

McGill News

alumni magazine winter 2007

PLUS

Decoding Disease:
When Good
Proteins Go Bad

The Looming
Biodiversity Crisis

McGill's Real-Life
CSI Scientists


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A Way With Words

From literary nobody to international star, David Bezmozgis is just one of many McGill grads stealing the spotlight

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Nahum Sonenberg's protein research is turning the scientific world upside down. Could his discoveries unlock the mysteries of cancer, obesity, memory – even death?

by HUBERT BAUCH



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From Mary Lawson to David Bezmozgis, Colin McAdam to Golda Fried, McGill grads have a winning way with words.

by NEALE MCDEVITT and DANIEL MCCABE, BA '89

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An alarming array of mammals, birds, fish and plants are nearing extinction. McGill experts are assessing damaged ecosystems and joining the battle to save the planet from ourselves.

by PATRICK MCDONAGH



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Faites connaissance avec des professeurs et des diplômés de McGill, tous experts en médecine légale, qui utilisent leurs compétences scientifiques pour résoudre des meurtres et des crimes.

par DANIEL MCCABE, BA '89 traduction de LUCIE LEGAULT

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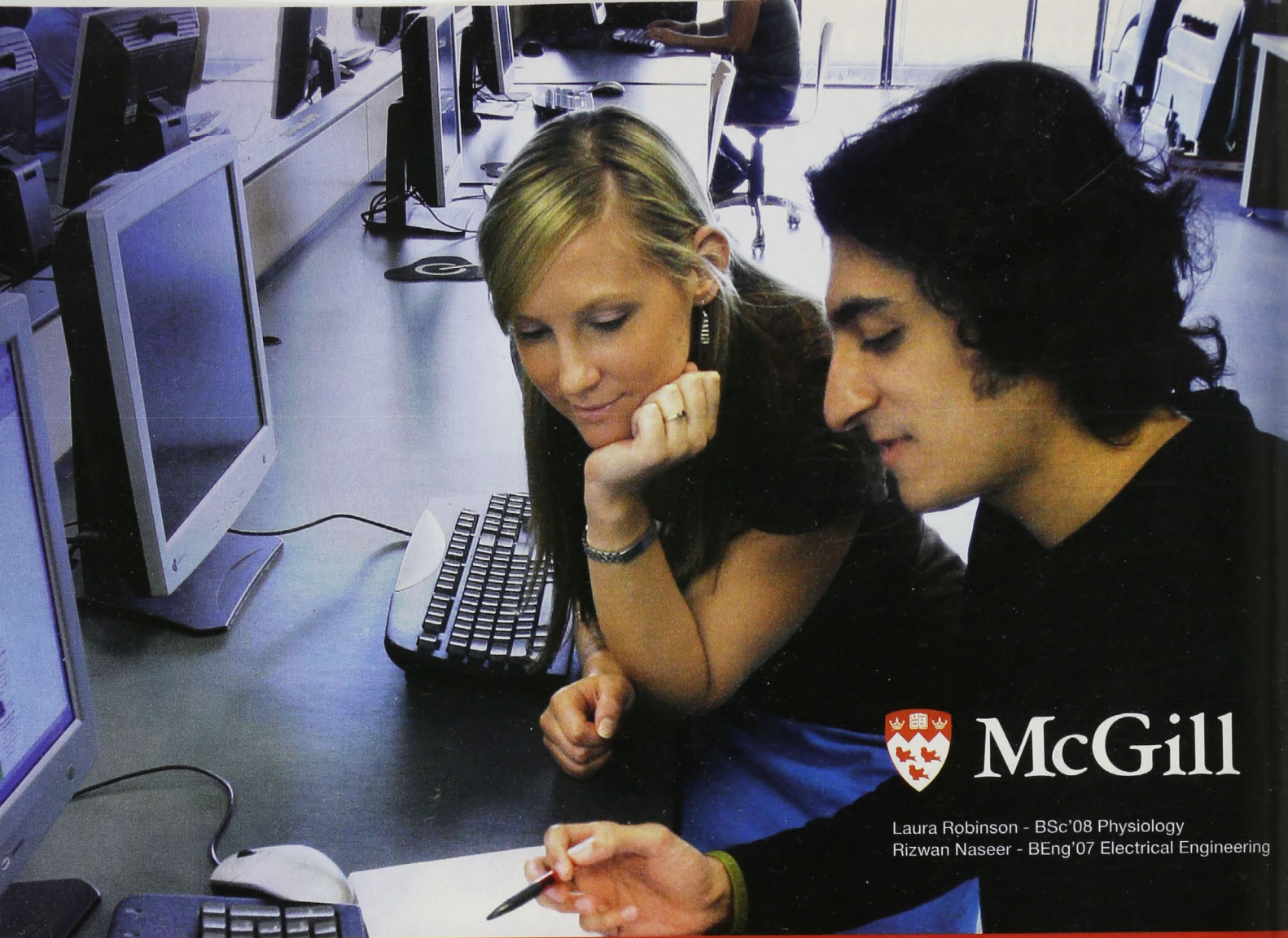
Meet the McGill professors and graduates who are real-life counterparts to the heroes of TV's *CSI*, using their scientific skills to uncover murderers and solve crimes.

