

McGillNews

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER
2019-20



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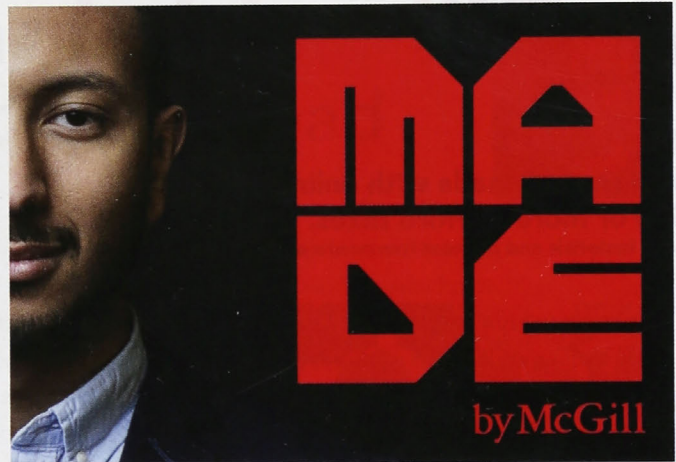
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As the University prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary, it is also planning for McGill's future with the launch of **Made by McGill: the Campaign for Our Third Century**. The \$2-billion campaign will be one of the most ambitious fundraising initiatives that Canada has ever seen.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



20 A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

How do you build a business that ends up valued at a billion dollars? If you follow Sonder co-founder **Francis Davidson's** example, you start off by thinking of ways to sublet your apartment in the McGill Ghetto.

BY JUDITH RITTER, MA'72

26 TAKING HER GAME TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

She played a key role in making Montreal a hotspot for the gaming industry. She is an iconic figure for young women who want to work on video games. And now, **Jade Raymond, BSc'98**, is leading the charge for Google's new game-streaming service.

BY ERIK LEIJON



30 100 YEARS OF THE MCGILL NEWS

Over the course of a century, the *McGill News* has sported many different looks (the late sixties were particularly groovy), but the goal has always been to highlight the achievements of McGill's graduates and share the latest news about the University.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

34 L'HUMOUR, C'EST DU SÉRIEUX!

L'humour se porte très bien au Québec. Il n'empêche que les humoristes doivent s'adapter à des mentalités qui évoluent, tout en se tournant vers le monde.

PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B.A. 1991)

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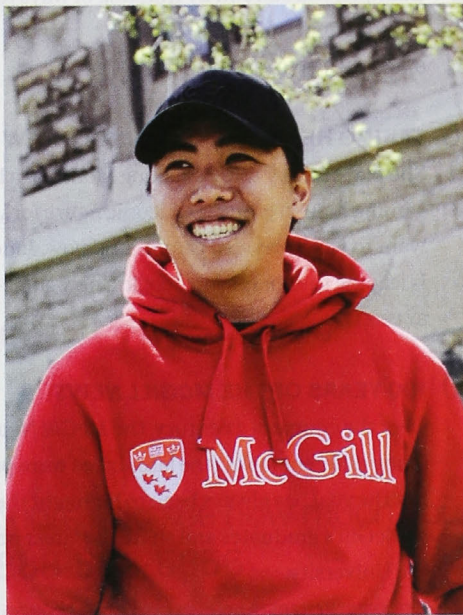
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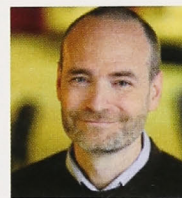
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Looking back and looking ahead



OWEN EGAN

Be gentle with the magazine you're holding. And show a little respect, will you? It's not every day that a 100-year-old makes its way into your home.

In December 1919, the very first edition of the *McGill News* was published. One of McGill's most fabled figures, Stephen Leacock, chaired the editorial committee of the fledgling publication, and it included articles about acting principal Frank Dawson Adams and the Percival Molson Stadium, and advertisements for Peter Dawson's Scotch Whisky ("used by discriminating people"), Canadian National Railways ("the line of transportation that builds and binds a nation") and the Roamer ("America's smartest car").

It's impossible to do justice to 100 years of history in only four pages, but I hope you enjoy reading our article about the magazine's 10 decades. I enjoyed writing it — and especially talking to some of my predecessors about what it was like for them to edit the *News*. It's nice to know that I'm not the first editor to be called out by our well-educated readers for a grammatical fumble or two. And I'm not the first editor to find that putting together the "In memoriam" section can be difficult at times (you come across familiar names that you aren't happy to see in that context).

Our designer Steven McClenaghan (who can lay claim to being a significant part of the magazine's history — he started working on the *News* in 1999) decided to mark our 100th anniversary in his own way, by freshening up our look.

One section of the magazine in particular is reflective of "Made by McGill," the University's new brand platform. Not by coincidence, that section will offer news related to one of the key drivers behind the new creative approach — McGill's \$2 billion fundraising campaign, Made by McGill: the Campaign for Our Third Century.

The campaign was officially launched at one of the most memorable Homecoming celebrations in McGill history. The Homecoming Village that temporarily transformed the lower campus was a big hit (who doesn't like swings?). One of the attractions was a repurposed shipping container where remarkable young McGillians discussed their work.

Medical resident David Benrimoh, MDCM'16, for instance. He is the chief science officer for Aifred, which uses AI to help personalize treatment options for depression. Aifred was recently announced as one of the 10 finalists for the international IBM Watson AI XPRIZE.

Undergraduates Miasya Bulger (bioengineering) and Raffi Hotter (mathematics and computer science) spoke about being part of a team of McGill students who developed a brain-controlled wheelchair that won the Neurotech X global student competition.

More recently, at a town hall event for university advancement staff, three students talked about how outside-the-classroom experiences had enriched their time at McGill. Information systems student Anne Sophie Levee was part of a team that represented McGill at an international case competition in Paris (they placed 10th overall and were the top-ranked Canadian team). She said that having access to a unique experiential opportunity like that was "a non-negotiable" for her in choosing her university (a Montrealer, she also welcomed the chance to work on her English after attending a French CEGEP).

As McGill prepares to embark on its third century, it wants to make sure that it will be a place where future generations of Davids and Miasyas and Raffis and Anne Sophies can continue to have access to those kinds of life-changing experiences. It's a huge part of what the new campaign hopes to achieve. 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



Gearing up for McGill's third century

In March 2021, McGill will mark its 200th anniversary and begin a new century of history. McGill will celebrate this important milestone with a program of activities beginning this upcoming September and continuing throughout the following year. It will be an opportunity to highlight McGill's past achievements while also looking to the University's future. Principal **SUZANNE FORTIER**, BSc'72, PhD'76, spoke to the *McGill News* about McGill's ambitions for its new fundraising campaign and the University's third century.

It was a busy fall at the University with the launch of Made by McGill: the Campaign for Our Third Century last September—McGill's most ambitious campaign ever with a goal of \$2 billion. What does this campaign mean for the University?

It is a pivotal time for our University. The 200th anniversary milestone is a time to celebrate our achievements and contributions, but also to reflect on what kind of institution we want to be as we move forward. The campaign looks to our future, and will launch McGill into its third century while supporting our commitment to making a difference in the world of today and taking on the challenges of tomorrow. The campaign will provide support to the aspirations of our students and professors to tackle these challenges.

McGill is entering its third century at a time of constant change in the world. How can we, as a university, anticipate and better navigate these changes?

Again this academic year, I took part in a number of global meetings, including the World Economic Forum Global Future Councils in Dubai and its annual meeting in Davos. I call these meetings my telescope into the future. The learning in such meetings makes its way into planning at our University, in particular in our strategic academic and research plans. We also have the privilege of having a community that is well connected to the global environment and brings to our University their insight into the future in every area of knowledge.

How is McGill gearing up to take on these disruptive changes and challenges?

Our whole vision for our future is based on taking on these challenges and being connected to our world, and to our communities. This commitment is embodied in the four pillars for our third century: opportunities that open doors, research that changes lives, innovation that drives progress and an education that shapes future-ready students. Together, our students, staff, researchers, alumni and partners are positioned to make a measurable impact on our world, and address challenges ranging from accessibility to education, climate change, and disease, just to name a few.

In looking towards the future, not only the start of a new calendar year and decade, but the start of a new century for McGill, what are you the most excited about?

What is most exciting is the energy, leadership and commitment of our community, both on our campuses and across the world. Whether it is the implementation of new community initiatives, bringing innovative ideas to life, or making ground-breaking discoveries, there is always something inspiring going on at our University. This augurs well for McGill taking an even more important place in the world. The future is waiting to be made! 🐦



Help for those perplexed by personal finance

Ask the average person about the risks of a high-fat diet, or the benefits of eating more fresh fruit and vegetables, and you will likely hear a well-informed response. But ask them to explain the difference between a stock and a bond, or to make a list of their revenues and expenditures, and you may not hear the same confidence in their voice.

ISABELLE BAJEUX-BESNAINOU would like the public to become as knowledgeable about their finances as they are about their diet. Bajeux-Besnainou, the dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management, starts listing statistics that point to the worrisome state of our country's personal finances.

"Right now, about a third of Canadians do not save for retirement, 44 per cent consider themselves living paycheque to paycheque [and] 40 per cent feel overwhelmed by debt."

She and her Faculty are hoping to help the public become better informed on an array of personal finance issues by offering a free online course called **MCGILL PERSONAL FINANCE ESSENTIALS**.

Partnering with RBC Future Launch and *The Globe and Mail*, the course is divided into eight 15- to 25-minute learning modules, each taught by a faculty member at Desautels in a video lecture. Among the modules are Debt & Borrowing (taught by faculty lecturer **AMANDA ABRAMS**, BCom'07), Realities of Real Estate (taught by associate professor **DESMOND TSANG**), and Behavioural Finance (taught by associate professor **VADIM DI PIETRO**, BEng'01).

Launched at the beginning of November and taught in both English and French, enrolment numbers for the course have soared beyond expectations. As of the end of November, nearly 20,000 people had registered for the course.

The idea to create the free personal finance course originated from the Royal Bank of Canada desk of a McGill alumna.

CAROLINE PAXTON, BCom'93, the bank's vice president of media and strategic initiatives, saw the value in such an initiative, but realized that RBC would need a respected partner to make it happen.

"If it was delivered by RBC financial advisors, I think folks would be a little bit more skeptical about the motivation behind it," she explains. The project meshed well with the goals of the bank's foundation arm, **RBC FUTURE LAUNCH**, which focuses, in part, on skills development for Canadian youth.

While having lunch with Bajeux-Besnainou, Paxton shared her thoughts on the still embryonic concept. She says the dean jumped on the idea.

From Paxton's perspective, McGill seemed like a perfect partner. "It's an internationally recognized university with a great reputation, but also there's the French and English component," referring to the fact that many McGill professors are able to lecture in both languages.

Bajeux-Besnainou then looked for an "academic champion" who could organize the subjects and find the right presenters. That's where **BENJAMIN CROITORU**, an associate professor of finance, came in.

Croitoru agreed to take on the role of academic director and began recruiting colleagues. He looked for those who would feel comfortable in front of a camera, and whose areas of teaching and research matched one of the course topics. Other members of the team include senior faculty lecturer **SUJATA MADAN** (Your Money: Today & Tomorrow), faculty lecturer **DON MELVILLE**, MBA'00 (Strategic Budget Building,) and senior faculty lecturer **PHILIPPE LEVY**, MBA'90 (The Art of Investing Part 2, with Croitoru teaching Part 1). Bajeux-Besnainou appears in the first module, introducing the course.

Course enrolment is expected to reach 160,000 in two years. Early numbers show that it's been particularly popular with Ontarians, who make up 40 per cent of enrollees, and with Quebecers at 30 per cent.

For Paxton, the course is "a groundbreaking way to democratize education." Bajeux-Besnainou, echoes that thought. "We're making McGill accessible to everybody." 🐦

PHILIP FINE

To find out more about McGill Personal Finance Essentials,
visit mcgillpersonalfinance.com

Celebrating a historic rivalry

Back in 1874, the men's rugby teams at McGill and Harvard got together for a couple of matches in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Things got a little experimental.

The rules of the sport differed widely between Canada and the U.S. The first game was played under "Boston rules," with a soccer-like ball and limited ball carrying. The second match used "McGill rules" — British-style rules featuring an oblong ball and the free-flowing ability to carry the ball until tackled.

That second game had a huge impact. The McGill rules took root around New England and ultimately played a major role in the development of U.S.-style football.

"Canadian political commentators often lament the outsize influence that American popular culture has on Canadian cultural identity," says former McGill rugby player Frank Fleming, BA'82. "But here we have an instance in which Canada... served as a massive influencer on American culture."

Fleming, a New York-based businessman, chaired the McGill Rugby Alumni Covo Committee. Along with other former McGill players and current members of the team, the committee worked to attract more attention to the annual **COVO CUP CLASSIC** between McGill and Harvard that pays tribute to those historic 1874 games. (The event is named after Peter Covo, BEng'43, a former engineering professor and rugby coach at McGill.)

Instead of taking place at Macdonald Campus as usual, the game was moved downtown to Percival Molson Memorial Stadium to give it a higher profile. More effort was put into promoting the event (stories appeared in the *National Post* and elsewhere). Almost 1,600 spectators watched the 2019 Covo Cup Classic — a record crowd for McGill rugby. Most went home happy — McGill won the match 47-15.

WITH FILES FROM ERIC SHUELL



McGill rugby captain Jessen Gibbs celebrates after being awarded the Covo Cup by Principal Suzanne Fortier.

Honouring Leonard

Canada Post marked the 85th birthday of the late **LEONARD COHEN**, BA'55, DLitt'92, on September 21 in a memorable way — by releasing four million stamps commemorating the legendary singer-songwriter-poet.

The special stamp series features three distinct images of Cohen, each marking a different period of his career and life, and all bearing the dynamic design work of the Montreal firm Paprika.

The stamps were officially launched in the Glass Court of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, with the downtown mural of Cohen in full view. Another iconic Montreal singer-songwriter, Michel Rivard, was on hand to perform two of Cohen's famous works, "Dance Me to the End of Love" and "Famous Blue Raincoat."

The official launch for the stamps also offered attendees a preview of some of the music featured on *Thanks for the Dance*, an album that Cohen was working on with his son Adam before he died. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Adam said his famously dapper father remained true to form to the very end. "Most of the time, even in acute pain, he would muster the energy to put on a suit and a fedora."



Adam recruited an impressive group of artists to help him complete his father's final work, including Spanish guitarist Javier Mas (he toured alongside Leonard for years), Montreal musicians Howard Bilterman and Patrick Watson, Feist, Beck, Jennifer Warnes, Daniel Lanois and the National's Bryce Dessner. *The Guardian* calls the album "a sublime final statement," while *Rolling Stone* describes it as "a magnificent parting shot."

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



An expert's guide to stripping

Jennifer Lopez (pictured above) earned a Golden Globe Award nomination for her performance as a stripper in the film *Hustlers*. While shooting scenes for the movie, Lopez would frequently turn to a tall, striking woman standing next to *Hustlers* director Lorene Scafaria.

"Jacq, how can I make this more authentic?"

The questions were directed at **JACQUELINE FRANCES**, BA'09, who served as a consultant on the film, offering Lopez and the other cast members her expert take on what life is really like for people who work as strippers. Frances, known professionally as Jacq the Stripper, has worked in the business for almost 10 years.

"[Jennifer] would ask me, 'What would I say in a situation like this? How would I react?'" says Frances. "There was a lot of improv [in the film] with the dancing and the interactions with customers. I would feed her some lines or suggestions, for instance, about how we maneuver around some of the [awful] things men say to you in a strip club, and she went with it and she was great."

Frances, who also works as comedian and as a writer/illustrator, took up stripping while travelling after she graduated from McGill. At one point, she found herself flat broke in Australia.

"When you need money, you do things that you normally wouldn't do. I thought, I was so far away from home [she grew up near Toronto], no one would ever find out."

Then something unexpected happened. She enjoyed the job.

"I really like the physicality of it," says Frances. "I get to meet new people every day. It's such a fascinating, curious [world]. It's never boring. I don't have boring days." 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

McGillians at the cabinet table

When Prime Minister **JUSTIN TRUDEAU**, BA'94, convenes cabinet meetings, there will be plenty of other McGill graduates sitting at the table with him.

DAVID LAMETTI, BCL'89, LLB'89, a longtime professor of law at McGill, will carry on in the role of justice minister and attorney general, a position he has held since January 2019.

KARINA GOULD, BA'10, is now the minister for international development. When Gould was appointed minister of democratic institutions in 2017, she became the youngest female cabinet minister in Canadian history.

CATHERINE MCKENNA, LLB'99, who had served as Canada's minister of environment and climate change since 2015, is taking on a new role as minister for infrastructure and communities.

JONATHAN WILKINSON, MA'92, the former minister of fisheries, oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, has inherited McKenna's previous portfolio. He will likely be a major player in the government. The CBC's Aaron Wherry noted that the "two most prominent words in the [throne speech] that opened the 43rd Parliament were 'climate' and 'change.'"

A newcomer to cabinet, **MARC MILLER**, BCL'01, LLB'01, is Canada's new minister of Indigenous services. As the MP for Ville-Marie — Le Sud-Ouest — Île-des-Sœurs, Miller represents a riding that includes McGill's downtown campus. His father, Carman Miller, is an emeritus professor of history at McGill and a former dean of arts, and his mother, Pamela Miller, BA'66, retired from her position as the Osler Library's history of medicine librarian.

A key member of the Prime Minister's Office will also be a McGill graduate. **MARCI SURKES**, BCL/LLB'07, is the PMO's new executive director of policy. She previously served as chief of staff to former minister of public safety Ralph Goodale. 🐦

WILLIAM GREER

Jonathan Wilkinson being sworn in as Canada's new minister of environment and climate change



She came, she sawed, she conquered

With a swing of her axe, **STÉPHANIE BÉLANGER-NAUD**, FMT'14, BSc(AgEnvSc)'17, regularly bites out large chunks from totem-like wooden poles, and, handling a single buck saw, slices through pine logs the size of sewer pipes. She's no slouch when it comes to a chain saw either.

A professional female timbersports athlete, or lumberjill, she excels at an axe event called the underhand chop. It involves hacking at a log she stands on, and breaking it in two, which she is capable of completing in 31 seconds.

Last August, BÉLANGER-NAUD took home first place at the Stihl Timbersports Women's Pro Canadian Championship. She also placed second among the women in last summer's Lumberjack World Championships in Wisconsin.



CHRISTINE MUSCHI

BÉLANGER-NAUD, who grew up on a dairy farm in the Eastern Townships, first learned about timbersports by way of a Macdonald Campus pamphlet. "I didn't even know that this world existed when I got to McGill," she recalls.

She competed with the Macdonald timbersports team for five years. Now working on a master's degree in animal science, BÉLANGER-NAUD has been one of the squad's coaches for the last three years.

BÉLANGER-NAUD says technique and flexibility are more important for the sport than big muscles. She points out some of the finer points of timbersports for anyone who might want to swing an axe aimed at a log between their spread-out feet. "You want to slice into the wood and not just hit it," she says, explaining that the heel of the axe (the bottom corner point of the blade) needs to hit the wood first. "You hear it when your axe gets into the wood the right way." 🐦

PHILIP FINE



NADA

A package-free approach to groceries

When **BRIANNE MILLER**, BSc'09, worked as a marine-mammal biologist, she often encountered ocean problems linked to how food is produced and moved.

While diving in places as far flung as Haida Gwaii and Borneo, she saw plastic food containers polluting the ocean. As a researcher in Vancouver, she studied how shipping noises hindered the ability of orcas to communicate and forage for food together.

"We rely on this global mass-shipped economy of food that travels around the world. From an environmental perspective, there are a lot of different problems that stem from that," says Miller, co-founder and chief executive officer of **NADA**, Vancouver's first package-free grocery store.

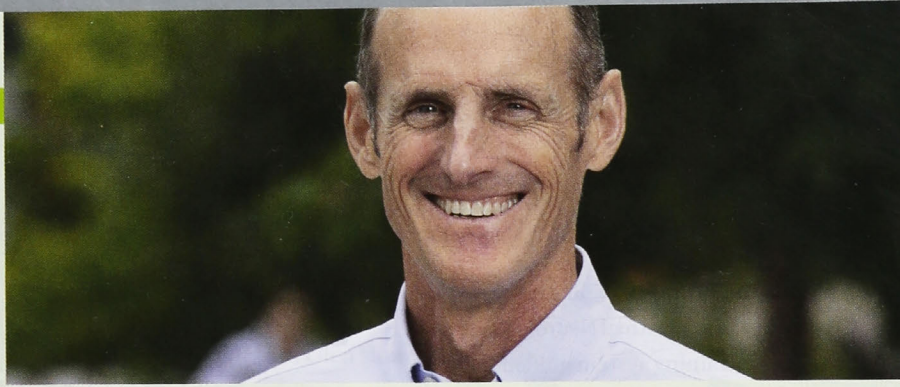
At Nada, which opened in 2018, customers scoop dry staples like coffee, beans, and flour, which are sold by weight, into Tupperware or other containers, while dispensing liquids like olive oil from metal kegs into their bottles and jars.

Almost nothing is prepackaged. You can buy a bunch of coriander or a sprig, pick up a flat of eggs or just one, fill a container with frozen berries or grab a scoop. Miller wants customers to walk away with exactly what they need to minimize waste.

Nada's zero waste café turns anything that doesn't sell into soups, smoothies, and other dishes. The store also works with companies that recover ingredients that would otherwise go into trash, like a bakery that makes treats with spent grains from beer breweries.

