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alumni quarterly summer 2006



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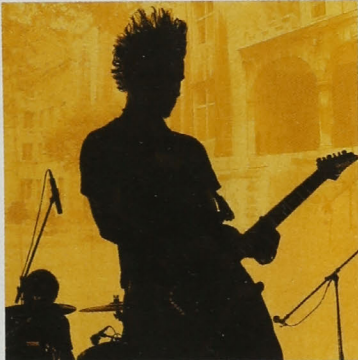
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16 Moving On Up

Funding, families, finances and flexibility. These are just a few of the things McGill's 6,000 graduate students must consider as they help drive the research that is vital to the University's continued success.

by ANDREW MULLINS



22 School of Rock

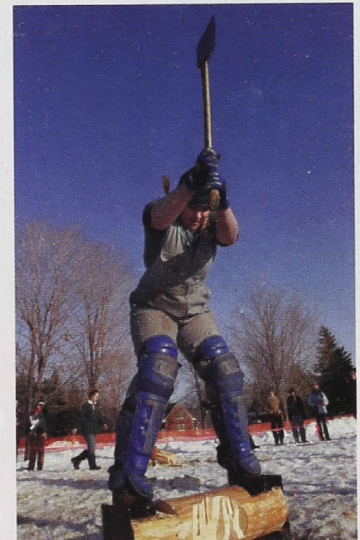
Arcade Fire. Wolf Parade. DJ A-Trak. Socalled. These are all talented musicians and performers, but they have more than that in common. McGill's impressive tradition of graduates who rock is alive and well.

by DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

28 Coupez!

C'est un sport de grâce, de synchronisme, de coordination, sans oublier bien sûr les heures d'entraînement intense. Pour les bûcheronnes et bûcherons de McGill, il n'est pas question de vivre dans l'ombre des équipes sportives mieux connues.

par NEALE MCDEVITT
traduction de LUCIE LEGAULT



32 High Marks for Mini Schools

The courses may be miniature, but the crowds attending sure aren't. Mini lectures in Medicine, Law and Music offer the Montreal community a glimpse of what goes on at McGill, and have created a buzz that is anything but small.

by ANDREW MULLINS

Departments

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Danya Caves is completing her studies in dietetics at McGill's School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition on the Macdonald campus.



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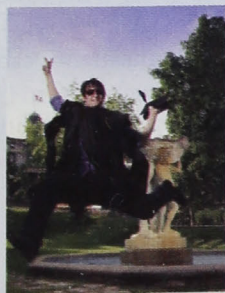
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Cover photo of law
graduate Pascal Zamprelli
by Nicolas Morin



The Festive Season

THE ARRIVAL OF WARM WEATHER SEES Montreal move into full-on festival mode. Hundreds of thousands of locals and tourists take to the streets in celebration of everything from beer brewing to fireworks, gardening, Formula One, chamber music, comedy, fashion, aboriginal culture and, of course, jazz. Montreal's 11-day Festival International de Jazz, which just wrapped up, is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest on the planet.

As demonstrated by the exuberant law grad on the cover, McGill does its own share of celebrating at this time of year, as close to 6,000 new alumni are welcomed into the fold. It's a time both tearful and joyous, with the wrench of parting from friends and familiar haunts tempered by the excitement of the opportunities that lie ahead and the button-busting pride of family members.

All of us at McGill feel pride in these young people, who may one day hatch innovative ideas like that of Architecture professor Vikram Bhatt, MArch'75. He spoke last month to a packed house at a world forum on sustainable cities as he shared his concept of "the edible landscape," where agricultural space is incorporated into plans for cities. While rural areas traditionally produce food and bring it to urban centres, Bhatt's idea is to transform cities into areas of production as well as consumption. Eventually, urban agriculture would be a permanent feature of housing design. Models are being tested in three cities – Kampala (Uganda), Rosario (Argentina) and Colombo (Sri Lanka), where a large percentage of the populations live in poverty. Results so far seem to be very promising.

Among the recipients of honorary degrees this year is actor Christopher Plummer, who says he abandoned the McGill entrance exam years ago because "it was looking very inviting outside and spring was in the air." By then the young man's fancy had already turned to acting, thanks to a part as

Mr. Darcy in a Montreal High School production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Although Plummer never attended McGill, he does have a number of historical connections to the University. A maternal great-grandfather, John Bethune, was McGill Principal from 1835 to 1846. Another great-grandfather, John Joseph Caldwell Abbott, earned a McGill law degree in 1854, and was Dean of Law for 25 years. He later served in the cabinet of John A. Macdonald and succeeded him as Canada's Prime Minister. His great-aunt, Maude Abbott, BA'1890, was one of Canada's first women graduates in medicine, although she was not allowed to study at McGill. She became an international authority on congenital heart disease and herself received an honorary degree from McGill in 1910. She was made an assistant professor in 1825. Finally, Plummer's mother Isabella, was secretary to the dean of science in the 1930s.

The actor told the Montreal *Gazette* he wasn't sure he deserved his honorary degree. "But I'm happy, because it means more to me than anything to have received it in my own hometown." To read about all of this year's distinguished honorees, see www.mcgill.ca/newswire/?ItemID=20073.

Also in this issue is a story about graduate students and their importance to McGill and the research carried out in so many disciplines. One example is the work of doctoral student Linda Lévesque, working in collaboration with Dr. James Brophy and fellow doctoral candidate Bin Zhang. Lévesque is principal author on a paper they recently produced showing that one-quarter of patients who suffered a heart attack while on Vioxx did so within the first two weeks of taking the drug – much earlier than previously believed. Vioxx was voluntarily withdrawn from the market in 2004, in part based on the team's earlier findings of increased cardiovascular risk.

Wishing you all a festive summer.

Diana Grier Ayton



Remembering Reg

I enjoyed William Tetley's memoir in the *McGill News* about Reggie Plimsoll. I encountered Reg frequently in the course of my errands on St. James Street as a student in the '40s. He was a well-known personage on "the Street." I recall that he was an habitu  of the Bodega in the Transportation Building. He could be found at the bar there most mornings around 11, regaling a few cronies with his "war stories."



If memory serves, Reg was the beneficiary of Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis's appointments. I think he was the City Fire Commissioner for some considerable period of time.

An old friend, the late Betty O'Toole, worked for Reg for a brief period as a secretary in the early '50s. She said that the terms of her employment included an agreement that every mistake she made would subject her to a fine of 25 cents and that Reg would be subject to the same penalty, a settlement to be made at the end of each week. Invariably, Betty came out well ahead!

John H. Watson, BA'43, BCL'49
via email

Ed. Note: Thanks to John Watson for the great story. Included in Professor Tetley's original, longer memoir was the fact that Duplessis, an admirer of Plimsoll, named him Assistant Fire Commissioner for a

number of years "and then promoted him to Rentals Commissioner, with a higher emolument. Mr Plimsoll noted philosophically that the order-in-council naming him Rentals Commissioner was written in Duplessis's singular style. It began 'Whereas Reginald Plimsoll, QC, has resigned as Assistant Fire Commissioner...' This was the first indication Plimsoll had that he had been given a new job. Tetley adds, 'Duplessis believed in rewarding his faithful, but they could not have more than one sinecure at a time.' Plimsoll, a staunch conservative, repaid Duplessis by being a straw candidate for his Union Nationale party in ridings "where Duplessis did not wish to defeat a sympathetic incumbent." On his death in 1963, the Montreal Star referred to Plimsoll as "Mr. Montreal."

O Sister, Where Art Thou?

This year Gamma Phi Beta Sorority is celebrating 75 years at McGill. There is a big celebration in the works to commemorate the founding of the McGill Chapter with a variety of activities during Homecoming weekend. The highlight of the reunion is the 75th Anniversary Banquet to be held at the Omni Hotel on Saturday, October 21, 2006.

A search is now on for the more than 700 Gamma Phi Beta members who initiated at McGill so that an invitation with complete details can be mailed to them this summer. We'd like to ask that alumnae update their addresses and email by sending their contact information to gammaphibeta@hotmail.com or c/o GPB Reunion, 562 Grosvenor Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3Y 2S7. As well, I am looking for alumnae interested in being part of the planning committee or in helping with the fundraising and awards committee. I can be reached at (613) 282-7482 or dgroulx@gmail.com.

Dominique Groulx, BA'95
Ottawa, Ont.

What's in a (Re)Name?

I recently saw the *McGill News* alumni quarterly Winter 2006 edition. I note the front cover line "Two McGill faculties get rechristened and recharged." Rechristened?

Arnie Aberman, BSc'65, MDCM'67
via email

Ed. Note: Dr. Aberman may be questioning a possible religious connotation to the use of the word, but its primary meaning is "rename." One meaning given in the Canadian Oxford for the word "christen" refers to the ceremony of baptism, but another cites as an example "the discovery of a new element which they christened 'radium.'"



Missing Plaque Mystery

In the Winter 2006 *McGill News*, your ever-interesting Factfile series told about the role of the McGill Observatory in setting Canada's clocks. You might have also mentioned the brass marker carefully set in the floor of the Leacock Building – just outside the entrance to the Noel Fieldhouse Auditorium – marking the site of the Observatory. The diagonal in the brass rectangle shows the line of longitude established using the transatlantic cable and signals from Greenwich Observatory in England. From this line, McGill's position was precisely fixed for the first time (and by extension, the rest of Canada's).

The diagonal line in that rectangle points directly towards the North Pole



and is almost parallel to Sherbrooke Street. The contrast between Montreal North (which is almost due west!) and true north is always enlightening.

The plaque that told this story has been missing from the nearby wall for many years. Do you think you could use your influence to have it replaced?

Kendall Wallis, BA'69, MLS'71

Liaison Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences Library

Ed. Note: We do hope the plaque elves are reading the News. McGill Archives provides this photo (left) of the McGill Observatory, originally built in 1862 for physician and meteorologist Dr. Charles Smallwood. Following his death in 1873, another storey was added to the house (as shown here) when it became a "chief station," connected directly to the telegraph so that observations could be reported every three hours. An early Engineering graduate, C.H. McLeod, who worked with Smallwood as a student and eventually became Vice-Dean of Applied Science, supervised the facility's operations for the next 40 years.

Step Up...and Up

I'd like to challenge fit and motivated alumni and students in the Montreal area to take part in an event called Step Up for the Cure, a 24-hour stair-climbing marathon which will take place at McGill's Molson Stadium on September 9 and 10 to raise money and awareness for people living with cancer. The event gets under way at noon.



Every four minutes a person is diagnosed with cancer in Canada. Therefore, the challenge for each participant in Step Up for the Cure is to run one set every four minutes. Our goal this year is to raise \$60,000 for the Cancer Research Society. People may

participate as individuals or in teams of three to five. Come out to run or cheer on your friends and enjoy the music, movies, food and games.

For more information, including a video trailer, or to register, visit www.stepupfortheCure.com, or contact me at 514-285-1112.

Hope to see you there!

Dan Fischer, BSc'02

Montreal, Que.

Something on your mind?
We love to hear from readers.
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celebrate *a* Life

Commemorate a milestone or mark a loved one's passing with a contribution to McGill's In Honour/In Memory Fund.

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For more information please contact Begoña Pereira at (514) 398-3562 or honmem.dev@mcgill.ca

hon·our [on'ər] *transitive verb*

distinguish, exalt, or ennoble somebody:

to recognize somebody publicly or elevate somebody's status officially, usually by giving that person a title or an award

mem·o·ry [mem'əre] *noun*

posthumous impression: the knowledge or impression of somebody retained by other people after that person's death



McGill



Measures of Success

LIKE YOU, I BEAM WHEN MCGILL receives high praise. When *Maclean's* magazine ranks your alma mater as the top Medical-Doctoral university in Canada, it's a moment to celebrate. And when London's *Times Higher Education Supplement* names McGill as one of the top 25 universities in the world, we take a moment to appreciate the news.

But as Einstein said, "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts." Performance indicators help us in numerous ways, but rankings tell only part of the story.

Universities are complex and distinctive institutions, each one with its own special characteristics and programs, strengths and weaknesses. No single measure could ever accurately reflect the quality or character of a university, where hundreds of professors and lecturers teach a broad array of courses across disciplines as varied as medicine, law, engineering and music, and where students come from diverse backgrounds, from across Canada and around the world. Like any university, McGill – distinctive in its international character and its Canadian values and history – cannot and should not be summed up in a single score, or even multiple ones.

While the *Times Higher Education Supplement* places McGill in the world's top 25, the other global ranking of universities, published by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, places the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia ahead of us. Why?

The Shanghai system gives special weight to large universities (McGill, by these standards, is medium-sized) and, on the staff presence of a Nobel Prize winner (Canada currently has only two Nobel laureates who work and reside in Canada, one at the U of T, and the other recently hired from the United States by UBC).

In other rankings, McGill takes the lead. McGill is Canada's most research-intensive university. Our professors win more research grants on a per-faculty basis in competitions than those at any other university in Canada. That is why McGill is once again at the top of the *Research Infosource* research competitiveness rankings.

Similarly, when it comes to attracting the smartest students, McGill is tops in Canada, with an average entering

grade of 88.9%. Ditto for Rhodes scholarships and other distinguished prizes awarded to students. And our reputation around the world is in a league of its own.

At McGill, we are proud that we are consistently ranked among the very best in the world, but we are not content to let others set the bar. We set our own very high standards, academic plans and indicators against which we measure our progress, in order to make McGill an even better place.

The Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning aims to create the optimal environment in which undergraduate as well as graduate and professional students can benefit fully from the research-rich environment in which they learn. We recruit the very best students and professors, enriching the student experience and building on areas of academic excellence in teaching and research in the neurosciences, music, environmental sciences, international law, human rights, engineering design, among many important fields.

We are doing more to support students, reduce red tape, provide better counselling and advising. We are doing more to enable them to take full advantage of our wonderful location in Montreal, as well as of our study abroad and exchange programs. We want *every* student to experience the thrill of intellectual discovery. For that reason, we have established programs that enable students to work side-by-side with professors on research and scholarly initiatives.

By any measure, McGill boasts excellence across the board. And our many successes must be sustained. And, while we depend on effective levels of public investment, we could not achieve McGill's levels of excellence without the private support that alumni and friends offer – these are critical to our success.

The recognition we earn – in rankings and awards, and indeed, in the record levels of the private support that we receive – are but a by-product of our mission and dedication to high standards in research, teaching, service and student support.

This fall, a new wave of university rankings will emerge. Yes, it is my hope that McGill will continue to excel in each one. More important, however, is that we continue to make a powerful difference as we move forward with our mission, positively transforming the lives of our students and advancing knowledge for a better Canada and a better world. For me, that's the number one spot that counts. ✎

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM



COMING EVENTS

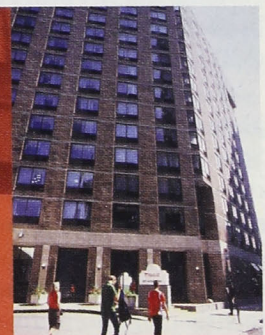
- **August 16, Brome-Missisquoi:** Cocktail Reception and Dinner. Alex Paterson, BCL'56, OC, OQ, QC, will be our guest speaker, 6:15 pm. Contact: Jane Brierley at 450-297-2508.
- **August 20, Montreal:** Belugas and Beer Bike Tour. Join Ingrid Birker, McGill Science Outreach Coordinator, for a bike tour of Montreal. Tour begins at McGill's Redpath Museum at 4 pm. Contact: Ingrid Birker at ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca or 514-398-4086, ext. 4094.
- **September 9, Montreal:** Step Up for the Cure. Marathon stair-climb at Molson Stadium, noon. Here's a chance to make your mark in the fight against cancer, and a great opportunity to meet fellow students and alumni while enjoying the festivities. Contact: Daniel Fischer at info@stepupfortheCure.com or 514-285-1112.
- **October 4, Montreal:** McGill Reads Book Club. Lecture and discussion led by Nathalie Cooke of Mordecai Richler's *Solomon Gursky Was Here*, 6-7:30 pm. Contact: Alumni Education representative at education.alumni@mcgill.ca or 800-567-5175.
- **October 16, Montreal:** Panel discussion: Why Do Children Dislike School? Dean of Education Roger Slee, Professor Nancy Heath, Professor Noel Burke. 7-9 pm. Contact and RSVP: Sophia Johnson at sophia.johnson@mcgill.ca or 800-567-5175.
- **October 19-22, Montreal:** McGill Homecoming 2006. Keep this weekend free! Visit the Homecoming website for more information – www.mcgill.ca/homecoming.
- **October 25 and 26, Montreal:** McGill Book Fair, 9 am-9 pm at Redpath Hall. Book donations welcome. Sale proceeds support scholarships for women students. For more information on the Book Fair, call 514-398-5000.
- **October 31, November 7, 14, 21 and 28, Montreal:** Vogel Lecture Series, Stephen Leacock Building, Room 232. 9:30 am, \$30 (for series of five lectures, with coffee). Contact: sophia.johnson@mcgill.ca or 514-398-7684.
- **November 8, Montreal:** McGill Reads Book Club. Lecture and discussion led by English professor Tabitha Sparks of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, 6-7:30 pm. Contact: Alumni Education representative at education.alumni@mcgill.ca or 1-800-567-5175.
- **November 17, Southern Alberta:** Leacock Luncheon with guest speaker Bob Rae. Fairmont Palliser Hotel. Contact: branches.alumni@mcgill.ca or 1-800-567-5175.
- **November 24, Vancouver:** Leacock Luncheon with guest speaker Ian Ferguson, Four Seasons Hotel. Contact: branches.alumni@mcgill.ca, 1-800-567-5175.
- **November 25, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue:** All-year Diploma / Farm Management and Technology Reunion and Banquet. Tour the Macdonald Farm and the campus's buildings between 1 pm and 4 pm. Relax and mingle at the Ceilidh bar after 2 pm. Take part in Ste. Anne's Christmas parade as a walker or rider on the DIP/FMT float at 4 pm. Enjoy a great meal and live music at the banquet, held in the Centennial Centre at 7:30 pm - there will be an open mike, so bring along your best Mac stories! Banquet is \$50, tours and parade are free. For more information, contact Caroline Begg at 514-398-8749 or caroline.begg@mcgill.ca
- **December 6, Montreal:** McGill Reads Book Club. Lecture and discussion led by English professor Monica Popescu of J. M. Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*, 6-7:30 pm. Contact: Alumni Education representative at education.alumni@mcgill.ca or 800-567-5175.

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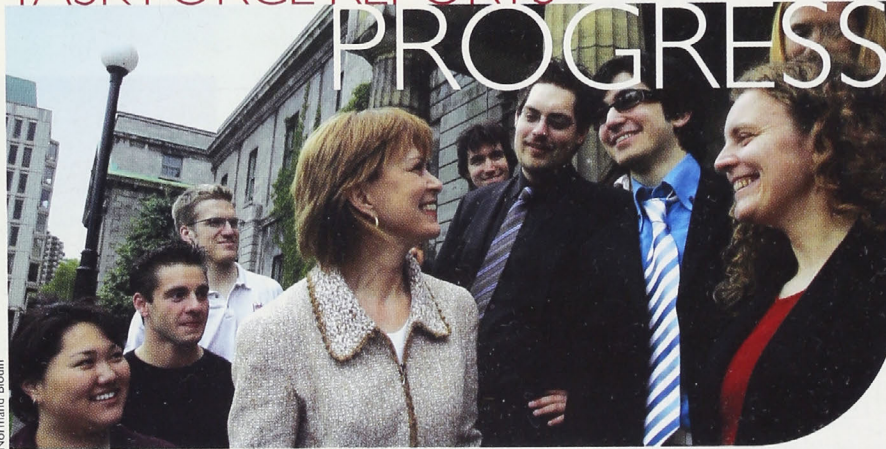


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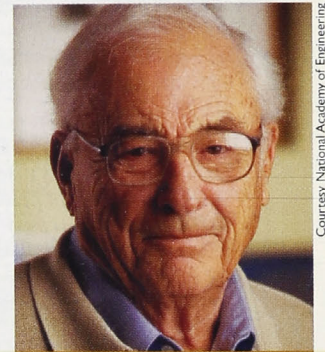
The life of a student is never easy. New environments, professors, colleagues and courses can be overwhelming, and wading through the red tape and regulations is a daunting endeavour. Does anyone care? Well, yes, in fact. The Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning, which issued a progress report in April, has been studying the problems faced by McGill students and has plans to fix them. The report follows a year of discussion and debate, fuelled by over 160 submissions from the McGill community since a call for input in May 2005.

Preliminary recommendations – expanding advising and mentoring programs, improving financial assistance, and establishing a senior administrative position responsible for student life and learning – illustrate some of the potential improvements that will benefit students, who are well represented on the task force. Principal Heather Munroe-Blum chairs the committee, made up of 12 students and 12 administrators or professors.

The task force is divided into working groups which explore specific areas, such as defining the place of students in the

McGill community; assessing administrative support and financial assistance, including special support for students in crisis; fostering sensitivity to cultural differences; ensuring that students from outside the province enjoy an enriched and integrated Quebec experience; and enhancing electronic communication.

The final report, including a timeline for implementing recommendations, is scheduled for the end of 2006. The goal is to enhance student life and improve the experience of every member of the McGill community. As Principal Munroe-Blum says, "We want McGill to be known not as a great university to attend in spite of its bureaucracy but as a great university to attend, period."



Courtesy National Academy of Engineering

WILLARD BOYLE, BSc'47, MSc'48, PhD'50, IS THE co-inventor of the charge-coupled device, and while you probably haven't heard of Boyle's innocuous-sounding brainchild, you're certainly familiar with the things that the CCD has made possible.

Like digital cameras, for instance. Also fax machines, photocopiers, scanners, bar code readers and the Hubble Space Telescope. When Boyle and his Bell Laboratories colleague George Smith dreamed up the CCD in 1969 – sketching out its essentials on a chalkboard in about an hour – the duo were trying to come up with novel methods for storing data on semiconductors. It quickly became apparent that their light-sensitive CCD was compact, energy-efficient and ideally suited to capturing and transmitting images.