by DANIEL MCCABE, BA '89



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Laura Robinson - BSc'08 Physiology
Rizwan Naseer - BEng'07 Electrical Engineering

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EDITOR

Diana Grier Ayton

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Daniel McCabe, BA'89

ADVERTISING

Christina Barile
Tel: 514-398-6043

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Christina Barile
Jason Pauly, MA'08

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DESIGN AND TYPOGRAPHY

Steven McClenaghan
Instructional Multimedia Services

ONLINE EDITION

Eric Smith, BA'91
McGill Web Service Group

McGill News

1555 Peel Street, Suite 900
Montreal, Que., Canada H3A 3L8
Tel: 514-398-6043 Fax: 514-398-5293
Email: news.alumni@mcgill.ca
Web: www.mcgill.ca/news

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Cover photo of
David Bezmozgis
by Greg Martin



A Vision Fulfilled

WHEN 35-YEAR-OLD JOHN WILLIAM DAWSON was named Principal of McGill in 1855, the position was no plum. The institution was in financial trouble and the campus was a shambles. The unfenced grounds were grazed by local farmers' cattle, and the college's only two buildings, the Arts Building and the East Wing (so-called, although it was a separate structure), were surrounded by weeds and rubble. The buildings had been badly damaged by flying rocks when the city dynamited adjacent land to create a reservoir, and they now stood abandoned. The school's 70 students attended classes elsewhere in the city.

Undaunted, the visionary Dawson set to work. He was a resolute and patient man – after all, it had taken him six years to persuade his wife to marry him. Over his 38-year tenure as principal, he prevailed on government officials, benefactors, colleagues and graduates to assist in transforming the “tiny, poverty-stricken provincial school” into Canada's premier university.

One of the first groups he enlisted was the McGill University Society, the forerunner to today's Alumni Association. The Society was established in 1857 by a group of graduates who pledged to work for the advancement of their alma mater and to more frequently “conference among themselves.” If the organization's founders pictured themselves chatting over leisurely lunches, Dawson had other ideas. With sleeves rolled up and shovels in hand, they joined the energetic young principal in planting trees to help beautify the campus. Cows were no longer welcome.

That was 150 years ago and graduates have been advancing their alma mater ever since, as volunteers, student mentors, advocates and ambassadors around the world. And their financial support has helped build and maintain two handsome campuses.

For the Alumni Association's 150th anniversary, we are compiling a “scrapbook” of personal memories of McGill. We'd like to know what made *your* time at McGill memorable. Was there a person, a chance event, a moment that had a profound impact on you? Fire up your computers or pull out pen and paper and let us hear from you. See details on page 39 of this issue.

To inspire your muse, you might want to read a few McGill authors. As you will learn from our lead story, McGill alumni are among this country's top writers, and CanLit is big. Publisher Madeleine Partous noted recently, “Canadian

books rule. We're considered hot out there. The Brits and Aussies dedicate entire bachelor degrees to our stuff.”

One name well known to students of Canadian literature – and to music fans – is Leonard Cohen, BA'55, DLitt'92, who, at 71, is still commanding a huge following with last year's *The Book of Longing*, a volume of poetry and drawings. A name quickly becoming familiar is Edeet Ravel, MA'86, PhD'92, who has been producing books and collecting prize nominations at a fast clip over the last few years.