Nada discards less than one per cent of its food, compared to eight to 10 per cent for a typical grocery store. "We've been able to reduce the food waste from our grocery store to next-to-nothing," says Miller. 🐦

ALIA DHARSSI



OWEN EGAN

Extending McGill's global reach in medicine

TIM EVANS has had a career in health that has been global in both scope and geography.

He has held senior positions at the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and in academia in Bangladesh.

Now, he's back in Canada after 27 years abroad, for a new challenge, as the inaugural director and associate dean of the **SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH** in McGill's Faculty of Medicine.

The new School, which is expected to launch in the fall of 2020, will bring together Biomedical Ethics, the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health, McGill Global Health Programs, and the Institute for Health and Social Policy.

It will house the existing graduate programs currently offered by those departments and units, along with new programs envisioned for the School, and pave the way for more interdisciplinary research.

"In my view, the big vision is that Canada, and Canadian institutions by association, can play a much more significant role with respect to global health moving in the future," says Evans, who is also McGill's new associate vice-principal (global policy and innovation).

"I think McGill is in a great position to move that needle." In many ways, it already is, he adds, pointing to the international stature of many of McGill's experts on tuberculosis.

Part of what Evans finds exciting about the new interdisciplinary school is the opportunity to make it a university-wide project. He points out that other areas of research at McGill, such as education, nutrition, dentistry, and management, have huge ramifications for global health. "When you're thinking about delivering health services, business savvy and entrepreneurial skills are in high demand," he says.

While his father was one of Canada's most heralded medical professors — John Evans was, among many other things, McMaster University's founding dean of medicine — Tim Evans pursued a PhD in an entirely different field as a Rhodes Scholar.

But as he did his doctoral work in agricultural economics, he developed an interest in infectious and tropical diseases. And as he examined the issues associated with those diseases, it made him ponder why life chances are "so miserably different" between his native Canada and Africa, where he was doing his doctoral research. He decided that medicine would be a useful vocation to try to make an impact on those disparities and obtained a medical degree from McMaster.

One of the biggest health challenges he has dealt with in his international career was at the Rockefeller Foundation where he and his colleagues noticed child vaccination rates dropping to low levels in the 1990s, primarily in low and middle-income countries.

They put together a task force to look at how to boost childhood vaccination, says Evans, who was director of the Health Equity Theme at the foundation. "And out of that we spawned something called the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, which was launched in Davos in 2000," he says, calling it the first-ever billion dollar health partnership.

"Childhood vaccination rates now are coming up to about 80 per cent coverage globally. [There is much] more to do, but if you look at where we were back in 2000 and where we are now, [it's] tremendous progress."

Evans remains troubled, though, by the role that impoverishment continues to play in perpetuating health-related inequities between the world's haves and have-nots. When he was at the WHO, Evans launched and led the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. The commission's influential report focused attention on the key connections between social conditions and health.

Evans believes population and global health "represents the most exciting knowledge opportunity anywhere." The chance to learn from seven billion citizens "offers unbounded learning opportunities for health and health care," he says. And the lessons learned from those diverse populations could prove to be invaluable in a multicultural country like ours.

"If you're really interested in the best knowledge to solve problems in health, it's hard not to be convinced that a global reach and perspective is going to be invaluable." 🐦

BRENDA BRANSWELL

Tim Evans is the inaugural director of McGill's School of Population and Global Health

Simulating neurosurgery

Inspired by the success of flight simulators in training pilots, a team of researchers at The Neuro (the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital) is developing a training system guided by artificial intelligence that can assess the capabilities of neurosurgical trainees during virtual surgery and offer tailored feedback to improve their skills and efficiency.

“Between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of surgical errors are preventable,” says **ROLANDO DEL MAESTRO**, director of the Neurological Simulation and Artificial Intelligence Learning Centre. “We could substantially decrease these errors if surgeons around the world were trained on simulators to a mastery level of expertise.”

A recent study published by Del Maestro and lead author **ALEXANDER WINKLER-SCHWARTZ**, MDCM'14, a neurosurgery resident and McGill PhD candidate, supports that argument.

In the study, 50 participants including neurosurgeons, fellows, residents, and medical students, performed 250 complex tumour resections using NeuroVR, a virtual reality neurosurgical simulator developed by the National Research Council of Canada and distributed by CAE.

The simulator enables trainees practicing virtual surgery to feel the density of the tumours they're removing and see blood vessels bleed in a way that mirrors real-life situations.

The McGill team found the best-performing AI algorithm — using just six performance measures, such as force applied and instrument velocity — could predict the level of expertise of each participant with 90 per cent accuracy.

Del Maestro and his team have a patent pending on an AI and VR surgical simulation platform that uses voice and video feedback to assess and instruct students on proper techniques for specific procedures.

“Our long-term goal is to globalize safe surgical care by using AI and VR simulation to complement and enhance existing training,” Del Maestro says. 🐦

MARK WITTEN



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI



ATHAN DENETTE

Genetically distinct society

A recent McGill study discovered that Inuit people from the Nunavik region in northern Quebec are genetically distinct from any other present-day world population. Those key differences in their genetic makeup likely enabled the Nunavik Inuit to successfully adapt to their harsh northern environment for thousands of years, but it also puts them at a greater risk for some potentially dangerous health conditions.

“We found genetic variations involving fatty acid metabolism, cellular adhesion and immune response that seemed to help the Inuit adapt to cold temperatures, a high-fat diet and nomadic lifestyle,” says the study's lead author **SIRUI ZHOU**, a former doctoral student at The Neuro.

The researchers also found a specific gene variant associated with a higher risk of developing brain aneurysms, which are more prevalent among Nunavik Inuit than in the general population, as is cardiovascular disease. Zhou suspects that the protective genetic adaptations Inuit people developed through natural selection to metabolize fats differently, may confer an increased health risk if the environment changes.

“The Inuit are highly adapted to getting energy from a high-fat diet and coping with extreme cold. Keeping their traditional diet may be important in maintaining good vascular health since they were not adapted to use a lot of carbohydrates to derive energy,” says Zhou, who collaborated on the study with The Neuro's director **GUY ROULEAU** and **PATRICK DION**, an assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery.

To do the study, Zhou analyzed DNA samples collected from 170 Nunavik Inuit volunteers. “[The Inuit] hope that future studies could help to develop better healthcare practices, diagnosis and preventive screening for the cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases they're at higher risk for genetically,” says Zhou. 🐦

MARK WITTEN

Private room — no bugs allowed

When the McGill University Health Centre's Glen site was still in its planning stages, a shift to single-patient rooms was emphasized for the new hospital campus. The thinking was that such rooms could significantly reduce rates of hospital-acquired infections.

Once the Glen site was up and running and the old Royal Victoria Hospital was closing down, researchers had a rare opportunity to see if such a switch to single-patient rooms would indeed have the hoped-for effect.

"There has never been a hospital move of this size that happened all in one day," says **EMILY G. MCDONALD**, MDCM'09, MSc'16, an assistant professor in the Division of Experimental Medicine. More than 150 patients were transferred from the Royal Vic to the Glen site on April 26, 2015. "Practically all the patient rooms at the old Vic were multi-bed rooms," says McDonald. The Glen site's 350-bed facility exclusively features private rooms, most of which are equipped with their own toilets and showers.

One of the single-patient rooms at the MUHC's Glen campus.



McDonald was the first author on an MUHC study that examined changes in the rates of several infections over a 65-month period. The team looked at infection rates at the old Royal Vic before the move, and at the new Glen site since.

"The study definitely shows that we had a major improvement in certain hospital acquired infections, especially with vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE)," says McDonald. VRE is a potentially dangerous infection for people in weakened conditions and it is antibiotic-resistant.

"We saw the rates of VRE acquisition and infection decrease really substantially" once single-patient rooms became the norm. "Not only did the rates drop dramatically [after the move], but they have stayed low ever since," says McDonald. 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



What the wastewater tells us

To learn patterns of drug use — and abuse — governments and researchers have traditionally used surveys and crime statistics, particularly drug seizures. An international team of scientists opted for a different approach.

From 2011 to 2017, a 37-country, 120-city study analyzed wastewater, measuring drug residue in urine from more than 60 million people.

VIVIANE YARGEAU (left), chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering, was part of the SCORE (Sewage analysis CORE group Europe) initiative, leading the Canadian portion of the project.

"It wasn't the first such study, but the first one conducted on this scale," says Yargeau of SCORE. "It showed that this kind of research can yield similar results to the more traditional ways of measuring drug use. And it demonstrated that this is a quicker, more efficient way of gathering data, so that governments and people doing interventions can respond sooner to an emerging problem."

SCORE focused on four illicit substances: amphetamine, methamphetamine, ecstasy and cocaine. The project's results, which were recently published in the journal *Addiction*, confirmed that drug abuse is less of a problem in Montreal, compared to other cities, but methamphetamine, a highly addictive stimulant, did show up in marked quantities in Montreal wastewater. In European cities, the researchers noted that cocaine use is on the rise.

Yargeau and her lab 3Cs (Controlling Contaminants of Concern) conducted a follow-up project for Statistics Canada. That study monitored drug use in Canadian cities. One goal was to measure whether cannabis consumption increased in Canada after legalization.

"We didn't see a major shift in consumption, which was good news because that addresses one of the major fears and concerns related to legalization." 🐦

SYLVAIN COMEAU



MA DOE

by McGill

Charting the course for McGill's third century

With a goal of \$2 billion, the University has launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

Even as McGill makes the preparations to mark its 200th anniversary — and that milestone is approaching fast — the University's attention is more focused on its future than on its past.

"McGill is moving into its third century against a worldwide backdrop of major social, environmental and technological change," Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, declared during a special event at the University's 2019 Homecoming celebrations last September. "This demands a profound redefinition of what a global university looks like in the 21st century: one that McGill is well positioned to lead with the support of our worldwide community of alumni, friends and donors."

The event marked the official launch of Made by McGill: the Campaign for Our Third Century. The University's goal is to raise \$2 billion. That easily makes this campaign one of the most ambitious fundraising initiatives that Canada has ever seen.

FOUR KEY AREAS

Fortier explained that the campaign will have four central goals — offering opportunities that open doors for students, advancing research that changes lives, building a vibrant innovation ecosystem at the University, and ensuring that McGill students receive the kind of education that will equip them for whatever the future holds.

The University hopes to raise \$600 million during the campaign for bursaries, scholarships and other forms of student support. Another \$250 million will be directed towards creating out-of-the-ordinary learning opportunities for students through new and enhanced field study programs, internships, interdisciplinary research projects, exchange programs and other initiatives.

Seven hundred and fifty million dollars will go towards supporting research in strategic areas where McGill is well placed to make significant advances. These areas include neuroscience, environmental sustainability, artificial intelligence and data science (and their social, legal and policy implications), and infectious diseases and other potential threats to our immune systems.

One hundred million dollars will go towards supporting innovation — through seed funding, training and mentoring opportunities, and other initiatives that bolster promising ideas and discoveries with the goal of shepherding them more quickly to the market. Finally, \$300 million will be used for capital projects, to provide new or updated facilities to support teaching and research at the University.

"On the eve of our bicentennial, it was clear that this was a golden opportunity for us to reach out to our alumni and friends all over the world," says Vice-Principal (University Advancement) Marc Weinstein, BA'85, BCL'91, LLB'91. "We will be celebrating all the things that make McGill such a special institution. There is a lot to be proud of. But we also want to ensure that McGill has the resources it will need to become even stronger and more relevant in its third century." >



(left to right) Honorary campaign chair John McCall MacBain and campaign co-chairs Garvin Brown, Marcia Moffat and Claude Généreux

Weinstein says that major fundraising campaigns like Made by McGill offer institutions an invaluable opportunity to take stock of themselves and to carefully assess what they want to accomplish in the future.

“It’s a catalyst, not just for those of us who work in university advancement, but for everyone at McGill – the principal, the provost, the deans, the faculties, the students,” says Weinstein. “Each faculty really stepped up in a very significant way. Their goals are incredibly inspiring and innovative. We’ve all worked together to create an incredibly strong vision for what McGill wants to achieve in the future.”

CHAMPIONS FOR THE CAUSE

Part of the process of planning a major fundraising campaign is making sure that you have an enthusiastic corps of influential volunteers to act as champions for the cause. Six regional advisory boards based in different parts of the world have been put together, in addition to a central campaign cabinet. Four McGill graduates in particular will be playing key roles.

Garvin Brown, BA’91, who chairs the board of directors for Brown-Forman, an international wine and spirits company (their brands include Jack Daniel’s whiskey and Finlandia vodka), will serve as one of the Made by McGill campaign’s three co-chairs.

Joining him is Claude Généreux, BEng’85, the executive vice-president of Power Corporation, as well as the executive vice-president of Power Corp’s international management and holding company, Power Financial Corporation.

The third co-chair is Marcia Moffat, BSc’91, the country head of Canada for BlackRock, a global investment management corporation and the world’s largest asset manager.

John McCall MacBain, BA’80, LLD’14, is Made by McGill’s honorary campaign chair. The founder and former CEO of Trader Classified Media is, of course, a familiar figure to McGillians at this point. Together with his wife, Marcy McCall MacBain, he made the single largest gift in Canadian history – \$200 million – to create the McCall MacBain Scholarship Program at McGill.

“I strongly believe in the importance of publicly funded post-secondary education,” says Moffat, explaining why she decided to become involved with the campaign. “We cannot solely rely on government funding to make our universities excellent.”

WHAT’S YOUR MADE BY MCGILL STORY?

“We are hoping that people will be inspired by the Made by McGill storytelling approach that we will be using in this campaign,” says Weinstein. “We want our alumni to share their own stories about their experiences at McGill.”

“When we talk about ‘Made by McGill,’ I think it’s important to say that we aren’t taking credit for everything our graduates have done in their lives,” says Weinstein with a laugh. “But once you’ve been away from the University for a few years, and you have had the chance to reflect on where you are in life, I think many of us go back to our university education and think about how those experiences helped shape us. Those are pivotal years. They give you the toolbox that you use throughout your life.”

“Every one of us has a McGill story,” said McCall MacBain at the campaign’s launch event. “At McGill, I learned leadership. [As a student], I ran the Winter Carnival, I ran Welcome Week ... and I was also the president of the Students’ Society. I had the chance [to take on] three major leadership roles before the age of 23. McGill really prepared me for my life.”

“It is a journey that will have a real impact on the world.”

Généreux says he was also ‘made by McGill.’ “In so many ways! McGill provided me with a world-class education and I was incredibly fortunate to be a recipient of the Greville Smith Scholarship so my tuition was covered throughout my entire undergraduate degree.” As a francophone, McGill gave him the opportunity to perfect his English, but in a gradual, comfortable way—he was still able to write his exams in French. He earned a Rhodes Scholarship at McGill and his wife, his son and his two brothers are all McGill graduates as well.

“I felt joining [the campaign] would allow me to make a concrete and lasting impact on an institution that gave so much to me,” says Généreux.

Brown says his McGill experience “reminded me why I should be so proud to be from Montreal, while simultaneously encouraging me to go explore the rest of the world.” Now based in London, England, Brown says he hopes to “help connect the diaspora of alumni back to their roots at McGill.”

Reaching out to those graduates will be crucial for the success of the campaign, says Weinstein. “Our alumni live all over the world. Many of our students come here from other countries and then go elsewhere. Even Montrealers who come here to study sometimes go somewhere else after they graduate.

“That does mean we have to put a little extra thought and a little extra effort into reaching out to all our graduates,” says Weinstein. “We face more of a challenge in that respect than most other Canadian universities.”

But the effort is worth it. “Some of our most passionate supporters and our most enthusiastic ambassadors live in other countries and on other continents,” says Weinstein. “We want to nurture those relationships.”

“We invite all of you in the greater McGill community to join us on this journey,” Principal Fortier said at the campaign launch. “[It is] a journey that will have a real impact on the world.”

WITH FILES FROM KRISTINA ANASTASOPOULOS

(below) Students wearing Made by McGill t-shirts at the campaign launch

(right) Principal Suzanne Fortier speaking at the campaign launch



PAUL FOURNIER

PAUL FOURNIER

At the centre of our vision

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

When Principal Suzanne Fortier spoke at the official launch of Made by McGill: the Campaign for our Third Century, she emphasized that McGill students would be among the campaign's chief beneficiaries. Two of the campaign's top goals are to increase funding for various forms of student support (\$600 million) and to create innovative new learning opportunities for students (\$250 million).

"[Students] are at the centre of our vision," said Fortier. "They need our support because they have great aspirations. They have big dreams. And this campaign is very much about them and giving them all the opportunities they need to realize these aspirations."

Thanks in large part to the generosity of donors, McGill students have already seen many of those aspirations realized.

Aissam Souidi, for instance. An undergraduate in chemical engineering from Morocco, Souidi met Hamza Tikka, BEng'19, in his first year at McGill — Tikka was an electrical engineering student who shared Souidi's passion for space and rocketry (both had already worked on small-scale rockets in their back yards). When Souidi and Tikka discovered that there was an annual international rocket competition for university students, they decided to start the McGill Rocket Team. Turns out they weren't the only McGill students interested in rockets. The club attracted 70 members in its first year and now has more than 100.

ALEX TRAN



Aissam Souidi

"In four or five months, we were able to have a rocket ready for the competition [that first year]," says Souidi. "It felt like a miracle!" Souidi says the team receives crucial funding support from both the Faculty of Engineering and the Engineering Undergraduate Society. "Building a rocket ... it's not a cheap thing to do." The team might not have been able to take part in the international competition that first year without the assistance of the Seeds of Change program, a McGill crowdfunding platform that largely supports student-driven projects.

"Without that support, I don't think we would have made it in our first year," says Souidi. In 2018, the McGill Rocket Team became the first Canadian team to win the Spaceport America Cup, the world's biggest aerospace engineering competition. Past members of the team have gone on to jobs at SpaceX and NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. "We are helping to form the next generation of space engineers and that's something we're actually really proud of," says Souidi.

When Spencer Klymyshyn chose to come to McGill for his undergraduate degree in piano performance (he is also pursuing a minor in science), the main draw for him was the opportunity to study with the Schulich School of Music's Ilya Poletaev, the only Canadian to ever win the International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition. "I found him really inspirational," says Klymyshyn.

Last summer, Klymyshyn represented Quebec at the 2019 National Music Festival in Saskatoon. Competing against some of the most talented young pianists in Canada, Klymyshyn took first place.

Klymyshyn is a McGill scholarship winner and he says the money does more than just help him with his university expenses. "With the [National Music Festival], you basically have to pay your way to get there. The scholarships from McGill ... they took away some of the financial burden and helped make something like that more realistic for me." Once Klymyshyn completes his degree, he hopes to go on to graduate studies with the ultimate goal of becoming a teacher and performer like Poletaev.

While Klymyshyn was winning a national music competition, Madeline Murray had a unique summer experience of her own as one of the 146 McGill students who received Faculty of Arts Internship Awards last year. Supported, in large part, by McGill donors, the program offers students the opportunity to take on a wide range of summer internships in Montreal and all over the world.



Spencer Klymyshyn



Madeline Murray

Murray, an undergraduate from Illinois who is pursuing a bachelor's degree at the McGill School of Environment, secured an internship with the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. The aquarium's award-winning Seafood Watch Program focuses on sustainable seafood practices and produces consumer guides that promote ocean-friendly options.

Seafood Watch was interested in expanding its efforts and taking a more careful look at the types of seafood used by other aquariums to feed their creatures. Enter Murray. "They told me that they would support me any way they could, but they didn't have anyone devoted to the project and I'd be kind of on my own. I was really excited by that. I pretty much designed the protocol for how it was going to work."

Murray was able to arrange for the position with the aquarium directly, but it was unpaid. "The Faculty of Arts Internship Program supplied the funding that allowed me to pay for my groceries and to survive out there."

During the internship Murray says she "accounted for three and a half million pounds of seafood that hadn't previously been assessed, and about half of that comes from fisheries that we have zero scientific information on." The aquarium was impressed by her efforts and offered her a contract to continue what she started. "I'm still working on it now." 🐦

How *Made by McGill* got made

McGill asked how you felt about it and you answered—in droves.

In 2018, the University queried alumni—and many others—about their perceptions of McGill.

“Within three days, we had to close down the survey because we were already well over the number of responses needed to provide us with statistical accuracy,” says Derek Cassoff, managing director, communications, at McGill University Advancement.

That input was the first step in developing McGill’s first-ever, university-wide brand platform—“Made by McGill.”

It’s a bold new look for McGill: post-modern red lettering with striking photos of students, alumni and faculty, all displaying an easy confidence.

Made by McGill and its French counterpart, *Forgé par McGill*, will be used to promote McGill and showcase the success of students and researchers. The stirring anthem video is prominently displayed on the University’s homepage.

McGill’s fundraising campaign, with its ambitious \$2 billion goal, was one of the driving factors behind the new creative platform, says Vice-Principal (Communications and External Relations) Louis Arseneault.

Arseneault says that as the field of higher education becomes increasingly competitive, McGill also decided it needed a creative platform “to express in a very compelling way who we are,” and what sets the University apart.

The third motivation was McGill’s upcoming bicentennial in 2021.

Sid Lee, the creative agency behind the NBA champion Toronto Raptors’ wildly successful ‘We the North’ campaign, was tasked with coming up with McGill’s new brand platform. The Montreal-based agency used the market research that had been done by Léger Marketing and McGill.

A primary theme from the market research was the notion of resilience—alumni talked about how McGill is not an easy place to get into or to graduate from. It required a lot of effort. For many students who come here from outside Montreal, it also means making a life for themselves in a new city.

Looking back, alumni cherish that, Cassoff says. “They really felt that McGill built a sense of resilience in them.”

McGill’s connection to Montreal also emerged strongly in the surveys.