The two inventors were honoured for their work on the CCD by the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, which awarded them the \$500,000 Charles Stark Draper Prize. The Halifax-based Boyle recently travelled to Washington to receive the prize, where he was besieged with interview requests from journalists from around North America.

"That was a long, hard day," he says. "I don't know how politicians do that all the time!" More recently, Boyle and Smith were inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio.

Boyle, who grew up in a remote logging town in Quebec, was home-schooled by his mother. "She deserves all the credit in the world for getting me started," he says.

Boyle had a pretty momentous year in 1969 – apart from his CCD work, he was also on the scientific team that helped NASA select the site for the first Apollo landing on the moon.

When asked which CCD-related innovation excites him the most, he briefly considers the outer space applications of his invention before settling on his reply. "I'm very interested in the way [CCD technology] is used in medicine, in the tiny cameras they use for laparoscopic surgeries and other procedures. That's pretty impressive."

Inventive
Mind



factFILE

On May 24, 1833,
William Leslie Logie
was awarded the first
McGill degree, and
the first medical degree in Canada.



Secrets of Snail LOVE

STAR RECRUIT IS MEDICINE'S NEW DEAN

IT'S AN AWFULLY GOOD SIGN WHEN the fellow heading up the country's most important funding agency for health research gets excited about your pick for a new dean of medicine.

"The recruitment of Dr. Levin is a coup, not just for McGill, but for Canada," says Dr. Alan Bernstein, president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Richard I. Levin, (pictured) currently the vice-dean for education, faculty and academic affairs at New York University School of Medicine, takes over the helm of McGill's oldest and most fabled faculty on September 1.

"McGill is one of the world's great public research universities," says Levin, a cardiologist who holds four patents, including one for a molecule that heals wounds. Another invention, a medical device for the detection and analysis of ambulatory myocardial ischemia, led to the creation of a publicly traded company, QMED.

An American and a longtime New Yorker, Levin told the *Globe and Mail* that one of the reasons why the McGill job appealed to him was because it presented "the opportunity to observe your invention of the public health care system from the inside."

Levin is a fan of the Canadian approach. "I'm a strong believer that quality health care should be available to all." Levin spent 25 years at New York's Bellevue Hospital Center, the oldest and largest public hospital in the United States.

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum describes Levin, who will also become McGill's first vice-principal for health affairs, as "a modern Renaissance man," noting his accomplishments as a scientist, a clinician, an inventor, an administrator and a teacher.

In an interview with the *McGill Reporter*, Levin pointed to one of the challenges facing all medical educators. Medical school training still typically takes about four years, just as it did in the mid-1800s, but the sheer mass of scientific knowledge has increased a staggering amount over those years. "How do we present that knowledge to students in so short a time?"

Part of the answer lies in using information technology in innovative ways to bolster teaching programs, and Levin played a key role in setting up just such an approach at NYU.



Call them the S&M crowd of the gastropods. Certain types of snails fire a sharp projectile at their prospective mates before love-making. This so-called "love dart" pierces the skin of the unlucky lover, allowing the dart-throwing snail to increase its paternity rate. The pointed question that malocologists, or snail scholars, have been asking for a couple of hundred years is how this unusual bit of foreplay guaranteed success for a dart-thrower's sperm. ("Success" is a relative term here, bearing in mind that an estimated .01% of sperm reach their ultimate destination.)

Thanks to McGill biology professor Ronald Chase, we now know more about the strange world of snail sex. Chase has spent 27 years studying molluscs and their randy ways, and his latest set of experiments has led to a new discovery about the love dart. The experiments consisted of injecting a group of snails with the dart mucus while they were mating. A week later, the same group of snails was injected with a simple saline solution while mating with a different sperm donor. The sperm donors that coupled with a partner receiving the mucus injection sired twice as many offspring as the sperm donors that coupled with those that had received the saline injection. Before the experiment, the love darts of all the snails had been surgically removed.

In earlier work, Chase had found that the mucus seemed to cause contractions in ducts of snails. He believes that these contractions may serve to suppress sperm-digesting enzymes that consume most of the 5.5 million sperm transferred during a mating session. Thus, it is not the mechanical action of the missile itself that results in a higher paternity rate but the special mucus coating the dart. So, if all the sex and violence were not bad enough, we can now add chemical mucus to the mix. Yuck.

Professor Chase's latest findings were published by the Royal Society this spring, and reported on by the magazine *New Scientist*.

Illustration by Tzigane



Toope is Top at UBC



Courtesy UBC

The announcement of a new president at the University of British Columbia brought nods of approval all around McGill. The choice was Stephen Toope, BCL'83, LLB'83, a popular former professor and dean of the Faculty of Law.

Toope is the second McGill grad in a row to be named to UBC's top job, replacing Martha Piper, PhD'87. The appointments underscore a long relationship between the two schools which started in the early 20th century when McGill helped to open Vancouver's first university. Until 1915, students at the McGill University College of British Columbia would come to Montreal to complete their degrees.

Best known for his work on human rights and for his scholarly contributions to international law, Toope was the unanimous choice of the search committee. On March 22, he was introduced to the UBC community as

"an academic of daunting accomplishment, a researcher of wide renown and an exceptional educator." At McGill, he is remembered for his popularity and for his energy in leading the campaign during his deanship to build the Nahum Gelber law library, which opened in 1998. He left the faculty in 2002 to take a position as the first president of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

Toope's appointment takes effect in July and his immediate plans are to continue Piper's work to position UBC as a high-ranking international institution and to enhance the student experience. Will he stay in touch with McGill? "I sure hope so... Both UBC and McGill have an extremely outward focus in everything they do and, for that reason, there are lots of opportunities to work together."



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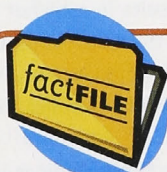
BUYING A BETTER WORLD

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING IS A nice idea. Really it is. But the sad reality is that ethical shopping often proves futile or impossible. Almost every product, it seems, turns out to be owned by a large and sinister holding company awash in pollution, child labour or weapons sales. And who has the time to research every shoe, snack and sofa maker to find out who is being ethical and who is not?

Enter Brenda Plant, BA'92, BSW'95, a businesswoman who mixes a passion for social justice with hard-headed capitalism. Plant is the co-founder of Ethiquette.ca, a for-profit web-based company that takes all the work out of responsible purchasing. Just punch in a product or service, and the site will churn out a list of companies that have been vetted for clean corporate behaviour.

"From baby diapers to funeral homes, we give people responsible choices," says Plant. "People don't have a lot of time but they want options and that's what we give them - options."

So where does the cash come from? Ethiquette makes its money from socially conscious companies who pay to place ads on the site. With this mix of cash and conscience, Plant is realizing her long-time goal of showing others that world-saving can be a viable business venture.



McGill Principal Edward Allan Meredith, appointed in 1846, was actually absent for half of his mandate. He left Montreal in 1849, but because McGill's governance was in disarray, no official body was available to accept his resignation until 1853.

From Maclean's to McGill

Chances are there isn't a single person in Canada who has a better sense of the country's universities – warts and all – than Ann Dowsett Johnston.

For 14 years, Dowsett Johnston was the principal architect of the annual *Maclean's* university rankings issue, transforming it into a perennial bestseller and earning several National Magazine Awards in the process.

But even a job that challenging can take on an air of "same old, same old" after a while. "I had begun to feel a little like Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*, writing a similar story year after year," says Dowsett Johnston.

While some universities have raised concerns about the methodology *Maclean's* has used in its rankings, Dowsett Johnston herself has earned widespread respect as an articulate champion of higher education in Canada, arguing forcefully for the need to reinvest in the country's universities after a period of crippling budget cuts in the '90s. Once she decided she was leaving *Maclean's*, it didn't take her long to decide what she wanted to tackle next. "I decided it was time to put my money where my mouth was, and put my energy into making a difference at a university that had captured my imagination, and

that was McGill," says the University's new Vice-Principal of Development, Alumni and University Relations.

Part of McGill's allure, says Dowsett Johnston, was the quality of its leadership. "For years, I have been a huge admirer of [Principal] Heather Munroe-Blum. Her passion, energy, wisdom and commitment are virtually unsurpassed in this country."

In her new role, Dowsett Johnston will oversee McGill's fundraising programs, its relationships with graduates and volunteers, and its communications efforts. "In many ways, what looks like a huge leap was not much of a leap at all," posits Dowsett Johnston. "At heart, I'm a storyteller, and all my energy is now devoted to communicating the essence of McGill to a very broad public, both across Canada and internationally."

Sandy Nicholson



REPRESENTING *the* REVILED

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT recently gave 134 lawyers from around the world the green light to serve as defence counsel in ICC proceedings and two of the Canadians selected are McGill graduates – Montreal criminal law expert Paul Skolnik, BCL'75, and Algoma University College law professor John Flood, BCL'85.

They'll certainly have their work cut out for them. Their clients, after all, will be among the most vilified individuals on the planet.

The ICC was established in 2002 as the world's first permanent and independent war crimes tribunal. In March, Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga became the first suspect to appear before the ICC, facing charges of forcing children as young as seven to take part in armed combat.

Skolnik has already had his share of notorious clients, including former Canadian boxing champ Dave Hilton,

convicted of the sexual abuse of his two daughters, and General Théoneste Bagosora, accused of being one of the masterminds behind the Rwandan genocide. His work for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda



istockphoto.com

representing Bagosora and another defendant played a key role in earning Skolnik the thumbs up from the ICC.

Doing criminal law "takes a strong constitution," warrants Skolnik. When involved in a sensational case, "I must put aside any personal feelings on the

matter and do my best to defend my client. If you care about justice, you want to see justice done according to law and not according to passion or expediency."

Skolnik says one key difference between the high-profile international cases he has taken on and the trials he participated in back in Montreal is scope. For his Rwandan work, Skolnik has travelled all over Europe, Africa and North America, interviewing former ambassadors, dignitaries, military attachés and other military figures – including Canadian general Romeo Dallaire.

In an interview with the *Sudbury Star*, Flood outlined his hopes for the ICC. "I could give you a long list of people who have flouted the international humanitarian law and not had to account for it. This is a mechanism for holding people accountable. It's very, very serious."



Deb Ransom

Valuable Lessons

IAN BRODIE, BA'90, remembers the day a classmate challenged their political science professor about why they needed to learn the ins and outs of such rare events as non-confidence votes in the House of Commons. "There's no way we'll need to know

this in real life," the student declared.

The teacher, the late James Mallory, was the country's reigning authority on parliamentary politics and he took umbrage. "Young man, this is McGill University, and there is a very good chance that someone in this class will need to know these things one day and when that day comes he'll be bloody glad he took this course!"

Last year, Brodie was the executive director of the Conservative Party as it joined forces with the NDP to topple the Liberal government in a non-confidence vote. Brodie is very happy he took Mallory's course.

A chief organizer for both the Conservatives' subsequent election victory and the transition team that ushered Stephen Harper's government into office, Brodie now finds himself one of Ottawa's most powerful players, serving as Prime Minister Harper's chief of staff.

"I would describe the job as 50% traffic cop, 40% firefighter and 10% trying to find the time to think ahead. It's an enormous responsibility, coordinating the activities of the prime minister and working with all the people who support him in his job. It helps tremendously that Prime Minister Harper is a

very clear thinker who is very focused on the things he wants to achieve."

Politics used to be a far more theoretical pursuit for Brodie, a political science professor from the University of Western Ontario currently on a leave of absence. The author of a book that examines the politicking that surrounds Supreme Court cases, Brodie recently had the opportunity to put some of his thoughts into action when one of the first tasks facing the new government turned out to be the appointment of a Supreme Court judge. Justice Marshall Rothstein became the first Canadian Supreme Court nominee to be questioned at a public hearing, although members of Parliament have no veto power over the appointment.

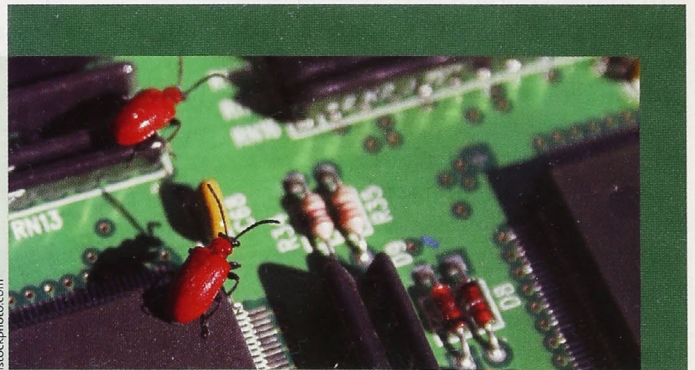
"I'm pleased that the Prime Minister was so open to change. It was a real thrill to have a finger in that pie."

No Flies on Them

Good news for teens who prefer a summer spent playing video games or tinkering with the computer than one spent at some woody camp among the black flies: McGill has the perfect solution.

The University's "Be a Computer Scientist for a Week" program, offered free of charge, provides an opportunity for 60 senior high school students to step away from the joysticks and X-Boxes for a few days, and either design a robotics mission to Mars or develop their own software games. The object is to learn design principles, how to analyze, test and verify concepts, and how to use hardware and software to solve problems. Participants are immersed in the McGill environment, where they have a chance to explore the latest in technology through activities including field trips to programming labs and robotics competitions.

These bright students (a boy and girl from each designated school) are recommended for the camp by their teachers, based on high grades and their level of interest in computer science. The School of Computer



Science runs the program with the help of several of its own students, guest lecturers from other McGill departments and from industry, as well as corporate sponsors like Google, the Canadian Space Agency and big-name game developers such as Ubisoft, EA Games and A2M Montreal.

The camp, which wraps up with an awards presentation, lets gamers and computer whizzes enjoy a different and exciting summer experience, safe in the knowledge that the worst bugs they might encounter are computer glitches.

contributors: DIANA GRIER AYTON, DANIEL MCCABE, JEFF ROBERTS, PASCAL ZAMPRELLI

The gift of a lifetime



Isobel Oswald with, from left, Deans Robert Vogel (Arts) and Svenn Orvig (Science) at Fall Convocation in 1981, where Mrs. Oswald received an honorary Master of Arts degree.

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. So said William Shakespeare, but the Bard might well have gone one better by acknowledging the backstage talent that gives the play its life and lustre.

For almost 40 years, Isobel McLaggan Oswald was the woman behind the scenes of McGill's Arts and Science faculties, and she made it her business to make the players shine.

"Mrs. Oswald mastered the many areas of faculty administration with an efficiency and a thoroughness which kept the two largest faculties in the University running through major educational change, financial crises and student rebellion," remarked Robert Vogel, former Dean of Arts, at the 1981 Fall Convocation.

That an administrator should be so recognized at Convocation was unusual enough, but the occasion of Dr. Vogel's remarks was exceptional: upon retirement, Mrs. Oswald was receiving an honorary Master of Arts degree.

Mrs. Oswald, BA'37, had returned to the University in 1943 to become secretary and assistant to the Dean of Arts and Science. As her career progressed – and deans came and went – she was named faculty secretary. When Arts and Science were split in 1971, she became secretary of both faculties. Through it all, she seldom missed a beat, nor ever lost her smile.

"Her tact and understanding made it possible to get absent-minded professors to submit their exams on time, to find them when they had forgotten vitally important meetings or to track them down in the remotest part of the world so that students could graduate on time or that the next calendar could be sent to the printer," Dr. Vogel said.

Mrs. Oswald passed away in January 2005, leaving an endowment to McGill that established an entrance scholarship named after her and her sister, Marjorie McLaggan, MA'31. The scholarship, awarded to outstanding undergraduate students on the basis of academic standing and leadership in extracurricular and community activities, will allow Mrs. Oswald's devotion to live on behind the scenes for generations to come.

Master ADMINISTRATOR made faculties shine



McGill

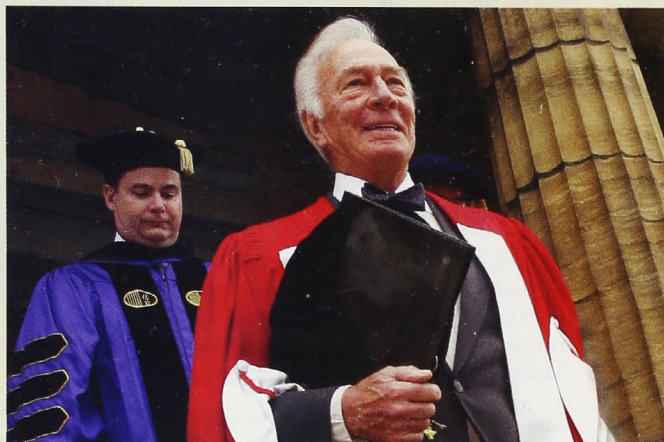
For more information on bequests
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Scenes from CONVOCATION 2006

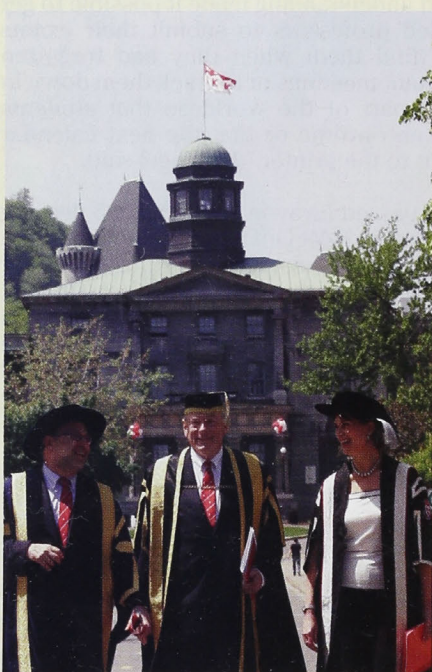
While Tony award-winner Christopher Plummer and acclaimed author Nancy Huston were among the recipients of honorary degrees, the true stars of McGill's spring convocation were the 6,000 or so newest additions to the University's alumni ranks.



Renowned Shakespearean actor *Christopher Plummer* was granted an honorary degree at this year's spring convocation. The always eloquent thespian suggested to grads that they "take this silly old world by the scruff of the neck and, as the poet says, 'grapple it to your heart with hoops of steel.'"



Families and friends of graduates gather on lower campus to celebrate a momentous day. Convocation ceremonies are once again held on the fields of lower campus, a tradition that was reintroduced three years ago.



McGill's Chair of the Board of Governors *Robert Rabinovitch, BCom'64*, Chancellor *Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67*, and Principal and Vice-Chancellor *Heather Munroe-Blum* – make their way towards the ceremonies.



One graduate thanks the man who made it all possible. *James McGill* doesn't seem to mind, and is no doubt pleased with what has become of the land and money he bequeathed in 1813.



In Redpath Hall, University Marshal and chemistry professor *David Harpp* gives graduates some last minute instructions and points them in the right direction.



MBA graduate Raveen Sastry smiles at the camera shortly before taking the stage with his Management classmates.



"Guess what – I'm finally done!!!"



A moment of quiet contemplation gives way to a blissful smile.



A trio of new grads indulges in a tradition that's probably as old as convocation itself.



Marching past the Arts Building, a bagpiper leads the parade down the road and towards the ceremonies.



Long after exams and lectures are forgotten, the friendships remain. Proud Education graduates Tessa Barrans and Vanessa Nolet plan to stay in touch.

MOVING UP

As they pursue higher degrees, McGill's 6,000 graduate students play a crucial role in taking the University to the top ranks.

by ANDREW MULLINS

ACCORDING TO THE STEREOTYPE, THEY ARE PASTY-FACED, overworked and sleep-deprived. Supported by meagre budgets, they survive on coffee and microwave popcorn. They swear they'll start writing their thesis *soon*. They are graduate students.

If you've seen the popular Stanford comic strip called "Piled Higher and Deeper" – "PhD" for short – you may have laughed at the antics of this special breed of student, often portrayed as over-age slackers avoiding entry into the real world.

James Nemes, McGill's interim Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, says nothing could be further from the truth. He cites a few of the University's accomplishments in 2005: topping the *Maclean's* magazine survey of Canadian universities, ranking 24th in the world accord-

ing to London's *Times Higher Education Supplement*, and again being named Research University of the Year in Canada by Research Infosource.

Those honours are thanks in large part to McGill's 6,000 master's and doctoral students, according to Nemes. "The fact is, without our graduate students, we simply would not be there. They are one of the most important things the University is about."

When McGill recruits an academic star from the science or engineering world, that professor may well need lab space and equipment, but at the top of their list are the graduate students who work in those labs, do much of the research and even write up the results published in journal articles.

"We're a research-intensive university and the reality is that the majority of research is carried out by PhD and master's students," says Nemes. "It's not a professor who's getting in there and doing the experiments – it's the direction the professors give to students. So having top-quality grad students is really important for McGill's research reputation."

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum recently reiterated to *Maclean's* magazine what she has known since her days at the University of Toronto as head of research – that without an influx of properly funded graduate students from Canada and around the world, innovation and productivity will "sink like a stone."

Competition for those students is fierce, and the battle has gone worldwide, as universities in Europe, Australia and elsewhere get more aggressive about recruiting the top candidates everyone wants. Selling McGill to students in this competitive climate becomes a matter of pushing the bigger picture.

"We're certainly not going to be able to compete right now with the U.S. if the student is simply looking for the best funding," says Nemes. "So we have to compete on what our strengths are. And we have a lot of strengths."

Nemes cites McGill's top research programs as a prime factor in the University's appeal. Whether it's in

high tech or health care, Shakespeare or social policy, there are recognized leaders in each discipline. Smart students are making their decision not just based on money: they're looking at who they get to work with.

"When they see that McGill is ranked 24th in the world, that's a big draw," says Nemes. He also points to Montreal as "a great attraction. We have a real multicultural city, so if a student's deciding between coming to McGill or going to the University of Iowa, we have some distinct advantages."