Our story profiles other bright stars in the literary firmament, including David Bezmozgis, whose face adorns our front cover. Since our story was written, his book, *Natasha*, detailing his family's immigrant experience, was selected for CBC Radio's “Canada Reads,” a combination of national book club and literary competition. Five books are chosen every year and another grad, Heather O'Neill, BA'94, also made the list with *Lullabies for Little Criminals*. We know you'll enjoy reading about McGill writers with the right stuff.

With this issue, I hand over the editorial blue pencil (always a red pen at the *News*) to Interim Editor Daniel McCabe, BA'89, an award-winner himself for several features he has written for the magazine. I will remain a contributing editor, but will devote more time to communications projects for the Alumni Association.

Working on the *News* for the past nine years has been challenging, fun, rewarding – and never, ever dull. McGill's reputation attracts some of the world's finest students and faculty, of course, but it also brings an equally impressive array of visitors. I've met and been deeply moved by Romeo Dallaire and Stephen Lewis with their wrenching tales of the world's failures in Africa, and humbled by the self-deprecation and commitment of the late Michael Smith, a Nobel Prize-winning molecular biologist. And where else would I find myself briefly alone with Mikhail Gorbachev, as each of us took a wrong turn in Redpath Hall, he away from his handlers and I into a private area?

I have come to love this wonderful place and I look forward to continuing to tell you its stories.

Diana Grier Ayton



Curling connections

Your Summer edition showed McGill Young Alumni president Catherine Cunningham at the Royal Montreal Curling Club. RMCC, the home of McGill student curling, celebrates its bicentennial year in 2006/2007 and is the oldest athletic club in North America.



There are many interesting connections between RMCC and McGill. Thomas Blackwood, one of the original founding members of RMCC in 1807 and its first president, was the business partner of James McGill. Two other members of the McGill family are past presidents of the Club.

In 1921, McGill Principal Sir Arthur Currie presented a plaque to the Club honouring those members who served in World War I. The plaque is still prominently displayed in the main entry hall. To mark the occasion, Sir Arthur was made an honorary member of the Club and since then, every principal of McGill University has been invited to be an honorary member of RMCC. Principal Heather Munroe-Blum is currently an honorary member.

As the Club enters its third century in downtown Montreal, we hope McGill students, staff and graduates will continue to play as large a part in its future as they have in its past. For more information, see www.royalmontrealcurling.ca, or contact the Club at 514-935-3411, rylmtlcc@videotron.ca.

Andy Shatilla, BA'68
RMCC President
via email

Hurray for Homecoming

Kudos to the Homecoming 2006 Committee for a memorable reunion on October 19–22. My wife Sandy and I came back for this walk through our own history as both of us had ties to McGill. I graduated in Chemistry at McGill in 1971 and Sandy worked in administration in the mid-'70s. We

married on October 21, 1977, and celebrated our 29th anniversary at this year's Homecoming.

I was lucky enough to meet some of my classmates and share some memories with Dr. David Harpp, who was my Organic Chemistry 202 professor in the late '60s. In fact he was inspirational in convincing me to teach high school science and mathematics, which I did for 33 years. He was cool then, as he is now.

Sandy and I were also pleased to meet Principal Heather Munroe-Blum at the Dean's Breakfast and were very impressed with her warmth, vibrant style, and sense of humour.

A good time was had by all. Thanks for the memories, McGill.

Art Jaszczyk, BSc'71, DipEd'72
Thornhill, Ont.

McGill memories

Our family lives in Montreal and my daughter began studies at McGill this fall. As I travelled recently to yet another club to fetch her at 2 a.m., I could not help but remember all that McGill meant to me some three decades ago.

1971. It was the beginning of the rest of my life. It meant freedom to be who I wanted without the constraints of everyone's preconceived notions of who I was. It meant meeting people different from me from all over the world. It meant going to plays, attending poetry readings (remember all those darkly lit coffee houses?) and being really, really sophisticated. A liberated woman of the world. It meant studying with the best professors, being exposed to the most revolutionary and the most left-wing politics and political economy, and being part of a larger group that took a stand on what was going on in the world. It also meant being in our own world, separate from everything else.