“There was a real strong sense that McGill would not be the university it is, had it not been situated in a city like Montreal,” Cassoff says.

At the outset, staff from Sid Lee plastered marketing efforts from other universities on their office walls.

“What was amazing was so much of the language and the visuals were so the same,” says Elana Gorbatyuk, BA’98, chief strategy officer and partner at Sid Lee.

“‘Excellence’, ‘impact’, ‘global impact’, ‘international’—those are all the tropes of every university and they cease to have any meaning when you put them all up like that.

“What we really wanted to capture was ... how people feel when they go through a McGill experience,” she says.

The agency has many McGill graduates, including Gorbatyuk. “It was a huge passion project [for us], I won’t lie,” she says.

The anthem video, which features music performed by students at the Schulich School of Music, underscores that determined spirit, opening with “Born from a will, made here, by dreamers and risk-takers, by makers and big thinkers, through trial and error, we face what’s ahead...”

Cassoff describes the new brand platform as “a great capsule for storytelling.”

Arseneault says the key message behind ‘Made by McGill’ is the “reciprocal relationship where people are indeed made by McGill—and McGill here, has to be comprehended as the McGill community, the McGill experience—and in turn, they shape what McGill is and will be in the future.”

BY BRENDA BRANSWELL

Discover the world

Educational travel programs for alumni and friends of McGill



When you travel with our expert tour operators, you can relax and enjoy a truly memorable educational holiday.

Choose from dozens of exotic locations.

alumni.mcgill.ca/travel

The alumni travel program provides funding to McGill for alumni and student initiatives.



McGill | Alumni



A home away from home

It all started with a student who wanted to sublet his apartment in the McGill Ghetto.

It grew into an international business that is valued at more than \$1 billion.

If you're going to take a trip anywhere soon,
Francis Davidson thinks he has the perfect place for you to stay.

BY JUDITH RITTER, MA'72

There have been a few pivotal eureka moments for Sonder CEO Francis Davidson as he built a company that has become both a Silicon Valley darling and a hospitality industry disrupter extraordinaire.

The first was in 2012, when he was still a McGill student and had decided to sublet his apartment in the McGill Ghetto for the summer. That initial goal soon morphed into something far more ambitious.

Much has been made of the fact that Davidson and his Sonder co-founder Lucas Pellan were mere undergraduates when they launched their new idea for travellers' accommodation, but seriousness of purpose was their silent partner from their start. As they mulled over the possibility of turning their student digs into short-term vacation rentals for tourists, Davidson says even then the venture was data driven.

"I just pulled together all the math and data analysis I was capable of at that point and built a pretty sophisticated model."

That early exercise in number-crunching convinced Davidson that they could create a viable business. Some of the nascent company's first offerings were apartments that McGill classmates wanted to sublet. By 2014, Davidson says they were racking up hundreds of thousands of dollars in rentals.

WHEN HOTEL MEETS HOME

That same year, Davidson and Pellan had another epiphany when they travelled to San Francisco. They wrote about it on the Sonder site.

"We'd booked an apartment and we were having a hard time getting in touch with our host. When we arrived at the apartment with all of our luggage, no one was there. After many unreturned messages, we finally connected, and learned there was a key under the mat. The apartment didn't look like it was ready for visitors. There was half-eaten food in the fridge and dog hair blanketing the furniture."

Pellan's allergies soon kicked in and they had to switch to a hotel. "Nothing exciting, but no dog hair at least." If subletting an apartment had given them the idea for the kind of business they would launch, this experience determined the way they would run that business.

"What if there was a place as reliable as a hotel, but with all the warmth and character of a home?" That vision has propelled the Sonder co-founders ever since.

As things continued to progress in 2014, Davidson says there was one particular moment when the impact of their success sunk in. "All right, I said to myself, this is working but I haven't been to class in two months!" He says he tried to show up for his exams, but he never checked back to see how he did. He is pretty sure he failed them. >

(top left) Francis Davidson is the CEO and co-founder of Sonder
(bottom) One of Sonder's short-term rental units

“We are doing our best to create a company the customers will love, employees will love working for and communities will embrace.”

It was that moment, he says, when he realized he was just too busy for school; so a few credits short of graduation, he quit. On his LinkedIn page, he jokes that he hasn't completely given up on the idea of completing his degree. “6 credits left ... Maybe in 2025?”

Five years later, with no regrets, the McGill almost-grad has transformed his tiny sublet venture into a thriving network of 10,000 short-term apartment rentals with outposts in 27 countries.

Sonder officially achieved unicorn status last summer, earning a valuation of more than a billion dollars. It reached that momentous threshold after securing \$210 million in its most recent funding round from such investors as billionaire venture capitalist Nicholas Pritzker and A-Rod, the investment firm launched by former baseball superstar Alex Rodriguez.

The company is now a player in the highly competitive alternative hospitality accommodation industry. It is a hybrid of uniquely stylish serviced apartments with many of the perks and conveniences of upscale boutique hotels — from 24-hour concierge service via text to fluffy towels and high-end toiletries.

AN EMPHASIS ON AESTHETICS

Though Davidson eschews categorization, he describes the project as a tech-driven deconstructed hotel.

Imagine a multi-suite luxury hotel, but one in which travellers have a choice of stay in apartments in dozens of countries, cities, and neighbourhoods.

For example, a Sonder booking might be a suite in San Antonio's microbrewery rich Pearl District with a décor that subtly references Southwest art. On another continent a Sonder traveller can settle into a balconied apartment in Rome's Campo Marzio neighbourhood (an antique shop district), that boasts wooden beamed ceilings that riff on the surrounding 15th and 16th century architecture.

Davidson is fascinated with design and design begins, he says, with choosing interesting buildings in neighbourhoods where larger brand hotels would not consider locating. In Boston, for example, Sonder chose Fenway-Kenmore, an area famous for baseball, beer and students, but not known as an upscale overnight destination for travellers. In Miami, one Sonder location is in Little Havana, which, while an outpost for tourists' daytime excursions, was not a place for luxe overnight stays until recently.

Unlike the traditional hotel model that sometimes incorporates “theme” rooms such as Boston's Hotel Commonwealth's baseball-themed suites or the country music theme rooms at Nashville's Renaissance, Davidson stresses that Sonder's “design cues are more subtle.”

Suites are intended to make guests feel as if they actually live in an apartment in that neighbourhood and city, so when cow hides were pitched for some Texas properties, the Sonder team on the ground nixed the idea, Davidson says. “Listen, we know that's what you think about Texas,” the local team pointed out, “but that's not what we are about here.”



Francis Davidson (centre) playing host to start-ups associated with the McGill Dobson Cup at his Sonder office in San Francisco in 2018



The company fills its apartment-style hotel rooms with carefully curated design references that reflect each neighbourhood and each building whether it is a historic property or a space in a multi-hundred unit brand-new construction. At first, Davidson says, every Sonder unit was unique in its design, but with the acquisition of larger buildings that became unrealistic. “We might have up to 20 different kinds of designs in a 200-unit building now. Two hundred different designs would just be impossible.”

Companies that specialize in short-term rental accommodations have come under fire for the impact they have on the availability of long-term rental properties in major cities. David Wachsmuth, BA’04, a Canada Research Chair in Urban Governance at McGill, has raised concerns about Airbnb in particular. One of his studies indicated that Airbnb was likely responsible for the loss of 31,100 units from the long-term rental market in Canada.

Sonder’s approach when it enters a new market is cautious and collaborative. The company works with local experts and focuses on commercial and mixed-use zones.

In a piece he published in *Medium* in 2018, Davidson wrote, “We forge relationships with cities, ensure local rules are always respected — decrepit office buildings, blighted property, underutilized industrial buildings and brand-new constructions are currently being developed into fully licensed Sonders across the world.”

AN APP, NOT A FRONT DESK

Now based in tech-heavy San Francisco, Sonder’s edge is its use of technology, says Davidson. He and Pellan were named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list of rising young entrepreneurs in 2018 in the consumer technology category. Sonder’s technology team has built tools to bypass what are for Davidson the now antiquated concepts of lobby, check-in, and service calls to a front desk. The whole process, he says, is now effortless via an app used by both guests and the Sonder crew.

Davidson’s conversance with technology, econometrics, statistics, competitive dynamics, and game theory seems effortless too. He says that he applies all that to his business. “Frankly,” he says, “if I didn’t start this business I would be wrapped up in a PhD by now. I just love the idea of learning!” >



Sonder emphasizes a crisp design aesthetic that is reflective of the various neighbourhoods in which it operates

A philosophy and economics major during his McGill studies, he says when making business decisions he still uses concepts such as three-dimensional probability distributions that he learned from professors such as John Galbraith. “My overall appreciation for probability, uncertainty and estimation are things I use day-to-day.” He might not have completed his degree, but he was paying close attention in class.

Davidson admits the speed of the company’s success and navigating Sonder’s growth can sometimes leave him a bit breathless.

“It’s been an intense process of learning,” he says. Davidson says he deliberately seeks out those with experiences different from his own and listens intently to feedback from his board members, advisors, investors and an executive coach. At this point, he says, the company has about 1,000 people, but he acknowledges that as it grows the only way he can be at the helm is, as he puts it, “to stay really focused on what I can do better.”

Davidson’s appreciation for McGill extends beyond the classes he attended. At the very beginning, when Sonder was still called Flatbook and he was still living in a crammed student apartment on Hutchison, he and his friends entered the University’s annual competition for promising start-ups, the McGill Dobson Cup.

They didn’t win, but Davidson did connect with one of the judges — Tim Tokarsky, BSc’88, a Montreal-based investor and one of the co-founders of the McGill X-1 Accelerator, an intensive summer program for McGill-related start-ups. Tokarsky would become an early champion of the young company and one of its first investors.

Tokarsky says Davidson and his team nailed it from their first presentation. “I was really impressed with, honestly, the sophistication of Francis’s models for someone who’d never really done this before.”

Davidson maintains his links to the McGill Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship. Sonder recently played host in San Francisco for the second consecutive year to the young companies showcased annually during the centre’s McGill Startup Tour. “If he’s in town, he’ll send an email, saying he’d love to meet with some start-up founders from McGill,” says Renjie Butalid, who recently stepped down as the associate director of the centre.

His trips back to Quebec are important, not only to see his family in Gatineau, but also to rekindle his connection with favourite places at McGill and in Montreal. The Islamic Studies Library, one of his campus haunts, ranks high on the list of places that he suggests newcomers to McGill check out.

As for off-campus spots, he speaks nostalgically about the Byzantine-style Church of St. Michael and St. Anthony in Mile End, “a perfect place to read and think.” He remembers being “an extreme regular” at Bagel Etc on the Main.

As the buzz around Sonder continues to grow, Davidson says he isn’t distracted by the hype or by the pressures and expectations associated with Sonder’s unicorn status. He says he simply loves his work.

“We are doing our best to create a company the customers will love, employees will love working for and communities will embrace. I’ve found more meaning in building a company that is interesting and fun than just trying to maximize the share price for the business.”

Judith Ritter is a radio and print journalist who spends much of her time in the Washington D.C. area. Her work has appeared in The Globe and Mail, the National Post and The Boston Globe.



On March 11,
McGill24 is back.

On this day of giving,
what difference will
you make?



MADE
by McGill

mcgill24.ca



DAVID PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG

Taking her game to a whole new level

As one of the driving forces behind *Assassin's Creed*, Jade Raymond helped establish Montreal as a major player in the world of gaming. Now, she is leading the charge as Google shakes up the video game industry with its bold new foray.

BY ERIK LEIJON

Jade Raymond, BSc'98, has gone far since graduating from McGill, although in a literal sense, her illustrious career in gaming has only taken her a few blocks from campus.

The co-creator of the wildly successful *Assassin's Creed* franchise—which has sold over 140 million copies since the release of the first game in 2007—is currently at Google, in charge of their brand new gaming division, in the role of vice-president and head of Stadia Games and Entertainment. It just so happens Google's Montreal office is located on McGill College and St. Catherine, just a stone's throw from her alma mater.

"I often walk through the campus on my way to work—especially mornings when I don't have an early meeting," Raymond says during a recent interview at Google's Montreal office. "One morning, a torrential downpour started as I was walking through campus, so I ducked into the [convocation] tent. For a second I felt like a student again."

A Montreal native, Raymond had a different experience at school compared to those who come from elsewhere. With friends and family already close, Raymond concentrated on her studies.

"I felt a little removed from university life," she recalls. "When I was there, I was more focused on the classes and being in the computer lab. What was really cool was in addition to doing computer science, I also did art history classes. It was an interesting juxtaposition, where in the computer science classes I was one of three or four women in the class, and then in art history it was the inverse."

Both pursuits would end up proving invaluable when Raymond, while at Ubisoft Montreal, was tasked with a few others (including another McGill alumnus: Claude Langlais, BEng'99) with building a new franchise from the ground up.

BUILDING A BLOCKBUSTER

The studio created *Assassin's Creed*, an adventure game set in different time periods that established an ancient rivalry between two secret societies, the Assassins and the Templar Order. The careful attention paid to historical detail was one factor that made the franchise unique right from the start. It became a worldwide phenomenon, one that's still going strong after 11 installments and even more spinoffs.

Raymond played a key role in the franchise's first few releases, serving as executive producer for *Assassin's Creed II* and *Assassin's Creed: Bloodlines*. She says the series was originally conceived so future teams could put their own twist on the game—new characters, settings and time periods can be explored in each new version. In her estimation, it's a major reason why the *Assassin's Creed* series has been such an enduring hit.

(left) Jade Raymond announcing the launch of the Stadia game streaming service at the Game Developers Conference in 2019

"Prior to *Assassin's Creed*, I had always worked on franchises that had already existed [like *The Sims*], and what I noticed was often we were asked to make sequels to games that never intended to have sequels," Raymond says. "How many opportunities do you have to create a completely new brand from scratch? I thought, if this ends up being successful, I really want to make it so that it lives on and continues to be interesting, not just for the people who play it, but the people who work on it too."

She played a key role on other major titles for Ubisoft, including *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Blacklist* and *Watch Dogs*. In 2018, when Raymond was named to the *Variety* 500, a listing of the most influential figures in the world of entertainment (others on the list included Jeff Bezos, Tom Cruise, Ellen DeGeneres and Kendrick Lamar), *Variety* described her as "a gaming powerhouse."

Raymond grew up in a household where playing video games was less frowned upon than watching TV. At school, her two favourite subjects were art and science. In her teens, she realized there might be an industry where she could combine those interests.

"It actually dawned on me while playing video games that someone gets to make these games as a career," Raymond told *The Montreal Gazette* in 2015. >



Ezio Auditore da Firenze is the most iconic character in the *Assassin's Creed* games

Raymond's passion for games was evident during her McGill years. One formational project occurred in a computer science class taught by Gerald Ratzer. Although it was about micro-computer architectures and systems, for Raymond's software development project, she developed a video game.

"This project was followed by a standup presentation in class, in front of their peers," recalls Ratzer, a former professor of computer science at McGill, now retired. "She certainly had good communication skills, which are needed in management to motivate your team."

Ratzer adds that this software development project was what many students used as a portfolio after graduation.

Raymond remembers her first foray into game development with a laugh.

"It was terrible! I made a really bad adventure game, but I think that's commonly the first thing people who want to make games end up doing. It was a classic point-and-click puzzle adventure game," Raymond says.

It didn't take long for Raymond to find work after graduation — within three days she was hired as a programmer. After stops at Sony Online in New York and as technical producer on *The Sims Online*, Raymond's role evolved from producer on the technical side to being producer of game content.

Following *Assassin's Creed*, Raymond founded Ubisoft's Toronto studio and served as managing director. She returned to Montreal to start Motive Studios for Electronic Arts, and as of March 2019, has been heading Google's Stadia Games and Entertainment.

NEW START AT STADIA

In addition to working with external developers and indie developers to help them publish their games on Stadia, Google's new cloud-based gaming service, Raymond is also heading Google's internal development teams, which includes the first Stadia studio, based in Montreal.



MIKE NELSON

Gaming fans playing an *Assassin's Creed* game at E3 (Electronic Entertainment Expo) in Los Angeles. *Assassin's Creed* is one of the most popular franchises in the history of the gaming industry



MICHEL CLOUTIER

“The game industry has gone from being worth \$2.6 billion, to one game, *Fortnite*, making that on its own.”

How is she able to work with so many studios from around the world all at once? It’s thanks to the cloud—meaning every element of a game’s creation is available anywhere as long as you have internet access.

“One of the biggest challenges in game development is you want all these people from around the world to collaborate. But with games there are so many assets—like art and music—that packing it up and figuring out how to get it to someone else is really complicated. With Stadia you just send a link and people can work on it directly,” Raymond says.

The same goes for gamers, who can sign in and play Stadia from anywhere. Stadia promises choice: some people like playing a game on their phone while waiting for the bus, while others prefer playing at home in high definition on a big screen.

The cloud is just one of many ways the game industry has changed over the years.

“For the most part, developing games has become a bigger and bigger production,” Raymond says. “The game industry has gone from being worth \$2.6 billion, to one game, *Fortnite*, making that on its own.” As it has grown, the blockbusters have grown. “I think it’s commonly known *Assassin’s Creed* has about 1,000 people working on a single game across 10 studios. Managing a product that’s over 100 million dollars in budget over 10 studios versus a project back in the day with 20 to 30 people, it’s a very different thing.”

Whether it’s a team of 20 or a team of 200, Raymond has seen it all as an industry leader. As the public face for the projects she has led, she is unfailingly poised. She is more than just a skilled communicator, though. She also has the technical know-how to thoroughly appreciate the difficult grunt work that goes into creating a game. “I always just wanted to be a programmer.”

In 2019, when the New York Videogame Critics Circle presented Raymond with its Andrew Yoon Legend Award, the organization praised Raymond for being “on the vanguard of making the subject matter of games more thought provoking and relevant to our world.” The group added that “her contributions as an industry leader have been equally noteworthy: Jade has been a clear voice and important example in making the game business more inclusive.”

As a woman in the gaming industry, Raymond is seen as a pioneer. With more women than ever getting into gaming, Raymond is happy to answer questions when they land in her inbox.

“That’s one of the most inspiring things to me these days, that more women are excited about games,” Raymond says. “It’s been humbling to run into women who tell me they got into games because they played *Assassin’s Creed*. The thing is, if you don’t play games growing up, you’re probably not going to think about doing it as a career. Now that more women are playing games, there are more women thinking about careers in gaming.”

Raymond also helped bring Montreal’s gaming scene to prominence, and it has continued to thrive since *Assassin’s Creed* put Ubisoft Montreal on the map. The industry generates thousands of jobs in the city, and Raymond doesn’t see any signs of it slowing down, either.

“Montreal’s gaming scene has continued to grow,” Raymond says. “More and more game studios are here. I was building Motive here for Electronic Arts. There’s a Warner Bros. studio, there’s an Eidos studio, there’s a Bethesda studio, now Google is building a studio. There’s been nothing but growth since *Assassin’s Creed*.”

At least part of the credit for that goes to a woman who often takes a stroll through the McGill campus on her way to work in the morning. 🐦

Erik Leijon is a Montreal-based journalist who writes about music, gaming and other subjects. His work regularly appears in The Montreal Gazette and Cult MTL.

100 years of the *McGill News*

Over the course of a century, the *McGill News* has highlighted the achievements of McGill's graduates and provided the latest news about the University and the people who work and study there.

And when it comes to stories about new McGill principals, our track record is ... mostly good?

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

When the first issue of the *McGill News* debuted in December 1919, it had big news to share with its alumni readership. The magazine's very first story revealed the name of the University's next principal.

Sir Auckland Geddes had been a professor of anatomy at McGill for two years before returning to his native Britain, where he had distinguished himself in politics, serving as a national cabinet minister. The *McGill News* described Geddes as "a decisive personality [who] will bring an influence hard to calculate on the academic development of Canada."

As it turns out, Geddes had almost no impact on the academic development of Canada whatsoever.

During his very brief tenure as McGill's principal, he never actually took up his duties. Frank Dawson Adams

was McGill's acting principal for most of that time. Geddes officially resigned as principal in 1920 and became Britain's ambassador to the United States.

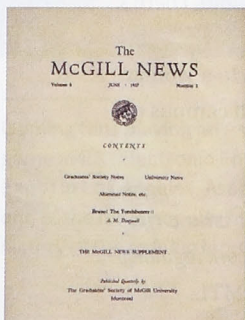
Look, when you publish a magazine for 100 years, some of your stories are bound to fizzle along the way.

That inaugural edition of the magazine also laid out its reasons for existing.

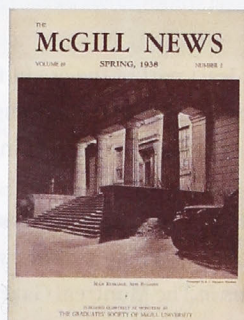
"The lack of a familiar method of communication between the graduates of the University and between them and their school has been one of the reasons why interest and affection for McGill has often remained unexpressed. By the *McGill News*, a means of communication is to be provided."

Through two world wars, a Cold War, a space race, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the rise of the internet and 11 McGill principals (10 of whom did show up for the

1927



1938



1944



1949



job), the *McGill News* has been turning up in the mail boxes (and now the inboxes) of McGill graduates for a century.

Stephen Leacock, one of the most iconic McGill professors of them all, served as the first chair of the magazine's editorial committee, while a young graduate, Eric Leslie, BSc 1916, LLD'61, was the magazine's first editor.

Leslie would go on to bigger things. He eventually became the vice-president and comptroller of Canadian Pacific Railway. Leslie was a productive volunteer fundraiser for the University in that capacity — he travelled to 28 cities in his personal railway car, meeting fellow graduates and coaxing them to take out their cheque books.