For Maryse Bourgault, a PhD student in plant science at Macdonald Campus, the researchers she'd been exposed to in her undergraduate work in McGill's School of Environment were a big part of her choosing McGill again. Plant science professor Don Smith's work on crop eco-physiology and improving food supplies "was something I thought was really cool," says Bourgault, "and I was really interested in joining in on that research." She ended up as one of Smith's graduate students, doing lab and field work on the drought tolerance of lowly but nutritious legumes that has taken her as far away as Uzbekistan.

"I'm passionate about the subject and the advantages it can bring," she says. "People can't only live on grains, they need protein as well, and many people around the world don't have the money to buy meat. So legumes, which are high in protein, are a great alternative. If you can improve their drought tolerance, then it opens a new door to food security in countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia."

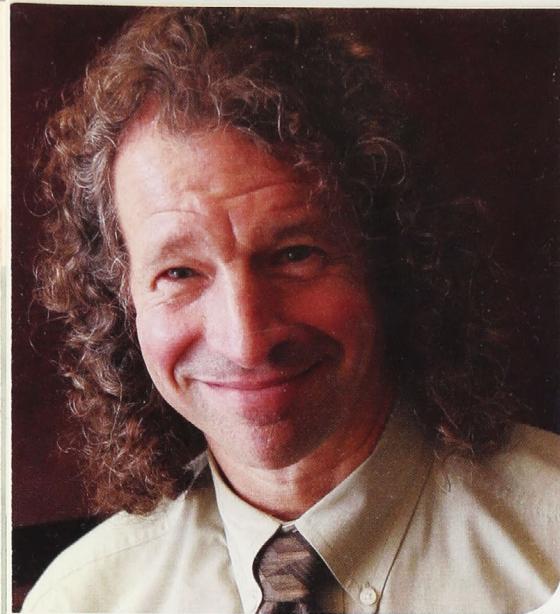
No Life Like It

The transition for students from undergraduate to graduate studies certainly means more work and tougher standards (two failed courses and you're gone), but they seem to thrive on it. "We're going into much more depth compared to the undergrad experience," says Bourgault. "That I find very stimulating."

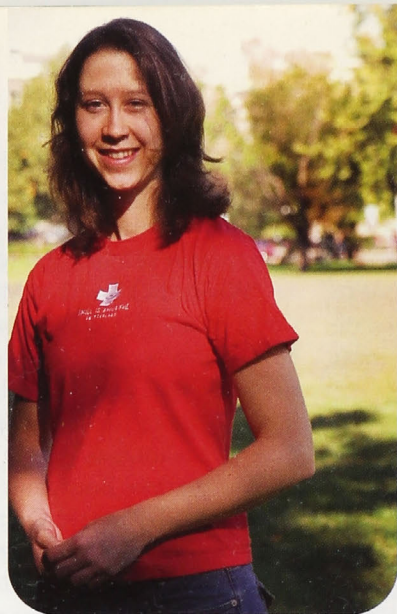
Jorge Cham's comic strip "Piled Higher and Deeper" pokes fun at graduate students and the challenges they face.



www.phdcomics.com



Owen Egan



Claudio Calligaris



Owen Egan

*From left to right:
James Nemes,
Maryse Bourgault,
Simon-Wade
Bessette and
Beverly Baker with
daughter Aya*

“In an undergraduate program you get more choice as you go along, but by the time you reach your graduate program, it’s wide open, and I really enjoy that,” says Simon-Wade Bessette of his master’s program in political science. Bessette holds the Banque Nationale Fellowship at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC), awarded to a top student “Canadianist,” and his research focus is on Canadian judicial politics. He appreciates the smaller classes and flexibility of his program. “It’s very one on one, and you’re given wide discretion in choosing what you want to write about. I like to be an independent thinker.”

Flexibility is important to Beverly Baker as well, a first-year doctoral student in the Faculty of Education. Like many graduate students, Baker is not fresh from an undergraduate degree, having four other degrees and career experience as a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) and academic writing in Montreal, as well as abroad in Japan, France and recently, the United Arab Emirates. Upon returning, Baker and her husband had a baby daughter.

“I was writing my research proposal for my doctorate and she was four months old, so I was literally bouncing her on my knee while I was typing.”

The Faculty offers an ad hoc PhD program that’s “made to measure,” says Baker, who is examining the social and political aspects of “high stakes” English language testing such as one finds at universities. Drawing on her background in ESL and linguistics, Baker “found the reasons why people said they were giving these tests and the uses of the results by the institutions didn’t always jibe. I saw that non-native speakers were being treated in a very unfair fashion – as almost cognitively deficient, not just lacking certain English skills. They’re institutionally marginalized. That’s what got me going.”

But raising a family while living as a student can be more of a test than any language exam. “There are so many more demands on your time – and mentally as well.” For Baker, academic success under these circum-

stances becomes “the difference between an accomplishment and a triumph.”

The difficulties students encounter are well known to Medhi El Ouali, a PhD student in physics and president of the Post-Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS). Part of the PGSS mandate is running Thomson House, the limestone mansion on upper McTavish Street that has been converted to a grad student hangout with a bar, restaurant, lounges and meeting spaces. PGSS also lobbies both the University and government on students’ behalf for things like more office space, better training for teaching assistants, and better funding.

Many international students are older and have families. “They have different expectations,” says El Ouali, “different lifestyles. They often have children, need daycare, and need to find proper housing.” The accompanying financial struggles can become a big impediment to success, so El Ouali sees it as important to provide them with work opportunities.

That can be a double-edged sword. Working to make ends meet can mean students delay their studies, and some never finish. “A lot of the people I know take longer to graduate, and if they weren’t so determined they might actually quit,” says El Ouali. The problem can become more acute in the arts and humanities, where funding through fellowships, grants and professors’ research budgets is less certain.

The Funding Crunch

The University of Toronto has lately been trumpeting guaranteed funding for all of its graduate students. Though not as publicized, there are areas within McGill that have their own guaranteed funding. “Almost the entire Faculty of Science had guaranteed funding programs in place long before U of T even announced their package,” says James Nemes. Private donations – such as Richard Tomlinson’s multi-million dollar support of fellowship programs – often play



Owen Egan

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interact with other students – they're not on campus
doing other things that are all part of the experience.
Those students can lose their way and not complete
their degrees. Completion rates are much higher in the
sciences and engineering. Funding is one issue, but I
think isolation is another."

Simon-Wade Bessette is active in the Arts Graduate
Students' Society and is working to alleviate some of
that isolation. "We're developing an annual conference
and speaker series, where students will be able to pre-
sent their work to faculty members and other graduate
students, to help to refine their work, point out poten-
tial weaknesses or develop a fuller understanding of
the material they're researching."

In the sciences, student research is more likely to be
a component of a professor's project, with students
forming part of a team working long hours together in
the lab. That often leads to publishing in academic
journals, important particularly for PhDs looking for
future academic appointments.

But lab research can also lead students to careers in
industry. According to David Plant, Associate Dean of
Research and Graduate Education in the Faculty of
Engineering, "The starting point of a new company can
be a great idea by a really bright graduate student who's
in the middle of their PhD thesis and they come up
with a 'eureka.' And the Eureka becomes a company.

"Completion rates are much higher in the sciences and engineering. Funding is one issue, but I think isolation is another."

JAMES NEMES
Dean of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies

The ability to think deeply about a problem and understand all of its components leads many students to be very creative and identify new product opportunities.”

While many students are busy in labs, up to 50% of them end up with teaching assistantships, a rite of passage for many who will later become teachers and professors themselves. Bessette was a TA for two political science classes last semester and he lights up in describing the experience. “I really enjoyed it. A lot of it is teaching undergraduates what to look for in the course materials. You have to give them pointers, like ‘this is not testable material, this is more something you might want to bring up one day at the dinner table to show the value of an arts degree to your parents.’”

Maryse Bourgault was a TA for an introductory plant science class and spent much of her teaching time outdoors at Macdonald Campus. “We’d go to the horticultural garden and the seed farm, and walk around the orchards talking about fruit structures and how to manage the orchards. People like it because we’re outside and we’re actually looking at the specimens: you can touch the apples and see for yourself. It’s much more pleasant than some TA experiences. But we still have the stack of papers to correct.”

A Unique Relationship

Perhaps the most significant difference between the undergraduate and graduate experience is the interaction between student and supervisor. David Plant, who calls graduate students “the lifeblood behind our research,” makes a telling joke about the importance of the relationship: “Prior to marrying my wife, my relationships with my PhD students were longer than with most of my girlfriends!”

The quip demonstrates just how serious he is about his supervisory role. A James McGill Professor in electrical and computer engineering who has won the

Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Supervision, Plant says, “The commitment to the PhD student is the strongest commitment I’ll make to mentoring and guiding a student through a degree. It’s imperative that it gets done right. These are people who are very bright, who have a lot of energy and, properly guided, can go on to do amazing things.”

Medhi El Ouali also sees supervision as a crucial aspect of the PGSS portfolio. “We organize workshops to explain how to interact well with your supervisor,” he says. One of the difficulties he sees grad students encounter is that “sometimes supervisors are absent.” They don’t necessarily see “where you’re on track or off track.”

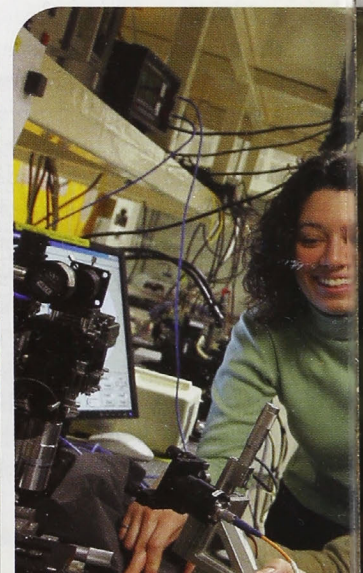
Plant points out that the relationship is a two-way street. “If students are left unattended, it’s really unfair. But like any relationship, if there isn’t solid, frequent, bi-directional communication, there will be a breakdown. Students need to express to their supervisors that they need attention, and supervisors need to express to their students, ‘I’m seeing a problem.’ Or ‘I’m seeing success.’”

Perhaps inevitable in long-term projects, somewhere along the line, there comes a period of existential crisis.

“I call it the doldrums,” says Plant, “and it tends to happen about halfway through the PhD degree. A PhD starts out with enthusiasm, energy and naiveté, and about two years in, the winds die down. Both the student and the supervisor need to persist – it’s a very hard point for both. You’ve got to commit to grinding on. And then all of a sudden the wind picks up, the student catches something and it sweeps them away.”

Plant’s own research in photonics is costly, highly experimental, and has enormous potential in communications and technology industries – and he is candid about the self-interest in seeing the relationship succeed, an obligation not just for the supervisor, but for the student as well. “I may be signing up a PhD that

*From left to right:
Medhi El Ouali,
David Plant with
graduate students
Madeleine Mony
and Bing Xia*



over four years is going to cost me a quarter to half a million dollars [in research funding]. I'm happy to spend that money, but with a recognition that 'hey, we're in this together. Let's do it.'"

More to Come

Many departments around the University are looking to beef up one aspect of grad studies or another, as is the case in engineering. "One of the top priorities for the faculty is to increase quality and quantity of our doctoral student population," says Plant, pointing to a recently announced initiative that broadens support for PhDs. "We're offering at least 27 three-year Dean's Doctoral Student Research Recruitment Awards, and we'll be making offers to candidates using this award as an incentive to get them to come to McGill."

Overall, the University will be taking a nuanced approach to building its grad student base, increasing recruitment, helping more students graduate, and searching for new funding support.

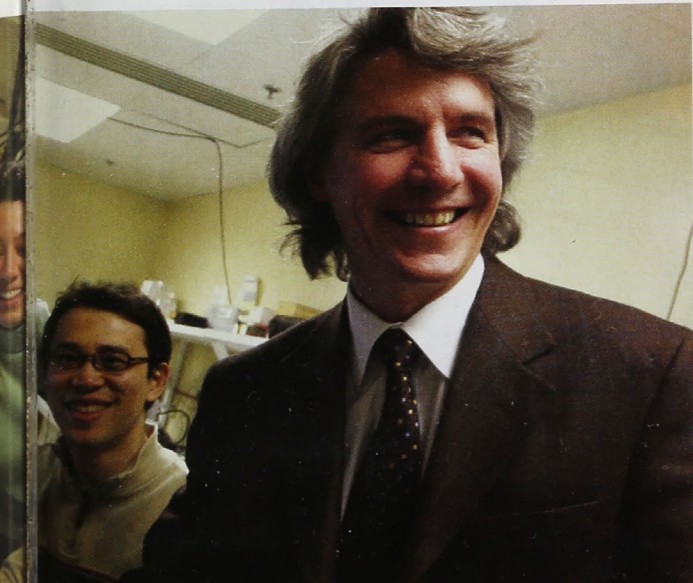
"We'd actually like to increase the number of graduations per year by about 25%," says James Nemes, "by improving completion rates and decreasing the time it takes to finish a degree. If we do this, the number of grad students registered does not have to increase dramatically."

The students meanwhile will no doubt be reaping the benefits that increasing competition among universities generates. More attention, more funding, more emphasis on the crucial role they play.

Those graduating in the coming years will be stepping into a market where competition to replace aging professors is also stiff. They may be paying dues now in hard work and tight budgets, but graduate education done right means the payoff will be big indeed – for the students, for universities and for society. 🐦

"The commitment to the PhD student is the strongest commitment I'll make to mentoring and guiding a student through a degree."

DAVID PLANT
James McGill Professor in Electrical
and Computer Engineering



Photos by Owen Egan



SCHOOL OF ROCK

Montreal's music scene is exploding and McGill alumni are playing pivotal roles, earning rave reviews and gunning for Grammys

by DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



ASPIRING MUSICIANS WITH THOUGHTS OF BEING the next Yo-Yo Ma, Luciano Pavarotti or Charles Mingus arrive at the Schulich School of Music expecting to receive the kind of world-class training that will help them pursue those ambitions. But what about a young guitar-slinger with dreams of becoming another John Lennon? Not so much.

While McGill offers internationally respected programs in classical music, opera and jazz, anyone wanting to learn to emulate Elvis Costello's sly songwriting style or Mick Jagger's signature swagger is largely out of luck.

Which makes it all the more remarkable that so many of Canada's most talented and successful pop musicians are McGill graduates. Young alumni populate many of Montreal's best bands, including the Arcade Fire, Wolf Parade, the High Dials, the Dears, the Bell Orchestre, Islands, the Lovely Feathers and Throwback. Other graduates include Juno-winning rock heartthrob Sam Roberts, BA'98, innovative turntablist Kid Koala (a.k.a. Eric San, BEd'96) and bilingual pop noir crooner Thomas Hellman, BA'98, MA'04.

Throw in Kate McGarrigle, BSc'70, who, along with sister Anna, is one of the most respected songwriters of her generation, bassist Mauro Pezzente, MSc'97, PhD'97, a co-founder of the edgy instrumental group Godspeed! You Black Emperor, and a couple of guys that many pop musicians admire with an almost religious reverence – Burt Bacharach, AMus'48, DMus'72, and Leonard Cohen, BA'55, DLitt'92 – and you've got the makings of a concert for the ages.

Concerts with Kanye

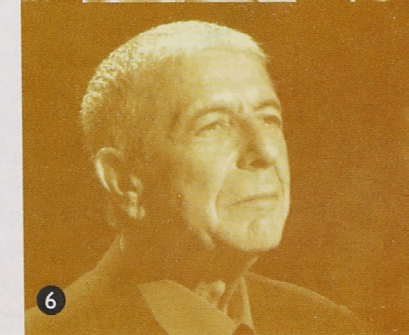
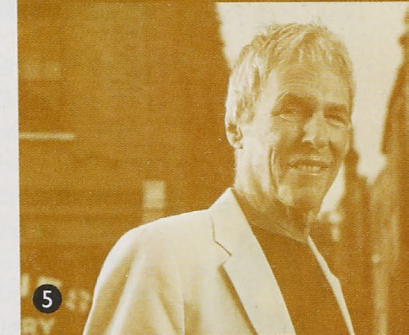
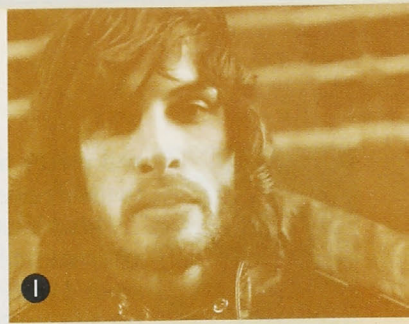
Science student Alain Macklovitch would be part of the bill too. Macklovitch managed to cram in a couple of courses last year, but has been spending most of his time away from campus lately, serving as Kanye West's onstage DJ during the Grammy-winning hip-hop superstar's recent tour.

It's been quite the adventure. Macklovitch has accompanied West during performances on *Saturday Night Live* and at the MTV Awards, and has had the chance to hobnob with everybody from Jay-Z to Hillary Duff at post-concert parties.

So why would West, an astute judge of talent (triple Grammy winner John Legend is among his protegés), reach out for an Outremont boy studying biology and physics?

Because Macklovitch is one of the best in the world at what he does. He's been proving it since he was 15.

Macklovitch, better known as DJ A-Trak, employs turntables, sound mixers and a vast collection of vinyl LPs to create new forms of music out of old – taking bits



1) Sam Roberts 2) Kid Koala 3) the High Dials 4) Kate and Anna McGarrigle 5) Burt Bacharach 6) Leonard Cohen

and pieces from a variety of records and combining them in novel ways.

Macklovitch caught the DJ bug as a young teen, after stumbling upon older brother David messing around with their dad's belt-drive turntable, trying to create some interesting sounds by scratching (manipulating the records by hand). Alain had a go at it. According to David Macklovitch, BA'00, MA'03, now a music editor at *Vice* magazine and half of the funky electronica duo Chromeo, it was immediately apparent that his younger sibling was a natural.

"What he was doing was already sounding close to the scratches on the Tribe Called Quest and Beastie Boys' records we were bumping all day. I pushed him to keep trying."

Alain's abilities quickly blossomed. "I felt I was doing something unique, something not many people

he was 18, he'd earned five of turntablism's most coveted international honours.

A chance encounter two years ago gave Macklovitch a huge career boost. A-Trak was demonstrating his talents during a London, England, record store appearance when Kanye West dropped by. West was impressed and invited Macklovitch to join his upcoming concert tour. A-Trak soon found himself performing in front of sold-out stadiums and crowds of 20,000.

"One thing that's guaranteed with Kanye is that he really gives everybody he works with an opportunity to shine," says Macklovitch. "I would be on stage and see my name in huge letters and Kanye would shout out, 'A-Trak! Show these people why you were the world champion five times!'"

As West's confidence in Macklovitch's abilities grew, the DJ was given more opportunities to contribute to



Courtesy DJ A-Trak



Lynne Sladky/AP Photo

From left to right:
Alain Macklovitch,
a.k.a. DJ A-Trak,
and on stage with
Kanye West at the
2005 MTV Awards,
Hadjji Bakara (back
row centre) with his
band Wolf Parade

could do." His bar mitzvah bounty went towards purchasing a new turntable and a mixer.

He pursued his craft diligently, practicing for hours on end. "His chief strength has always been his discipline and work ethic," recalls David. "That dude is like a monk."

After about a year, A-Trak was ready for club gigs. Dodging security staffers, the under-aged Macklovitch hid in DJ booths until it was time for him to perform.

He started entering DJ competitions, in which turntablists square off against one another, each trying to impress judges with their own unique mixes and showmanship. Macklovitch captured the DMC world championship in 1997 at the age of 15, becoming the youngest champ ever. There was plenty of grumbling among some of his rivals that this baby-faced DJ was a fluke, a novelty act.

"My attitude was, yeah, whatever. Next year I'll kill them again." Sure enough, A-Trak won his second world title. "That shut down the haters," he laughs. By the time

West's shows. "I felt like we finally managed to build the kind of sets that I wanted to do with him, where I was able to integrate my scratching into the songs like any other instrument," says Macklovitch. He also lent his talents to two tracks on hip-hop performer Common's West-produced album *Be* and to West's own smash hit, "Golddigger."

Working with West has been the opportunity of a lifetime, but Macklovitch, who just released a DVD, *Sunglasses is a Must*, is anxious to fly solo. "I definitely don't mind performing someone else's song – as a DJ that's what you do most of the time. But I just can't wait to have more tracks to play people, and to hear their reactions too."

Then there is the matter of completing his degree, something he is determined to do.

"My whole family is school-oriented," he explains. His father heads an Université de Montréal research team in linguistics. His mother is a translator with

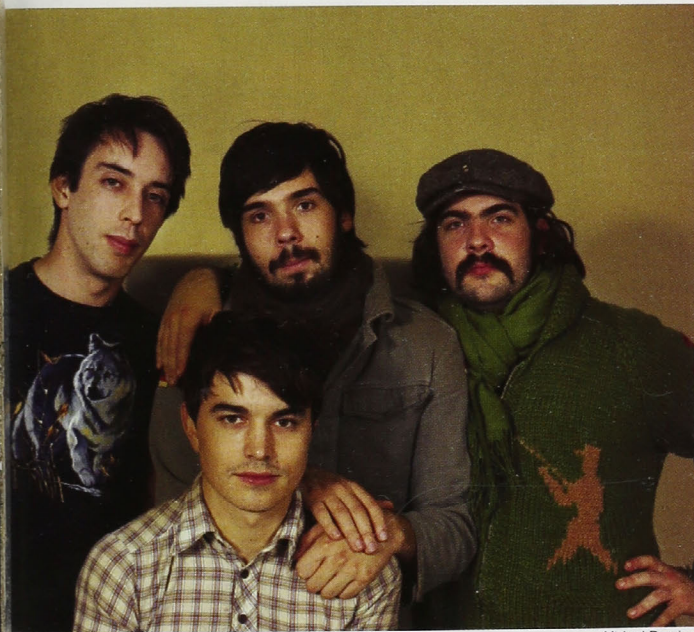
grad-school training. Brother David is working on a PhD at Columbia University.