My first day was fraught with finding the right classrooms, finding a friend – any friend – and the excitement of how so many people could be interested in Economic History! We

could not wait to learn more and were enraptured with our profs and with having senior students in our classes. How intelligent and well-read everyone was! Would we ever be like that?

There was no Frosh Week then, no First-Year Office, no orientation, no electronic registration – we stood in line for hours in front of the gym to register, pleaded with a live person for entry into closed courses and tucked the then-controversial *Birth Control Handbook* away in our school bags. We were so happy to be a part of the tradition that was McGill University.

How lucky they are today, these best and brightest, to be given all the support and opportunities in a university many times the size it was then. It is my hope that my daughter will find the same excitement amid these hallowed halls and ivy-covered buildings.

Rachel Cohen
BA'75, BCL'78, LLB'79

Crossed wires

My wife, Pascale Lemaire, BSc'87, was happy that her news made it into the alumnotes section of the Summer issue, but was surprised to read that she “spends her free time volunteering as head coach for the McGill men's varsity lacrosse squad.” Her note was over-edited, as she had originally written that her husband is coaching lacrosse.

Tim Murdoch
via email



Ed. note: Pascale Lemaire and Tim Murdoch were good sports about the mix-up. In fact, Coach Murdoch is a pretty good sport all around – he played varsity lacrosse as an undergraduate at Princeton and rowed on the freshman heavyweight crew. While an MBA student at Harvard, he was a player-coach on the lacrosse club, and once he graduated, he led two European bicycle tours. He's in his fourth year as head coach of the Redmen lacrosse team.



Remembering a close call

On Saturday, October 21, the Law Class of '56 (pictured above) held a reunion and we recalled an incident which Joe Singerman, my neighbour and a journalist, knew about in advance from me.

After the event he wrote the enclosed.

Alex Paterson, BCL'56, LLD'94

Westmount, Quebec

Ed. note: Thanks to former McGill Board of Governors' chair Alex Paterson (in red bow tie) and Mr. Singerman, whose story we have excerpted below:

Fifty years ago an entire class of McGill law students was cited for "unruly behaviour." Those "troublesome" students went on to become highly successful ambassadors, lawyers, judges, civil servants and cabinet ministers. Recently the Law Class of '56 remembered the exam-writing incident which nearly cost them their degrees.

Alex Paterson, who at the time was president of the Law Undergraduate Society, wrote about it in his recent book, *My Life at the Bar and Beyond*, and recalled details as if it happened last week. "The invigilator that year was a nervous history professor. He entered the classroom on the first day of exams, and triumphantly shouted, 'I'm the chief invigilator!' Everyone booed. He angrily responded, 'If there is any more of that, I'll tear up your exam papers.'"

Another prolonged boo.

"The enraged professor went over to Jamie Dunton, a quiet and very intelligent student, and tore his exam to shreds." During the pandemonium, "one student got up and left the exam hall to go for a smoke, another went to the washroom," recalled Paterson.

A fortunate appearance by Professor F.R. Scott got the students settled down and the incident appeared to be a minor disturbance. However, the invigilator lodged a complaint with the Dean, who in turn launched an inquiry, and the issue went all the way to the University Senate, causing anguish amongst students hoping to receive their law degrees.

"When the investigation was over," Paterson said, "the student who left for a cigarette was accused of cheating and another of going to the bathroom without the invigilator's permission." Paterson and class president Pierre Legrand mustered their energies and applied three years of legal training to deal with McGill administrators.

"We had to negotiate with the Dean over the threatened disciplinary actions which took many hours, and also made it quite difficult for the two of us to complete our exams."

The Dean, W.C. J. Meredith, Q.C., decided to fine all students \$25, which they would have to pay before receiving their degrees. The class balked at first,

but a compromise was reached – each student had to pay \$10.

The former McGill law students were coy during their recent reunion, not wishing to reveal the identity of the young man who caused the kerfuffle 50 years ago because he needed a cigarette. The "unknown" student, who was cleared of cheating, did have to pay a \$25 fine before receiving his degree.

Said Paterson, "We all laughed during the reunion, noting that our 'brilliant' careers could have gone up in smoke."