Thumb through old issues of the magazine and you'll spot articles about graduates who have done all sorts of remarkable things — Nobel laureates and Academy Award winners, astronauts and Stanley Cup champions — even a surprising number of Parti Québécois cabinet ministers.

You'll also notice how lesser-known McGillians have frequently played intriguing roles in all sorts of newsworthy events.

H. R. Dowswell, BSc 1909, for instance. In the March 1931 edition of the *McGill News*, Dowswell offered a firsthand account of what it was like for him and his colleagues at the architectural firm Shreve, Lamb and Harmon to be responsible for the design of what is still one of the most famous buildings in the world, the Empire State Building.

William Lamb was the project's chief designer, but as his firm's specifications specialist, Dowswell could justifiably claim "a measure of responsibility in its development and construction." The building required 6,800

windows, 7,000 radiators and 58,000 tons of structural steel. "A train, sufficient to transport all of the materials used in the building, would have been 57 miles long," Dowswell explained in his article.

The Fall 1995 issue profiled Vincent Truglia, MA'74, who as the then-vice president and senior analyst with Moody's Investment Service, was "the man responsible for Canada's debt rating at ... one of the two most influential agencies of its kind in the world." When Moody's (and Truglia) downgraded Canada's rating, it made national headlines. Paul Martin, then Canada's finance minister, was not a happy camper.

When Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner made international headlines by jumping to Earth from the stratosphere, becoming the first human to break the speed of sound in freefall, *McGill News* readers discovered that Shane Jacobs, BEng'04, helped design the suit that enabled Baumgartner to survive the feat.

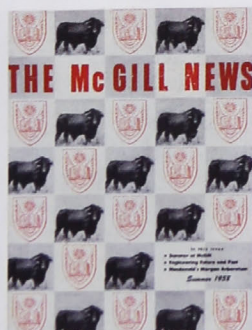
When Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events* became an international publishing phenomenon (more than 65 million copies sold), *McGill News* readers discovered the instrumental role that book editor Susan Rich, BA'91, had played in creating the series.

When suave host Alex Trebek firmly entrenched *Jeopardy!* as, arguably, the most beloved TV game show on the planet, *McGill News* readers learned that the show's head writer, Emmy Award winner Billy Wisse, BA'84, MA'94, was ultimately responsible for supplying Trebek with all those clues and answers.

THE WORLD COMES TO YOU

"The great thing about working at a university, and especially at one as prominent as McGill, is that the world comes to your door," says Diana Grier Ayton, the editor of the *McGill News* from 1998 to 2007. >

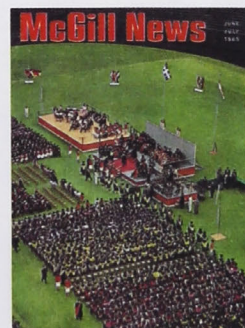
1958



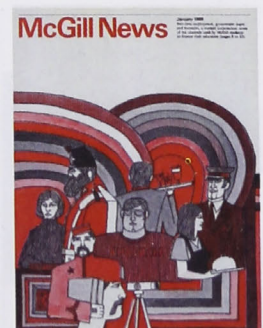
1959



1965



1969



That fact was brought home to her in dramatic fashion in 1993, when she was editing the *McGill Reporter*, the University's staff/faculty newspaper. "I was wandering up a back staircase at Redpath Hall, and I ended up bumping into Mikhail Gorbachev on a landing." The former Russian leader was at McGill to deliver the annual Beatty Lecture. "I remember thinking, what kind of job do I have that I end up [face-to-face] with Mikhail Gorbachev?"

During Grier Ayton's time at the *McGill News*, the magazine covered stories that dealt with big news on campus — the launch of an ambitious plan to hire 1,000 new professors, for instance. Odder, quirkiest stories appeared too — Alice Lehrer, BA'68, the McGill grad who served as a stand-in for Bette Midler in a film (the occupational therapist was a dead-ringer for Midler), and Hélène Mathieu, BCL'93, LLB'93, who became the first woman to practice law in the United Emirates.

"There are always so many stories at McGill," says Grier Ayton. "You're never at a loss for things to write about. All the research that goes on, all the graduates and the interesting things that they're doing. The hard part is choosing."

"I came to McGill from the private sector where people were much more proprietary in their knowledge of things and generally kept what they knew close to their vests," says Ann Vroom, BA'67, who served as the editor of the *McGill News* from 1985 to 1989. "At McGill, everyone was so proud to know so much about their respective disciplines and they were only too happy to share that knowledge. I found it wondrous to be in that kind of environment."

Some of the stories that appeared in the *News* under Vroom's watch dealt with the status of women at McGill (18 per cent of the faculty were women at the time — nothing to boast about, but a touch above the

17 per cent Canadian average), McGill's 1987 national championship football team, and McGill music professor Joel Wapnick, who, outside the classroom, was one of North America's top-ranked Scrabble players (and a future world champion).

"As the editor of the *McGill News*, you find yourself in the very fortunate position of having an engaged readership that truly wants to read [your magazine]," says Vroom. "They care about the institution and they want to support it."

It's a smart, well-educated readership too — most of them graduated from this University, after all. They keep editors on their toes.

"If you made a mistake with grammar or word usage, you heard about it," says Janice Paskey, the magazine's editor from 1990 to 1998 (she took some time off for graduate studies in Chile).

"We did one story on all the former *McGill Daily* editors and that was one of my favourite *McGill News* covers," says Paskey. "We had the current editor of the *Daily* at that time [M.J. Milloy], posed next to a former *Daily* editor [Gerald Clark, BSc'39, who went on to be the editor of the *Montreal Star*]. I was at the photo shoot and it was just so interesting to listen to them talk about [journalism]. The generational divide between them just melted away."

Another cover story during Paskey's tenure dealt with McGill graduates who were judges, talking about their most memorable court cases. Quebec Superior Court judge Benjamin Greenberg, BA'54, BCL'57, appeared on the cover.

"He had this really stern, serious look on his face, and there were lawyers afterwards who told me, 'Oh, that cover sent shivers down my spine. He has that same look in court and it just unnerves you,'" says Paskey.

1978



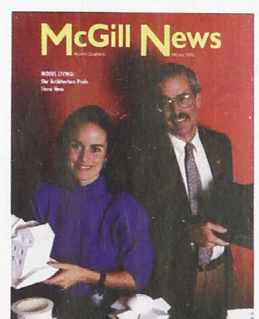
1984



1988



1990



CONTENTIOUS TIMES

Harvey Schachter, BCom'68, edited the *McGill News* from 1969 to 1972, a turbulent period that coincided with Quebec's Quiet Revolution and strident student protests. Articles from that era reflected the times (stories about McGill's place in Quebec and a provocative look at drug use among students), while also casting the spotlight on interesting McGillians — Ken Dryden, LLB'73, LLD'18, for instance, who was balancing his McGill law studies with tending goal for the Montreal Canadiens.

"It was a very contentious and combustible time for the University," says Schachter. He remembers pushing at the boundaries in terms of some of the content that ran in the *McGill News*. The story on drug use, for instance, "caused a furor."

"I was at an event, and [McGill principal] Locke Robertson walked up to me — he was a big, tall guy — and he put his fingers on my chest and said, 'I've been told to get rid of you and that isn't going to happen.' I remember saying that the radicals on campus did a better job of talking to me than the university officials did."

Soon after that, Robertson began meeting with Schachter every six weeks. "He'd just talk about what he was doing, the problems [McGill] faced, and what his vision was. It was all off the record, but the idea was for me to understand what was going on. It was an extraordinary experience for a young journalist. He was extremely candid and I think, in some ways, he looked forward to those chats as much as I did."

Along with her associate editor Andrew Mullins, Grier Ayton combed through hundreds of issues of the *McGill News* to prepare an 80th anniversary edition in 1999. "The magazine changed over time," she says. "It started out with a bit of a literary bent and then it became very newsy and McGill-oriented."

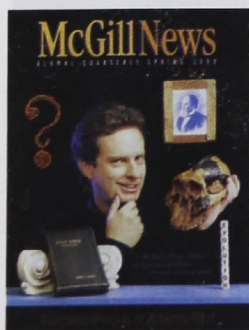
During the Second World War, "it was a very important document, chronicling the activities of faculty and staff and all the McGill people who served overseas," says Grier Ayton. "My uncle and my dad were McGill students who left and went overseas."

Former *McGill News* editor R.C. Fetherstonhaugh put together a regular wartime section "On His Majesty's Service" that ran in the magazine between 1939 and 1945. More than 5,500 McGillians took part in the war. Fetherstonhaugh's reports included news on McGillians who had won military honours, as well as those who were killed in combat, missing in action, or prisoners of war. Almost 300 McGillians died in the war.

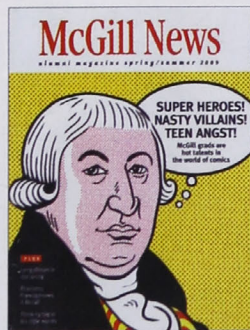
Vroom continues to be an active member of the McGill community. She chairs McGill's Friends of the Library Committee and is a member of the campaign cabinet for the University's new two billion dollar fundraising campaign.

"Alumni magazines have a great role to play," says Vroom. "They should showcase a university's wonderful qualities, but I think they also have to look at the challenges their institutions face, and that should be done with honesty and forthrightness. You have an audience of educated and loyal people and they deserve to be treated with respect. The people who don't care about your university won't be reading your magazine in the first place." 🐦

2000



2009

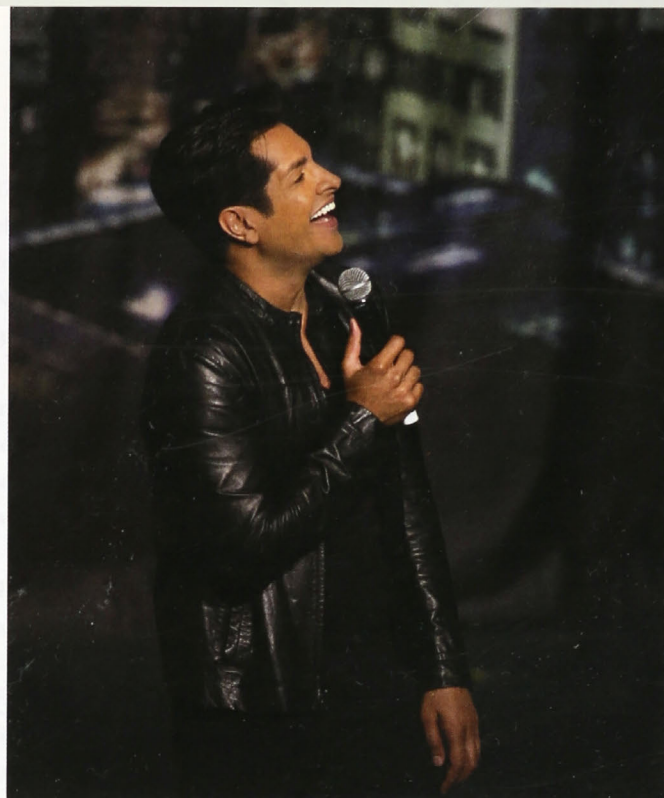


2015



2020



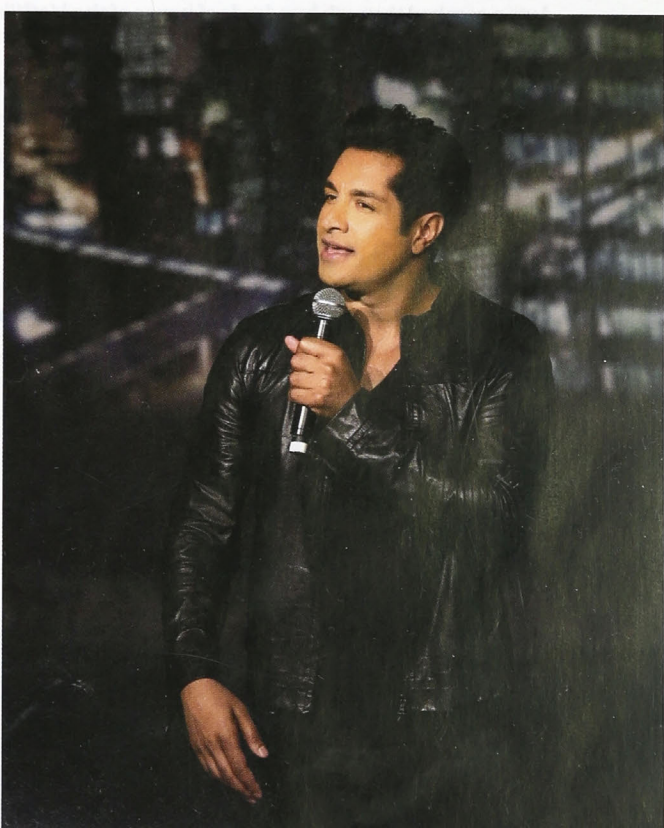


L'HUMOUR, C'EST DU SÉRIEUX!

L'humour se porte très bien au Québec. Il n'empêche que les humoristes doivent s'adapter à des mentalités qui évoluent, tout en se tournant vers le monde.

PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B.A. 1992)

RÉVISION : ELAINE DOIRON





Il fut un temps où l'idée même d'une « École nationale de l'humour » aurait eu l'effet d'une bonne blague. Mais 32 ans après sa création, l'établissement situé au coin des rues Sherbrooke et De Lorimier est pris au sérieux et compte parmi ses 550 diplômés des talents tels que Martin Matte, Louis-José Houde et Cathy Gauthier.

Cette école unique en son genre, reconnue par le ministère de l'Éducation, témoigne non seulement du dynamisme de l'industrie québécoise de l'humour, mais également de son originalité et de l'intérêt qu'elle suscite à l'étranger.

« Cette année, nous avons admis quatre Français dans un groupe de quinze personnes. Pas des Français du Plateau Mont-Royal, des Français venus de France pour étudier chez nous », se réjouit Louise Richer (EMBA 2016), directrice générale et fondatrice de l'ÉNH.

Cette évolution vers l'international n'est pas étrangère aux 16 mois que Louise Richer a consacrés à son MBA à la Faculté de gestion Desautels de l'Université McGill en 2015 et 2016. « À l'âge vénérable de 61 ans, rigole-t-elle. Plus sérieusement, ça m'a donné confiance dans mes capacités de gestionnaire, et je me suis rendu compte que je pouvais prétendre à certaines ambitions, dont celle d'ouvrir les portes de l'École à toute la francophonie. »

Depuis la création du festival Juste pour rire en 1983, l'humour est devenu un vaste écosystème au Québec.

« L'humour est très fort à New York et à Los Angeles, mais en proportion de la population, il n'y a pas beaucoup de sociétés où il occupe une place aussi grande qu'au Québec », dit Andy Nulman (B. Comm. 1983), qui a dirigé Just for Laughs de 1985 à 1999, puis toutes les activités entourant les festivals et les projets télé du Groupe Juste pour rire de 2008 à 2013. « Ailleurs, ce n'est pas considéré comme sérieux, mais au Québec, c'est une *grosse business*. »

Malgré les poursuites criminelles contre Gilbert Rozon, fondateur du Groupe Juste pour rire, accusé de viol et d'attentat à la pudeur, le secteur ne s'est jamais aussi bien porté. « Je vois ça de l'extérieur, et l'industrie est plus forte que jamais. Il y a plus d'humoristes, plus de spectacles, plus de producteurs », dit Sugar Sammy, de son vrai nom Samir Khullar, qui a également étudié à McGill.

Le nom de scène de ce Québécois d'origine indienne, qui a grandi dans le quartier Côte-des-Neiges et qui fait de l'humour en quatre langues, est aussi connu chez les francophones que chez les anglophones. C'est même lui qui a remplacé Gilbert Rozon comme juré à *La France a un incroyable talent*, l'une des émissions les plus regardées en France.

UNE FOIS C'T'UN HUMORISTE ...

Une bonne blague, ça ne s'explique pas. De même, personne ne peut expliquer comment l'humour a pris autant d'ampleur au Québec pour compter aujourd'hui quelques centaines de gérants, agents, producteurs, diffuseurs et organismes, sans parler des festivals et du gala Les Olivier.

« Comme humoristes, nous sommes choyés de pouvoir faire carrière dans un petit marché aussi effervescent », dit Virginie Fortin (B. A. 2008), qui a lancé sa carrière d'humoriste presque par hasard après une majeure en littérature française, une mineure en études hispaniques et une autre en études russes et slaves. C'est au sein de la Ligue nationale d'improvisation qu'elle a pris goût à la scène. Elle est actuellement en tournée avec son spectacle « philosophique et niaiseux » *Du bruit dans le cosmos*. « Il s'est érigé un vedettariat très fort au Québec, ce qui crée une sorte de microclimat qui fait que l'humour prend beaucoup de place – peut-être même trop. »

Selon Louise Richer, la dimension identitaire joue un grand rôle. « La musique québécoise s'exporte beaucoup, mais les Québécois écoutent beaucoup de musique étrangère. En humour, c'est un peu le contraire : on achète local. »

Psychologue de formation, elle constate que l'humour est très valorisé socialement. S'il suffit d'un diplôme de secondaire 5 pour être admis à l'ÉNH, la moitié des étudiants sont diplômés universitaires. « Les étudiants viennent des sciences politiques, des études féministes ou littéraires; j'ai un ingénieur, un actuaire. Humoriste, c'est un métier qu'on peut respecter », dit Louise Richer. L'ÉNH a atteint un niveau de reconnaissance tel qu'elle offre maintenant des services de formation en entreprise ! >

Il n'en fut pas toujours ainsi : Louise Richer s'est battue pendant 20 ans pour imposer le respect, un combat « pas drôle pantoute » qu'elle évoque toujours avec des trémolos dans la voix. « Si vous saviez tout le mépris que j'ai dû essayer. À ma première entrevue à Radio-Canada, j'étais dans un ring de boxe. On nous accusait de détruire la langue française, d'être des incultes, d'essayer d'enseigner une chose qui ne s'apprend pas. C'était un *clash* entre les arts nobles et les arts populaires. »

Il n'est guère plus aisé de caractériser l'humour québécois. Andy Nulman y voit un mélange d'influences américaines, françaises et britanniques. « On est passé de l'ère des monologuistes à la Yvon Deschamps, Jean-Guy Moreau et Clémence DesRochers à celui du *stand up* à l'américaine, mais les Québécois gardent une nette préférence pour un spectacle avec scénographie, éclairage et costumes. C'est particulier au Québec. »

Sugar Sammy remarque une prédisposition à l'autodérision, une dimension qu'il exploite à fond dans ses dialogues et ses provocations. Pendant des années, l'humoriste a roulé sa bosse dans les *comedy clubs* canadiens et américains avant d'être découvert au Québec, à l'âge de 35 ans, avec son spectacle bilingue *You're gonna rire*, dont il a donné 123 représentations. Il a également fait le tour des régions avec *En français, SVP!*, son spectacle 100 % en français. « Il y a des nationalistes québécois qui se fâchent parce que j'existe, dit-il, mais la plupart des Québécois sont ouverts à l'autodérision. Ils ne se prennent pas au sérieux comme les Français : ils aiment participer. »



Louise Richer

Virginie Fortin déplore une certaine tendance à vouloir plaire au plus grand nombre. Celle qui cumule les casquettes d'humoriste, de comédienne, d'animatrice et de chanteuse monte chaque année sur la scène du Fringe Festival d'Édimbourg, et elle avoue avoir un faible pour le type d'humour « intellectuel hilarant » à la britannique comme celui de Stuart Lee, de Daniel Kitson ou de Bridget Christie. « Au Québec, je vois plein de propositions super différentes, hyper nichées, mais le Québec est un petit marché et il est plus difficile de vivre de l'humour si on veut sortir complètement du moule. »

S'il répond avant tout à une demande locale très forte, l'humour québécois commence toutefois à s'exporter. « Historiquement, les humoristes québécois qui ont percé à l'étranger étaient surtout des interprètes », affirme Louise Richer, en citant les cas d'Anthony Kavanagh, de Michel Courtemanche, de Stéphane Rousseau, de Rachid Badouri et d'André-Philippe Gagnon. Les Sugar Sammy, capables de vendre le biculturalisme aux Québécois et le multiculturalisme aux Français, sont encore rares.



JULIE ARTACHO

Virginie Fortin

« Si vous saviez tout le mépris que j'ai dû essayer. À ma première entrevue à Radio-Canada, j'étais dans un ring de boxe. »

Andy Nulman est convaincu que le local peut toucher à l'universel. Il en tient pour preuve le projet qui l'« obsède » actuellement : lancer une adaptation en comédie musicale des *Belles-Sœurs* de Michel Tremblay — sur Broadway. À New York, en septembre, la première lecture devant public de ce qu'il qualifie de « bijou québécois », intitulé *Les Belles* dans cette version, a attiré une brochette de 150 producteurs new-yorkais. « C'est plus facile de vendre le Québec aux Américains que le Québec aux Québécois. » Louise Richer a longtemps été sceptique quant à la capacité de l'humour québécois de s'exporter. « Gilbert Rozon me disait : "Tes étudiants, fais-les créer pour l'international." Je n'y ai jamais cru. On crée pour le local. » Quoique! Depuis deux ans, elle s'efforce d'internationaliser l'école. Elle créera d'ailleurs un stage de trois mois à Paris. En parallèle, l'ÉNH offrira une formation aux festivals Montreux Comedy et Abidjan Capitale du Rire. Avec la SODEC, elle travaille à un projet d'atelier de scénarisation-fiction-comédie qui s'adressera à des participants de toute la francophonie. « Je commence à entrevoir un circuit francophone où les Québécois pourraient développer des publics à l'extérieur, y compris au Maghreb, en Afrique. »

HUMORISTIQUEMENT CORRECT

Le rire a longtemps été le propre de l'homme blanc hétéro : plus maintenant. Le secteur de l'humour québécois, comme dans toutes les sociétés développées, est actuellement secoué par un bouleversement des valeurs. Le vieux fond de blagues sexistes, racistes et homophobes passe moins bien.