Juggling music and studies "is just what I'm used to. School has always imposed a structure on my schedule. I once took a year off from McGill to focus on my music and that was probably my least productive period."

Pausing the Parade

Somebody else wrestling with balancing McGill studies and a burgeoning musical career is Hadji Bakara, BA'04. Bakara is part of one of the hottest bands around, Wolf Parade, whose debut album, *Apologies to the Queen Mary*, was feted by music critics throughout North America. *Spin* magazine, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Globe and Mail*, *Pitchfork* and the Associated Press all named it one of the best offerings of 2005.

Moments into a conversation with Bakara, one



Michael Doerksen

thing is clear – this is not a rock star from central casting. He talks of "explications" and "paradigms" and says he is looking forward to walking away from the music scene to focus on a McGill master's degree dealing with German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk's views on cynicism.

"This isn't the apogee of my ambitions," Bakara says of Wolf Parade's success. "I'm anxious to get my academic career back on track. That's where my real ambitions lie."

Bakara plays a unique role in Wolf Parade. While his bandmates play more conventional instruments, Bakara operates a laptop and synthesizer on stage, adding an assortment of odd and compelling sounds and textures to the group's songs, never detracting from their propulsive urgency. "Hadji is Wolf Parade's secret weapon," declares *Exclaim!* magazine.

Bakara downplays concerns that the band might be a victim of its own success. Many much-hyped groups,

THE ARCADE FIRE

No band exemplifies Montreal's current heavy-weight status in the music world the way Arcade Fire does. The group's *Funeral* is one of the most amazingly self-assured first albums by any band in recent memory, and was nominated for two Grammys and three Brit Awards. David Bowie regularly hands out copies of the album to friends, while Coldplay frontman Chris Martin says, "When we heard *Funeral*, we were all prepared to get day jobs."

Arcade Fire founder Win Butler, BA'04, pursued the decidedly un-rock and roll study of scriptural interpretation at the Faculty of Religious Studies. "The program was really interesting, I liked the professors and all the classes were in a really beautiful building," he told the *Georgia Straight*.

After spotting McGill jazz student Régine Chassagne singing at an art show, he invited her to join his fledgling group. She was reluctant, thinking he was trying to pick her up (her instincts weren't all wrong – the two are now married). Both have wide-ranging musical interests – she performed in a medieval musical troupe during her McGill days, his grandfather was big-band leader Alvino Rey – and are one of pop music's most formidable songwriting teams. The Arcade Fire is planting permanent roots in Montreal, building its own recording studio in a former church.



THE HIGH DIALS

The High Dials, whose members include Trevor Anderson, BA'97, MA'99 and Robb SurrIDGE, BA'99, haven't yet achieved the kind of breakout success that bands like the Arcade Fire and Wolf Parade have enjoyed, but there are indications that the group might not be too far off. The band recently picked up some big-name boosters – musician/actor Steven Van Zandt (the only man to serve as a trusted lieutenant to both Bruce Springsteen and Tony Soprano) and former Rolling Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham are both fans of the High Dials' contemplative, '60s-flavoured tunes. The *Washington Post* and *Magnet* and *Nuvo* magazines list the band's *War of the Wakening Phantoms* as one of last year's best albums, while Montreal *Gazette* critic Jordan Zivitz declares, "At his best, Trevor Anderson is Montreal's most gifted songwriter."



GONZALES

One of the most remarkable displays of musicianship demonstrated in Montreal last year came courtesy of eclectic pop sophisticate Gonzales (also known as Jason Beck, BMus'94). During a concert last autumn, Gonzales, unaccompanied on keyboards, played only instrumental music, most of it from his recent *Solo Piano* CD, occasionally ripping out surprisingly textured and vibrant renditions of such typically cheesy fare as Lionel Ritchie's "Hello." Then, to cap it all off, he sped through a wry and pitch-perfect "summary" of the entire concert. The crowd was spellbound. It explains why artists as varied as Jane Birkin and Daft Punk seek him out. Gonzales co-produced (and co-wrote many of the songs for) friend Feist's recent Juno-winner, *Let it Die*.



like the Strokes, suffer from a backlash once they release their second albums.

"There's always a fear that the perfunctory interest in a band won't be sustained beyond the initial media storm. We're confident in our music. We think people will want to keep listening."

Bakara has his own take on why Montreal is producing so many successful bands right now. He gives much of the credit to fellow McGill graduate Mauro Pezzente and his group, Godspeed! You Black Emperor.

"It never would have happened without Godspeed's money," Bakara posits. Godspeed members invested in the city by building recording studios and establishing concert venues (Pezzente co-owns a couple of prominent concert halls) that have benefited many bands. "Pop music in this city wouldn't have emerged the way it did without that."

asked if he has any tips for aspiring festival organizers. "But if you are going to take on something that's this crazy, you better be passionate about what you're doing."

Pop Montreal has a reputation for being laid-back, a festival that is decidedly less corporate than its counterparts in other cities, where bands gear their concerts to record company talent scouts, not to fans. Seligman and his Pop Montreal team (which features plenty of McGill graduates, including executive producer Noelle Sorbara, BA'00, and managing director Mary-Catherine Anderson, BA'95) try to keep things as intimate and relaxed as possible.

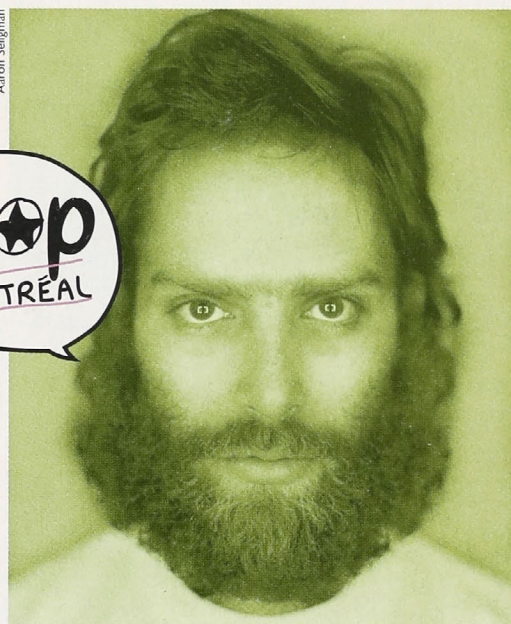
Jiggy with his Jewishness

Seligman also manages the career of Josh Dolgin, BA'00, a unique voice on the hip-hop scene who performs and records under the name Socalled. Dolgin headlined one of Pop Montreal's most memorable shows last year, his

Aaron Seligman



From left to right:
Pop Montreal
creative director
Daniel Seligman,
Josh Dolgin, a.k.a.
Socalled, Arcade Fire's
Win Butler and
Régine Chassagne



Pop goes the festival

Daniel Seligman, BA'00, has also played an important role in nurturing Montreal's music scene. Seligman is the co-founder and creative director of Pop Montreal, an annual autumn festival that showcases a wide variety of musical artists, both local and international.

Headliners last fall included Beck and Mercury Award winners Antony & the Johnsons, but most of Pop Montreal's acts are promising groups struggling to find an audience. The festival provides an invaluable showcase. And in a city that is very discriminating when it comes to festivals – Montreal's jazz and comedy festivals are world-renowned – Pop Montreal has carved out a solid niche for itself since its inception in 2002.

According to the *Montreal Gazette*, Pop Montreal has managed to achieve "major-festival status without losing its street cred." The *National Post* says it's "the hottest new-music festival in the country."

"There is no recipe for success," Seligman replies when

unruly mop of hair flailing as he juggled the accordion, the piano and computerized sound effects, sharing the stage with alt-country crooner Katie Moore, BA'98, a rapper, a violinist, a beat-boxer, 90-year-old pianist Irving Fields and an assortment of other musicians who combined to create a joyfully chaotic whirl.

Dolgin's first CD, *The Socalled Seder*, marries old musical traditions with new. It's a hip-hop record that's chock-full of cantorial music, old Yiddish theatrical tunes and klezmer rhythms – sounds one typically doesn't expect to hear on a hip-hop offering.

A few years ago, Dolgin wouldn't have expected to hear them either. A longtime hip-hop enthusiast, Dolgin has amassed a record collection of over 4,000 albums, combing used record stores for interesting sounds he could sample when making music of his own. In the process he stumbled upon Jewish recordings from decades past and became enthralled.

"Listening to these old records, there was a whole dif-

ferent kind of flow, a whole way of making music that was really catchy." He hunted for more of these records, attending conferences devoted to old Jewish musical traditions to track them down. Dolgin says much was wiped out thanks to the Holocaust and other forces.

"Stalinism in Russia stomped out the last vestiges of Yiddish in Europe. And when Jews came to America after the war, a lot of them wanted to shed their cultural identity and just pretend to be like everyone else."

Dolgin enlisted an impressive and eclectic group of musicians to help craft *The Socalled Seder*, including Wu Tang Clan hip-hop star Killah Priest and clarinetist and Kronos Quartet collaborator David Krakauer.

While hip-hop is generally considered to be the music of black urban America, "hip-hop is evolving and it can express any number of things," says Dolgin. As a white Jewish boy from small-town Quebec, he isn't rapping



about gangstas, guns or ghettos. "But doing this, making this music fresh and relevant, that does make sense coming from someone like me."

He is winning over some impressive fans. Irving Fields, a veteran composer who penned hit songs for the likes of Dinah Shore and Guy Lombardo, is one. Another is Emmy winner Theodore Bikel, best known from his long Broadway run as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Bikel saw Dolgin in action at a Yiddish festival in Poland and was so impressed he volunteered his services for *Socalled's* next album.

Thanks to the breakout success of bands like Arcade Fire and Wolf Parade, publications like *Spin* and the *New York Times* have been quick to label Montreal "the next big thing" in music. Pop Montreal's Seligman thinks the attention is well merited.

"I don't think we'll be a flash in the pan," he says. "There are bands here doing substantial things. And this is a city that always attracts interesting people, people who come here and add to the flavour of the place." 🐦

TUNEFUL TREASURES

Looking for advice on what McGill-related CDs to search out in music stores or on eBay? We asked a few alumni experts for suggestions:

Bernard Perusse, BCL'76, LLB'77, entertainment journalist with the Montreal Gazette

- **Burt Bacharach: The Look of Love box set (2003)**
One of the few box sets I keep returning to – so I can be dazzled each time by the tricky arrangements and brilliant songcraft. Bacharach, AMus'48, DMus'72, is one of pop music's hall-of-famers.
- **Leonard Cohen: Field Commander Cohen (2001)**
This live show from 1979 seems to capture Cohen, BA'55, DLitt'92, at the top of his game, with the work of violinist Raffi Hakopian making a near-perfect moment all the more special.
- **The High Dials: War of the Wakening Phantoms (2005)**
A group with its heart firmly in the right place and one that actually delivers the songs – courtesy of Trevor Anderson, BA'97, MA'99. Their first disc was terrific, the second was even better.

Daniel Seligman, BA'00, creative director for the Pop Montreal music festival

- **Socalled: Ghetto Blaster (2006)**
A new album on Label Bleu. A brilliant mélange of voices, styles, samples and soul from Socalled (also known as Josh Dolgin, BA'00). And we were in Yiddish literature together at McGill.
- **Gonzales: Solo Piano (2005)**
Burt Bacharach meets Keith Jarrett.
- **Arcade Fire: Funeral (2004)**
For its classic pop sensibility.

Carl Wilson, BA'89, music critic and columnist for the Globe and Mail

- **Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man (1988)**
This album by McGill's patron sinner-saint divides listeners bitterly: some think of it as his post-new wave classic, the moment when Cohen let his sardonic Zen humour finally show its full bald face as he both satirized and sacralized the plasticity of 1980s culture, using crappy-sounding keyboards as his spiritual vehicles. And everyone else is wrong.
- **Pest 5000 (a.k.a. P5K): Interabang (1996)**
One of the many glorious Montreal never-weres: P5K was led by bassist Patti Schmidt, BA'91, host of CBC Radio's *Brave New Waves* and a veteran of McGill's campus radio station CKUT. Their songs were barely restrained explosions of brainy giddiness and sarcasm layered over intense fragility, with a cornucopia of hooks. If they were around now, they'd easily seduce the fans of the Arcade Fire and Wolf Parade.
- **Sackville: These Last Songs (1998)**
This sadly neglected group was headed by McGill drama graduate Gabriel Levine, BA'98, whose poignant songs stood out among the "alternative country" current at the time, with echoes of Appalachian ballads, Tom Waits and Giant Sand.

For more on McGill's links to pop music, including a comparison of the careers of Burt Bacharach and Leonard Cohen, please visit www.mcgill.ca/news.



L'équipe sportive de McGill qui connaît le plus de succès actuellement est aussi l'une des plus improbables. Ces athlètes ont les dents bien aiguisées et la ferme intention de se tailler un chemin vers le championnat. *par* NEALE McDEVITT

Coupez!

IL EST 6 H À L'ARBORETUM MORGAN. SUR LE SENTIER qui y mène, la neige est si compacte qu'elle absorbe presque entièrement le bruit des pas. Un lièvre surgit derrière un tas de bois et court aussitôt s'abriter dans l'épaisseur rassurante d'un bouquet d'arbres, non sans faire voler dans sa hâte quelques houpettes de neige poudreuse. À part les étoiles et l'unique réverbère éclairant un hangar au bout du sentier, la forêt est d'une inquiétante noirceur. On pourrait croire qu'il ne reste plus sur terre âme qui vive.

Soudain, la porte du hangar s'ouvre toute grande. Une bonne douzaine de personnes en sortent à la hâte et plongent aussitôt au sol pour y exécuter une série de tractions. Après s'être remis sur pied d'un bond, les membres du groupe descendent ensuite le sentier au pas de course en direction du stationnement. Les visages qui défilent ainsi sont jeunes, déterminés et, étonnamment, éveillés. Quarante mètres plus bas, ils font demi-tour et reprennent la course en sens inverse, terminant par une nouvelle série de pompes dans la neige.

S'agit-il d'un camp militaire? D'opérations secrètes en vue de sauver le monde libre? Pas du tout, ce n'est qu'un jour comme les autres pour les Clansmen, les bûcherons de McGill (campus Macdonald), une des grandes équipes de sports forestiers universitaires au

Canada. L'équipe se prépare actuellement en vue d'une prochaine compétition qui se tiendra à Truro, en Nouvelle-Écosse, dernier événement de la saison de la Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Association (CILA). Alors que l'escouade féminine espère terminer la saison parmi les trois premières, l'équipe masculine est en bonne position pour remporter à nouveau la coupe CILA des champions.

À l'aube d'un petit matin blême

À l'heure où la plupart des Montréalais se frottent encore les yeux pour en chasser les restes de sommeil, ces bûcherons et bûcheronnes ont déjà coupé, scié et débité une petite forêt de billes. Pendant qu'en robe de chambre et en pantoufles, leurs concitoyens sirotent leur café, ils sanglent leurs jambières métalliques pour éviter les pernicious coups de hache. Et pendant que les banlieusards pestent en silence contre la circulation, bien au chaud dans leurs voitures tout confort, ils grimpent dans des poteaux de douze mètres hérissés d'éclats, chaussés de crampons qui ressemblent à des pièges à ours. Le football compte sans doute son lot de termes virils tels que « blitz » et « bombe », mais nulle part ailleurs que dans les sports de bûcherons peut-on voir des gens faire virevolter des haches affûtées comme des rasoirs et participer à des compétitions aux noms aussi évocateurs que Crosscut to Death (« tronçonnage à finir »).

Même si les Clansmen sont connus pour s'entraîner huit fois par semaine avant les compétitions impor-

tantes, l'entraîneur John Watson, diplômé en agriculture (1973) et responsable des opérations forestières de l'arboretum Morgan, est convaincu que l'entraînement avant le lever du soleil est le véritable catalyseur du succès. « D'autres équipes s'entraînent l'après-midi », lance-t-il d'un air moqueur, les yeux à peine ouverts tel un lion des savanes qui vient d'apercevoir un gnou boitillant. « Ça élimine ceux qui ne sont pas sérieux. »

Et ne vous méprenez pas, ces athlètes sont sérieux. Tandis que les femmes commencent leur entraînement par une rude séance d'empilement de billes – où, deux par deux, les bûcheronnes traînent de lourds rondins le long d'une rampe grossière en s'aidant exclusivement d'un tourne-billes à éperon (un inquiétant instrument à deux branches pointues qui semble sortir tout droit des sombres donjons de la Tour de Londres) –, les hommes se préparent pour une petite séance de tronçonnage.

Armés de la classique scie à deux hommes et jumelés deux à deux, les bûcherons se relaient pour couper de minces disques (appelés biscuits) à partir d'un épais rondin solidement attaché à un chevalet de sciage. Les équipes les plus expérimentées font preuve d'un synchronisme et d'une coordination que l'on voit parfois chez les danseurs et les hockeyeurs de la même ligne et qui font paraître aisées les tâches les plus difficiles. Les biscuits de bois tombent par terre comme la cendre d'un cigare géant.

La grâce et la simplicité du mouvement deviennent plus évidentes lorsque des équipes moins expérimentées



Owen Egan

Patrick MacDougall, étudiant en économie agricole et capitaine des Clansmen de McGill, photographié en plein élan lors de la compétition de coupe à la hache (verticale)

tées se présentent pour se faire la main. Au début, la scie glisse rapidement, dans un jeu de va et vient, et atteint le point médian avec facilité. Mais dans le dernier tiers, la lame se met à osciller et les dents, à mordre durement le bois. La longue lame s'arrête soudain dans un soubresaut. L'entraîneur Watson esquisse un petit sourire sous sa tuque de laine.

Le risque et la récompense

Quand on lui demande si tous les membres de l'équipe ont encore tous leurs membres, Alison Poirier, étudiante de première année en économie agricole, sourit. « Presque », dit-elle sans broncher, tout en apportant les dernières rectifications à ses jambières métalliques avant de se présenter à son tour à l'épreuve dite

Les athlètes eux-mêmes ne semblent pas se formaliser de l'absence de battage autour de leur sport, contrairement à d'autres sports tels que le hockey, le football et le soccer.

« Qu'est-ce qui se passe, Kyle, demande-t-il. Tu as pris un scotch de trop hier soir? » Les autres rient tout bas pendant que ce jeune roi Arthur tente de dégager sa récalcitrante épée chantante.

La plus grande équipe?

Watson est un fervent mcgillois toujours heureux de raconter la naissance de l'équipe, en 1954. McGill avait alors invité les Aggies de Macdonald à participer à son deuxième concours de bûcherons intra-muros et inter-collégial annuel. Bien que néophytes et n'ayant eu qu'une semaine pour se préparer à rencontrer certains des athlètes les plus éminents de McGill, les Aggies dirigés par Bob Watson, le père de John, avaient ramené à la maison la coupe du championnat. Depuis ce temps, l'équipe n'a connu que deux entraîneurs, Watson père et Watson fils.

Les athlètes eux-mêmes ne semblent pas se formaliser de l'absence de battage autour de leur sport, contrairement à d'autres sports tels que le hockey, le football et le soccer. C'est l'originalité de leur sport qui les a d'abord attirés. « Ce n'est pas normal, lance en souriant Valérie Quesnel, capitaine et étudiante en deuxième année du programme de gestion et technologie agricoles. Courir derrière un ballon autour d'un champ, ça ne m'intéresse pas. »

Johnathan Blais, également étudiant en gestion et technologie agricoles, est l'exemple parfait de celui qui a découvert sa personnalité athlétique comme bûcheron. À sa deuxième année seulement avec les Clansmen, ses progrès fulgurants l'ont placé parmi l'élite des bûcherons universitaires canadiens. « Il n'est pas particulièrement doué pour d'autres sports, déclare Watson avec réalisme, mais c'est un bûcheron exceptionnel. Si nous le laissons sortir à quatre heures du matin, il le ferait. » Blais terminera finalement la saison à un seul point du championnat des marqueurs de la ligue, et il sera l'un des deux seuls Canadiens à se qualifier pour le tournoi Loggersports Collegiate Invitational, une grande compétition américaine qui se tiendra l'été prochain.

« Underhand Chop », où le bûcheron doit couper le rondin sur lequel il se tient. « Bien sûr, il y a cette fille qui a connu un incident à la hache l'an dernier. » Un incident? Interrogée davantage, Poirier décrit cette malheureuse bûcheronne qui, à la suite d'un rebond malencontreux, s'est frappée elle-même entre les deux yeux avec sa propre lame de hache. « Oh! elle va bien, raconte Poirier, mais elle a une très jolie cicatrice. »

Entre les tours de fente de rondins, Kayla McCann, étudiante de deuxième année en gestion et technologie agricoles, confirme les faits. « Oui, elle a été plutôt chanceuse, lance McCann avec conviction. Le médecin [qui a traité la blessure] a dit qu'en fait, si on devait être frappé à la tête avec une hache, c'était la meilleure place pour cela. » Sur ce, McCann s'élance calmement et fend une bûche de bonne dimension en deux.

Watson se tient à l'écart et surveille la scène. « Ces jeunes sont tous des enfants de la ferme, dit-il. Ils n'ont pas peur de la besogne. Ils lancent des bottes de foin, traient les vaches et font leurs corvées. S'ils ne prenaient pas cet entraînement au sérieux, je ne serais pas ici à six heures du matin. » Watson n'en dira pas plus, il n'est pas du style à lancer des fleurs.

Il aura bientôt de bonnes raisons d'extérioriser ses sentiments. Ses protégés lui font honneur à Truro. Blais mène le bal, remportant trois épreuves et se classant premier parmi les 70 bûcherons participant à la compétition. Deux recrues des Clansmen, Bob Oligny et Chris Allen, remportent les grands honneurs aux compétitions de lancer de la hache et de scie à chaîne. McCann finit première à l'épreuve féminine de scie à chaîne. Tandis que les bûcheronnes de McGill terminent la saison en respectable troisième place, l'escouade masculine remporte son quatrième championnat consécutif.