Remarkable Maude

In the most recent issue of the *News*, your usual eagle eyes seem to have missed an error in the history of distinguished McGill alumna Maude Abbott. You write in the Editor's Notebook that she graduated in 1890 and was named assistant professor in 1825. I am always interested in reading the information you collect and share about our extraordinary alumni, but in this case, not even a McGill graduate could have accomplished such a feat.

Thomas B. Thompson

BSc(PE)'58, MEd'78

Senior Philanthropic Advisor, McGill

Ed. note: A slip of the digit means we were off by 100 years. Abbott's appointment came in 1925. This brilliant woman practised as a physician treating women and children, conducted research, served as curator of the McGill Medical Museum and contributed a chapter on congenital heart disease to a book by William Osler at his invitation. Her work classifying specimens at the Museum helped her become a world authority on the subject. Abbott was memorialized in a mural by Mexican painter Diego Rivera of the 50 most important heart specialists in world history for the Cardiology Institute of Mexico. She was the only woman and the only Canadian to be included.

Something on your mind?

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Time to Rethink Tuition

WHENEVER I MEET MCGILL ALUMNI who are living or working abroad, I am struck by their affection for both their alma mater and for the city and province which so contribute to McGill's character. Of course, it is the strength of our teaching and research, and the opportunity to interact with gifted students and faculty, which serve as the primary draw to choose McGill. But the pull of Montreal and Quebec is also critical.

There is no contradiction between McGill's global mandate for teaching and research, and the role we play in the social and economic development of Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

But we have to be good at walking a tightrope.

Many of you are aware of the debate going on in provinces and states throughout North America, as well as in countries around the world, regarding the link between tuition rates and accessibility. Quebec has been firmly on the side of strong tuition regulation, with in-province undergraduate tuition frozen at \$1,668 per year since 1994, the lowest rate of any jurisdiction in Canada or the United States. Quebec has attempted to compensate for the impact of reduced tuition on university financing by becoming Canada's most generous provider of university operating support.

Unfortunately, as we are increasingly discovering in Quebec, no government can afford to go it alone when it comes to funding universities. The tuition freeze is affecting the ability of Quebec universities to provide Quebecers with an education that is truly competitive with that provided by North America's leading public universities.

Even worse, Quebec's decision to charge reduced tuition to all in-province students, including the children of its most affluent families, instead of charging higher tuition and subsidizing less affluent students with financial aid, has led to an unintended consequence: only 41% of Quebecers in the relevant age groups attend university. This rate pales in comparison not just to the U.S. rate of 63% and the OECD rate of 53%, but to Quebec's recent past.

We have asked Quebec to allow its universities to raise their in-province tuition rates to the Canadian average within three years, and to require all Quebec universities that do so to commit 30% of the increase in tuition fees to bursaries, with the remaining 70% being used primarily for

long-postponed improvements to the quality of education. Universities should be required to report regularly on the impact that increased tuition rates and available financial aid have on both accessibility and degree completion.

We believe strongly that students, taxpayers, alumni and friends all have a role to play in the support of education and research. And we are joining a rising chorus of opinion leaders in making our voices heard.

In October, McGill hosted a conference featuring former premier Lucien Bouchard and a who's who of Quebec business, political and media leaders, commemorating the first anniversary of the publication of *Pour un Québec lucide*. Signed by 12 leading intellectuals from the federalist and independentist camps, the manifesto challenged the sustainability of Quebec's large public sector, high tax rates and the underinvestment in higher education. It demanded immediate changes to avoid a drop in Quebec's living standards as its tax base decreases due to an aging population. The manifesto hit Quebec politics like a bolt of lightning.

The view of the *Québec lucide* authors on Quebec's low tuition policy was particularly welcomed not just by many Quebec universities, but also by a wide spectrum of commentators. As I noted in speeches to the Montreal Board of Trade in November, and to the National Assembly last month, Quebec's future depends on its ability to educate its people. It must be a global magnet for talent. Only by being more creative and more innovative will Quebec be able to compete with the best and the brightest in North America, Europe and the emerging economic giants of Asia.