C'est un sujet archiconroversé chez les humoristes, mais Virginie Fortin, à 33 ans, n'a pas peur de prendre position. « J'assume mon côté progressiste, au risque de passer pour superficielle aux yeux de certains. La société évolue et je trouve bien correct qu'il y ait des mots qu'on n'ait plus le droit de dire. Personne n'ira en prison pour une blague homophobe, mais veux-tu être cette personne-là ? », dit l'humoriste, qui voit un lien entre ses études et son travail, même s'il est intangible.

« L'humour est un commentaire social où l'on choisit d'en rire plutôt que d'en pleurer. Moi, ça me fâche d'entendre des humoristes défendre leurs propos racistes en disant qu'ils sont mal interprétés. Ce n'est pas tout le monde qui a le talent d'un Yvon Deschamps ou d'un George Carlin et qui peut développer un commentaire social à partir de blagues en apparence sexistes ou racistes. » Jusqu'où peut-on aller trop loin? Sugar Sammy, qui se spécialise dans la provocation et le dialogue avec le public, pense qu'on peut encore rire de tout. « La société est devenue plus frileuse, c'est un fait. Mais ce n'est pas que le public ne veut rien entendre : il est devenu plus exigeant. Il veut une écriture surprenante, un travail plus raffiné, un spectacle plus travaillé. »

Si ses origines indiennes peuvent l'aider à faire passer la pilule sur les questions raciales, l'artiste réplique : « Être indien ne me dédouane pas vis-à-vis de la communauté LGBTQ ou des femmes, dit-il. On fait le meilleur travail possible, mais il y a un risque à prendre et il faut accepter que ce soit interprété de toutes les manières. »

Andy Nulman, à l'origine des Nasty Shows de Just for Laughs, doute que ce genre de spectacle corrosif puisse survivre. « On devrait avoir le droit de rire de n'importe quoi, mais là, on ne l'a clairement pas. On est dans un retour de balancier. Ça va durer cinq, dix, quinze ans. » Au Groupe Juste pour rire, il envoyait chaque année le même message aux 450 employés. « Je leur disais : "Personne ne peut tuer Juste pour rire, alors ne vous inquiétez pas de vos erreurs. Il y a des trucs qui vous nous pèter à la figure. Et voyez, même malgré les déboires de Gilbert, la compagnie a survécu! »

Malgré (ou à cause de) ce climat un peu puritain, on observe d'autres évolutions, comme l'apparition de nouveaux types d'humoristes, ouvertement homosexuels ou appartenant à des communautés racisées, et la multiplication des femmes humoristes. À l'instar d'une Virginie Fortin, davantage de jeunes humoristes se disent ouvertement engagés. >

« Je suis blanche, je viens d'une famille aisée, pourquoi est-ce que je rirais de ceux qui l'ont eu moins facile que moi? Au début, dans mon premier spectacle, j'avais une blague sur les sans-abri. Je l'ai refaite parce que ce dont il faudrait pouvoir rire, c'est de ceux qui ont trois autos et deux garages. Moi, en tout cas, j'ai décidé de frapper en haut plutôt qu'en bas. »

Selon Louise Richer, ces tendances ne sont pas étrangères à un mouvement de fond qui se dégage depuis une dizaine d'années : la collégialité. « Il y a moins de solitaires. Ça collabore, ça s'interpelle, ça se fréquente, et pas juste entre Québécois, ça collabore avec des Européens, des Africains. Ils se découvrent des filiations et se donnent du soutien mutuel. »

Ce développement n'est pas étranger à l'apparition du ZooFest, un autre type de festival d'humour consacré à la relève, qui existe depuis 2009 et dont la dernière édition a offert plus de 125 spectacles. « Les gens se regroupent, ils font un show sur Star Wars, un autre à la manière ninja ou avec une thématique féministe ou environnementale. Au lieu de faire une enfilade de numéros indépendants, ils vont essayer de produire des numéros à plusieurs. Ils restent des solistes, mais ils collaborent et ça, c'est nouveau. »

Jean-Benoît Nadeau est chroniqueur au Devoir et reporter à L'actualité.



Andy Nulman

The serious business of being funny

When it first opened its doors 32 years ago, Montreal's École nationale de l'humour (ÉNH) was itself the target of jokes.

"My first interview with Radio-Canada was like being in a boxing ring," says Louise Richer, EMBA'16, the ÉNH's founder and director. "[People] said ... that we were trying to teach something that couldn't be taught."

No one says that anymore. The ÉNH has trained hundreds of comics, including some of Quebec's best-known talents, like Martin Matte, Louis-José Houde and Cathy Gauthier.

Almost a third of this year's students are from France, and the ÉNH is involved in programs in Switzerland and the Ivory Coast.

Richer gives part of the credit for the ÉNH's increasing internationalism to the 16 months she spent earning an MBA from a joint McGill/HEC Montréal program. "At the venerable age of 61!" she says, laughing.

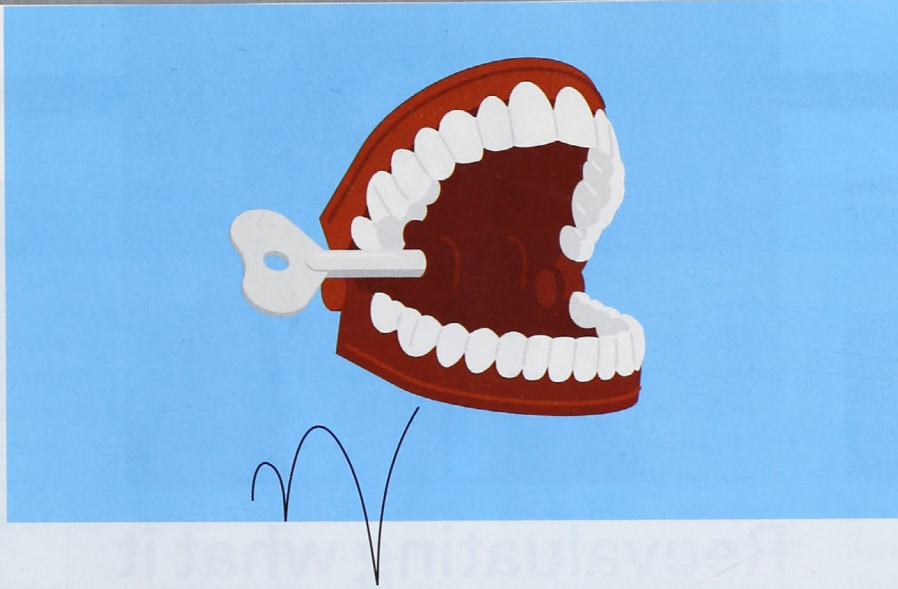
"But seriously, it gave me more confidence in my management skills and put me in a position to tackle specific projects, like getting the school known throughout the French-speaking world."

The ÉNH is part of a vast ecosystem of comedy in Quebec that has developed since the creation of the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival in 1983.

"There aren't many places where the [status] of comedy is so strong in proportion to the population," says Andy Nulman, BCom'83, who oversaw the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival from 1985 to 1999, and then ran all the Group Just For Laughs' festival and television activities from 2008 to 2013. "In Quebec, it's a big business."

Sugar Sammy, one of Quebec's most prominent comedians, agrees.

"The industry is stronger than ever. There are more comics, more shows and more producers."



GETTY IMAGES

Sammy, known as Samir Khullar when he was pursuing a degree in cultural studies at McGill in the late nineties, performs in four languages – English, French, Punjabi and Hindi. He is one of the rare entertainers who is as popular with francophone audiences as he is with anglophones. He recently served as a judge on *La France a un incroyable talent*, one of the most popular TV shows in France.

“As comics, we are very lucky to be able to build careers in such a small, but rich market,” says Virginie Fortin, BA’08. She has been touring Quebec with her “silly and philosophical” show, *Du bruit dans le cosmos* (Noise in the cosmos). She also co-starred in the Radio-Canada TV comedy *Trop*.

Richer believes Quebecers have an appetite for home-grown comedy. “[We] export a lot of music, but we also listen to a lot of foreign music. For comedy, it’s the opposite. We very much buy local.”

It’s not easy to define what exactly distinguishes Quebec comedy. Nulman sees a mix of American, French and British influences.

“We’ve moved beyond the monologue era of Yvon Deschamps, Jean-Guy Moreau and Clémence Desroches, and beyond American-style stand-up. Quebecers have a strong preference for shows with stagecraft, lighting and costumes. It’s peculiar to Quebec.”

Sugar Sammy says Quebecers are comfortable with self-mockery, something he fully exploits in his own shows. “Most Quebecers can laugh at themselves. They don’t take themselves as seriously as, say, the French do.”

Nulman firmly believes Quebec’s distinctive take on comedy can succeed elsewhere.

The proof, he says, is a project he’s “obsessed with” at the moment: launching a Broadway musical performed in English based on Quebec playwright Michel Tremblay’s darkly comic *Les Belles Soeurs*.

The first read-through of *Les Belles*, which he describes as “Quebec’s jewel,” attracted some 150 New York producers.

Fortin says it’s important to think about who your jokes are targeting and why.

“I’m white and I had a comfortable upbringing, so why would I be laughing at people who haven’t had it as easy as I have?” she asks.

“When I started, my first show had a joke about the homeless. I rewrote it because what we should really be able to laugh at now are people with three cars and two garages. I made the decision to hit above the belt rather than below it.”

Sugar Sammy’s specialty is finely calibrated provocation. “You have to take risks and accept that things can be interpreted in many different ways. Society has become more sensitive, it’s a fact.”

He believes the biggest challenge for comedians today is that audiences are now more demanding. “They expect the writing to be surprising, the work more refined, a show that’s more carefully crafted.”

Nulman, who created the popular Just for Laughs Nasty Show, doubts the corrosive humour it showcases will survive. Still, he believes comedy needs to test boundaries to be successful, a message he regularly shared with the Just for Laughs staff.

“I told them: ‘No one is going to kill Just for Laughs, so don’t worry about making mistakes. There will be things that blow up in your face.’”

BY JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA’92

TRANSLATED BY JULIE BARLOW, BA’91



JAMES BAREHAM/VOX MEDIA

Reevaluating what it means to be a man

LIZ PLANK, BA'10, likes to start her public talks on gender expectations with simple questions. “How many here are parents? And how many tell their girls they can do anything boys can do?”

Lots of proud hands are usually up at this point. Then she asks, “How many tell their boys they can do anything girls can do?”

Hands slide down, uneasy silence follows.

For Plank, who has emerged as one of the most prominent feminist voices of her generation (*Marie Claire* named her one of America’s 50 most influential women in 2016), thinking about gender and identity is nothing new.

She majored in women’s studies as a McGill undergraduate (her second major was international development studies), and did a master’s degree in social policy and gender studies at the London School of Economics. *Divided States of Women*, her video series for Vox Media (she is a senior producer there), won a Webby Award in 2018.

Lately, she has been thinking a lot about men.

Her new book, *For the Love of Men: A New Vision for Mindful Masculinity*, casts a critical gaze on traditional notions of masculinity. And, contrary to what her publisher expected, plenty of men are buying the book. In a recent article, *Vogue* declared “*For the Love of Men* is no man-hating burn book — far from it.”

“We do a disservice to the [feminist] movement when we hide that men are equally hurt by the structures of oppression in our society,” says Plank.

For the Love of Men is full of surprising research results, saddening statistics, and food for thought. More boys endorse traditional roles now than 25 years ago. Toys have become more gendered than ever. Fewer men go to university. Race enters the discussion, too: There are fewer black male students in medical school now than there were in 1978.

Men are less likely to have close friendships than women, notes Plank. They are also less likely to see doctors, and more likely to take physically harmful risks. When Plank worked as a lifeguard, she learned that men drown more often than women because they tend not to wear life jackets and exaggerate their abilities, even to themselves, all in the service of masculine expectations.

Men are too often given short shrift in popular media, says Plank. Fathers are bumbling idiots or absent. Men are lauded for silence or stoicism and not needing anyone. “I think that’s such a dangerous message,” says Plank. Showing emotional vulnerability isn’t exactly something that men are encouraged to do.

The number one response Plank gets when she asks what it means to be a man, is being a financial provider. “Unemployment is so closely correlated to suicide for men,” says Plank. “You lose your job and there’s nothing else that defines you?”

She advocates expanding the idea of providing to encompass providing love and attention and emotional support within a family. She encourages men to consider work in caring professions like nursing and teaching (fields that were once male-dominated), just as women are now encouraged to pursue careers in STEM fields.

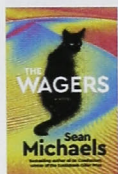
What surprised Plank the most in her research, was how feminism concretely and measurably benefits men too. Data shows that in more gender-equal feminist societies like Iceland, men are less likely to divorce, be depressed or commit suicide, and the life expectancy gap between genders narrows.

Writing the book has transformed how Plank sees men. “I used to assume the worst in men and now I assume the best in men. And I cannot tell you how much happier that makes me.”

MAEVE HALDANE

THE WAGERS

by Sean Michaels, BA'04



The Wagers, the latest novel from Giller Prize winner Sean Michaels, begins normally

enough, but things soon get decidedly weird.

We meet Theo, who, along with his family, owns and manages a grocery store that is a neighbourhood institution, even if it is a bit rundown. When not at the store, he moonlights as a stand-up comic. He had a big break years ago, appearing on Conan O'Brien's TV show, but his comedy career failed to catch fire and he is haunted by the notion that he missed his shot.

Theo is further shaken when his family experiences two life-changing events — one tragic, the other a bonkers gamble that inexplicably pays off. When a trio of unusual sisters enters the scene, he welcomes the opportunity they present to take a leap into the unknown. One sister runs an operation that places bets on sports events — after gaining an edge by applying sophisticated algorithms to spot subtle trends. The other sisters are thieves. In *The Wagers*, luck is something you can actually steal, and Theo finds himself taking part in some high-stakes heists.

Do the super-rich truly deserve their good fortune? It's one of the questions Michaels poses in this intriguing book.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

SCOTTY: A HOCKEY LIFE LIKE NO OTHER

by Ken Dryden, LLB'73, LLD'18



In his latest book about hockey, Hall of Fame goaltender Ken Dryden writes about “the

greatest hockey coach ever”.

Scotty: A Hockey Life Like No Other revolves around Scotty Bowman's picks for the top NHL teams of all time. Bowman seems uniquely placed to weigh in on such matters, having won nine Stanley Cups.

The teams that make the cut include the 1951-52 and 2001-02 Detroit Red Wings and the 1955-56 and 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens. Dryden leaves Bowman's best-ever pick to the end of the book.

(No spoilers!)

But the book is much more than that — it's a compelling look at Bowman's rich life in hockey, beginning with his upbringing in working-class Verdun. While working a day job, Bowman would take an early lunch to watch the Canadiens practice under Dick Irvin Sr. and later Toe Blake. At 22, he landed a full-time job in junior hockey, thanks to Sam Pollock, who became the Habs' legendary general manager.

Hockey fans will enjoy this evocative skate down memory lane. Dryden weaves in his former coach's insights about storied teams and players, from goaltender Jacques Plante's talent (and quirkiness), to the Rocket's tenacity and Gretzky's vision and hockey sense.

BRENDA BRANSWELL

AGNES, MURDERESS

by Sarah Leavitt, BA'91



Sarah Leavitt's bittersweet first graphic novel *Tangles* explored familiar but

difficult terrain — the impact that her mother's struggles with Alzheimer's had on her family. Her newest work goes in a very different direction. Think Poe.

Agnes, Murderess reimagines a spooky figure from 19th century B.C. lore — Agnes McVee, a serial killer who preyed upon some of the men who stayed at her remote roadhouse during the province's gold rush era.

The Agnes of Leavitt's book certainly lives up to her billing: there is an awful lot of blood on her hands. While Leavitt never excuses Agnes for her crimes, she does offer a nuanced portrayal of the forces that shaped her into the woman she became — Gormul, the brutal grandmother who raised her on a Scottish island (Gormul may or may not have been a witch) and a devastating betrayal in London.

Leavitt has a simple, unadorned art style, but it packs a surprising punch at times. In a blurb for the book, cartoonist Brian Fies describes her art “as stark as antique woodcuts.” It certainly suits the subject matter.

Agnes, ferociously determined and haunted by her past (perhaps literally so), isn't someone you are likely to forget any time soon.

DM

WHEN I SAY TO YOU BLACK LIGHTNING

by Common Holly



Want to make a name for yourself in Montreal's indie music scene? It sure doesn't

hurt to have a religious studies degree from McGill. Arcade Fire's Win Butler, BA'04, Ought's Ben Stidworthy, BA'14, Devon Welsh, BA'11 — all are religious studies grads. You can add Brigitte Naggar, BA'15, to that list.

The singer-songwriter is the driving force behind Common Holly, and the Montrealer's latest album has been drawing praise from music critics close to home (*La Presse, Le Devoir*) and beyond (*Mojo, Uncut*). Her delicate, inviting voice serves as a counterpoint to the album's frequently sinister vibe.

Even as she explores themes of vulnerability and loss, Naggar's quirky sense of humour often comes into play. The album's closer, “Crazy Ok,” manages to be funny, even boisterous at times, as Naggar pleads with a lover to stay.

Similarly, it's hard not to smile when Naggar begins “Joshua Snakes,” by singing “You're like a hot supervillain/ At the top of your game,” though the song soon veers into more menacing terrain.

One song features these lyrics prominently: “I think we've been measured out for pain since birth.” That might be true, but Naggar offers some solace even as she peers into the darkness.

DM

Homecoming Celebration Weekend 2019

It takes a village to make a successful Homecoming Celebration Weekend happen and this year's 2019 annual fall classic proved the point in spectacular fashion with an actual Homecoming Village on the lower field of the downtown campus. The village served as the focal point for many of Homecoming's 92 events as well as the exciting launch of "Made by McGill: the Campaign for Our Third Century."

This year's Homecoming recorded more than 4,000 visits (a third coming from out-of-towners) by alumni and friends converging on McGill to enjoy: the Leacock Luncheon's outrageous **MARY WALSH**, an unforgettable Beatty lecture with **JANE GOODALL**, the Golden Jubilee's effervescent **CLASS OF '69**, a young alumni event with the talented **KAI KIGHT**, a celebration of inductees into the **SPORTS HALL OF FAME**, a sneak peak at the **MACDONALD FARM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE** and much more. Cue the photos...



Renowned primatologist Jane Goodall received a standing ovation both before and after her sold-out Beatty Memorial Lecture. Prior to her lecture, Goodall received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

PHOTOS BY OWEN EGAN,
JONI DUFOUR, PAUL FOURNIER,
TAM LAN TRUONG



The Homecoming Village added some pizzazz to McGill's lower campus.



Classical violinist turned innovative composer Kai Kight inspires young alumni.



McGill Black Alumni Association President Christelle Dossa, BA'15 (left), and Idil Issa, BA'09, speak to alumni and guests at the Black Alumni Association Meet and Greet.



From left: Judy (Chown) Addie, BEd(PE)'69, Ruth MacLeod, BEd(PE)'69, Kerrin Gandey, BEd'69, CertRInst'87, and Eileen Myers, BEd'69, celebrate at the Golden Jubilee Dinner.



Damp weather failed to dampen spirits of fans at the Homecoming Football Game & Tailgate, especially as the home team fought their way to a 20-13 victory over the Université de Sherbrooke.



Golden Jubilee guests from the Class of '49: Miriam (Hazan) Levinson, BCom'49 (left), and Anne (Wasylyk) Koivu, BSc(PE)'49.

The Homecoming Village photo booth encouraged many visitors to express themselves.



The 24th Annual McGill Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon ushered in inductees (left to right): Mathieu Laforest, BEng'08 (badminton); Dr. Lizanne Bussi eres, MDCM'86 (track & field); Mathieu Poitras, BEng'08 (hockey); Catherine Ward, BCom'09 (hockey); Graham Butcher, (soccer); and Domenico Marcario, BEd'03 (basketball).



Visitors to Macdonald Campus get a sneak peek of the Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre.



Outspoken actor, writer and comedian Mary Walsh (right) meets students at the 50th Anniversary Leacock Luncheon.

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Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

EVANS ESTABROOKS, BSc(Agr)'64, recently published *Haydays*, a book that describes the first 10 years in the life of a farm boy in eastern Canada during the post-Second World War era (late forties and early fifties). The book, intended for a young audience, uses humour and anecdotes to chronicle life on a farm. It is available through the Fredericton Botanical Garden Association (fbga@nb.aibn.com). In April 2019, Evan was granted an honorary life membership in the New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists.

SERGE LUSSIER, BSc(Agr)'74, received the *Mérite du Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec* from the *Ordre des Agronomes du Québec*, awarded for exceptional work in supporting the promotion of agriculture and its professional aspects. He was the deputy director of the Farm Management and Technology Program at the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Macdonald Campus from 1986 to 2016 when he retired from McGill. He continues to teach in the program and has helped to train three generations of agricultural workers.

DAVID BIRD, MSc'76, PhD'78, is a McGill emeritus professor of wildlife biology. His current work focuses on the applications of unmanned vehicle systems (aka drones) to wildlife biology and conservation. Based on Vancouver Island, he is the founding editor of the *Journal of Unmanned Vehicle Systems*. In 2017, he received the Doris H. Speirs Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Canadian Ornithology from the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. In 2019, he received a special recognition award for direct public outreach as part of the McGill's Principal's Prize for Public Engagement Through Media.