Mais ces triomphes sont encore bien loin devant. En ce petit matin blême, l'attention de Watson se porte vers deux Clansmen qui échangent quelques mots au lieu de bûcher. « Vous voyez ça? Je m'éloigne et ils se laissent aller », dit-il d'un ton bourru, en s'engageant une fois de plus dans le sentier de neige compacte. 🐾

A cut above the rest

By the time most Montrealers are rubbing the sleep from their eyes, the lumberjacks and lumberjills on Macdonald's timbersports squads have cut, sawed and chopped through a small forest of lumber. While local folk sip coffee in housecoat and slippers, they're strapping on metal shin armour to ward off crippling blows from wayward axes. And as commuters curse the traffic from snug SUVs, they're sprinting up 40-foot poles barbed with splinters, wearing cleats that look like bear traps.

The teams are perennially among the top-ranked university timbersports squads in the country and coach John Watson, DipAg'73, believes that the regular pre-dawn training sessions are part of the reason why. "This weeds out the ones who aren't serious."

It's hard not to be impressed by these athletes in action. Armed with two-man saws, pairs of woodsmen take turns lopping off thin disks of wood (called cookies) from a thick log strapped to a saw horse. Among the experienced pairs is a synchronicity and coordination often seen between dancers and hockey linemates – an unspoken understanding that makes a difficult physical task seem effortless. Wood cookies fall to the ground like ash flicked from a giant cigar.

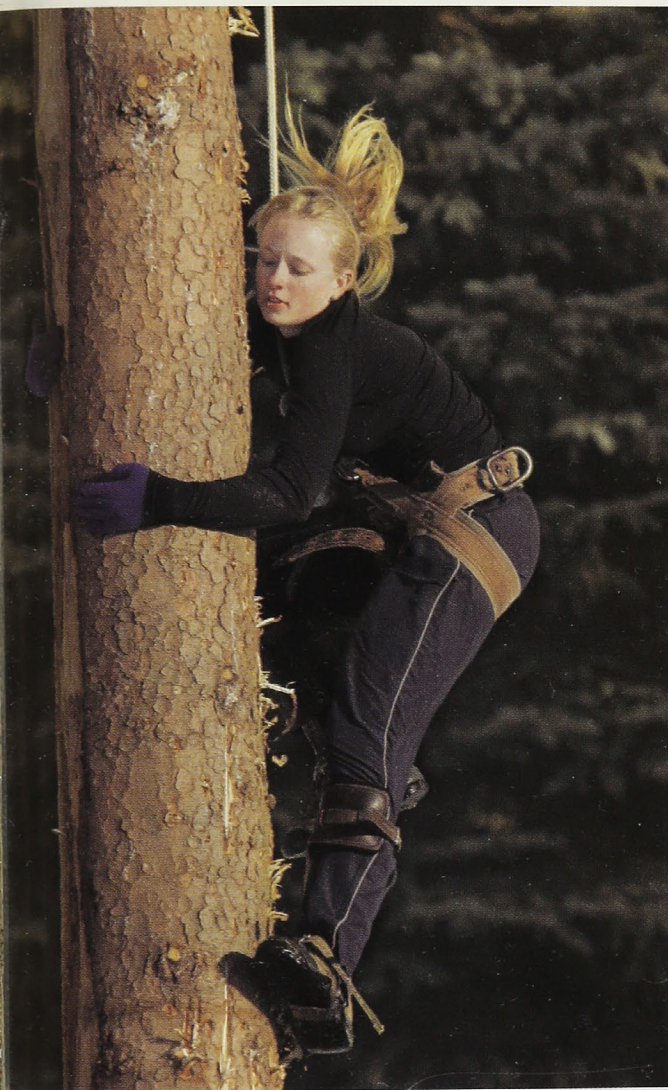
Although the squads are among the University's most successful teams (the Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Association website claims the Mac woodsmen have "the greatest winning record of all McGill teams"), they toil in relative obscurity – especially beyond the Mac campus where the spotlight falls on higher profile sports. But the athletes don't mind the lack of fanfare – the unique nature of the sport is what attracted them in the first place. "This isn't normal," smiles women's captain, Valerie Quesnel, a second-year student in the Farm Management and Technology program. "I don't want to chase a ball around a field."

When asked if everyone on the team has all their body parts, Alison Poirier, a first-year Agricultural Economics student, smiles. "Mostly," she deadpans. "Of course, there was that girl last year who had the episode with the axe." Poirier describes an unlucky lumberjill who, thanks to a fluky bounce, managed to hit herself between the eyes with her own axe blade.

Teammate Kayla McCann, a second-year student in Farm Management and Technology, chimes in. "Yeah, she was pretty lucky," McCann says. "The doctor [who treated the wound] actually said if you're going to get hit in the head with an axe, that was the best place to do it."

"These are all farm kids," Watson says. "They aren't afraid of hard work. They pitch hay, milk cows, they do their chores. If they weren't serious about this, I wouldn't be out here at six in the morning."

This article first appeared in the McGill Reporter. Full English text is available in the online edition of the News at www.mcgill.ca.



Owen Egan



*En haut : Lise Cobitz, étudiante en nutrition humaine, défie les lois de la gravité lors d'une passionnante escalade de poteau
Au bas : Les membres de l'équipe de McGill font leur possible pour venir à bout d'une grosse bûche*

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HIGH MARKS FOR

Good things really do come in small packages, judging by the crowds who have flocked to McGill's "Mini" educational programs *by* ANDREW MULLINS

IT'S A RAINY EVENING IN MAY, AND INSIDE THE COMFORT of McGill's newly built Tanna Schulich Recital Hall, an audience of 175 or so sit in rapt attention. Projected on a screen at the front of the hall is a film of the great classical pianist Alfred Brendel as he prepares for a recording cycle of Beethoven's piano concertos with conductor Sir Simon Rattle.

The recordings that resulted from these sessions in the late 1990s have been hailed as the definitive set of Beethoven concertos. And the woman who produced

them – McGill sound recording professor Martha de Francisco – is here in the recital hall, describing in her own words that special moment in music history. It's the second lecture of the Mini-Music program, and participants are getting their money's worth.

De Francisco takes them into the world of the recording engineer and producer, offering a backstage view that few ever see. Stories of working with legends like Brendel or soprano Jessye Norman. The art of microphone placement, the sleight of hand involved in

mixing enormous orchestral ensembles. The 90-minute lecture is packed with information. From the audience's enthusiastic response – they have far too many questions for de Francisco to answer – it's clear that McGill has another hit on its hands.

Mini-Music is the latest program of “mini” lectures for McGill. Last year saw the launch of Mini-Law, and the series that started it all, Mini-Med School, is now five years old. The programs have met with a demand more typical of some theatre extravaganza, not a lecture series by a cast of bespectacled academics. Waiting lists for registration slots run into the hundreds. Lucky participants get to turn down social engagements and brag in the same breath: “Wednesday night is out of the question, dear – I'm in medical school at McGill.”

“I knew it would be interesting and bring in a crowd,” says Dean of Medicine Abraham Fuks, BSc'68, MDCM'70, of McGill's initial Mini-Med School program. “But it surpassed even my most optimistic predictions.”

Small Beginnings

It should not be a complete surprise that people love to learn, but even for the program's founder, a McGill graduate, the scale of Mini-Med's success was a shock. In 1989, Dr. J. John Cohen, BSc'59, MSc'60, PhD'64, MDCM'68, was teaching at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver when he was asked by the chancellor to think of something that would show the local population what went on at the cloistered medical campus. Cohen came up with a brilliant notion. What if they put together a series of lectures that mirrored what students do in the first two years of med school? He recruited the Center's best teachers and they created eight lectures on basic medical science: anatomy, physiology, microbiology, pathology and the like. Then they sent out a press release.

“My only experience with any kind of outreach had been a bird-watching course I took at the local college, so I figured we'd get 20 people,” Cohen says with a chuckle. “The local newspaper ran a little article and by quitting time, 1,200 people had called trying to get in. We were staggered!”

Cohen's Mini-Med success began to be duplicated across the United States. Documentation on how to put together a Mini-Med school included a map pinpointing the rapidly growing number of universities that had started their own. “Mini-Med School: An Emerging Epidemic” read the map's heading.

Still, the contagion hadn't spread to Canada, until Kappy Flanders became infected. Flanders, a member of

McGill's Board of Governors, heard about the program at a conference in Dublin, sent away for the manual, and even travelled to Denver to see Mini-Med in action. McGill, she decided, had to do this. She quickly won over associate deans Dr. Yvonne Steinert and Dr. Mel Schloss. They brought Cohen to Montreal for a demonstration and Dean Fuks became a convert.

Big Success

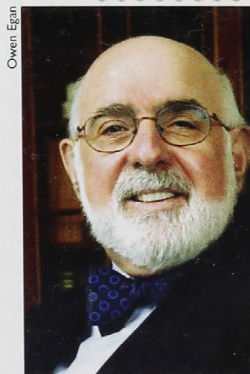
When McGill finally launched Canada's first Mini-Med series in 2001, the team had put in long hours developing the curriculum and recruiting some of the top faculty. Lecture titles included “Immunology: Safe Inside Your Skin” and “The Human Genome: The Enigma Variations.” Mini-Med would be accessible but it would be real medical science – no talking down to the audience, who ranged from high school students to octogenarians. Internationally acclaimed experts guided them through dense scientific territory. Brian Ward, often seen in the national media commenting on the bird flu threat, delivered the microbiology lecture. Renowned neurosurgeon Rolando Del Maestro's lecture “The Search for the Soul” took students into the arcane world of neuroscience. There were no tests, and you even got a diploma at the end of the series. Success was swift – Mini-Med became one of the hottest tickets in town. Mel Schloss credits much of the triumph to the irrepressible Flanders: “We call her the Dean of Mini-Med School.”

So successful was McGill's program that, like Cohen's original series in Denver, it was quickly copied by other universities across the country. University of Toronto launched their own Mini-Med, then McMaster University in Hamilton, University of Western Ontario, University of British Columbia, Queen's University in Kingston, University of Ottawa and Memorial University in St. John's. The Canadian epidemic was on, with McGill as the index case.

OR MINI SCHOOLS

Since then, Schloss has helped launch a version at the Montreal Children's Hospital where he is director of pediatric otolaryngology, and Mini-Med has also been offered at the Jewish General Hospital and through a seniors' association in Montreal. Lectures have been broadcast over the Internet to Macdonald Campus and to small towns in Northern Quebec. McGill's program won the gold medal for community outreach from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education. In all, over 80 schools have started Mini-Med, including versions in Malta and Ireland, and Cohen is helping start Germany's first school this year.

And when you have this big a hit on your hands, somebody usually starts thinking “sequel.” Having dealt with



Dean of Medicine
Abraham Fuks



The Mini-Law program “sold out within a week. I’ve never been happier to have someone say ‘I told you so.’”

ROSALIE JUKIER



Photos by Owen Egan

Top: Rosalie Jukier, Kappy Flanders
Bottom right: Music professor Abe Kestenberg offers his audience an insider’s perspective on the life of a musician at McGill’s Mini-Music School

the basic sciences, McGill’s organizers decided to develop a new series dealing with the clinical side of medicine. Mini-Med II began in 2005 and covered Internal Medicine, Surgery, Cardiology, Neurology and more.

In his Mini-Med II lecture, Dr. John Setrakian takes students into the mind of a doctor, illustrating how physicians think when they’re making a diagnosis, how the roots of a patient’s symptoms can range from the commonest causes to the most rare conditions, and how doctors sort that out.

Setrakian found teaching Mini-Med to be a novel experience. “In a way, it was like gathering a whole bunch of my patients in front of me and telling them all the things I would have liked to tell them about how I reason through and approach their cases.”

Course Content

Michael Green, a businessman who has attended all three Mini programs in Medicine, Law and Music with his wife, appreciates the clarity with which teachers like Setrakian communicate highly technical concepts. Through the Mini lectures, he says, “you feel connected to these other worlds.”

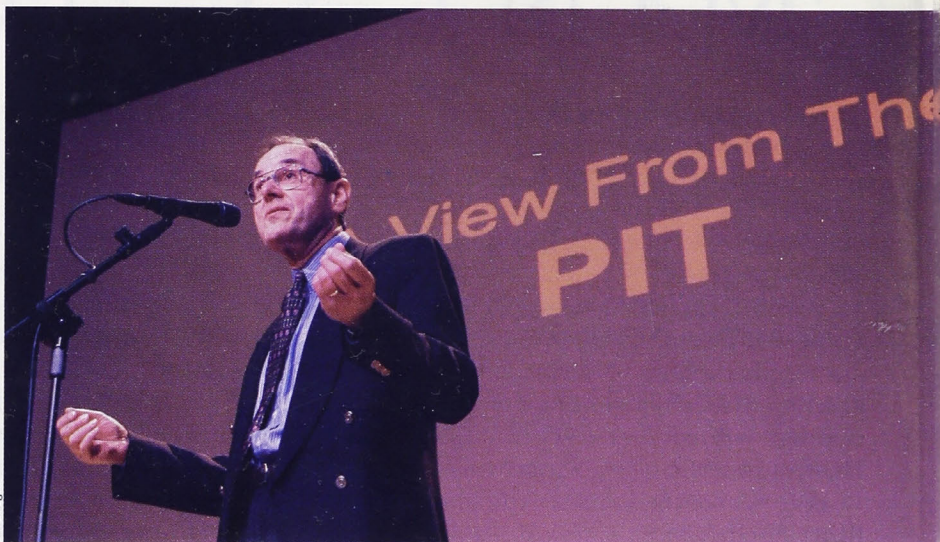
“It’s very inclusive, not exclusive, and I like the way it’s presented,” says Green. “It’s great to listen to a surgeon talk about operating on eyes, and the audience going ‘Ewww!’ To listen to somebody describe how you would operate on an eye! I for one always thought there was practically nothing they could do to an eye. But they can do many things. So the doors get opened. Too often in our lives those doors are closed.”

Law professor Rosalie Jukier, BCL’83, LLB’83, is on leave from McGill for two years at the National Judicial Institute in Ottawa, developing and delivering legal education to Canadian judges of all levels. But she is returning this fall as the chair of Mini-Law because she has enjoyed organizing the series so much. Kappy Flanders had gone to

her after the success of Mini-Med and told her she thought the public would be as interested in learning about law as they were about medicine. “And she was right,” Jukier says. “It sold out within a week. I’ve never been happier to have someone say, ‘I told you so.’”

Jukier describes Mini-Law as an academic course, not a legal advice seminar. “We don’t have a session on how to deal with your landlord, or practical tips on spousal support.” The program flows naturally from lecture to lecture, moving from broad philosophical concepts like “What is law?” to how legal issues go through the court system, then onto public law fields like human rights and criminal law, and the private areas of contracts, corporate law and family law.

She herself was a Mini-Law lecturer. “It was one of the most fun things I’ve ever done. Actually conceiving of how to present to a lay audience interesting things about the law of contracts, where they didn’t have any background and hadn’t done any homework or reading, was a very big challenge. You have to think of ways to present this material in a fun and engaging manner.” She used a clip from the indie film *Igby Goes Down* that featured a conversation about contracts and then dissected the clip as a way of uncovering the popular myths. Students learned a contract doesn’t have to be in writing, and that even if things are written down very clearly, a court has all sorts of options for tempering contractual agreements. Or what happens to contractual obligation if one



Owen Egan

PORTRAIT OF THE DOCTOR AS A YOUNG GEEK



of the parties dies? "You can't get out of your contractual obligations by dying. Not a good trick."

Holding the audience's attention through sometimes unconventional means has been a primary feature of all the Mini lectures. Dean of Law Nicholas Kasirer, BCL'85, LLB'85, used paintings to illustrate points of family law. Professor Gordon Foote's Mini-Music lecture on jazz featured a live band. In Mini-Med, complex computer animations were developed by the multimedia experts in the McGill Molson Medical Informatics Project, and for some of the more clinical subjects, students were treated to some good old-fashioned blood and guts. "There were videos of procedures such as heart surgery, endoscopic surgery, interventional techniques in radiology," says Dr. Mel Schloss. "They see exactly what goes on."

The Dean of Medicine always reserves space for potential students. "We have been able to attract high school and CEGEP students, and students from First Nations," says Fuks. "We're trying to encourage a career in the health sciences among young men and women in and around Quebec. So this is a way of introducing them to McGill and to a career in medicine."

Rosalie Jukier does the same. "I think it's important for students to get a taste of what a legal education is all about, because I think they don't have any idea. Even if they don't apply, the exposure is a wonderful thing."

That includes exposure to some of the best teachers in the country who put in many unpaid hours of work and there are no publication credits to list among their academic accomplishments. Fuks points out "I spent a lot more time preparing my Mini-Med talk [on the human genome] than I spend on a seminar to my peers: working with the audiovisual people, reading up on it, and trying to reformulate it in a way that made sense to a non-technical audience."

But there is no shortage of volunteers. "Not only was it not difficult to get the professors to agree," says Rosalie Jukier, "but I have professors knocking down my door to do the lectures."

And the audience is knocking down the doors to get in. John Cohen is thrilled at how his brainchild has evolved. "It's brilliant. It's the one thing the University has that no one else does – knowledge. People like an intellectual workout. We've got something that people out there desperately want." 🐦

What's a six-year-old science nut to do when his parents won't buy him a chemistry set? Well, it's amazing what you can achieve with simple household chemicals. So explains University of Colorado medical professor J. John "JJ" Cohen (pictured), the inventor of Mini-Med School, as he recalls blowing things up in his basement while experimenting with hydrogen as a kid. "When your parents won't buy you acid, you can use drain cleaner to make your own hydrogen."

His obsession with science paid off early. The summer he was 11, growing up one block from the Jewish General Hospital, Cohen met his mentor, Martin Hoffman, who had a lab at the hospital. "He gave me a job counting radioactive iodine, which I suspect nowadays would not be recommended for 11-year-old kids. Hoffman taught me so well that the next year the biochemistry lab hired me for the summer to actually do routine patient biochemistry. And I went on doing that right through high school. It was handy that I lived next door, so if there was an emergency in the middle of the night, I could get there fast to do the blood sugar. Those lab chemists insisted that I be accurate and reliable, otherwise patients would suffer, so I was beautifully trained."

By the time Cohen was a medical student at McGill, Hoffman had moved to the Royal Victoria Hospital, a McGill teaching hospital, and so Cohen renewed his training under his hero. "In my mind, he is one of the greatest faculty that ever worked at McGill."

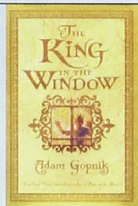
"When I tell people that Donald Hebb taught me Psych 100 at McGill, people who know about psychology say that would be like being taught Physics by Einstein. Or that Wilder Penfield taught me Neuroanatomy, they say, 'I can't believe it.' That was the way it was at McGill."

"I remember sitting in the classroom thinking, 'when I grow up, I'm going to be these guys.' That's been my goal my whole career. I want to have as much impact on my students as Donald Hebb, Wilder Penfield, and all those guys had on me. You say to yourself, 'Here's the most famous guy in experimental psychology teaching Psych 100 – he must think it's pretty important for us to understand it. And I better take advantage of this.'"

Cohen went onto a distinguished career in immunology and was one of the early experts in programmed cell death studies. Those famous McGill teachers made their impact: Cohen's passion for teaching has won University of Colorado's Excellence in Teaching Award every year since 1982 and he has been named Teacher of the Year five times.



The King in the Window, Miramax Books, 2005, \$26.95, by Adam Gopnik, BA'80



Children's books never used to garner much attention or critical respect, but things changed considerably with the remarkable success of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. In recent years, children's literature has attracted some top talents, including Isabel Allende, Neil Gaiman and Michael Chabon. Now it's award-winning *New Yorker* scribe Adam Gopnik's turn, with his imaginative offering, *The King in the Window*.

One of the book's chief strengths is its setting – Paris. It's a city that Gopnik knows intimately as the author of *Paris to the Moon*, a best-selling and affectionate memoir of the five years that Gopnik and his family spent there. Gopnik again offers insights into the city's unique charms and its less pleasurable aspects. For protagonist Oliver, a 12-year-old transplanted New Yorker, Paris is a city of stern schoolteachers and winter gloom until he stumbles upon a secret war between a power-hungry despot who operates inside mirrors and a noble (if somewhat ineffectual) troupe of 17th-century artists and artisans who live inside windows. To his consternation and bewilderment, Oliver is drafted to lead the good guys.

Oliver's allies are a colourful bunch indeed. Apart from the window wraiths who treat him as their monarch (and who count Molière and the Duc de Richelieu – he invented mayonnaise – among their members), they include a delightfully imperious historian and a mysterious band of unkempt street people.

Gopnik's approach is ambitious – he incorporates everything from quantum physics and Parisian history to *Alice Through the Looking Glass* as plot elements. In fact, he might be a little too ambitious – portions of the story are under-explained (who, exactly, are

those inline skaters who take part in the final assault?), while others are annoyingly unlikely (for instance, when Oliver deduces the identity of a key ally from a throwaway comment made by his father).

That said, Oliver is a likeable hero – bright, uncertain of himself and capable of some woeful missteps on his way to saving the day. The book is by turns suspenseful and droll. Potter addicts of all ages, desperate for a fantasy fix while Rowling writes her next book, should find ample relief in the pages of *The King in the Window*.

How Happy to Be, McClelland & Stewart, 2006, \$24.99, by Katrina Onstad, BA'94

The central character of CBC Arts Online journalist Katrina Onstad's debut novel, *How Happy to Be*, is cynical, self-destructive and overly fond of booze. The loss in childhood of her mother and her hippie father's inability to be much of a parent have left her wounded. She detests her job and doesn't like the guy she is sleeping with.



Sound like a pretty bleak book? Surprisingly, it isn't. Both wry and heartfelt, *How Happy to Be* packs an unexpected emotional wallop and offers up more than a few laughs. Its heroine, Max, is a film critic, interviewing celebrities like Ethan Hawke for a newspaper clearly modelled after the *National Post* (where Onstad used to work as a film critic interviewing celebrities like Ethan Hawke). Max misbehaves at work, yearning to get sacked, only to inadvertently impress the higher-ups who prize her "edginess."