Your university is helping to lead the way in a debate that will shape Quebec's future ability to adapt and compete. Action is needed, and it is needed now. For the people of Quebec, the time has come to do what is right. McGill is committed to social justice – and to a vibrant future for Quebec and Canada. 🐦

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM

*A copy of the *Québec lucide* manifesto can be downloaded in French or English at <http://www.pourunquebeclucide.com>

*A copy of "For a New Quiet Revolution" can be downloaded at <http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/speeches>

*A copy of the Principal's speech to the National Assembly can be downloaded at <http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/speeches/atout>



COMING EVENTS

- **February 27, New York:** Hockey - Montreal Canadiens vs. New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden. \$42, 7 pm. Contact: New York Alumni Branch at newyork.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **February 28, Boston:** McGill Reads – Boston Book Club, 7 pm. Contact: boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **March 3, Boston:** Hockey: Boston Bruins vs. Montreal Canadiens at the TD Banknorth Garden. \$42, 7 pm. Contact: boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **March 6, Montreal:** McGill Society of Montreal presents "Family Fun at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts." Join us for a guided tour and sculpting workshop during Spring Break! \$10, 1:30 pm, RSVP required. Contact: Sophia Johnson at 514-398-7684 or sophia.johnson@mcgill.ca.
- **March 6, Montreal:** McGill Programs for Whole Person Care presents the "Films That Transform" series: *This Beggar's Description*. Moyse Hall, \$10, \$5 students and seniors, 7-9 pm. Contact: 514-398-2298 or wpc.oncology@mcgill.ca.
- **March 7, Montreal:** McGill Reads: Professor Miranda Hickman discusses Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep*. Arts Building, \$15 (fee for the semester), 6 pm. Contact: Sophia Johnson at 514-398-7684 or sophia.johnson@mcgill.ca.
- **March 7, France:** Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.
- **March 8, Atlanta:** 7th Annual Canadian Hockey Night in Atlanta, Montreal Canadiens vs. Atlanta Thrashers. Pre-game meet and greet 6 pm, game 7 pm, \$47. Contact Heidi Allardyce at 770-552-8631 or branches.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **March 24, Boston:** Young Alumni Fantasy Tea. Contact: boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **April 4, France:** Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.
- **April 11, Montreal:** McGill Reads: Dr. Gordon Crelinsten, BSc'68, MDCM'70, discusses Vincent Lam's *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures*, winner of the 2006 Giller Prize. Arts Building, \$15 (fee for the semester), 6 pm. Contact: Sophia Johnson at 514-398-7684 or sophia.johnson@mcgill.ca.
- **April 13, Boston:** Young Alumni Martini Night. Contact: boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **April 17, Montreal:** McGill Programs for Whole Person Care presents the "Films That Transform" series: *Born into Brothels*. Moyse Hall, \$10, \$5 students and seniors, 7-9 pm. Contact: 514-398-2298 or wpc.oncology@mcgill.ca.
- **April 18, Boston:** McGill Reads – Boston Book Club, 7 pm. Contact: boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.
- **May 2, France:** Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.
- **May 15, Montreal:** McGill Programs for Whole Person Care presents the "Films that Transform" series: *Murderball*. Moyse Hall, \$10, \$5 students and seniors, 7-9 pm. Contact: 514-398-2298 or wpc.oncology@mcgill.ca.
- **May 20, Boston:** White Water Rafting. Contact: Boston Alumni Branch at boston.alumni@mcgill.ca
- **June 6, France:** Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.
- **June 12, Montreal:** McGill Programs for Whole Person Care presents the "Films that Transform" series: *39 Pounds of Love*. Moyse Hall, \$10, \$5 students and seniors, 7-9 pm. Contact: 514-398-2298 or wpc.oncology@mcgill.ca.
- **July 4, France:** Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.

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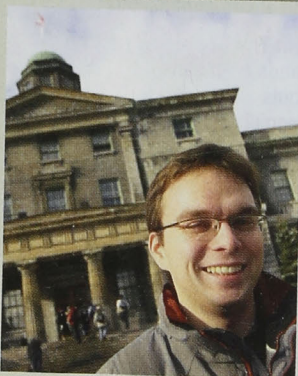
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TWO GLOBALLY ACTIVE MCGILL students are the latest recipients of the world's oldest and most prestigious academic award, the Rhodes Scholarship. Recipients are selected for their academic and athletic excellence, as well as strength of character – a combination winningly embodied by both David Matthews and Katherine Trajan.