CHANDRA MADRAMOOTOO, BSc'77, MSc'81, PhD'85, was inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering in June 2019. A James McGill Professor in McGill's Department of Bioresource Engineering, he also received the 2019 World Irrigation and Drainage Prize at the World Irrigation Forum in September. The award recognizes his sustained, longstanding and highly committed work in the irrigation and drainage sector worldwide through education, research, planning and international project implementation.

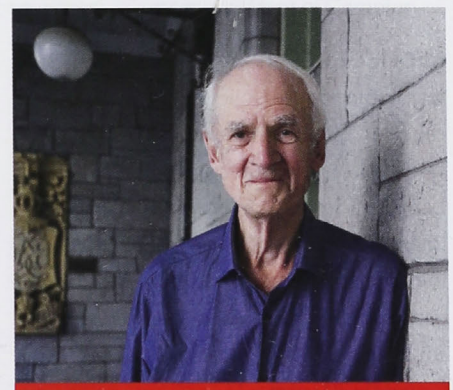
STAN BLADE, PhD'92, was recently reappointed to a second five-year term as the dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta. During his first term as dean, the faculty earned \$210 million in research funding and attracted more than \$95 million in philanthropic support. He was recently elected as an international fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, and serves as a trustee of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture which works in 23 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

Architecture

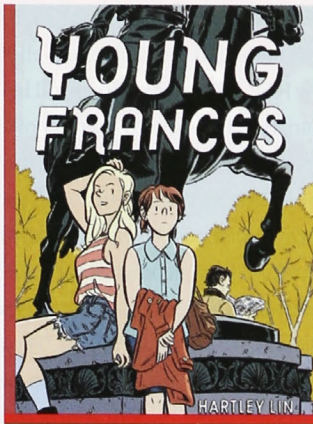
BRIAN PALMQUIST, BSc(Arch)'74, BArch'74, published the second edition of his *An Architect's Guide to Construction* in both softcover and ebook formats. The book offers more than 60 new and updated "tales from the trenches"—true stories drawn from the author's 40 years of experience. As an educator, he has used the ideas and approaches in this book to teach more than 2,000 intern architects, students, and design and construction professionals about the simplest ways to effectively manage the complexities of construction. The book is available on Amazon.

ERIK MAROSI, BSc(Arch)'75, BArch'76, was named to the College of Fellows of the RAIC (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada). He is the co-founder of Marosi Troy Architectes, a Montreal-based firm whose projects span the institutional, corporate, commercial, residential, and cultural fields. The College of Fellows of the RAIC bestows fellowship to RAIC members in recognition of outstanding achievement. The criteria includes design excellence, exceptional scholarly contribution, and/or distinguished service to the profession or the community.

GRAHAM LIVESEY, BSc(Arch)'82, BArch'84, MArch'91, was named to the College of Fellows of the RAIC (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada). He is a professor and associate dean (academic-architecture) in the Master of Architecture Program in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. His research interests include architectural design, architectural history and theory, and contemporary urban design theory.



CHARLES TAYLOR, BA'52, an emeritus professor of philosophy at McGill, was a co-recipient of the 2019 Ratzinger Prize. The prize was endowed by former Pope Benedict XVI for scholarship in theology relating to his work. Pope Francis presented the award at the Vatican on November 9, 2019. The author of such influential works as *Sources of the Self* and *A Secular Age*, Professor Taylor's work has examined the relationship between religion and modernity, and the complex nature of secularism.



HARTLEY LIN, BA'04, received the 2019 Doug Wright Best Book Award for *Young Frances*, the first collection from his ongoing comic book *Pope Hats*. His illustrations have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Slate*. The Doug Wright Awards recognize excellence in comics and graphic novels by Canadian creators.

MICHEL BROZ, BSc(Arch)'85, BArch'87, was named to the College of Fellows of the RAIC (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada). He is a senior partner with Jodoin Lamarre Pratte Architectes and has been involved in the design and management of major projects and technical content, particularly in the fields of healthcare, education and university-level research, for nearly 30 years.

LISA LANDRUM, MArch'03, PhD'10, was named to the College of Fellows of the RAIC (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada). She is the associate dean (research) of the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture and an associate professor in the faculty. Her research encompasses topics in architectural history, theory and design.

DESIREE VALADARES, MArch'15, has won the J.B.C. Watkins Award: Architecture. The prize is offered by the Canada Council to Canadian architectural students wishing to pursue postgraduate studies outside Canada. A PhD candidate in the architectural history program at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design, she studies how historic preservation (U.S.) and heritage conservation (Canada) laws are applied to geographically disparate and remote World War Two ruins and landscapes (prisoner of war camps, labour camps, internment sites).

Arts

BARBARA MILLER, BA'68, PhD'73, recently co-authored two chapters for the book *Lessons from School Psychology*. One chapter is on fostering social development in children, while the other focuses on efforts to prevent bullying and cyberbullying by understanding student motivations. She is an assistant professor in the School Psychology Department at William James College.

GEORGE TOMBS, BA'78, MA'98, PhD'03, recently published his first novel *Mind the Gap*, a coming-of-age dramatic comedy largely set in Montreal. For 25 years, he reported from six different continents as a journalist for CBC, Radio-Canada, NPR and the BBC. *Mind the Gap* is available on Amazon in print, ebook and audio versions—George does the narration and voices all 45 characters himself.

CYNTHIA KIERNER, BA'80, recently published *Inventing Disaster: The Culture of Calamity from the Jamestown Colony to the Johnstown Flood* (University of North Carolina Press). The book explains our reactions to hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and other disasters—reactions that have become predictable, even ritualized—exploring their roots in the revolutions in science, information, and emotion that were part of the Age of Enlightenment in Europe and America. She is a professor of history at George Mason University.

DAVID WINCH, BA'80, left his position as chief of editorial at ICAO Montreal in 2018. In all, he spent 26 years working in communications for the United Nations and UN agencies. He is now a freelance writer and editor. His work spans politics, culture and sports. His writing is featured on his site at davidwinch.website—including a recent post about how he ran against Pierre Trudeau as a NDP candidate in 1979 while working for the *McGill Daily*.

RIC ESTHER BIENSTOCK, BA'81, was named an officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of “her commitment to raising awareness of global events and conflicts through film, and for her exceptional representation of the Canadian documentary-making tradition on the international stage.” An Emmy Award winning filmmaker, she is best known for her investigative documentaries.



SUSAN STROMBERG STEIN, MA'77, was invited by the organizing committee of a recent international research symposium to create a sculpture for the gathering that was representative of the work that would be discussed. The Amphibian Decline Symposium on amphibian ecology and conservation biology was held at McGill's Redpath Museum in September. *Enlightenment*, the bronze frog she created for the event, included a rare Steuben crystal. She also created related sculptures, which were sold at a silent auction to help support the work of scientists and students involved in the symposium.



HÉLÈNE CAJOLET-LAGANIÈRE, MA'71, is the 2019 recipient of the Prix Georges-Émile-Lapalme for exceptional work in the area of the French language. It is part of the Prix du Québec, the province's top honours for cultural and scientific achievements. An associate professor of communications at the Université de Sherbrooke, her works include *Le français au bureau, Rédaction technique, administrative et scientifique* and *La maîtrise du français écrit*. She was also a co-director of the Usito team that developed a dictionary that provides a portrait of French as it is spoken in North America.

SERGE BOUCHARD (Ph. D. 1981) est l'auteur de *L'Allume-cigarette de la Chrysler* (Les Éditions du Boréal). Composé de 64 textes brefs, lus une première fois au micro de l'émission *C'est fou...*, diffusée sur la chaîne ICI Radio-Canada Première), ce recueil porte sur autant de sujets et de questions liés à la vie contemporaine et à la société dans laquelle nous vivons. Qu'avons-nous fait du passé, de l'héritage de nos parents, des premiers peuples qui ont habité notre pays? Que faisons-nous de la nature qui nous entoure et nous nourrit? Quel sens avons-nous aujourd'hui de notre humanité?

ARIEL DELOUYA, BA'84, was appointed consul general of Canada in Minneapolis on August 8, 2019, with jurisdiction in the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. Since joining the Department of External Affairs in 1986, he has held several different positions involving Canada's international relations and served as Canada's ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia from 2009 to 2012.

MITCH GARBER, BA'86, was named a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of "his contributions as an innovative entrepreneur, and for his active governance and philanthropic commitment to education, health and culture." He is the chair of both the Cirque du Soleil and the Canadian federal agency Invest in Canada. The former president of the U.S.-based Caesars Acquisition Co., he is also part-owner of the newest NHL hockey team, which will begin playing in Seattle in the 2021-22 season.

JAN GILBERT, BA'86, recently joined the law firm Polsinelli's Global Franchise and Supply Network practice. He has more than 30 years of experience and has counselled both start-up and developed franchisors and franchisees on all aspects of domestic and international franchising. He is based in Washington, D.C.

JOEL ROESSNER, BA'86, was appointed chief counsel of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). As chief counsel, he is ATF's principal legal officer, supervises the attorney and professional staff of the Office of General Counsel, and is responsible for the delivery of all legal services required to support ATF's strategic goals and objectives. ATF is a law enforcement agency in the U.S. Department of Justice that works to protect communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.

PATRICK BUCHHOLZ, BA'87, was recently appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Montreal. He was a partner at the law firm Lavery, and previously served as the vice-president, legal affairs, for *La Presse* for more than a decade, overseeing all of the news publication's legal and intellectual property matters.

ISABELLE DUVAL, BA'88, recently published the romantic thriller *Inhaled*. The novel, which focuses on a woman in a failing marriage who falls under the spell of a seductive sociopath, is inspired by some of her own life experiences. She is a Montreal-based professional coach and writer. To find out more about *Inhaled*, visit isabelleduvalauthor.com.

FR. JOHN MEEHAN, BA'89, was appointed president and vice-chancellor of the University of Sudbury for a two-year term. A former president of Campion College, a Jesuit college affiliated with the University of Regina, he had recently been serving as rector of L'Église de Gesù and interim director of McGill's Newman Centre.

HENRY ISRAELI, BA'90, published his fourth book of poetry in September 2019. *Our Age of Anxiety* was awarded the White Pine Press Poetry Prize. His first three collections were *New Messiahs* (Four Way Books, 2002), *Praying to the Black Cat* (Del Sol, 2010), and *god's breath hovering across the waters* (Four Way, 2016). He has also published three books of translation by Albanian poet Luljeta Lleshanaku for New Directions and Bloodaxe (UK). He is an associate professor of English at Drexel University and the director of the Drexel Writing Festival.

LESLEY WADE-WOOLEY, MA'90, is now an associate professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta after having spent five years in Columbia, South Carolina, where she was a reading and literacy researcher at the University of South Carolina. Joining her in this happy return to Canada is husband **STU WOOLEY**, BA'71, MA'79, and Ruby the Red Tornado, their exuberant Nova Scotia Duck Toller. Daughter **EVE WOOLEY**, BA'15, remains in Atlanta, where she is in her fourth year with Marriott Hotels International as a destination sales executive at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel and Convention Center.



DEBORAH CHOW, BA'96, won the prize for outstanding directing in a dramatic series at the 2019 NAACP Image Awards for her work on "Something Stupid," an episode of *Better Call Saul*. She has also directed episodes of *American Gods*, *Fear of the Walking Dead*, *Jessica Jones* and the Disney+ series *The Mandalorian*. She will be the director of another Disney+ show about Obi-Wan Kenobi that will mark the return of Ewan McGregor to the iconic Star Wars character. She will also be one of the show's executive producers.

ALEXANDER NERSKA, BA'91, embarked on the 'second act' of his professional career after spending more than 20 years of working in the securities industry for Wall Street firms in Toronto, New York and Washington, D.C. He is now a news-gathering producer in the Washington bureau of Fox Business Network, producing live shots for air from the Capital, the White House, U.S. federal agencies and the campaign trails of candidates. He says that the newsroom is not unlike an equity trading room, where 'parabolic' hearing is an asset, and that his many years of interacting with business professionals through so many financial cycles, has imparted in him the mental flexibility necessary to flow with the vicissitudes of the Washington D.C. news cycle under President Trump.

CRAIG FORCESE, BA'92, a professor of law at the University of Ottawa, was appointed a member of the new National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA). His areas of expertise include public international law, national security law, administrative law, and constitutional law. He is also a national security crisis law fellow for the Center on National Security and the Law at Georgetown Law in Washington D.C. The NSIRA will work to ensure that Canada's national security agencies are complying with the law and that their actions are reasonable and necessary.

JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA'92, and **JULIE BARLOW**, BA'91, recently published *Charging Ahead! Hydro-Québec and the Future of Electricity* (Baraka Books). The book examines the history of Hydro-Québec, now the second-biggest hydroelectricity system in the world after China Yangtze Power, and explores some of the challenges that the utility is likely to face in the future.

AMY ROSEN, BA'92, is a freelance journalist specializing in food. Her new cookbook *Kosher Style* includes more than 100 recipes that reflect classic 20th century dishes emblematic of the North American Jewish experience – with a few more modern additions, like a quinoa-tofu bowl with greens and green goddess dressing. Amy has been nominated for a James Beard Award for her work and she was once the food editor at *Chatelaine*.

LOUIS DUCHESNE, BA'00, was recently promoted to the position of president, Quebec and East, at the creative agency Cossette. Louis has been with Cossette for more than 12 years. He had recently served as Cossette's executive vice-president and general manager for Quebec and Atlantic Canada. He has experience overseeing various teams of experts at the agency and working in the areas of strategic planning for marketing campaigns and the development of digital tactics. His clients have included SAQ, Loto-Québec, General Motors Canada, La Maison Simons and Énergir.

JEREMY KUZMAROV, BA'01, MA'02, recently published *Obama's Unending Wars*, a critical examination of the Obama administration's foreign policy efforts. The book argues that former U.S. president Barack Obama's approach to foreign policy had a profoundly negative impact in Asia, the Middle East and in many other parts of the world. Jeremy is the author of three previous books on U.S. foreign policy and has contributed to such publications as *The Progressive Magazine*, *Counterpunch* and *Roar Magazine*.

FRANCIS HALIN (B.A. 2004, M.A. 2008) a reçu le Prix d'excellence en science et technologie 2019 MNP de l'Alliance canadienne pour les technologies avancées. Journaliste économique pour *Le Journal de Montréal*, une grande partie de ses articles ont trait au secteur de la haute technologie.



LESLEY WEIR, MLS'79, became the new librarian and archivist of Canada on August 30, 2019. She had been the university librarian at the University of Ottawa. As the president of Canadian.org, she oversaw the introduction of the Heritage Project, an initiative to digitize and make openly accessible some 60 million heritage archival images. In her new role, she heads Library and Archives Canada, which is responsible for preserving the country's documentary heritage in all its forms.

PETER HALPRIN, BA'06, has joined Pasich LLP, a boutique insurance recovery and entertainment law firm, as a partner. Previously, he was a shareholder in Anderson Kill P.C.'s New York office, where he focused on insurance recovery and served as deputy co-chair of the Cyber Insurance Recovery Practice.

LANA DEE POVITZ, BA'08, MA'09, a visiting assistant professor of history at Middlebury College, recently published her first book. *Stirrings: How Activist New Yorkers Ignited a Movement for Food Justice* (University of North Carolina Press) examines how activists in New York, whether organizing school lunch campaigns, establishing food co-ops, or lobbying city officials, set the stage for a nationwide food justice movement. Using dozens of new oral histories and archives, the book sheds a light on the colourful characters who worked behind the scenes to build and sustain the movement.

LESLIE SHIMOTAKAHARA, BA'10, published her new novel *Red Oblivion* (Dundurn) in September. The book follows two sisters who travel from Toronto to Hong Kong to care for their ill father as dark family secrets related to the Cultural Revolution begin to surface. Her memoir *The Reading List* won the Canada-Japan Literary Prize in 2012.

ADELLE ARCHER, BA'12, is the co-founder of Eterneva, a company that creates diamonds from the cremated remains of loved ones and pets. She appeared on the TV series *Shark Tank* in October to pitch her company to the show's celebrity investors. Mark Cuban agreed to invest \$600,000 in Eterneva at an \$8 million valuation.

BRIA HIEBERT, BA'16, is a Toronto-based stand-up comic, writer and actor. A graduate of Humber College's comedy writing and performance program, she received the 2019 Tim Sims Encouragement Award, which recognizes and supports promising comedic performers from Humber College's School of Creative and Performing Arts and the Second City Training Program. She made her Edinburgh Fringe debut in 2018 and returned to the festival in 2019. Bria produces various shows across Toronto such as Kitchen Comedy, a secret pop-up stand-up show.

ASHLEY LANNI, BA'16, recently co-wrote a children's picture book called *The Bum Drum Conundrum*. The book addresses the topic of consent with young readers between the ages of four and seven. Ashley completed a master of arts degree at Concordia University, having written and defended a thesis centred on the Soviet Union's depiction of the senses at 20th century world's fairs.

JACOB HORNE, BA'19, attended the annual conference of the Canadian Economics Association in July as a guest of the Bank of Canada. His thesis for his honours economics course was one of 10 student papers from across Canada selected to be presented at the conference.

Education

CINDY FINN, MA'95, PhD'00, became the new director general of the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) on August 1, 2019. She had been the school board's director of student services since 2005. She has served as president of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators and as chair of the Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec. More than 20,000 students attend LBPSB schools and it is one of the largest school boards on the island of Montreal.

JULIE ARTACHO



HEATHER O'NEILL, BA'94, is the 2019 recipient of the Writers' Trust Fellowship. The prize, worth \$50,000, is awarded to a Canadian writer who has demonstrated "exceptional creative ability and outstanding promise in their publications to date." Her work includes *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night*, and *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*.



OWEN EGAN

IRVING LUDMER, BEng'57, president of the investment holding company Cleman Ludmer Steinberg, received an honorary degree from McGill during its fall 2019 convocation. The onetime president of the Steinberg grocery chain, he established the Irving Ludmer Family Foundation in 1989. The foundation works to improve the quality and efficiency of treatments offered to patients dealing with mental health illnesses, as well as supporting other organizations, social services, and health agencies. His support was pivotal to the creation of McGill's Ludmer Centre for Neuroinformatics and Mental Health.

LOUISE COWIN, PhD'99, is now the executive director of athletics and recreation at Ryerson University in Toronto. From 2011 to 2018, she served as the vice-president, students at the University of British Columbia, where her responsibilities included direct oversight of UBC's varsity and recreation programs.

NESSA GOLDMAN, BEd'07, took part in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Paraguay last summer, where she co-developed an eco-leadership program with Para La Tierra, a local conservation organization. A middle school math and science teacher at Olympic Peninsula Academy, she is a graduate student in Miami University's Advanced Inquiry Program. She lives in Sequim, Washington.

Engineering

ALEX BALOGH, BEng'54, was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame in January. He helped shape and build Noranda and Falconbridge into the most successful mining and metallurgical giants in Canadian history. He served as president and CEO of these companies in the 1990s through to 2003. After retirement, he continued to contribute to the mining sector as a consultant, corporate director, mentor of young geoscientists, and strong supporter of industry associations and causes.

AXEL MEISEN, PhD'70, an emeritus professor of chemical and biological engineering at the University of British Columbia, recently received an honorary degree from Peru's Universidad de Piura (UDEP). He was the president of Memorial University in Newfoundland from 1999 to 2007 and is currently an advisor to the UDEP rector regarding that institution's new strategic plan. Over the course of his long relationship with UDEP, he has provided advice in such areas as international relations, fundraising, career development, and innovation in education.

JOHN SAABAS, PhD'91, is the new head of engineering and technology for Bombardier Transportation. In that position, he will lead the company's global technology and product development activities. He joins Bombardier from Pratt & Whitney Canada, where he worked for 35 years and where he had been president since 2009.

LÉO GRÉPIN, BEng'96, is the new president of Sun Life Asia and oversees the international financial services organization's life, health and wealth management businesses in seven Asian markets — the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and India. He brings 20 years of experience to the role, including 15 years as senior partner at McKinsey & Company.

CHRIST KENNEDY, BEng'01, recently published *Paladin*, his fifth novel. In the book, an unlikely group of people, including a homeless man, his politically ambitious brother, and an aging Russian gymnast, contend with a form of artificial intelligence capable of causing massive destruction. The book is available through iUniverse.



KARIM HABIB, BEng'93, is the new senior vice president for Kia Motors and heads up the Korean automaker's design centre. Over the course of his career, he has established himself as one of the most influential designers in the world of automobiles. He was the executive design director for Infiniti from 2017 to 2019, and the head of design for BMW Automobiles from 2012 to 2017.

Law

JOSEPH R. NUSS, BA'55, BCL'58, was named a member of the Order of Canada. He was recognized for "his lifelong commitment to justice and for supporting Montreal's Jewish community." A former justice of the Quebec Court of Appeal, he is a senior counsel with the law firm Woods, where he concentrates his practice in the fields of domestic and international arbitration and mediation.

JAMES O'REILLY, BCL'63, was named an officer of the Order of Canada "for his contributions as a jurist, for his advancement and protection of Indigenous rights and self-governance, and for his profound effect on the practice of Aboriginal law in Canada." One of Canada's most prominent lawyers in the areas of Aboriginal rights, treaty rights, land claims, and the self-determination of Aboriginal nations, he served as the lead lawyer for the Cree Nation and played a key role in the negotiations that led to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement between the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec.