Much of the book's pleasure stems from Onstad's biting observations about the inner workings of entertainment reportage – for instance, her description of grumpy publicists from the U.S. forced to ply their trade at a Toronto film festival. "American publicists in Canada carry

with them the anger of a very recent breakup, of a really terrible morning, a missed-the-alarm, stepped-in-dog-shit, got-mugged, bled-all-over-myself morning that ended five minutes ago."

Onstad also displays a knack for capturing the awkward ache in relationships that have skidded off the rails. An encounter between Max and an ex-boyfriend is nicely etched with shadings of regret, bitterness and lingering affection.

Max might be a mess, but she is a sly, engaging mess, and you can't help but root for her as she stumbles her way towards a potentially more fulfilling life.

If Max continues to follow in her creator's footsteps, she'll no doubt pen a stellar novel in Onstad's next book. And here's hoping there is a next book, whether Max turns up or not.

Saving Rome, Second Story Press, 2006, \$18.95, by Megan K. Williams, BA'88



Rome is infuriating – the traffic snarls, the nepotism, the casual sexism. Rome is also intoxicating – filled with gorgeous people with a natural talent for appreciating life's sensuous delights and a cuisine so spectacular that even its frozen food can knock your socks off.

Rome-based journalist Megan K. Williams, a freelancer who contributes regularly to the CBC and National Public Radio, knows the city well and appreciates its magical charms and unique frustrations as only an outsider can. Her first foray into fiction, *Saving Rome*, offers some insightful glimpses into the day-to-day details of life in one of the world's most fabled cities. Not all the tales in this collection of short stories take place in Italy, but each features some link to the land of Dante and Donatello.

Williams effectively conveys the voices of very different protagonists –



a divorcee diving back into the dating scene with mixed feelings; an older woman saddened and embittered by the fracturing of her family; a lesbian diplomat who accepts an Italian posting to jumpstart a life that has gotten stale and predictable; an aspiring author being driven mad by an unwelcome house guest.

As her characters wrestle with a variety of conundrums, Williams treats them sympathetically but never simplistically. And she offers a few belly laughs too – most notably in “Let the Games Begin,” an oddly sexy, touching and wonderfully antic love story.

My Life at the Bar and Beyond,

McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005, \$34.95, by Alex Paterson, BCL'56, LLD'94

There are plenty of Quebecers better known than Alex Paterson, but precious few who've made more valuable contributions to their home province. Paterson has taken on many roles over the years – influential lawyer, government advisor, Bishop's University chancellor, an advocate for the disabled, and a leader of the “No” forces during the 1980 Quebec referendum, among them.



He has also been an important part of recent McGill history. As the chair of McGill's Board of Governors in the early '90s, Paterson was determined to make the body more diverse and reflective of the community it served – aboriginal leader Mary Simon, LLD'92, and architect Arthur Lau, BArch'62, were among the people he recruited. Paterson also played a key role in the early days of the McGill University Health Centre and the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.

Paterson's book, *My Life at the Bar and Beyond*, revisits some of the highpoints of a remarkable career. If it's occasionally a little dry, it might

be that Paterson is too much of a gentleman to really dish the dirt.

For instance, in his section on Bishop's, he praises former principal Janyne Hodder, BA'70, MA'83, (who then served as McGill's vice-principal of inter-institutional relations for two years) for the fine work she did in improving the thorny relations between the school's faculty and administration when she took office. As a longtime Bishop's insider, Paterson is doubtlessly aware of where those tensions originated, but that topic isn't covered here.

Which isn't to say *My Life at the Bar and Beyond* is a bad read. There are plenty of memorable moments – ranging from the sullen young Russian diver who, during the '76 Montreal Olympics, can't decide whether or not he is defecting, to a glimpse into Mikhail Gorbachev's charisma as the suave Russian leader calms down a panicky translator during an appearance at McGill.

The book's best chapter recounts Paterson's frustrating experience representing the Quebec government in its negotiations with Mohawk leaders during the Oka Crisis in 1990. Paterson is critical of the way both sides conducted themselves during those discussions, painting a vivid portrait of a dangerous and chaotic moment in Canadian history.

by DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

The Freedom to Smoke: Tobacco Consumption and Identity,

McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005, \$27.95, by Jarret Rudy, PhD'01.

Within the last 100 years, cigarette smoking has undergone a transformation; from a pastime for the privileged to a prized male coming-of-age ritual and finally a despised and anti-social bad habit. In recent years, smokers have been herded into ever-smaller enclosures and then out of public buildings altogether.



Author Jarret Rudy, an historian and the director of McGill's Quebec Studies Program, traces the rise of tobacco as one of Canada's largest industries and the resulting impact as seen through the lens of French Canadian culture, specifically in Montreal between 1888 and 1950. Rudy focuses on a number of defining moments in his fascinating history, beginning with the arrival of mass-produced cigarettes in Canada. As tobacco production changed from skilled hand labour to machine manufacture, the cost of cigarettes dropped to less than a penny apiece. The fact that cigarettes were quicker to smoke than pipes and cigars vastly increased their appeal in the early 1900s when life began to move at a much quicker pace.

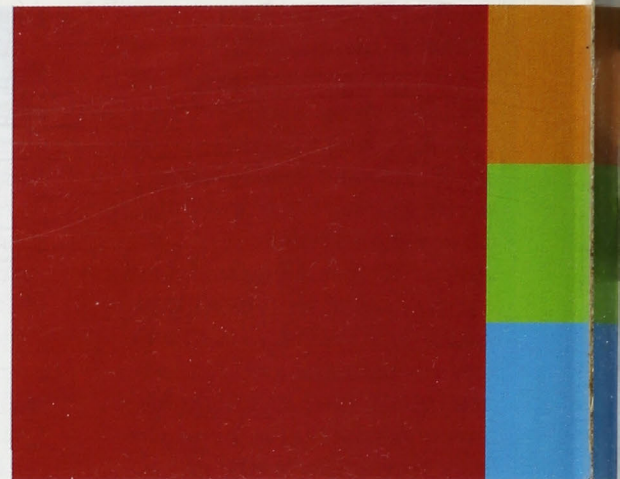
As smoking was taken up at all levels of Montreal society, Rudy notes how standards of etiquette also formed. For example, cigar store owners created smoking spaces for male customers to try new products, Montreal trams had a smoking section for male passengers who wished to smoke on their way to and from work, and many upper-class homes had a smoking room where the men retired to light up after dinner.

Social norms prevented “respectable” women from smoking, a taboo that persisted until World War II, when middle-class women began challenging many gender-based restrictions. Rudy dedicates the last chapter of his book to these social changes, describing how the war “pulled growing numbers of women into factory work and into the public.” With more independence and more money to buy cigarettes, women claimed their right to smoke.

A series of advertisements, quotes, news clippings, and political arguments enhance Rudy's text. This is a very readable book of interest to men and women, historians and general readers, smokers – and non-smokers – alike.

by MARION BUTLER, LMUS'04

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www.executive.mcgill.ca/alumni



Combating cancer in Caledon

The McGill Caledon Bike and Walk-a-Thon, organized by Karin Heidolph-Bremner, BCom'81, and Thomas Bremner, BA'80, is gearing up for its sixth year this coming fall. About 100 people took part in the event last year in Caledon, Ontario. A portion of registration fees is donated to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and lunch is provided. Contact the Toronto office at (416) 703-9795 or email toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca for more information.

Dress for success

In March, over 350 students took part in the Alumni Association's "Backpack to Briefcase" workshops on the sorts of skills soon-to-be grads will need in the real world. Topics ranged from dining etiquette to money management and job-hunting techniques. Francis Brunelle (right) from clothier Harry Rosen gives handkerchief tips to science student Horia Vulpe and engineering student Kealon Gell.



Owen Egan

Big Top in the Big Apple

The McGill Alumni of New York organized a recent trip to see the Cirque du Soleil production "Corteo." Among those who attended were Ron Le Vine, BSc'69 (second from left), Micki Le Vine (fourth from left), Andrea Pappas (sixth from left), Lloyd Olsson, BSc'83, Brett Hickey, BCom'02, Suzanne Scanlon Richardson, BA'88, Daphne Ronsil-Haddock, BCom'02, and Vincent Ronsil. In the foreground is Hessam Kalantar, BA'91, LLB'96.



The icemen cometh

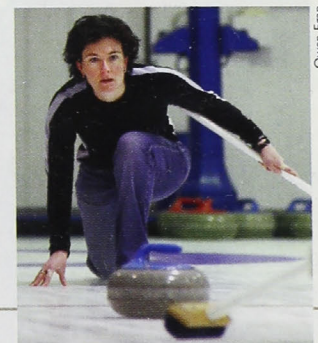
When the hockey Redmen earned their first-ever berth in the Canadian Interuniversity Sports National Championships, hosted this year by the University of Alberta, the Alumni Association sent out a call to local graduates to ensure there would be a robust cheering section. The Redmen lost out in the semi-finals, but took comfort in the fact that their season was among the best in the club's 130-year history. Coach Martin Raymond, BEd'90, MA'96, was named CIS coach of the year, while goalie Mathieu Poitras, an engineering student, earned All-Canadian honours.



Herb Madill, MA'80, Michael Churchill-Smith, MDCM'83, Carole Belanger and Gaetan Poitras, cheered McGill to a victory over Wilfrid Laurier

Casting stones

McGill Young Alumni president Catherine Cunningham, BA'99, CertHRMgmt'00, keeps careful watch as her stone glides down the ice. The MYA organized an afternoon of sweeping and sliding at the Royal Montreal Curling Club that attracted an enthusiastic crowd of Brad Gushue wannabees.



Owen Egan

Sugar, Daddy

Danielle Konig and dad Paul Konig, BEng'87, are set to sample something sweet at the Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival at the Kortright Conservation Centre in Woodbridge, Ontario. The Toronto Alumni Branch assembled a group of local graduates and friends of McGill, to trek to the festival for some gooey goodness.



Tara Kitts



McGill
Alumni Association

photos by NICOLAS MORIN



Honours RECIPIENTS 2005 Awards



It's too late, you missed it. The McGill Alumni Association's Honours and Awards Banquet has always been a popular event, and this year was no exception. The MAA gathered at the St. James's Club on May 19 for great company and bad jokes, and to pay tribute to some of the best volunteers of the year among McGill graduates, friends, faculty, students and staff. The News is pleased to offer warm congratulations to all award winners and thank all of McGill's extraordinary volunteers. For those who didn't make it to the event, here are some snapshots of the evening's highlights.



Principal Heather Munroe-Blum presented Robert Winsor with the Alumni Association's top prize, the Award of Merit. Among Winsor's many contributions to McGill: he was instrumental in the creation of Friends of McGill Football and helped oversee the renovation of the McConnell Winter Arena.

AWARD WINNERS

Award of Merit

Robert B. Winsor, BEng'62

E.P. Taylor Award

Doreen Laszlo, BEd(PE)'62, DDS'69

David Johnston Award

Nicholas Kasirer, BCL'85, LLB'85

Distinguished Service Awards

Stuart (Kip) Cobbett, BA'69, BCL'72, and Harold Blenkhorn, BSc(Agr)'50

Honorary Life Membership Awards

June Morrier and G. Stewart Brown

Faculty Award for Excellence in Alumni Education

Antonia Maioni

President of the Year Award

Brett Hickey, BCom'02

Special Recognition Award

*Kappy Flanders
(Mini-Med, Mini-Law, Mini-Music)*

Charles Peters Branch of the Year Award

McGill Alumni Association of Southern Alberta

Event of the Year Award

Yorkville Brunch and Gallery Tour organized by Mary Usher Jones, BA'67, and Andrea Alexander, BPE'60

D. Lorne Gales Award

Class of Engineering of 1955

Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Award

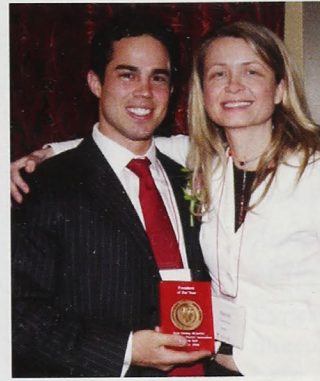
Shawna Starnes, BA'05, Jennifer Becker, BA'05, and Seong-Eun "Esther" Oh, BA'06



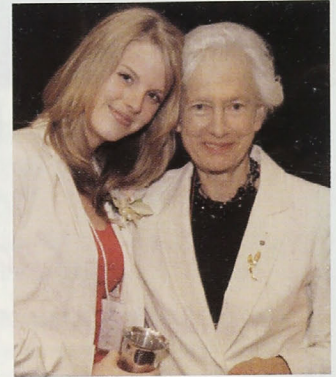
Changing of the guard: outgoing Alumni Association president Morna Flood Consedine, DipEd'71, MEd'77, DEd'85 (right), handed over the reins to successor (and the evening's master of ceremonies) Ann Vroom, BA'67, but not before receiving a gift from the MAA in appreciation of her many contributions.



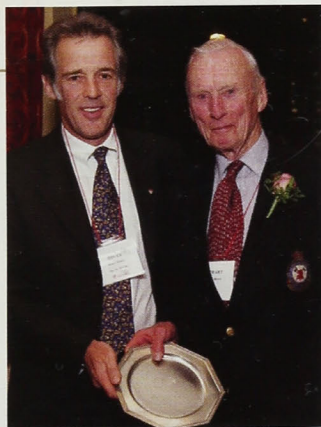
The Alumni Association of Southern Alberta earned the Charles Peters Branch Award for organizing a wide range of popular events, from symphony outings to softball games. C. Timothy Peters, BA'61 (the prize is named after his father, a longtime supporter of McGill and the MAA), presented the award to Silvia Scandella, BScArch'93, BArch'94, president of the Southern Alberta branch.



Brett Hickey, founding president of McGill's New York Young Alumni Association, received a friendly squeeze from Alumni/Annual Fund associate director Trish Duff, BA'88, after being named Branch President of the Year.



Former Student Organization for Alumni Relations president Shawna Starnes was one of three new alumnae to earn the Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Award from the prize's namesake, Chancellor Emerita Gretta Chambers.



G. Stewart Brown (right), who has played a pivotal role in funding undergraduate teaching labs, scholarships, research-oriented greenhouses and other priority projects at Macdonald Campus, received an Honorary Life Membership Award from MAA honorary secretary Bruce Dobby, BSc'76, DDS'81.



Honora Shaughnessy, MLS'73, Senior Executive Director of the Alumni Association, is flanked by Toronto Branch stalwarts Mary Usher Jones and Andrea Alexander, who earned Event of the Year honours for organizing an annual gathering for Toronto-area grads that features brunch and a tour of some of their city's finest art galleries.

Dean of Law Nicholas Kasirer (right) knows a thing or two about rallying the troops – his faculty boasts



the highest average giving level at McGill from its alumni, and the 2005 McGill Centraide Campaign, which he co-chaired, surpassed its fundraising target. Winner of this year's David Johnston Award, Kasirer received congratulations from former Dean of Law (and newly named president of the University of British Columbia) Stephen Toope, BCL'83, LLB'83, and former Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Deborah Buszard.



McGill's wildly successful "Mini" public lecture programs (Mini-Med, Mini-Law, Mini-Music), shepherded by Kappy Flanders, received a Special Recognition Award. Pictured are Flanders, former MAA president Sally McDougall, BSc'68, DipEd'69, and "Mini" program coordinators Sandy Eisen and Ibby Shuster.

MCGILL HOMECOMING 2006

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This year's Homecoming features a variety of exciting events. Swing to the sounds of McGill Jazz in an opening night concert. Meet some of your favourite McGill authors at Lunch et Livres. Laugh along with a sell-out crowd at the always hilarious Leacock Luncheon, featuring the colourful and witty defence lawyer Edward L. Greenspan, QC. And, of course, join your classmates at the special anniversary dinners and receptions, campus tours, as well as the "off-campus" events organized by individual classes.

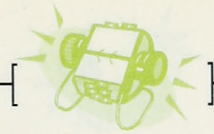
Homecoming 2006 will also feature Classes without Quizzes, a series of unique no-pressure classes on a variety of timely topics, along with the hugely popular Beatty Memorial Lecture, with distinguished author, evolutionary biologist and Oxford professor Richard Dawkins, and many other fascinating educational opportunities hosted by the faculties.

Come home to McGill for a weekend you won't forget!

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ON ALL **MCGILL HOMECOMING 2006** EVENTS, VISIT THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WEBSITE AT WWW.MCGILL.CA/HOMECOMING, CALL PINA LANNI AT (514) 398-8288 OR TOLL FREE 1-800-567-5175, OR EMAIL HOMECOMING.ALUMNI@MCGILL.CA.



MACDONALD CAMPUS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
The Macdonald community has been realizing Sir William's dream for one hundred years. Macdonald Campus will celebrate its Centenary beginning with Homecoming 2006 and throughout the year with special events and activities. Centenary celebrations will culminate at Homecoming 2007. Come join us at Homecoming 2006 to share in the 100th anniversary celebration.



AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

DENIS MARCHAND, BSc(Agr)'84, was named director of the Bureau de recherche institutionnelle at the Université de Montréal. Denis was formerly the Associate Director of Planning and Institutional Analysis at McGill for 18 years.

SHENG ZHANG, PhD'93, a World Bank executive, was named Chairman of the Public Sector at Citigroup Inc., as well as Vice Chairman of Global Banking.

ARCHITECTURE

BLANCHE LEMCO VAN GINKEL, BArch'45, recently delivered the opening address at the city planning symposium "Metropolises: Colloque Franco-Canadien Blanche Lemco van Ginkel." Blanche also received an honorary degree from the University of Aix-Marseille in France.

MARC DAEMEN, BSc(Arch)'77, BArch'78, and **PIERRE GENDREAU**, BSc(Arch)'79, BArch'80, were promoted to full associate-ships at the architectural firm of Gaudreau, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland.

KAREN L. ELDRIDGE, BSc(Arch)'88, has moved from Arlington, Va., to San Antonio, Texas, to be the Director of Business Development for Lake/Flato Architects, which was the 2004 AIA National Firm of the Year.

ARTS

DOUGLAS G. LOCHHEAD, BA'43, BLS'51, won the 4th annual Betocchi Prize for his landmark collection of poetry, *High Marsh Road*. The prize is offered by the Carlo Betocchi Centre in Florence, Italy, and carries a cash award of 5,000 Euros. Douglas is the first non-Italian to receive this award.

LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY, BA'49, MA'50, has published *The Complete Book of Numerology*, the 11th book in his series on the occult. He is co-editor of recent publications of international conferences of the American Society of Geolinguistics, of which he is president. Forthcoming are the proceedings of an international conference on the Geolinguistics of Foreign Language Teaching. Leonard is professor emeritus of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

MARTIN PUHVEL, BA'53, MA'54, has published his second book on *Beowulf*, titled *Cause and Effect in Beowulf*, which traces the

mental processes governing the characters' actions, words and attitudes in the epic poem. Martin is an emeritus professor in the Department of English at McGill.

ANTONIO R. GUALTIERI, BA'60, BD'61, STM'63, PhD'69, is emeritus professor of Religion at Carleton University. In 2004, McGill-Queen's University Press published his book *The Ahmadis: Community, Gender and Politics in a Muslim Society*.

MICHAEL SCHLEIFER, BA'64, PhD'71, is a professor in the Department of Education at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Michael has published *Talking About Feelings and Values with Children*, a resource for anyone with the desire to help children develop good judgment and an empathetic nature.

JUDITH A. WEISS, BA'67, is professor of Hispanic Studies and Drama at Mount Allison University. Her latest book, *Colombian Theatre in the Vortex: Seven Plays* (Bucknell University Press, 2004), is an anthology that Judith selected, translated and edited.

MICHEL VAIS, MA'69, a publiés mémoires *L'Accompagnateur: Parcours d'un critique de théâtre* (Éditions Varia, 2005). Michel est secrétaire général de l'Association internationale des critiques de théâtre depuis 1998.

TREVOR FARRELL, BA'70, was appointed Deputy Chairman of Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago, having served as a director since 1991. Trevor is also a business consultant and part-time lecturer at the University of the West Indies.

SHERRILL E. GRACE, MA'70, PhD'74, was elected president of Academy I of the Royal Society of Canada, a term that will last for two years. Her most recent book is *Inventing Tom Thomson* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004), and she is writing a biography of playwright Sharon Pollock. She is a pro-

fessor of English and Distinguished Scholar at the University of British Columbia.

NORMAN RUFF, PhD'73, is the 2005 recipient of the Pierre De Celles Award for excellence in the teaching of public administration from the Institute for Public Administration of Canada.

ABINA DANN, BA'74, was appointed Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine in November 2005.

ESTHER BIENSTOCK, BA'81, has written, directed and co-produced *Sex Slaves*, her latest documentary, which investigates the trafficking of women in the global sex slave trade. Esther worked undercover in Eastern Europe interviewing and following a wide range of people, including members of the Ukrainian secret service as well as the traffickers themselves.

PETER C. ZOLPER, BA'81, was appointed a Federal Judge to the Army Court of Criminal Appeals in Arlington, Virginia. Peter resides in Fairfax Station, Va., with his wife, Johanna, and their three daughters.

RACHEL MARTINEZ, BA'82, won the prestigious Governor General's Award in French translation for *Glenn Gould, une vie* by Kevin Bazzana (Éditions du Boréal, 2004).

FLORENCE BORDAGE, MA'86, was named Assistant General Director of the Institut national de l'image et du son in Montreal. Florence will be responsible for overseeing the institute's training programs in the television, movie and interactive media industry. She also announces that she has become the joyful mother of Anne-Mei.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRUNET, PhD'87, is chair of the Department of General Linguistics at the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, UAE. Previously, Jean-François was a professor of linguistics at the Université du Québec à Montréal.