David Matthews, 22, is completing concurrent degrees in music and biology. The Halifax native's extracurricular activities include playing intramural hockey, sitting on the editorial board of McGill's *Science Undergraduate Research Journal* and playing the violin with the McGill Symphony Orchestra.

courses in water treatment, urban planning and globalization with a project to design and build a rainwater harvesting system for a sustainable-living centre.

As part of their scholarships, Trajan and Matthews will begin graduate studies at Oxford University in October 2007. Inspired by her work in Barbados, Trajan will pursue an MSc in water science policy and management.

"My civil engineering degree sets me up well to approach the technical aspect of water development and management," she says. "Now I want to know more about other factors affecting these processes. Visiting South Africa with the swim team, for example, convinced me of the critical

An award-winning member of McGill's swim team, Katherine Trajan, 23, is working on an undergraduate degree in civil engineering with minors in environmental engineering and world religions. The Nanaimo, B.C., native shares Matthews's passion for music – she's classically trained in piano and voice, and has performed everywhere from rock clubs to geriatric centres. Trajan spent the Fall '06 semester on a field study at McGill's Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados. There, she juggled

role of water in human development. I want to apply my degree in a way that would benefit those in the global south."

Matthews, who will focus his Oxford studies on global health and social policy, also draws inspiration from his globetrotting. Through the provincial government's Québec Sans Frontières program, he spent the past summer as an intern at Radio Oxy-Jeunes, a Senegalese community radio station. As a news reporter, Matthews pounded the streets of Dakar, getting an up-close look at a range of pressing social concerns, from providing vitamin supplements for infants to sanitation problems on urban farms.

"The experience opened my mind to a much broader range of global issues than I had previously considered," he says. "I returned to Canada with a renewed appreciation for the importance of leadership both at home and abroad, and a strengthened resolve to pursue a career in global health."

The Rhodes is awarded annually to fewer than 100 students worldwide – and only 11 in Canada. David Matthews and Katherine Trajan are the 127th and 128th McGill students to earn the honour.

Mac keeps memory alive

Along the sidelines of the old Macdonald College football field, a ring of oak trees has stood for 75 years in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in World War I. Until recently, though, no marker existed to tell the story of the trees: that they were planted by students to honour the 34 young men from Macdonald College and Macdonald High School who perished in the war.

The story was passed down through generations of Mac students. In the early 1970s when John Abbott College first took up residence on portions of Macdonald Campus, students like Mike Schofield, BSc(Agr)'74, filled the newcomers in on the significance of the trees when they played football together.

Schofield, now president of the Macdonald branch of the Alumni Association, was among those who attended a ceremony in November to unveil a permanent memorial at the athletic field. "Those of us who

went to Mac were more inclined to be aware of the college and campus history," says Schofield, adding the memorial – a bronze plaque on a granite base – "is a wonderful thing that hopefully will keep the story alive."

Helping that cause is Lou Chapman, a member of the John Abbott football contingent at the time who today is head coach of the John Abbott College Islanders men's football team.

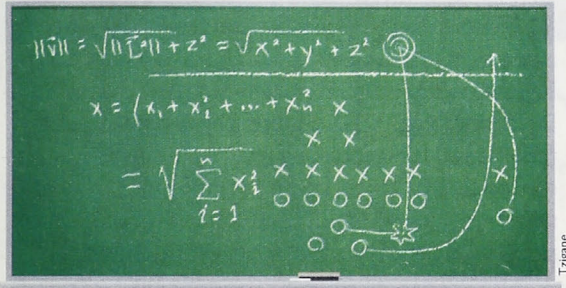
"These kids are no older than the ones who died in the war," Chapman says of his players, whom he encourages to gather around one of the oak trees before each home game to draw inspiration. "I thought it was important to let them know that when they go out onto that field, it's not just another field. There's a message there about sacrifice."





Wise

World of Sports



Anyone who believes that athletic ability and academic prowess are mutually exclusive will find a record number of Martlets and Redmen who disagree. In fact, McGill recently established a new national best, producing 147 student-athletes who earned Academic All-Canadian status.

To qualify for the honour, students must be full-time and maintain a minimum average of 80% in their studies while competing in varsity sports, a feat accomplished by almost 40% of student-athletes at McGill this past year.

