunt said.

Hunt became interested in the Fortune Society through an orientation program he was invited to. In this program, the staff and the ex-offenders talked about their lives in and out of prison, he said.

"The Fortune Society is concerned about the rate at which minorities are being locked up," said Hunt. He stated that he noticed that about 80 percent of prisoners are black and Latino.

"The Fortune Society offers individual and group counseling. The counselors are all ex-offenders and they focus on crisis intervention and re-integration into society. They are like advocates," said Hunt.

He stated that not only does the Fortune Society

serve as a support group, but they provide necessary services to try and break the cycle of crimes that are committed. The Society conducts job-oriented workshops, one-to-one tutoring for GED preparation and beginning levels in reading, spelling and math.

Hunt said, "The Fortune Society do respond to thousands of personal letters from inmates and ex-offenders. The Fortune Society have a Prison Families Anonymous meeting that gathers at their office in Manhattan every Thursday evening from 6:15 to 7:45. This meeting responds to the questions, complaints and concerns by the families of the inmates."

"Fortune is a community and at times an extended family," said Hunt. The program has over 100 active and committed volunteers from "all walks of life". Fortune

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Faculty Go Abroad for Cultural Encounters

By Ryuta Ohtani

Sixteen faculty members from 11 disciplines are currently engaged in a "retraining program" called the Cultural Encounters Program.

St. Lawrence University received grants from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), a division of the U.S. Department of Education, and from the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

As Thomas Coburn, Dana professor of religious studies and classical languages, explained, "The cultural encounter program is an effort to address the changing face of American higher education in light of the global awareness, and of cultural diversity, both within in U.S. and abroad."

According to Coburn, SLU is very fortunate to receive the grant from FIPSE as only five percent of institutions that apply are funded.

Writing the grant writing proposal took about two years and involved faculty members and development office. After receiving the grant, a selection committee was set up to select a group of the faculty.

According to Eve Walsh Stoddard, professor of English and the project's director, 16 faculty meet once every two weeks on Friday for about three hours in seminar.

The first stage of the program, called "Conceiving the World," involves discussion on readings, musical and other oral performances that address the issue of how various cultures construct meaning.

The second stage, titled "Cultural Encounter," involves examining issues that arise when two or more cultures come into contact with each other.

The third stage is tentatively titled "Re-enchantment" and will explore the theoretical aspects of "trying to envision the future of how we get past the problems posed by cultural encounters," Stoddard said.

She mentioned that as a part of the retraining program, 16 faculty members will travel to Kenya this summer and India next summer. The trip entails studying practical applications of "Conceiving the World" and "Cultural Encounter."

In Kenya, for example,

they will spend approximately three weeks visiting both rural areas and more urban areas like Mombasa and Nairobi. In the rural areas they will try to see more traditional culture, while in the urban areas they hope to see results of cultural encounters through a blend of traditional and English colonial cultures.

Students will also benefit from this program. As early as next year, courses under the general heading of Conceiving the World will be offered. For example, Grant Cornwell will be teaching Conceiving the World: Philosophies of Nature.

In the long run, it is hoped that more structural curriculum can be established to strengthen SLU's commitment toward international study and to compliment the study aboard programs.

Senior seminars will also be established along the lines of "Re-enchantment."

In the long run, Cornwell said he is interested in "a curricular transformation" of SLU along a progressive line. He noted that it is not about throwing out the Western culture nor is it about "sprinkling in some non-western requirement" in what is primarily western curriculum.

Cornwell added that the First Year Program can be involved in at least two ways. One way is to establish a college where the theme is cultural encounters. The other way is to have a general impact on the FYP.

Cornwell and Stoddard mentioned the program's desire to work closely with Margaret Kent Bass, the new director of multi-cultural affairs, in order to establish a well-structured academic track. This track involves students to take in addition to FYP, three courses in the cultural encounter, a year of foreign language, a math course, and a new science course.