Mortimer B. Zuckerman, BA'57, BCL'61, has donated \$100 million toward a new cancer research facility at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. When completed in 2009, the 693,000-square-foot complex will nearly double the size of Memorial Sloan-Kettering's research enterprise. Energy efficiency and environmental sustainability are integral to the design, which will also feature permanent art installations. Mortimer is chairman and editor-in-chief of *U.S. News and World Report*, publisher of the *New York Daily News* and founder of Boston Properties, Inc. He has been a lecturer at Yale University, an associate professor of city and regional planning at Harvard, and president of the Board of Trustees of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. He is the recipient of a number of honours and awards, including Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the government of France.



LOUISE J. BOUCHARD, PhD'88, a présenté une exposition originale des photos et collages à la Galerie du centre culturel Azur, Magog. En novembre 2003, Louise a reçu le Prix d'excellence offert par la Golden Key International Honour Society.

BENOIT LÉGER, BA'88, MA'91, PhD'00, était un finaliste pour le prix du Gouverneur général (traduction). Il a reçu le prix John-Glassco, décerné chaque année par l'Association des traducteurs et traductrices littéraires du Canada pour *Miracles en série*, traduction de *Various Miracles* de Carol Shields.

PETER STROM, BA'88, was named the 2005 CEO of the Year by the *Ottawa Business Journal*. Peter was nominated for the award based on his company's corporate performance, competitiveness and community involvement, as well as his personal leadership and vision.

LARA JOHNSON, BA'89, has joined the Don Corson Law Firm in Eugene, Oregon. Her focus is on personal injury with an emphasis on civil litigation, including nursing home cases.

RICHARD B. LEVY, BA'89, has joined the board of directors for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF at

its Southern California Chapter. Richard will serve on the board for a two-year term ending in 2007.

ROBIN BERTING, BA'90, has been appointed Director of Admissions at Korea International School in Bundang, Korea. He has been teaching English, French, Spanish and International Studies at both the secondary and university levels in B.C. and in Korea since 1995. Robin is married to Eun-ju Youn and they have a five-year-old daughter, Tina. Robin would love to hear from former McGill colleagues at hanyangberting@yahoo.com.

INDRA FREIBERGS, BA'90, CertProfSpan'98, moved to Latvia to work at the Latvian Investment and Development Agency (LIDA) in 1999, the same year that her mother, **VAIRA VIKE FREIBERGA**, PhD'65, DSc'02, became President of Latvia. Indra received her Master's in Diplomacy and International Relations in 2002 from the Université de Paris-Sud. Indra lives in London and is head of the LIDA representative office in the UK. As a diplomat, Indra develops trade relations between the UK and Latvia.

SARAH M. A. GUALTIERI, BA'90, accepted a

joint appointment to the Department of History and the program in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California in June 2005.

KATE KEATES, BA'90, received a Team Achievement Award from the Directors Guild of Canada for a 2004 episode of *DaVinci's Inquest*. Kate has been working in film and television production in Vancouver since 1993.

SUSANNE ANNAND, BA'92, MLIS'03, lives in Redmond, Washington, with her husband, Don McGowan, BA'92, BCL'97, LLB'97, and dog, Max. Susanne has joined Microsoft as a senior records management analyst, where her duties include helping Microsoft improve its company-wide records retention policies. Don is an attorney for Microsoft in the games studio and Xbox marketing division.

DEMIAN JEVREMOVIC, BA'92, DipAcc'98, is the owner of the pub Le Saint-Ciboire on St. Denis Street in the heart of Montreal's Latin Quarter. He is also a classical drawer and painter, working with pastel and oil media. Visit Demian and his pub at www.pubsaint-ciboire.com.

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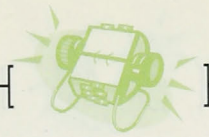
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DEBORAH WEINSTEIN, BA'70, and her sister, **JUDY (WEINSTEIN) LEWIS**, BA'77, were named PR Professionals of the Year at the Canadian Public Relations Society ACE Awards in April. The two are co-founders of Toronto-based Strategic Objectives, a full-service PR company, which also walked away with ACE Awards for Best of Show, Best Creative Campaign and Gold in Special Events. This is the first time a company has won both Best of Show and Best Creative Campaign for the same program in the same year.

ELIZABETH ORTON, BA'93, married **MICHAEL COX**, BA'93, in 1998. Elizabeth received her MA from Carleton University in 1999 and works as Director of Member Programs and Services for Community Foundations of Canada. Michael is a customs administrator for Telesat Canada. They have two daughters, ages 4 and 2, and live in Ottawa.

JOSEPH TORRES, BA'93, DipEd'94, is the regular writer for DC Comics' *Teen Titans Go!* and the Oni Press series *Love as a Foreign Language*.

KEVIN CHIN, BA'94, was named a 2005 Canada-U.S. Fulbright Fellow. Kevin will be researching his PhD on Canadian and American teachers' perspectives regarding human rights education at the Human Rights Center at the University of Minnesota.

GOLDA FRIED, BA'94, was nominated for the 2005 Governor General's Literary Award in fiction for her novel *Nellcott Is My Darling*.

VERA MORGADO, BA'94, works as an e-business expert for Siemens and lives in Germany with her husband and her son, Gabriel Afonso Vinzenz, who was born in November 2005.

LORIANN (LORCH) HERCHUK, BA'95, is pleased to announce the birth of her third son, Joshua Hans, in October 2004, a brother for Paul and Luke. Loriann currently home schools in Surrey, B.C.

HEATHER SANSOM, BA'96, MA'99, moved to Ottawa to take the position of Director of Sales and Marketing for itdepartment.com, an Ottawa-based IT outsourcing company. Heather also spends much of her time in competitive equestrian sport. Heather invites friends to contact her at hrsansom@hotmail.com.

JAMES BUCZYNSKI, BA'97, MLIS'00, and **Palmina Ioannone**, BA'92, are proud to announce the birth of their first-born, Joshua Thomas, in Toronto in September 2005. Palmina is a PhD candidate at the

University of Toronto and James is an electronic resources librarian at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology.

RACHEL PULFER, BA'97, has joined *Canadian Business* magazine as the Features Editor. Rachel has written and edited for publications including *Investment Executive*, *Azure*, *Toronto Life* and the *Ottawa Citizen*.

LAURA ACCURSO, BA'98, has joined the law firm Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti as an associate at its New York office. While working toward her JD at Syracuse University College of Law, Laura served as a member of the National Moot Court Competition Team, and participated as the Lead Articles Editor and Assistant Managing Editor of the *Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce*. Her current practice focuses on commercial, product liability and insurance litigation.

SUSAN BIRNIE, BA'98, graduated with a Master of Divinity from Queen's University in May 2005. She also gave birth to her first child, Thomas, in September 2005.

ALVIN CHUNG, MA'99, and his fiancé, **PAOLA CARROZZA**, MA'99, have relocated to Hong Kong. Alvin is a corporate communications senior account executive at Ketchum Newscan and Paola is temporarily in Taiwan conducting research for her doctorate.

CHARLES RHÉAUME, PhD'99, a historian with the Department of National Defence in Ottawa, was awarded the 2005 Jean Finot Biennial Medal for best humanitarian-oriented book by France's Académie des

Sciences morales et politiques for *Sakharov: science, morale et politique* (Laval University Press, 2004). The book analyzes the struggle of Andrei Sakharov, inventor of the Soviet H-bomb, for human rights to be enforced in his country, as well as the support for the cause among Western scientists. Charles received his medal at a ceremony in Paris last November.

CHLOÉ JACOB, BA'00, is in her first semester at HEC Montréal working toward her Master's in International Management.

MIRA ORECK, BA'00, has taken a position at the Pacific region of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) as Acting Regional Director. Mira will be responsible for the administration of the CJC office, as well as operations, policy issues and outreach to both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

DEBORAH RADCLIFFE-BRANCH, MA'00, defended her PhD thesis in McGill's Educational and Counselling Psychology department. Her research involved educational interventions for patients at the Cedars Breast Cancer Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Deborah also won a post-doctoral fellowship at the Geriatric Institute of the Université de Montréal.

SHAUNNA BURKE, BA'01, became the second Canadian woman to successfully climb to the summit of Mt. Everest, in May 2005. Shaunna's accomplishment came exactly a year after her first attempt at climbing Everest, which ended a mere 450 metres from the summit due to strong snow and winds.

DEVON A. DECELLES, BA'03, has just completed her master's degree in Architectural Conservation from the University of Edinburgh's College of Art.

MIKE MAHONEY, BA'05, has moved to Tajima, Japan, to teach English as a second language.

LAURA MORRIS, BA'05, and boyfriend **MIKE WAGMAN**, BA'05, won a grant from the organization Roadtrip Nation, which



ERIN STOCK, BA'99, moved in June 2005 from Montreal to Sydney, Australia, where she married her long-time love, Benjamin Austin, in November. The couple met eight years ago at a Golden Key International Honour Society convention in Los Angeles and say they are happy to finally be together enjoying the daily pleasures, adventures and surprises life has to offer. Erin works as a senior associate in communications for Mercer Consulting, the largest human resources consulting firm in the world.



lent them an RV for six weeks last summer to crisscross the USA and conduct 35 interviews with newsmakers to learn the secrets of their success. Among the interviewees were Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist **CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER**, BA'70, DLitt'93, Seattle Supersonics head coach Bob Weiss and hip-hop mogul Damon Dash. Their interviews will air this summer on PBS.

DENTISTRY

ANDREW TOEMAN, DDS'66, was inducted into the Academy of Dentistry International, which is devoted to the advancement of dentistry throughout the world and the elevation of dental standards through continuing education.

EDUCATION

VICTORIA JONAS, BEd'86, completed the 60K "Weekend to End Breast Cancer" walk last summer and raised over \$17,500. Victoria is Vice President of Sales for Connor, Clark and Lunn Capital Markets in Montreal and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Integrated Studies at Athabasca University. Victoria's husband, **ALAN KAPELANSKI**, DipPubAcc'93, is busy running his private practice.

MYRNA LASHLEY, MED'86, PhD'95, was appointed Honorary Consul for Barbados in Montreal by Billie Antoinette Miller, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade for Barbados, in July 2005.

LORI WEBER, DipEd'94, has published two young adult novels, *Klepto* (James Lorimer and Co., 2004) and *Split* (James Lorimer and Co., 2005), and a third, *Tattoo Heaven*, is due out shortly.

PAUL CLARK, MED'95, PhD'01, has spent the last year sailing the Philippine islands in a 32-foot sloop doing research for a historical documentary entitled *Magellan and Lapu Lapu*, due out this year. Paul is the director of the Copernican Foundation, which focuses on international education development.

SYLVAIN LAROCQUE, BEd'03, correspondant parlementaire de *La Presse Canadienne*

à Ottawa, vient de publier *Mariage gai : les coulisses d'une révolution sociale*, préfacé par Martin Cauchon, ancien ministre de la Justice (Flammarion Québec). Le livre raconte toute l'histoire du mariage des conjoints de même sexe au Canada, des premières tentatives des années 1970 aux débats virulents des derniers mois. On peut joindre Sylvain à slarocque@cp.org.

ENGINEERING

ARUN S. MUJUMDAR, MEng'68, PhD'71, is professor of Mechanical Engineering at the National University of Singapore. In 2004, Arun attended an international conference where he was honoured by the University of Mumbai, India, with a Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as for his contributions to chemical engineering in general heat and mass transfer. Since 1988 Arun has been editor-in-chief of *Drying Technology*. He can be reached at mpeasm@nus.edu.sg.

BERNARD FRIED, BEng'80, was selected as the new CEO of Siterra Corporation. Siterra is a leading provider of project, document and property management solutions for companies that manage large numbers of high-value real estate properties.

KEVIN WESTON, BEng'83, is the new president of Jourdan Resources, a metal mining company based in Val d'Or, Quebec.

JEAN-MICHEL ARÈS, BEng'86, MEng'88, MBA'92, was elected Senior Vice President of the Coca-Cola Company in December 2005 by the Board of Directors.

LINA BOULOS, BEng'94, works at Carollo Engineers in Pasadena, Calif., in the field of water treatment. She worked at Montgomery Watson Harza prior to that. Lina married Joe Marcinko in July 2002 and they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child.

CHARLES DUPIN DE SAINT CYR, BEng'97, left his position at Palm Inc. in Silicon Valley to become the Director of Marketing at Jigsaw.com.

MATT URHAMMER, BEng'00, married **EMMA START**, BEng'00, in July 2005, which

was officiated by **JOHN-JOHN LAXA**, BEng'00. After graduation Matt worked as an aerospace engineer with Pratt & Whitney. Matt has since moved to England to pursue an MBA at Oxford University. Emma has remained in Montreal, working as a patent agent with Smart & Biggar.

LOUIS DORVAL, BEng'05, was promoted to Director of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) for West Africa. Louis has been involved in projects for EWB in the Philippines and in Ghana, where he worked on a treadle pump project that helps farmers irrigate their land during the dry season.

HEALTH SCIENCES

EDWARD BURGER, BSc'54, MDCM'58, is the President of the Institute for Health Policy Analysis in Washington, D.C. Edward is also Director of the Eurasian Medical Education Program in Washington, which received a \$2.1-million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 1999. The grant money has been used to assist post-graduate medical research and education in Russia.

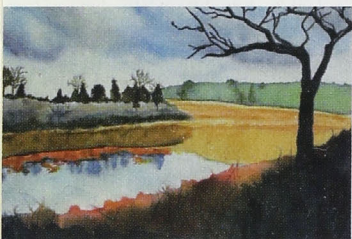
SUSAN FRENCH, BN'65, received an Award for Excellence in Academic Nursing Administration from the Association canadienne des écoles de sciences infirmières in November 2005.

ROBERT BERKE, BSc'66, MDCM'70, was awarded the Rural Health Practitioner of the Year Award by the New York State Association for Rural Health. This award recognizes outstanding dedication and service to New York's rural population in the field of health care. Robert was previously recognized as the New York State Public Health Official of the Year for 1997-1998.

LAW

MANUEL SHACTER, BA'44, BCL'47, was awarded the Past President's Medal of the Lord Reading Law Society on June 7, 2006. A founding partner and formerly managing partner of Mendelsohn Rosentzweig Shacter, now McMillan Binch Mendelsohn, Manuel was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1964. Over the course of his career, he has been a member of the Quebec Bar Association's Executive Committee and served a term as Bâtonnier of the Montreal Bar Association.

C.J. MICHAEL FLAVELL, BCL'64, is the founding and managing partner of Flavell Kubrick LLP, and is pleased to announce that his firm has merged with the



ERIK SLUTSKY, MED'92, says he was "born an artist" and he has been expressing himself through music, photography and painting since the age of 12. He has also taught painting for many years. The landscape shown here was part of an exhibit and sale he held in Montreal in June. To see more, visit <http://pages.videotron.com/slutsky>.



renowned law firm Lang Michener LLP. His firm will continue to specialize in international trade law, competition law and aboriginal law.

DAVID C. GAUSIE, BCL'67, retired in October as a senior partner of the Ogilvy Renault law firm and was appointed Chair of the Alcohol and Gambling Commission of Ontario by the Minister of Government Services in November 2005.

ANN SODEN, BCL'81, LLB'82, is Chair of the Quebec National Elder Law Section, which she founded. Ann also heads the National Institute of Law, Policy and Aging, based in Montreal, and was recently appointed the first international member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging, in Washington, D.C. Ann was the General Editor of *Advising the Older Client* (Lexis Nexis Butterworths, 2005), the first comparative law text to examine law and aging in Canada.

JULIA HANIGSBERG, BA'87, BCL'91, LLB'91, is Secretary to the Board of Governors and General Counsel at Ryerson University. Julia is the university's first General Counsel, a position which will require her to manage the university's legal services, as



MAYO MORAN, LLB'90, has been named the new Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto. Her primary areas of expertise are in private law, comparative constitutional law and legal theory. She has worked on litigation involving the equality guarantee under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and, most recently, on claims to redress the Chinese "head tax," first introduced in the 1800s to limit immigration from China.

well as ensure that Ryerson meets new government privacy requirements and accountability obligations.

ANNE-MARIE MIGNEAULT, BCL'92, LLB'92, and **JACQUES NEATBY**, BCL'92, LLB'92, were married in 2005 and welcomed their first child, Marie-France, this past October. Anne-Marie is Director of Regulatory Affairs for CBC in Montreal, while Jacques is a principal at Secor Consulting, working out of the firm's Montreal and Paris offices.

NAN WANG, BCL'94, LLB'94, was promoted to Vice President & Senior Counsel in the Law Department of Marriott International, Inc. Nan has been practising international commercial law in the Asia Pacific region since 1995.

CHARLENE W. KAVANAGH, BCL'98, LLB'98,

married Michael Wylie of Montreal in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, in September 2005. They reside in Ottawa, where Michael is a Foreign Service officer with International Trade Canada and Charlene is a partner at Low, Murchison LLP.

DAVID MA, BCL'98, LLB'98, is the proud father of little Jacob Benjamin Yuwei, born in September 2005. David is currently practising law in Toronto.

SARAH J. BAKER, BCL'04, LLB'04, recently moved to Los Angeles to pursue her legal career in environmental and immigration law. After completing a master's degree in Environmental Law at Lewis & Clark University in Portland, Oregon, Sarah was married in Sutton Junction, Quebec, to Andrew Stevenson.

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LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

CELIA DONNELLY, MLS'79, was appointed Chief Librarian of the *Globe and Mail* editorial library. Celia has been working happily at the *Globe* for 20 years, 15 of them as Deputy Chief Librarian and researcher. Celia also plays rhythm guitar and electric mandolin in the paper's award-winning rock band.

RAVIL VELI, MLIS'93, has accepted the Director of Library Services position at Herkimer County Community College in New York after six years with the Feinberg Library at SUNY Plattsburgh.

MANAGEMENT

DENIS DESAUTELS, BCom'64, was appointed to the International Development Research Centre's Board of Governors in November 2005.

DAVID RATTEE, BCom'64, was appointed to the board of directors at Loring Ward International Ltd. Loring Ward provides wealth, career and life management services to American individuals and families. David is president and CEO of two private investment holding companies, CIGL Holdings Ltd. and MICC Investments Ltd.

BRUCE BISHOP, BCom'65, was appointed managing director of Sebor Manufacturing Ltd., in Mogale City, South Africa. He also serves on the boards of a number of system management entities, including the board of a Swiss private equity fund.

PETER CHINLOY, BCom'70, will take over in September as the new endowed chair of the real estate program at San Diego State University. Peter is currently the chair of the Finance and Real Estate Department at the American University's Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C.

ELLIS JACOB, BCom'74, received the 2005 Ontario region Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He was also awarded one of 11 industry category awards for his work in the media and entertainment industry.

DAVID E. LAWSON, BCom'77, was appointed Chief of Shared Services for Fraser Health, one of Canada's largest integrated health delivery organizations, based in Vancouver. David says that his wife, **DONNA SESSENWEIN**, BN'77, and family have been pillars of support throughout the past two years as he has worked toward and received his MA in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads University in Victoria.

FIROZ RASUL, MBA'77, became president of Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, in May.

CHRISTINE C. LENGVARI, DPA'78, has been appointed a governor of the Canadian Unity Council, a non-profit organization promoting Canadian federalism. Christine continues to serve the community as a governor of Concordia University, as Vice Chair of St. Mary's Hospital Foundation and as Chair of the Client Committee of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program at Concordia.

ANDRÉ EWERT, MBA'80, has returned to practice in construction, real estate and condo-related law, as well as some commercial law. André is the father of a nine-year-old girl and splits his time between Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Montreal and Negril, Jamaica.

BRUCE MACCOUBREY, MBA'80, was appointed to the newly created position of President and Chief Operating Officer of Business Development Operations at Doll Technology Group, a manufacturer of "clean and green" products and technology solutions. Previously, Bruce was Vice President for Strategic Business Services at Air Canada.

PAUL BIBERKRAUT, BCom'82, DPA'83, became the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for Chartwell International Inc. in January.

PETER SZEMENYEI, BCom'83, MBA'90, was promoted from Senior Director of Corporate Finance to CFO of Pernod Ricard USA, a producer and distributor of spirits and wine in the United States.

ALEX GALLACHER, MBA'89, was elected a board member of the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario. In 2004 Alex founded ENGAGE Human Resources Solutions Inc., a human resources, outsourcing and interim professional practice. In 2005 Alex also launched a new first-year course within McGill's MBA program.

MARTIN VIENS, BCom'92, is Director of Organizational Development for Lassonde Industries, and returned to Canada from North Africa, where he worked for a telecom firm, as well as travelling all over Europe as an international HR manager. Martin and his wife, **NATHALIE ROBERT**, BCom'92, celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary in September. They have three children, aged 7, 4 and 2.



DEMETRIOS (JIM) STAMATOPOULOS, BCom'93, DPA'95, and **EVANTHIA KARASSAVIDIS**, BCom'96, were married in October 2004 and welcomed their first child, George Demetrios, in October 2005. Demetrios works for PSB Chartered Accountants in Montreal and is currently studying for his CBV title. Evanthia has been working at Invera Inc. for the last ten years.

STÉPHANE AMARA, BCom'95, became a director at Deutsche Bank Asset Management in December 2005 after ten years with Bank of Ireland Asset Management. Stéphane lives with his wife, **VALÉRIE ZRIHEN**, BCom'99, and his sons, Michael and Jeremy.

BEVERLY KOO, BCom'99, has been working at her parents' winery, Chateau La Bourguette, in Bordeaux, France, ever since graduation.

BROOKE FISHBACK, MBA'02, is the International Sales/Export Manager for Health Enterprises, which was recently awarded the 2005 U.S. Commercial News/Think Global Consumer Products Exporter of the Year. Health Enterprises is a leading manufacturer of health care products.

BRETT A. HICKEY, BCom'02, and **TODD ROBERTS**, LLB'86, closed their second venture capital fund with Aegis NY Venture Fund, based in New York City. Brett and Todd raised over \$30 million in private equity and venture capital funds in 2005. Todd has also been appointed to the Chairman's Advisory Committee for New Jobs for New York, headed by Hillary Clinton.

