What is in a name? Well for KannenBright, many things. First and foremost KannenBright is a joining of the family names of two very important members of the Concordia Theological Studies department. Named after Dr. Charles Kannengiesser and Dr. Pamela Bright, both of whom are extraordinary scholars in their own right as well as pillars of the department, the name KannenBright does more than just honour Dr. Kannengiesser and Dr. Bright. It also sets a level of academic proficiency. The KannenBright committee is inspired by the calibre of work that the journal namesakes have produced over their careers and as such, strives to include articles and pieces of work that live up to the standards set by both Dr. Kannengiesser and Dr. Bright.
The human gestures of welcoming are as diverse as the occasions for the ritual itself. We welcome friends, family and strangers with opening of doors and lighting of lamps. We welcome with smiles, with formal handshakes, with open arms. At another level, we welcome initiatives and new ideas, knowing well that every form of welcoming opens the door to the possibility of transformative change. This first issue of the undergraduate student journal, *Kannenbright* is indeed an occasion to welcome such a timely initiative from the student body here in the Department of Theological Studies. Over the years, the graduate journal, *Word in the World* has matured into an outstanding publication, one that provides a respected forum for the communication of research projects and a vehicle for honing the wide-ranging skills of its contributors. With the publication of Issue #1 of *Kannenbright* those enrolled in the Pastoral Certificate, or Theology Minors, Majors and Honors have found their voice, or rather, a platform to voice their determination to participate in the future shaping of theological studies. Charles and I are deeply moved to be in some way associated with such a venture, and to have this opportunity to say: “Welcome, Issue #1.”

This year marks a milestone for the two of us as we celebrate an aggregate of a hundred years devoted to teaching and to research in our field of Early Christian Studies. Charles’s own teaching career began and ended here in Montreal, his first courses being given in 1964 at the summer session of the Jesuit College St.Marie, where UQAM is now located. His last class, a graduate course on trinitarian theology was given in the Masters course here in the Department of Theological Studies at Concordia.

Charles’s years of spiritual and theological training began in 1945, the year that marked the turbulent end of World War II when Alsace, his homeplace, was freed from Nazi domination. The long and thorough years of study that marked the Jesuit formation he pursued until 1970 were followed by ten years as professor of theology teaching younger Jesuits, a time in which he became enchanted with the literature of the Early Church.

In this long journey his ultimate mentor, companion and hero was Athanasius, the redoubtable bishop of Alexandria who stared down the Roman Emperor, led the churches against the ascendant forces of Arianism, but who never forgot that he was primarily called to be a pastor and a man of prayer. Among the hundreds of Charles’s publications a great many have explored the legacy of Athanasius. One of the first publications is the critical edition of Athanasius’s *On the Incarnation* – the Greek text established on the basis of the surviving manuscripts. Now one of the urgent manuscripts calling on his attention is...
Charles’s edition of Athanasius’s *Orations Against the Arians*. Then at long last, he hopes to write his long expected biography of Athanasius.

No matter how his energies were galvanized by his work as editor-in-chief of the renowned publishing house Beauchesne in Paris or his many projects with other international scholars, his attention has never deviated from his love of teaching. His enthusiasm for teaching keeps alive his own awareness of being a student himself. No surprise that he enrolled in Dr. Gagné’s Coptic classes this Fall! On the occasion of Charles’s eightieth birthday celebrations in Cadouin, a former Cistercian Abbey founded in the south of France by St. Bernard in the eleventh century, colleagues from around the world joined family and friends including many members of his student pastoral group in Paris during the Student Riots of the early 1970’s. These days his whole attention is focused on completing the second edition of the *Handbook of Patristic Exegesis* (over 2000 pages), a monument to his conviction that the Bible and its reception in the Christian community is central to the whole project of theological studies.

My own journey a world away, or rather a hemisphere away, began in Australia. Starting my teaching career “Down-Under” in 1956, I am left with a mosaic of memories of one or two-teacher schools in farming districts, of urban colleges, and of far-flung “outback” Queensland schools, memories of the thousands of young faces, still so vivid – and so beloved - over the years. After completing years of studies in classics, biblical literature, and early church studies, in 1981 I found a new world of opportunities for scholarship and teaching in the mid-West of the United States, at Notre Dame, Indiana, and at Loyola University, Chicago and finally, here in Montreal where from the first moment Charles and I have been incorporated into a welcoming, vibrant and wonderfully diverse community. It is our experience that it is precisely in exemplifying these same qualities that Concordia University becomes a microcosm of the best aspects of Montreal itself.

The years as a faculty member of the Department of Theological Studies have confirmed my abiding sense of the privilege and the responsibility of being a theologian, and at the same time of being a participant of the wonderfully rumbustious world of the modern secular university. It’s a great place to be! A dear presence through all these experiences has been my long-time friend, Augustine of Hippo, himself surely as much at home in this environment as he was in late fourth century Carthage both as student and teacher.

The title of the journal, *Kannenbright*, is an opportunity for Charles and me to take stock of what we have shared in common. One of the obvious features is our commitment to be people of faith in a way that transcends confessional boundaries, but at the same time expresses that faith in the daily concreteness of a specific community. We share a profound gratitude for the spiritual richness of the years we both spent in our past religious congregations, and now for the twenty years of married love. We share an appreciation for a wide range of art forms, in fact, for all joyful aspects of life from the sublime to the ridiculous (maybe especially the ridiculous).

In reading the recently published poems of Seamus Heaney in the *Human Chain*, I was touched by his lines in “Album”–
About a love that’s proved by steady gazing.

Not at each other but in the same direction.

It is our hope that the journal and its many future contributions may be characterized by an openness to others in the diversity of their gifts, but also may draw strength from a sense of surprise and gratitude that wells up in an awareness of shared directions.