DEANE NESBITT, BA'61, BCL'64, has had a varied career. He practiced commercial law for 16 years, co-founded an investment management firm and wrote *Dry Goods & Pickles: The Story of Nesbitt, Thomson*, an illustrated history of what is now BMO Nesbitt Burns. He is now a composer, recording artist and film score writer. He composed the music for two short films, *Change for Chimps*, featuring Jane Goodall, and *Legacy of War*, featuring Second World War veterans and original film footage from the war. His music has been performed at Massey Hall, Nathan Philips Square and the Canadian National Exhibition and it has been aired on more than 300 radio stations in the U.S.



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RACHEL GRANOFSKY



NICHOLAS KASIRER, BCL'85, LLB'85, began his appointment as the newest judge on the Supreme Court of Canada on September 16, 2019. He served for a decade as a judge on the Court of Appeal of Quebec. Prior to that, he spent 20 years as a professor of law at McGill. He directed the Paul-André Crépeau Centre for Private and Comparative Law from 1996 to 2003 and served as McGill's dean of law from 2003 to 2009.

HUBERT DE MESTIER DU BOURG, LLM'70, DCL'74, has published *Les défenses de Kédah* (Éditions Persée), a historical novel that mostly revolves around the Khmer empire in the early 11th century. He has spent most of his career in East Asia and has taught at Chuo University, Meiji Gakuin University and the University of Tokyo.

NORMAN M. STEINBERG, BSc'71, BCL'75, recently retired from Norton Rose Fulbright following a career spanning more than 40 years, including acting as the global chair of the firm. He has now joined BFL Canada as vice-chair and continues on its boards. He was recently elected to the board of Fiera Capital, continues to sit on the boards for Dorel Industries and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, acts as senior advisor to Persistence Capital Partners, and chairs the McGill University Health Centre Foundation. He previously served as chair of the Law Faculty Advisory Board and is a past recipient of the Faculty's F.R. Scott Award for Distinguished Service.

DANY MELOUL, BCL'88, LLB'88, is the new executive director of television for Radio-Canada. In this role, she oversees the programming of the ICI Télé, ICI ARTV and ICI Explora channels. Previously, she was the vice-president of programming at Bell Media where she was responsible for the planning, programming, acquisitions and production of original content for Canal Vie, Canal D, Z, VRAK, Investigation, Super Écran and Cinépop.

DANIEL FRAJMAN, BCom'86, BCL'90, LLB'90, completed a two-year term as chair of the Montreal branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). He remains involved with STEP as a member of its Canadian national trust and estate technical committee and its worldwide philanthropy law special interest committee. He is a partner with Spiegel Sohmer Attorneys in Montreal, specializing in corporate and commercial law, business real estate, mergers and acquisitions, and the laws regarding non-profits and charities. He regularly guest lectures in the Business Associations course at McGill's Faculty of Law.

MAHMUD JAMAL, BCL'93, LLB'93, was appointed a justice of appeal of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Previously a partner at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, he practiced in the fields of appellate litigation, consti-

tutional and public law, class actions, and commercial litigation, appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada in 35 appeals addressing a wide range of civil, constitutional, criminal and regulatory issues. He has been a director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

CHANTAL PLAMONDON, BCL'94, LLB'94, and **JAY SINHA**, BCL'95, LLB'95, are the co-founders of Life Without Plastic, a brand and information resource for safe, high quality, ethically-sourced and Earth-friendly plastic-free essentials for zero waste living. Their 2017 book *Life Without Plastic: The Practical Step-by-Step Guide to Avoiding Plastic to Keep Your Family and the Planet Healthy* has been translated into Italian, Japanese and Slovak, and the updated French version was launched in November at the Montreal Zero Waste Festival.



ISABELLE COURVILLE, BCL'91, became the new chair of the board of directors for Canadian Pacific Railway last May. She is the first woman to chair the board of a Class 1 railway in North America. An engineer and lawyer by training, she was active for more than 25 years in the energy and telecommunications sectors. She served as president of Hydro Québec Distribution, president of Hydro Québec TransÉnergie, president of Bell Canada's Enterprise Group and as president and chief executive officer of Bell Nordiq Group.

JAMES R. KNOPP, LLB'95, recently retired as a commissioned officer (at the rank of inspector) from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police upon receipt of a governor-in-council appointment to the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board. He is based in Ottawa, but travels across the country, where needed, to hear matters brought forward for adjudication under the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Act.

MARIE-CHRISTINE HIVON, BCL'96, LLB'96, was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Montreal. She was a partner at Norton Rose Fulbright, where she worked in litigation for almost 20 years. She was principally active in civil and commercial litigation, construction law, professional liability, energy law, administrative law, and contracting. She was the president of the Canadian Bar Association's Quebec Branch in 2017-18.

DARREN ZEIDEL, BCL'98, LLB'98, became the new executive vice president, general counsel and company secretary for Aon in July. He had recently served as the company's deputy general counsel. Before joining Aon, he worked for Honeywell where he, among other things, once led a global in-house law department for Honeywell UOP. Aon is a global professional services company that provides risk, retirement and health consulting. It is active in 120 countries.

SYLVAIN GAGNON (B.C.L. 2000, LL. B. 2000) accède au poste de juge administrative au Tribunal administratif du travail. Membre du Barreau du Québec (2001), il était à l'emploi de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières depuis 2011 à titre de directeur du Service des relations de travail. Auparavant, il a été avocat en droit du travail à la Fédération des cégeps (2007-2011) et avocat pour les cabinets Heenan Blaikie (2004-2006) et Lavery de Billy (2001-2004).

SHIRIN FOROUTAN, BCL/LLB'03, is the new vice president, creative, Europe, for BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.). She will be working

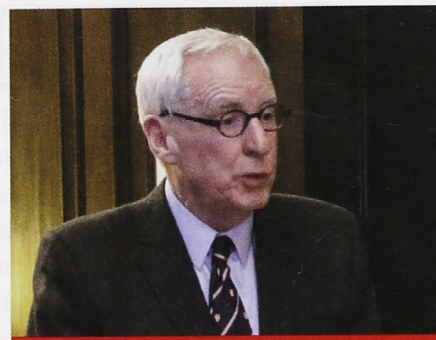
to expand BMI's creative efforts throughout Europe, which includes supporting the songwriters, composers and music publishers who choose to license their work through BMI in the U.S. Before joining BMI, she was the chief operating officer for MPC Film, where she was responsible for overseeing more than 2,000 visual effects artists out of London, Bangalore, Vancouver and Montreal.

STEFANIE CARSLY, BA'07, BCL/LLB'11, is now an assistant professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law (Common Law Section). Her research focuses on Canadian law and policy responses to assisted reproduction (in vitro fertilization, surrogate motherhood, and sperm, egg and embryo donation).

ROSEL KIM, MA'10, BCL/LLB'15, has joined the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) as its staff lawyer. She will work on developing and managing LEAF's cases, as well as conducting legal and other research to support its work on litigation, law reform, and public legal education. She recently worked as in-house counsel at a financial technology company and her writing on race, gender and identity has appeared in *Huffington Post Canada*, *Precedent Magazine* and *GUTS Magazine*.

Management

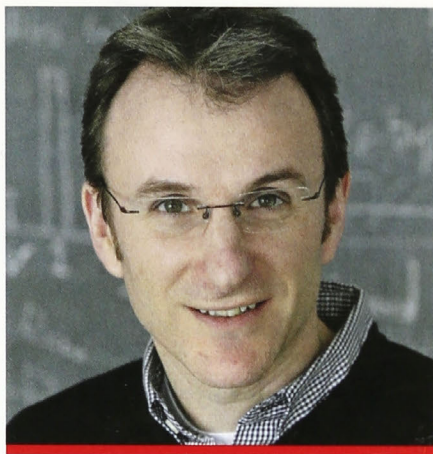
LASZLO ZOLTAN, MBA'77, accepted a 2018 Emmy Award for Technology and Engineering from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) on behalf of DVEO, a company he founded in 1982. NATAS' Technology & Engineering Achievement Committee awarded DVEO for "Pioneering Reliable Transmission Method for Live Contribution and Distribution TV Links" for DVEO's patented DOZER™ error correcting streaming transport protocol. DOZER enables video operators to improve their video distribution over IP networks including wireless and the Internet.



STUART (KIP) COBBETT, BA'69, BCL'72, a longtime McGill volunteer and a former chair of the University's board of governors, received an honorary degree from McGill during its fall 2019 convocation. Over the course of a law career that spanned more than 40 years, he served as the managing partner of Stikeman Elliott's Montreal office, managing principal of its office in London, England, and as its chief operating officer. A former president of the McGill Alumni Association, he has contributed to his alma mater in a variety of roles over the decades, including as a teacher in both the Faculty of Law and the McGill Executive Institute.

COLIN OSBORNE, BEng'87, became the new president and CEO of Samuel, Son & Co. on August 1, 2019. He became the company's president and chief operating officer in October 2018 and joined Samuel in 2015 as president of Samuel Manufacturing Group, overseeing the company's diversified manufacturing businesses. Samuel is involved in metal manufacturing, processing and distribution, with more than 6,500 employees and over 100 facilities.

MARTIN KON, BCom'93, was named the new vice president of strategy for YouTube last summer. He had been a core member of the technology, media & telecommunications (TMT) practice of Boston Consulting Group. Prior to that, he spent 18 years at Oliver Wyman, a global management firm, where he was the co-head of its media and technology division.



OWEN EGAN

GUSTAVO TURECKI, PhD'99, is the 2019 recipient of the Margolese National Brain Disorders Prize. A recognized leader in the functional genomics and epigenetics of suicide and depression, his research has illustrated how early life adversity affects behavioural and emotional development and influences suicide risk through epigenetic changes in specific areas of the brain. He is the chair of McGill's Department of Psychiatry and the scientific director for the Douglas Research Centre.

BRITTA LESAUX, BCom'98, is the new president and CEO of Philips Canada, part of Koninklijke Philips N.V., the multinational healthcare and electronics corporation. She had recently worked at 3M Canada, where she was executive director of the Health Care Business Group, responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of four business unit divisions, including medical solutions, oral care, food safety and health information.

TONI RINOW, MBA'06, was appointed as the new chief executive officer of Pivot Pharmaceuticals in August 2019. She holds a doctorate in physical chemistry from the Université de Montréal, a chemical engineering degree from the European Higher Institute of Chemistry in Strasbourg, France, and has held leadership roles in several public and private healthcare organizations. Pivot Pharmaceuticals is a

biopharmaceutical company engaged in the development and commercialization of cannabinoid-based nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals.

JEAN-MICHEL LAVOIE, MBA'09, is now the regional vice president for Sun Life's Quebec Group Retirement Services. He oversees the team tasked with pension group business development, client care and assets under management. He has worked at Sun Life since 2013, first as director of pharmaceutical benefits, then as assistant vice president of product development for group benefits.

Medicine

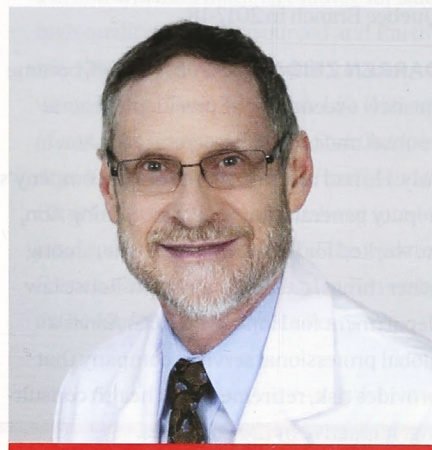
LEO KILLORN, MDCM'49, a physician in Prince Edward Island who died in 1992, was inducted into St. Francis Xavier University's Hall of Honour during the StFX homecoming celebrations in October. Having overcome his own struggles with addiction, he became a champion for the medical treatment of chemical dependency and addiction. He founded PEI's Alcohol and Drug Problems Institute, was executive director of Addiction Services of Prince Edward Island, and served on the PEI government's advisory committee on addictions.

JOSEPH RAYMOND BUNCIC, MDCM'65, was named a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of "his pioneering contributions to the field of pediatric neuro-ophthalmology, notably through his mentorship of multiple generations of pediatric eye specialists." He is a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Toronto and a clinical neuro-ophthalmologist at the Hospital for Sick Children.

WAYNE CAMPBELL, BA'70, MDCM'74, recently published his first book, *The Genealogist*, a historical novel with a mystery twist set in Victorian-era Liverpool, England. The story derives

from his interest in genealogical research and history, especially the late Victorian period. He retired from a 36-year career in psychiatry in 2014.

RAQUEL DEL CARPIO-O'DONOVAN, MedResident'79, received the Premio a la Excelencia Académica from the Sociedad Mexicana de Radiología e Imagen in recognition of her contributions to the development and progress of magnetic resonance in Latin America and her efforts to establish subspecialties within the field of radiology. In recent years, she has earned other honours, including the Prix Albert-Jutras from the Société de radiologie du Québec, and the CAR Gold Medal Award from the Canadian Association of Radiologists. She is a professor of diagnostic radiology at McGill and the chief of radiology for the McGill University Health Centre's Montreal General Hospital.



STANLEY NATTE, BSc'72, MDCM'74, is the 2019 recipient of the Prix Wilder-Penfield for exceptional work in biomedicine. The Paul-David Chair in Cardiovascular Electrophysiology at the Université de Montréal and director of the Electrophysiology Research Program at the Institut de cardiologie de Montréal, he is a leading expert on the factors associated with cardiac arrhythmias and has authored more than 400 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.



LARA DEUTSCH, BMus'12, MMus'14, is the winner of the \$125,000 Mécénat Musica Prix Goyer Award for Collaborative Emerging Artist for 2019-20. It is the biggest prize of its kind in Canada and one of the largest in the world for a collaborative emerging artist in classical music. A flutist currently based in the Ottawa-Montreal area, Lara is a regular performer with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, and she is a co-founding member of the musical ensemble Duo Kalysta with harpist Emily Belvedere, MMus'14.

ELLEN GREENBLATT, BSc'78, MDCM'82, received the Award of Excellence from the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS). The prize is awarded to CFAS members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of reproductive medicine and science, and who have demonstrated leadership through their efforts. She is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Toronto and the medical director of Mt. Sinai Hospital's Infertility Clinic. She has been recognized nationally for her contributions to residency education in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, and has chaired panels on infertility services for both the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Ontario College Expert Panel.

MARC MCKEE, BSc'82, MSc'84, PhD'87, is McGill's Canada Research Chair in Biomineralization in the Faculties of Dentistry and Medicine. He received the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research 2019 Adele L. Boskey Award. The award recognizes outstanding and major scientific contributions, leadership, and mentorship in the area of bone and mineral research. His research focuses on mineralization of extracellular matrices in bones and teeth, and in other biomineralizing systems such as inner-ear otoconia.

ALLAN PETERKIN, DipPsych'92, is the author of *National Geographic Kids Dream Journal*. A write-in journal for recording and decoding dreams, the book also explores the history of dreams and is intended for an audience of eight- to 13-year-olds. Allan is a professor of psychiatry and family medicine at the University of Toronto and is the director of U of T's Health, Arts & Humanities Program.

ANNE ANDERMANN, BSc'94, MDCM'02, an associate professor of family medicine at McGill, has been named to the federal government's National Advisory Council on Poverty (NACP). Her work often deals with addressing health inequities and she is the founding director of the CLEAR Collaboration, an international group of researchers and policy makers that aims to help front-line health workers address the underlying social causes of poor health. The NACP will advise the government on poverty reduction and provide an annual progress report.

STEPHANIE JONES, PhD'11, has joined Smith College as an assistant professor of exercise and sport study. She is a biomechanist whose research focuses on two themes: understanding how movement performed throughout our lives may impact our susceptibility to injury; and understanding how pain and musculoskeletal or neurological dysfunction impact stability.

Music

JOHN MCKAY, BMus'61, and **SARA MCKAY**, LMus'62, were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in November. An emeritus professor of music at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, he co-founded the Minnesota Valley Sommarfest and is a pianist who has performed widely in both North America and Europe. Sara, his wife, is the director and co-founder of the St. Peter Choral Society. A contralto, she has sung at hundreds of concerts in Canada and Europe. Other inductees in the hall include the Andrews Sisters, Bob Dylan, Judy Garland, and Prince.

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CHRIS FENSOM, BMus'92, is principal trumpet with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Prior to playing with the WSO, he held positions with the Virginia Symphony, the Dallas Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He has also played with the Cincinnati Symphony, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and the Chicago Symphony.

RÉMI PELLETIER, LMus'04, has joined the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as associate principal violist. His orchestral experience spans from the New York Philharmonic to the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. His previous roles include guest principal viola of the International Orchestra of Italy, principal viola of Japan's Pacific Musical Festival, and assistant principal viola of the New York String Orchestra Seminar.

LEAH REID, BMus'08, is a composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music. Her work is featured on *Flux*, a new release from the Society of Composers, Inc., a professional society dedicated to the promotion, performance, understanding and dissemination of new and contemporary music. She is an assistant professor at the University of Virginia where she teaches courses in music composition and technology.

DANIEL MILLS, BMus'10, became the new executive director of the Kamloops Symphony Orchestra on June 17. A classical trumpet player, he earned an MBA from the University of Calgary and recently oversaw giving programs and donor stewardship at Arts Commons, Calgary's major performing arts centre.

HARRY STAFYLAKIS, BMus'10, is a member of ICEBERG New Music, a collective of 10 New York-based composers. The new album *The Etudes Project: Volume One: ICEBERG* includes 10 new works by the members of ICEBERG New Music performed by pianist Jenny Lin. She also performed these works at the National Opera Center in New York on October 25, 2019.

YOLANDA BRUNO, BMus'11, has joined the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as section violinist. She was the winner of the 2017 Isabel Overton Bader Violin Competition and the 2013 OSM Standard Life Competition. She has performed across North America and Europe and in 2018, was appointed concertmaster of the Kingston Symphony Orchestra.

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MAXIME DESCOTEAUX, BSc'02, MSc'02, is the 2019 recipient of the *prix Relève scientifique*, part of the *Prix du Québec* and awarded for exceptional work by someone 40 or younger. He heads the Sherbrooke Connectivity Imaging Laboratory at the Université de Sherbrooke and is the scientific director of Imeka Solutions. The techniques he has developed for enhancing medical imaging have applications for neurosurgery and the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, and are used in both research and clinical settings.

EMILY BELVEDERE, MMus'14, is a Toronto-based harpist who performs regularly as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral harpist. She co-founded the musical ensemble Duo Kalysta with flutist **LARA DEUTSCH**, BMus'12, MMus'14, and they recently released their debut album *Origins*. The album, recorded in Montreal, was inspired by the heritage of their instruments, as the traditions of both flute and harp were greatly influenced by French music.

JAMES O'CALLAGHAN, MMus'14, a composer and sound artist based in Montreal, recently released *Alone and Unalone*, an album that marries traditional instruments, ambient sounds, and the power of the human voice, while challenging the listener to grapple with solitude. His work often employs field recordings, amplified found objects, computer-assisted transcription of environmental sounds, and unique performance conditions.

MARIE NADEAU-TREMBLAY, BMus'14, LMus'17, MMus'19, and **DUNCAN CAMPBELL**, BMus'14, GDip'17, LMus'19, were awarded first and second prize respectively at the Mathieu Duguay Early Music Competition of the International Lamèque Baroque Music Festival. Marie, a violinist, won \$3,000 for the top prize and has received invitations to perform at festivals in 2020, including the Montreal Baroque Festival, the *Été musical de Barachois*, and the next edition of the International Lamèque Baroque Music Festival. Duncan, a trumpeter, received \$1,500 for second prize and also earned the Founder's Choice Award.

VICTOR FOURNELLE-BLAIN, ADip'15, has joined the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as principal violist. He has performed with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal since 2014, is the founding member of the Grand Duc Trio, and regularly collaborates with renowned artists such as Charles Richard-Hamelin, Andrew Wan, and Brian Manker. In 2014, he won the Schulich School of Music's Golden Violin Award.

Science

HANNA PAPPIUS, BSc'46, MSc'48, PhD'52, was named a member of the Order of Canada for "her contributions to neurochemistry." She is a professor emerita of neurology and neurosurgery at McGill and a retired neurochemist who worked at the Montreal Neurological Institute for more than 50 years. Her research dealt with cerebral edema and the effect of brain injury on neurotransmitter and receptor mechanisms.

JOE SCHWARCZ, BSc'69, PhD'74, is the director of McGill's Office for Science and Society, dedicated to demystifying science and separating sense from nonsense. His latest book is *A Grain of Salt: The Science and Pseudoscience of What We Eat* (ECW Press). The book explores what to eat (and

what not to eat) and how to recognize the scientific basis of food chemistry, while looking at everything from probiotics to poppy seed tea to cockroach milk.

CAMERON L. STEWART, MSc'72, a Canada Research Chair in Number Theory at the University of Waterloo, **NEAL MADRAS**, BSc'79, a professor of mathematics and statistics at York University, **JAVAD MASHREGHI**, PhD'01, a professor of mathematics and statistics at Université Laval, and **LOUIGI ADDARIO-BERRY**, BSc'02, MSc'04, PhD'06, an associate professor of mathematics and statistics at McGill, were all named to the Canadian Mathematical Society's second inaugural class of fellows for their contributions to the profession and to the CMS.

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EBERHARD (EBE) SCHERKUS, BSc'75, was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame in January. He played a key role in the success and longevity of Agnico Eagle Mines. He joined the company as a project manager in 1985, became chief operating officer (COO) in 1998, and was president and COO from 2005 until he retired in 2012. During this period he transformed Agnico Eagle from a regional single-mine company into a top-performing global gold producer, expanding the company's LaRonde mine into a valuable asset that has produced five million ounces of gold.