MUSIC

GEOFFREY MOULL, BMus'76, has extended his engagement with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra to June 2008 as music director, a title he has held since June 2000. The Symphony's recently recorded CD *Variations on a Memory*, featuring contemporary Canadian works, was nominated for a 2005 Juno award.

TARAS KULISH, BMus'95, was named the new Artistic Director of the Vermont Opera Festival. Taras also continued his busy singing career by returning to the Montreal Symphony Orchestra as bass soloist in Nielsen's 3rd Symphony in January, as well as returning to the Calgary Opera as Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola*.

DAVID WOHL, DMus'99, is composer and co-creator of the family musical *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*. The musical was one of only 18 new works selected (out of 400 submissions) for performance at the prestigious

New York Musical Theater Festival. David also received his ninth ASCAP Award for sound design and music for the world's first "Bug Carousel," which is on display at the Bronx Zoo in New York.

SCIENCE

WILLARD S. BOYLE, BSc'47, MSc'48, PhD'50, was inducted into the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame, and was a recipient, along with Dr. George Smith, of the National Academy of Engineering's Charles Stark Draper Prize in 2005 for their invention and development of the charge-coupled device (CCD). CCD imaging is used in all digital cameras, video cameras, bar code readers and image scanners such as copy machines. The award was presented in February in Washington, D.C., during National Engineers Week and carries with it a \$500,000 prize.

JACK M. MILLER, BSc'61, PhD'64, has been appointed Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Brock University. Jack's appointment coincides with his formal retirement from the department and his positions as Associate Vice Principal and Dean of Graduate Studies. Jack will work

part-time at Brock as Special Advisor on Buildings and Space, as well as on computational chemistry research.

MARK A. WAINBERG, BSc'66, Director of the McGill University AIDS Centre and Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, will co-chair the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in August. Mark has served as President of the International AIDS Society and was instrumental in bringing the Conference to Durban, South Africa, in 2000, which focused world attention on the extent of the epidemic on the African continent. He is an internationally recognized scientist in the development of anti-viral drugs to treat AIDS and of microbicides and vaccines to prevent HIV.

ANITA SHILTON, BSc'68, was appointed Dean of Ryerson University's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education for a five-year term, which began in January.

ANDY ROBERT, BSc'69, and **RENÉE (VOGEL) ROBERT**, MEd '80, are proud that their daughter, Sarah, has been accepted to McGill. They report that she is in good hands and well on her way to mastering the 3 R's of university life with helpful advice from grandpa **LOU VOGEL**, BSc'51.



This spring more than 300 alumni and students volunteered at the second Regional Thankathons in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Just over 8,000 McGill graduates received a personal call thanking them for donating to the University – and the response was extremely positive. We applaud their generosity and the encouragement of our sponsors:

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SUZANNE FORTIER, BSc'72, PhD'76, was appointed president of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). In 2005, Suzanne received a distinguished service award from the Queen's University Council for her exceptional contributions to research and academics. NSERC is a federal agency that supports basic university research through grants and project research through partnerships among post-secondary institutions, the government and the private sector.

JODY GOMBER, BSc'71, retired in fall 2005 after a fulfilling 30-year career in the public sector. Jody received her PhD in primate behaviour from the University of California in 1975. Throughout her career, Jody held a wide range of positions, including prison psychologist with the Canadian Penitentiary Service, Director General of Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances with Health Canada, Housing Analyst with the Treasury Board and Director General of Human Resources with Transport Canada.

DWIGHT DECKER, BSc'72, is chief executive at Conexant Systems in Newport Beach, California.

SIMON C.H. WONG, BSc'76, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of South Australia in July 2005 for his contribution to the development of lifelong education and his commitment to the globalization of higher education in Hong Kong.

TYLER M. DYLAN, BSc'82, was appointed Executive Vice President, Chief Business Officer and General Counsel at Cardium Therapeutics Inc. and its parent company, Aries Ventures Inc. Cardium Therapeutics, headquartered in San Diego, Calif., focuses on interventional cardiology and the development and commercialization of non-surgical cardiovascular gene therapeutics.

DOROTHY TEDDI ANN GALLIGAN, BSc'83, and her husband, David Alan Diggs, announce with great joy the birth of their second daughter, Josephine Lucia Diggs-Galligan, in July 2005 in Washington, D.C. They say her big sister, Sophia Emmanuelle, is enjoying her new status immensely.

TAMSEN VALOIR VAN GENECHTEN, BSc'83, has published *Law School Survival Guide* (Booklocker, 2005), a fun, illustrated book that not only instructs law students how to study for law school, but how to write Grade A exams as well.

MARC FORTIN, PhD'87, has joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as an Assistant Deputy Minister. Marc is

presently Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at McGill.

PASCALE LEMAIRE, BSc'87, is Vice President of Professional Services and a Partner at PROACT E.A.P. in Montreal. Pascale is a media spokesperson and a member of the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec and is president of the Quebec Employee Assistance Program Association. Pascale spends her free time volunteering as head coach for the McGill men's varsity lacrosse squad.

KAREN COMER, BSc'88, married Robert Skipworth Comer in January 2006 in Victoria, B.C. Karen and her husband live in Carmel, Indiana, and both work for Indiana University.

PAUL-FRANCOIS PARADIS, BSc'88, a reçu, le 31 mars 2005, le premier prix (section générale) pour un article présenté à la 82ième conférence annuelle de la Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers.

MICHAEL MANGA, BSc'90, was honoured with a MacArthur Fellowship in 2005 by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Michael is an Associate Professor of Earth and Planetary Science at the University of California, Berkeley, who applies his background in fluid dynamics to a wide variety of fundamental questions in geology. Michael will receive \$500,000 over five years as part of the Foundation's mission for rewarding individuals who display originality, creativity and potential in their respective fields. Michael was also featured in *People* magazine's annual "Sexiest Man Alive" issue.

TAFADZWA S. KASAMBIRA, BSc'97, graduated from the Boston Combined Residency Program in Paediatrics at the Boston Children's Hospital at Harvard University, and at Boston Medical Center, Boston University. Tafadzwa recently began a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins University.

AMIN LADAK, BSc'97, MSc'00, has been appointed Principal of Seaflower Ventures, a venture capital group based in Waltham, Mass., which focuses on early-stage life sciences investments. Prior to joining Seaflower Ventures, Amin was employed with FoldRx Pharmaceuticals, where he was responsible for overall business management. Amin has also held directorial positions at HealthCare Ventures and Bayer Pharmaceuticals.

KARN MANHAS, BSc'97, has been appointed a part-time member of the Board of Trustees of the Canada Science and Technology Museum, which is responsible for preserving and protecting Canada's scientific and technological heritage. Karn is President of Karyon Projects Corporation.

REES KASSEN, PhD'01, is among four researchers at the University of Ottawa who have been named laureates of the Ontario Early Researcher Award program. The award, worth approximately \$100,000, is aimed at supporting research and development initiatives at universities and other research organizations in Ontario.

ADRIENNE LEI, BSc'03, was selected out of 500 applicants by the *Toronto Star* as one of 12 members to act on the "community editorial board." Adrienne will meet regularly with senior *Star* editors and reporters to discuss key issues facing the greater Toronto area, while occasionally having the opportunity to write guest columns.

JENNIFER LILLY, MSc'05, was an official meteorologist for the 2005-2006 Volvo Ocean Race, which began in Vigo, Spain, in November 2005 and ended in June in Gothenburg, Sweden. Jennifer provided crucial meteorological information to the competitors as they raced around the world.

SOCIAL WORK

TERESA DELLAR, BSW'83, MSW'90, was a recipient of the Montreal Council of Women's 19th annual Woman of the Year Award for 2005. The award is given in recognition of a woman who has made significant contributions to the improvement of the community.

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The 1930s

E. Marjorie (Rowley) Sylvester, BSc'34, PhD'46, at Kingston, Ont., on October 25, 2005.

Jean Carmichael, BA'35, at Albany, NY, on March 23, 2006.

Joyce I. Marshall, BA'35, at Toronto, on October 22, 2005.

Ralph G. Ascah, BSc'39, at State College, Pa., on December 18, 2005.

Gerald Clark, BSc'39, at Montreal, on July 7, 2005.

Helen (Meunier) Fara, BA'39, at New York, on February 6, 2006.

Lawrence G. McDougall, BA'39, BCL'42, at Ottawa, on November 5, 2005.

Joan Marie (Howlett) Simms, BHS'39, at St. John's, on April 13, 2005.

The 1940s

J. Maurice Filion, BCom'40, at Montreal, on June 10, 2005.

Kenneth S. Miller, DFC, BA'40, at Aurora, Ont., on December 4, 2005.

James R. Wright, BSc(Agr)'40, at Halifax, on November 1, 2005.

Muriel "Beth" Evelyn (Teed) Young, BA'40, at Calgary, on October 11, 2005.

Marjorie E. (Norris) Warner, BA'41, at Cornwall, Ont., on November 20, 2005.

Phyllis (Millen) Douglas, BA'42, at Toronto, on December 2, 2005.

William S. Martin, BEng'42, MDCM'50, MEng'52, at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que., on November 15, 2005.

Harvey Caplan, BA'43, MDCM'44, DipTropMed'50, in Florida, on October 4, 2005.

Robert Harold Cohen, BA'43, DDS'44, at Montreal, on September 24, 2004.

Maurice D. Godine, BA'43, DDS'44, at Palm Beach, Fla., on January 10, 2006.

Mary L. (Robb) Peszczynski, BSc'43, MDCM'48, at Yoakum, Texas, on February 16, 2006.

Irving Galinsky, BSc(Agr)'44, MSc'45, at Cold Spring Harbour, NY, in October 2005.

Raoul Bott, BEng'45, MEng'46, DSc'87, at Carlsbad, Calif., on December 20, 2005.

Duncan Don Cameron, BCom'45, at Oakville, Ont., on April 7, 2006.

Morrie M. Gelfand, BSc'45, MDCM'50, former McGill professor, at Montreal, on November 29, 2005.

Betty Muriel (Dickson) Grant, BSc(HEC)'46, at Toronto, on December 7, 2005.

Jean R. (Kerfoot) Allen, BLS'47, at Toronto, on November 18, 2005.

George F. Bassett, BEng'47, in California, on October 7, 2005.

Catherine Mary Draper, BA'47, at Victoria, B.C., on September 28, 2005.

Mario Spino, BEng'47, at Montreal, on February 25, 2006.

Peter C. Badgley, BSc'48, at Norwich, Vt., on September 2, 2005.

Cecil B. Cooper, BEng'48, at Saskatoon, Sask., on January 8, 2006.

Donald B. Dougherty, BCom'48, at Town of Mount Royal, Que., on October 27, 2005.

Kenneth Haring, BEng'48, at Newcastle, Ont., on July 2, 2005.

Mona L. Jento, BSc(Agr)'48, at Ottawa, on October 5, 2005.

Daphne Joan (Allan) Lindsay, BSc(HEC)'48, at Baie d'Urfé, Que., on October 26, 2005.

R. Garnett Stephen, BSc'48, MA'66, at Kingston, Ont., on October 26, 2005.

Donald G. Wallace, BA'48, MA'61, at Montreal, on December 25, 2005.

Carol (Hayes) Greenbank, BScHEC'49, at Montreal, on January 15, 2006.

Eric W. Jardine, DDS'49, at Sydney, N.S., on August 10, 2005.

The 1950s

William G. Binks, BA'50, at Allison Park, Pa., on November 5, 2005.

Mary Constance Fraser, BSW'50, MSW'51, at Kingston, Ont., on December 7, 2005.

Necha (Gutman) Laks, BA'50, BSW'51, MSW'54, at Aurora, Ont., on October 13, 2005.

C. Russell Parke, BEng'50, at Ottawa, on December 19, 2005.

Robert K. Douglas, BScAgr'51, at Sutton, Que., on August 7, 2005.

John "Jack" A. Griffin, BCom'51, at Beaconsfield, Que., on December 12, 2005.

Byrl J. Kennedy, MSc'51, at Minneapolis, Minn., on April 6, 2003.

Ernest W. Schmidt, MDCM'51, at Saskatoon, Sask., on June 27, 2005.

Florence Marion (Berryhill) Vaisey-Genser, MSc'51, at Winnipeg, on October 22, 2005.

G. David Hargreave, BCom'53, at Deerfield Beach, Fla., on October 20, 2005.

Gilles M. Letourneau, BArch'53, à Cap-Rouge, Qué., le 2 mai 2005.

"Joe" Yoshikazu Tsukamoto, BSc(Agr)'54, MSc'62, at Brandon, Man., on November 10, 2005.

Cyril J. Tunis, BEng'54, MSc'56, at Oakland, Calif., on November 7, 2005.

Eva R. Gold, BSc'55, at Palm Coast, Fla., on October 27, 2005.

Ian E. McPherson, LLM'55, at Victoria, B.C., on November 5, 2005.

Sarah Bergen (Grant) Stalley, BA'55, at Halifax, on November 18, 2005.

Robert "Bob" A. Boreham, DipAgr'56, at Elliot Lake, Ont., on June 28, 2004.

Freda Bailey, BLS'59, at North Vancouver, B.C., on April 8, 2006.

George H. Pickel, BCL'59, at Austin, Que., on January 22, 2006.

The 1960s

W. James Reilly, BA'60, at Ottawa, on December 21, 2005.

H. Patrick Cunningham, MDCM'61, at Brantford, Ont., on May 4, 2005.

Dolores Diane "Dee-Dee" (Chadwick) Hayward, BSc'61, at Vendée, Que., on October 7, 2005.

Thomas Reiner, BEng'61, at Greenfield Park, Que., on October 17, 2005.

Lois Valley-Fischer, MA'62, PhD'65, at Wolfville, N.S., on September 24, 2005.

Rodney J. Mahabir, BA'63, at Ajijic, Mexico, on December 29, 2005.

Amitava Bose, BSc'66, MSc'68, at Ottawa, on January 22, 2006.

Keith W. Bush, BSc'66, at Scarborough, Ont., on May 1, 2005.

Michael A. Merovitz, BEng'69, in Florida, on December 27, 2005.

The 1970s

David L. Dickman, DipPsych'70, on October 30, 2005.

Michael J. Oliver, DDS'70, at Hamilton, Ont., on March 15, 2003.

Barbara (Mindel) Goodman, BSW'72, MSW'73, at Springfield, Mass., on December 6, 2005.

Gwenyth L. Sterns, MEd'72, at New Glasgow, N.S., on September 13, 2005.

Georges Mazigi, BSc'74, at Town of Mount Royal, Que., on January 4, 2006.

The 1980s

Remi J. Makhoul, BEng'86, at Saint Adèle, Que., on October 13, 2005.

The 1990s

Wilfredo L. Barraquio, PhD'90, at Quezon City, Philippines, on January 2, 2006.

James Lawrence Caddell, BA'97, at Tupiza, Bolivia, on October 16, 2005.

Heather Anne (Nickelson) Hill, BSW'98, MSW'99, at Kirkland, Que., on December 16, 2005.

Eye-Opening Surgery

by L. IAN MACDONALD

I START SEEING BLACK DOTS MOVING AROUND IN MY left eye, then my vision clouds over. I go to emergency at the Montreal General Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre. "I need to see an ophthalmologist," I say.

"It doesn't work that way," says the woman at the registration desk. "First, you see the triage nurse, then you wait to see a doctor, who will decide whether you need to see an ophthalmologist." Eventually, a young doctor calls me into an examination room and looks at my eye. "You have floaters," he says. "You need to go to the ophthalmology clinic."

Several hours later, David Lederer, a fourth-year resident in ophthalmology, examines me. "It seems like it's just a broken blood vessel," Lederer explains. "But there could be a torn retina. The problem is, you can't see out, and we can't see in. You have a choice," he continues, "you can stay in the public system and go to the clinic at the Jewish General tomorrow, or you can see Dr. Chen at his semi-private clinic in the morning."

Six hours in a waiting room has a way of clarifying choices. The next day, John Chen's office has a room full of patients waiting to see him and his three partners.

"Why did you choose ophthalmology?" I ask Chen, MDCM'82, as he peers into my eye for the first time. "Because it allows me a mix of diagnostic work and surgery," he replies. Chen works out of his clinic 2 1/2 days a week, and does surgeries on Wednesdays at the Royal Victoria Hospital, as well as a half-day at the RVH's free clinic.

"Surgery is by far the most relaxing thing I do," says Chen. "I'm sitting down the whole time. The clinic, that's the most stressful thing. People are waiting, sometimes for as long as three hours, and we're always trying to clear the backlog. You feel their frustration."

So why isn't Chen at Harvard or Johns Hopkins, research-rich institutions where public health care and waiting times are not an issue? "I like it here," says Chen, 48. "I make a very good living. I do all the research I want to do with my patients. Plus, my parents are reaching the age where one of their children needs to be close by."

It's McGill itself and a critical mass of excellence in the practice of ophthalmology that attract doctors and students from every corner of the globe. Chen is also an associate professor in the McGill medical faculty and has twice been voted best teaching professor by student residents.

"McGill is absolutely one of the reasons I'm here," I'm told by Saad Al-Khalifa, a member of Bahrain's royal family, who will return home to open his own practice after one more year.

"But it's also the opportunity of working with people like Dr. Chen. He is the best."

After a month, the eye clears enough for Chen to see into it. "The retina is detached. You have to have surgery tomorrow. I'm also going to remove a cataract. Come back in the morning to have your eye measured for a lens to replace it. Then you need an EKG and some blood work before the surgery tomorrow afternoon."

"Hi, I'm the head nurse," Josée Cloutier says outside OR No. 6. "Are we operating on your right or left eye today?" "Ha ha ha."

"Well, it's the first time I'm seeing your chart," she replies. "Are you allergic to anything?" she asks. "Yes, hospitals." "Me, too," she says.

The local anaesthetic allows Dr. Chen to operate while I remain fully conscious. There is no pain, but I hear him cleaning and clipping. "How much would this cost if I were paying for it?" I ask him. "In the States?" Snip-snip. "About \$7,000."

In less than two hours he is done, and I walk out of the hospital at 4 o'clock. I started the day with a semi-private visit, then a private consultation, followed by publicly funded surgery. "In the best of worlds," Chen says, "the public health system would be able to provide the best of everything, and there would be no waiting times. Doctors are social democrats at heart and we'd all like it to work that way. The service I provide at my clinic should be regulated, I should not be able to charge what I want. But I should be able to provide the best care. It's a question of pride."

None of the seven ophthalmologists I met was from Canada. Like Al-Khalifa, they were attracted to Montreal by the reputation of McGill and local practitioners. There was Farida Al-Belushi, a second-year resident from Oman. David Lederer is from the United States. Jorge Sahr, from Chile, observed my surgery and is thinking of spending two years at the MUHC. There were the Egyptian and Russian ophthalmologists, Magdi Mansour and Vladimir Muladzanov, working as technicians because of professional accreditation issues.

My experience taught me that despite an overburdened system and obsolete infrastructure, the health-care providers – from orderlies and nurses to students and surgeons – deliver a remarkable quality of care. But perhaps the most striking discovery I made is the world renown of McGill.

L. Ian Macdonald is a Montreal Gazette columnist. This article is excerpted from the Gazette and reprinted with permission.



Tzigane

Provincial health plans cover less than you think

*Alison Naimool
Product Manager –
Manulife Financial*

The days when an employee remained with one company for a career span of 25-30 years are long gone. Self-employment is on the rise†. As a result, the loss of health benefits that corporations provide for employees and their families is leaving many Canadians without enough health and dental protection.

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† As of January 2005, there were 2.47 million self-employed Canadians out of a total of 16.057 million in the labour force. There was also a 1.6% increase in self-employment from January 2004 to January 2005. Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, February 2005.

* Not available to Québec residents.

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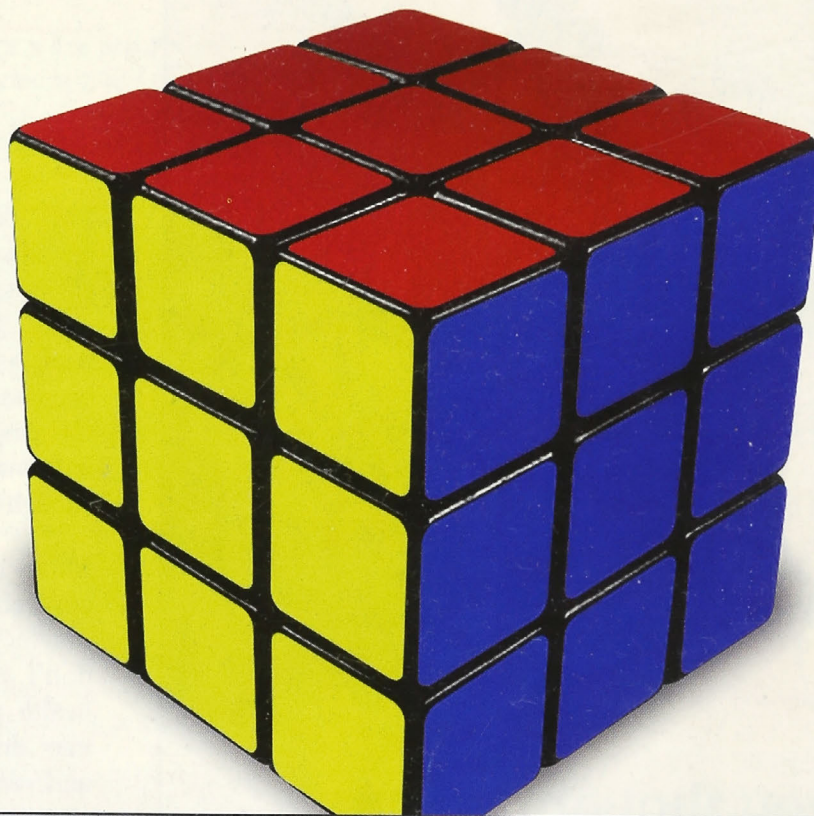


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