JOSEPH-CHRISTOS KONDYLAKIS, MSc'78, has published a new book *War for the Destruction of Intelligence*. Over the course of his career, he has worked in several areas including nuclear safety and computer science. He is currently an independent scientific consultant in

Greece. To find out more about his book, visit fylatos.com/shop/war-for-the-destruction-of-intelligence.

DEBORAH THOMSON, BMus'06, BSc'07, was selected by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for its 2019-2020 AVMA Fellowship Program. As an AVMA fellow, she will spend one year in Washington, D.C. as a full-time member of staff for a congressional office or congressional committee, using her veterinary expertise to provide guidance on policy issues such as food safety and animal welfare. A veterinarian in the San Francisco Bay Area, she served as the head veterinarian for the California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps during the 2018 Camp Fire, the most destructive wildfire in California history, and was responsible for the care of more than 300 animals per day.

AERIN JACOB, PhD'14, an ecologist and conservation scientist at the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Conservation Initiative, received the Society for Conservation Biology's 2019 Early Career Conservationist Award. She was recognized for her "extraordinary leadership, vision, and achievements to strengthen science in environmental impact assessment." The prize honors achievements in conservation by professionals early in their careers (no more than 10 years since leaving school). 🐦

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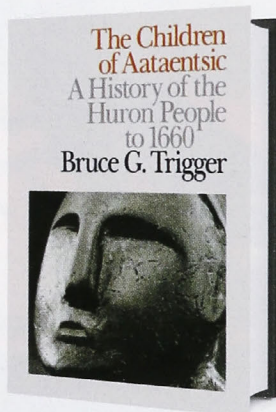
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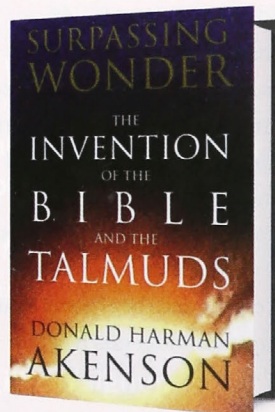
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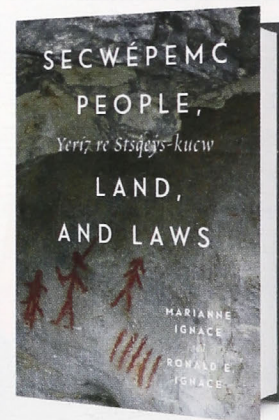
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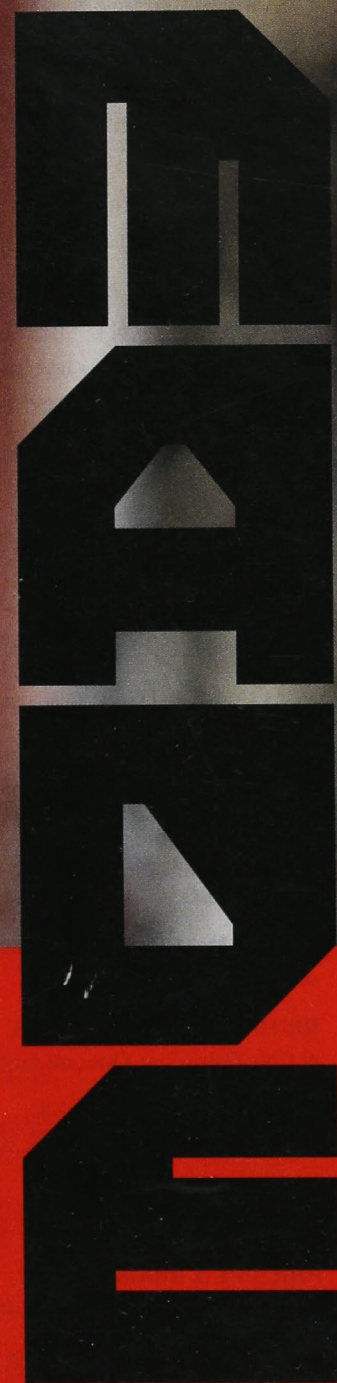


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Edith Louie, BEd'96

As a secondary school teacher, it's my job to encourage the next generation. I want to prepare my students for the future.

That's what McGill did for me. Receiving that acceptance letter was a dream come true - I was going to the best university in the country. My time at McGill gave me a global perspective, developed my independence, and helped me tremendously in my career. I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

Nor would I have been able to attend such a prominent university without help. I was lucky to receive scholarships and bursaries, and to this day, I remain grateful for that financial support.

That's why I wanted to give back. When my husband and I drew up our wills, we decided to leave a bequest in support of McGill student scholarships and financial aid. My McGill education was the greatest gift - I feel so privileged to have been here, and I want others to have that opportunity. This is my way to give back, and I encourage others to do the same.

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1940s

MARCELLE DE FREITAS, BA'43,
at Toronto, Ont., on June 5, 2019.

CHARLES H. PERRAULT, BEng'43, MEng'46,
at Sherbrooke, Que., on August 31, 2019.

JANET R. SMITH, BSc(HEc)'44,
in North Carolina, on February 5, 2018.

MARTHA WAKE, BSc(Agr)'45,
at Toronto, Ont., on October 20, 2018.

SHIRLEY DEMPSTER, BSc'46, BLS'65,
at Lachute, Que., on August 11, 2019.

LAURA SCHWARTZBEIN, BA'46,
at Montreal, on August 29, 2019.

DAVID H. FRICKER, BSc'47,
at Victoria, B.C., on April 24, 2019.

WILLIAM E. KILGOUR, BCom'47,
on June 22, 2019.

LAURENCE J. TARSHIS, BCom'47,
at Montreal, on September 4, 2019.

ALAN SEIDEL, BCom'47,
at Toronto, Ont., on April 30, 2019.

ISOBEL M. TROTTER, BCom'47,
on August 1, 2019.

RICHARD DAVINE, BCom'48,
at Côte-Saint-Luc, Que., on August 1, 2019.

KEITH P. GOULD, BEng'48,
at Toronto, Ont., on August 5, 2019.

MARY SINCLAIR, BA'48,
at Ottawa, Ont., on January 10, 2019.

PHILIPPE J. BRAIS, BEng'49,
at Montreal, on January 30, 2018.

W. BRUCE KIPPEN, BCom'49,
on June 30, 2019.

DOROTHY E. SIM, BSc(HEc)'49,
at Ottawa, Ont., on November 5, 2018.

1950s

JACK BRAYNE, BEng'50,
at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que., in May 2019.

GEOFFREY S. PEACH, BEng'50,
on June 25, 2019.

WALTER E. WEBB, BEng'50,
at Ottawa, Ont., on July 12, 2019.

LESLIE R. CHASMAR, MDCM'51,
at West Vancouver, B.C., on September 9, 2019.

JAMES "JIM" R. CONRAD, BEng'51, DipM&BA'61,
at Toronto, Ont., on April 7, 2019.

ELIZABETH FIRSTBROOK PANET-RAYMOND, BA'51,
on May 21, 2019.

HERBERT LAKS, BEng'51,
at Ottawa, Ont., on August 23, 2019.

HARRY C. TRIANDIS, BEng'51,
at Carlsbad, Calif., on June 1, 2019.

W. JAMES BELL, BEng'52,
at Naples, Fla., on July 21, 2019.

NANCY J. HENNIGAR, BSc(HEc)'52,
at North York, Ont., on May 23, 2019.

MAURICE M. MACK, BEng'52,
at Beaconsfield, Que., on October 10, 2019.

JOAN A. THOM, BLS'52,
at Bowman, N.Dak., on May 16, 2019.

IAN C. WEES, BLS'52,
at Ottawa, Ont., on November 4, 2019.

JACQUES DACCORD, BEng'53, DipM&BA'61,
on August 22, 2019.

GERALD J. GAUDET, BArch'53,
at Moncton, N.B., on November 26, 2018.

RAYMOND K. LEWIS, BCom'53, DipM&BA'60,
at Montreal, on May 31, 2019.

REBECCA LINDSAY, BA'53,
at Toronto, Ont., on August 5, 2019.

ALEXANDER MAYERS, BArch'53,
at Montreal, on July 19, 2019.



OWEN EGAN

According to an obituary in the influential research journal *Neurology*, **FREDERICK ANDERMANN**, BSc'52, was "internationally regarded as the 'last word' in clinical epilepsy." As the longtime director of the Epilepsy Unit and Seizure Clinic at The Neuro, he focused much of his attention on patients with difficult-to-treat epilepsies. He was celebrated for his expertise and treasured for his personal warmth. The emeritus professor of neurology and neurosurgery was the author of more than 500 scientific publications. He received the International League Against Epilepsy's Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Prix Wilder Penfield, Quebec's top prize for biomedical research. He died on June 16, 2019 in Montreal.

LORNA DAWSON, BSc(HEC)'54,
at Huntingdon, Que., on July 6, 2019.

JOHN B. FOTHERINGHAM, BSc'52, MDCM'54,
at Kingston, Ont., on October 7, 2019.

KENNETH J. W. MURRAY, BD'54,
at Kingston, Ont., on August 27, 2019.

BARBARA A. RANCE, DipEd'54,
at Kingston, Ont., on May 24, 2019.

MELVIN ROTHMAN, BA'51, BCL'54,
at Westmount, Que., on October 27, 2019.

HAROLD J. SHARRATT, BEng'54, MEng'55,
at Austin, Texas, on June 15, 2019.

PETER M. WILLIAMS, BCom'54,
at Georgeville, Que., on August 17, 2019.

RAYMOND BARAKETT, BA'55, BCL'58,
at Lachine, Que., on September 7, 2019.

GERALD M. BONDER, BCom'55,
at Toronto, Ont., on June 24, 2019.

DAVID C. FINDLAY, BSc'55, MSc'58,
at Brockville, Ont., on May 16, 2019.

LAWRENCE HANNA, BEng'55,
at Saskatoon, Sask., on May 12, 2019.

GEORGE RICHARD "DICK" MACLEAN, BCom'55,
at Toronto, Ont., on June 7, 2019.

RENE MENKES, BArch'55,
at Montreal, on October 7, 2019.

ISRAEL "JACK" PASTERNAK, BEng'55, PhD'59,
at London, Ont., on August 3, 2019.

JAMES H. BRODEUR, BEng'56,
at Montreal, on April 25, 2019.

JUDITH E. CALDWELL, DipPTh'56, BSc(P&OT)'58,
at Atlanta, Ga., on October 31, 2019.

D. GRAHAM CLARKE, BSc(Agr)'56,
at Nanaimo, B.C., on September 10, 2019.

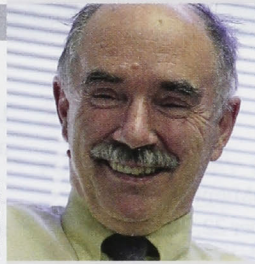
KENNETH R. DOUGLAS, MDCM'56,
in Colorado, on September 1, 2018.

RODNEY A.J. DUFFY, DipAgr'56,
at South Durham, Que., on October 29, 2019.

PETER CHORAS, BSc'57, MDCM'59,
at Burlington, Mass., on July 31, 2019.

KENNETH P. DAVIES, BEng'57
at Hawkesbury, Ont., on October 5, 2019.

A. WARNER DEWEY, MDCM'57
at Lyon, France, on May 27, 2019.



OWEN EGAN

DESMOND MORTON was one of Canada's best-known public intellectuals, revered for both his insights and the wit with which he delivered them. One of the country's leading historians, he was respected in particular for his contributions to Canadian military history and labour history.

The founding director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, he was the author of more than 35 books, including the popular *A Short History of Canada*. Peter Mansbridge said Morton "was passionate about Canada and its history and helped many of us feel the same way." He died in Montreal on September 4, 2019.

DENIS S. DRUMMOND, BA'57, MDCM'62,
at Toronto, Ont., on June 18, 2019.

M. BERNARD GARCEAU, BEng'57,
at Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Que., on July 7, 2019.

ROGER S. GLANVILLE, BEng'57,
in California, on July 31, 2019.

BENJAMIN J. GREENBERG, BA'54, BCL'57,
at Montreal, on June 3, 2019.

VAUGHAN E. MCVEY, BSc'57,
at Montreal, on August 24, 2019.

ARTHUR R. PETERSON, MDCM'57,
on April 6, 2019.

W. GILLIES ROSS, BA'57, MA'60,
at Sherbrooke, Que., on October 7, 2019.

MARY S. SINCLAIR GILE, BSc(PE)'57,
at Concord, N.H., on October 15, 2019.

ROBERT KISILEVSKY, BSc'58, MDCM'62,
at Vancouver, B.C., on June 5, 2019.

GEORGE J. PRIMAK, BEng'58,
on August 9, 2019.

PETER A. WILKINS, BEng'58, GrDipMgmt'67,
at Oakville, Ont., on July 3, 2019.

WILLIAM S. HODGES, BEng'59,
on October 22, 2019.

1960s

J. WALLACE GRAHAM, MDCM'60,
at Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 24, 2019.

ABU B. KHAN, DDS'60, BSc'66,
in B.C., on June 22, 2019.

ALLEN L. LEVINE, BCom'60,
at Montreal, on April 26, 2019.

SYDNEY GREENBERG, BEng'61,
at Montreal, on September 28, 2019.

ROMAN "RAY" PRYSTASZ, BEng'61, GrDipMgmt'69, MBA'76,
DipColTeach'81, at Ottawa, Ont., on September 22, 2019.

LORNE RUNGE, BSc'61, MDCM'65,
at Syracuse, N.Y., on September 23, 2019.

LEWIS H. GOLDMAN, BA'62,
at Rockville, Md., on August 9, 2019.

ERIC C. RIORDON, BSc'62,
in Prince Edward Island,
on August 14, 2019.

DIONYSIA ZERBIASIS, BCL'62,
at Montreal, on October 1, 2019.

BRIAN M. CAMPBELL, BCom'63,
at Keswick, Va., on September 6, 2019.

JANET S. LAND, BA'63,
at Toronto, Ont., July 16, 2019.

W. RON YATES, BSc'63,
at Mount Forest, Ont., on April 24, 2019.

GABOR ALTMANN, MSc'64, PhD'67,
at Côte Saint-Luc, Que., on May 23, 2019.

PAULA G. CHAFFEY, BSc'60, MDCM'64,
at Bend, Ore., on January 21, 2019.

SHARIFUL HUQ, PhD'64,
at London, Ont., on January 22, 2019.

DOMENICO VENDITTI, BEng'64,
at Greely, Ont., on July 7, 2019.

ALEXANDER H. MCKINNEY, BSc(Agr)'65,
at Elgin, Ont., on July 28, 2019.

JAMES S. M. TURNBULL, BSc'65, MDCM'69,
on August 7, 2019.

LORAYNE WINN, BA'65,
at Montreal, on August 1, 2019.

JOHN "JACK" W. HOBBS, BD'66,
at Ottawa, Ont., on July 23, 2019.

SHARRON KELLY, BSc'66,
at Val-des-Bois, Que., on July 12, 2019.

PIERRE ROBITAILLE, MBA'66,
on September 7, 2019.

MARILYN SILVERMAN, BA'66, MA'67, PhD'73,
at North York, Ont., on June 18, 2019.

WILLIAM J. BARAKETT, BSc'67, MDCM'71,
on August 26, 2019.

ALEXANDER C. H. CROWE, MDCM'67,
at Bloomington, Ill., on October 10, 2019.

DAVID N. FINKELSTEIN, BA'67, MA'69,
at Toronto, Ont., on April 30, 2019.

RICARDA SMITH, BA'67, at Ottawa, Ont.,
on November 3, 2019.

CHRISTOPHER MIOVSKI, MArch'68,
at Montreal, on October 2, 2019.

DEBORAH SHEPPARD, BA'69,
at Toronto, Ont., on June 27, 2019.

HAROLD SHORT, DDS'65,
at West Vancouver, B.C., on March 19, 2016.

1970s

S. K. "GREG" GEUKJIAN, BSc'70, MDCM'74,
at Ormstown, Que., on August 16, 2019.

CLEMENT A. BAKARE, MSc(A)'71, PhD'74,
at Pointe-Claire, Que. on July 17, 2019.

TERESA S. TANG, MSW'71,
at Vancouver, B.C. on March 20, 2019.

CHANDRA GOWRISANKARAN, PhD'72,
at Montreal, on August 2, 2019.

PAUL G. HARRIS, BCom'72, BCL'76, LLB'78,
at Montreal, on July 11, 2019.

KEITH HARRISON, PhD'72,
at Hornby Island, B.C., on April 10, 2019.

GUNDARS KAJAKS, BSc(Arch)'72, BArch'74,
on October 11, 2019.

SARA RIESMAN, BA'72,
at Montreal, on October 7, 2019.



Over the course of her long career at McGill, Professor Emerita of Education **MARGARET GILLETT** left her mark on the University in many ways. She was the founding director of the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women and an instrumental figure in the

development of women's studies in Canada. She founded the *McGill Journal of Education*, which became an internationally respected publication under her leadership. She wrote *We Walked Very Warily*, the definitive account of the history of women at McGill. The recipient of many prizes, including the Royal Society of Canada's Ursula Franklin Award in Gender Studies, she died in Montreal on October 19, 2019.



Jeffrey Mogil, the director of McGill's Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain, offered this assessment of the late **RONALD MELZACK** for the *McGill Reporter*: "He's the most famous and the most prominent pain researcher to have ever lived." Melzack, BSc'50, MSc'51, PhD'54,

an emeritus professor of psychology, co-developed the hugely influential Gate Control Theory of Pain, which established that pain wasn't a straightforward phenomenon and that psychological and other factors played a role in how it was experienced. He created the McGill Pain Questionnaire, now used around the world for measuring pain. He co-founded Canada's first pain clinic at McGill. He received the Prix Marie-Victorin, Quebec's top prize for researchers in the pure and applied sciences, and was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. He died in Montreal on December 22, 2019.

ZELDA MYERS, BA'73,
at Winnipeg, Man., on February 17, 2019.

LLOYD R. SUTHERLAND, MDCM'73,
at Calgary, Alta., on August 1, 2019.

RICHARD STARCK, BA'74, LLB'81, BCL'81,
at Montreal, on July 24, 2019.

RICHARD J. JONES, DDS'77,
at St. John's, Nfld., on May 13, 2019.

CHRISTOPHER LYPACZEWSKI, BEng'77,
in Omaha, on August 4, 2019.

1980s

JAMES DUGGAN, BCL'82,
near Lac Boulène, Que., on July 12, 2019.

EUGENIO CARELLI, BSc(Arch)'82, BArch'84,
at Montreal, on May 8, 2019.

TERESA DELLAR, BSW'83,
at Montreal, on August 19, 2019.

J. MICHAEL LYON, CertEdMedia'83, MLIS'90,
at Kirkland, Que., on August 2, 2019.

BAILA LAZARUS, BSc(Arch)'83, BA'87,
in B.C., on May 31, 2019.

ALBERT "BERT" KISH, BA'87,
on May 24, 2017.

1990s

PATRICIA MCMULLEN, BMus'90,
on October 8, 2019.

2000s

FUTSUM T. ABBAY, LLM'02, DCL'13,
at Montreal, on September 8, 2019.

MEREDITH R. MCCALLUM, BMus'06,
at Winnipeg, Man., on September 3, 2019.

Faculty and Staff

NORMAN CAMPBELL, DipAgr'66,
former manager of the Dairy Herd Analysis Service,
at Cornwall, Ont., on July 15, 2019.

ANNA-MARIA DEROSSIS, MDCM'92,
assistant professor of surgery and oncology,
at Montreal, on October 13, 2019.

RICHARD DONOVAN, BCom'88,
professor of practice, Desautels Faculty of Management,
at Glen Falls, N.Y., on August 3, 2019.

LAWRENCE G. HAMPSON, BSc'47, MDCM'49,
MSc'53, DipSurgery'55, retired professor of surgery,
at Westmount, Que., on May 17, 2019.

LAURIE HENDREN, professor of computer science,
at Montreal, on May 27, 2019.

JOHN W. ITON, BA'62, retired associate professor
of economics, at Markham, Ont., on June 8, 2019.

MELISSA KNOCK, BMus'95, DipMgt'98,
former manager of educational services,
Faculty of Medicine, on July 17, 2019.

EDWARD D. LEVINSON, BSc'49, MDCM'53,
former clinical chief of psychiatry at the
Jewish General Hospital, on July 10, 2019.

ORVAL MAMER, emeritus professor of medicine,
at Pointe-Claire, Que., on May 23, 2019.

KELLY J. NOBES, BEd'97, MA'01, McGill men's
hockey coach, on September 4, 2019.

JOAN POWER, associate professor of chemistry,
at Kirkland, Que., on September 17, 2019.

MAXINE SIGMAN, BA'59, assistant professor
of psychiatry, at Montreal, on May 25, 2019.

JACQUELINE HAYAMI STEVENS, former director
of elementary education, Faculty of Education,
at Montreal, on July 19, 2019.

ALLEN S. WAINBERG, BSc'57, DDS'59,
associate professor of dentistry,
at Montreal, on October 5, 2019.

ALLAN YUSTER, retired staff member,
at Montreal, on August 23, 2019.



OWEN EGAN

Spellbound by science

This young visitor to the Montreal Science Centre took part in some playful exploration of the human brain, courtesy of McGill's BrainReach, one of several student-led outreach groups supported by the Faculty of Science (BrainReach also receives support from the Faculty of Medicine). Last year, youth programming and public presentations by these groups reached almost 18,000 people.



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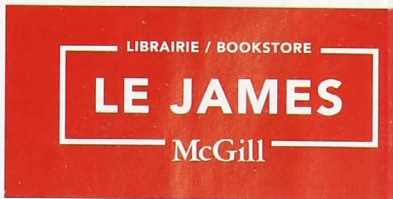
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