The women's field hockey and track teams, and the men's football, hockey and soccer squads, each produced 12 or more athletes worthy of distinction and set single-season club highs. Top honours, however, were reserved for the Martlets rugby team, which boasted 17 All-Canadians. McGill's smartest team is also one of the most successful, with eight consecutive Quebec women's rugby titles to their credit.

The student-athletes say success boils down to that ever-important notion of balance. Students are aware early of the heavy demands placed on varsity athletes and they quickly become experts at time management. It is not uncommon, for example, to see stacks of books along for the ride on athletic road trips. "Everybody works hard," says rugby player and third-year physical education student Cindy Pressé. "The key is getting your schoolwork done first."

This is the seventh straight year that McGill has had more than 100 honorees receive the Canadian Interuniversity Sport designation. The CIS, the body which governs sport at the university level, launched the program in 1990 and since then, a whopping 1,404 Academic All-Canadians have worn McGill's red and white, also a national record.

AFTER COMPLETING HER FIRST YEAR AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT McGill in 1937, Michelle Tisseyre, BA'06, took a break from her studies. Now, some 70 years later, she finally has the degree she began so long ago.

Tisseyre initially left to marry her first husband. Then life got very busy. During her seven-decade hiatus from McGill, Tisseyre raised five children, became the first woman to anchor Radio-Canada's "grand journal" newscast, hosted Canada's first TV talk show, *Rendez-vous avec Michelle*, hobnobbed with the likes of Edith Piaf and Charles Aznavour as the host of the enormously popular variety show *Music-Hall*, and co-founded a publishing company with her second husband that specialized in translating iconic English-Canadian authors such as Morley Callaghan, Margaret Laurence and Robertson Davies for French readers.

When the 88-year-old walked across the stage during McGill's recent fall convocation ceremonies, chances are she was the only freshly minted McGill graduate with the Order of Canada already on her CV. As Tisseyre was handed her degree, the audience treated her to an extended standing ovation. "It was very emotional for me," she says, "especially since it was started by the younger people."

When Tisseyre decided to return to McGill in 2001 to finish her degree (honours in Italian Studies with a minor in Art History), she wasn't quite sure what to expect. "I was afraid that the young people would look at me and say, 'Who is this old dame?'"

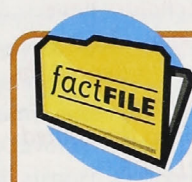
Turned out that the decades between classes had done nothing to dampen her spirit or ability to fit in. "I've felt comfortable right from the start," says the grandmother of 28 and great-grandmother of 10. "It's been just wonderful having people come up to me and say, 'I want to be just like you when I get older.'" At exam time, Tisseyre could commiserate with granddaughter Sacha, a commerce student slated to graduate in 2007.

One thing that has changed over the years is the nature of celebrity, says Tisseyre, who chatted with many of the stars of the '50s and '60s on her TV shows. The woman who became a household name herself recalls that "most celebrities at that time were so simple, so unassuming, but it has become a mad, mad world today."

THE GAP YEAR THAT GREW



Claudio Calligaris



McGill's first Rhodes Scholars were Herbert Jennings Rose, BA1904, and John Gordon Archibald, BA 1904.



Millions of viewers are tuning in to *The Apprentice* to watch Muna Heaven, BCL/LLB'04, do everything she can to avoid having one of television's most stinging catchphrases – “You're fired” – hurled at her by flamboyant tycoon Donald Trump.

Heaven is one of a fresh crop of 18 candidates vying to earn a job with one of Trump's companies during the sixth season of the popular NBC reality show, which premiered January 7. *Apprentice* contestants are assigned to one of two teams, which compete in a series of tasks related to Trump's businesses. At least one member of the losing squad, picked by a scowling Trump, gets the boot in each episode.

This season, the show has moved from New York to Los Angeles and the stakes have been raised for the contestants. Winning team members get to live in a mansion, while the losers spend the night outside in tents with access only to outdoor showers and portable toilets.

According to an NBC press release, Heaven has degrees in French and biology in addition to her McGill legal training. Born in Jamaica, the New Jersey-based lawyer is an accomplished equestrienne, who has taken part in show jumping competitions in several countries. In the release, Heaven references her studies in international trade law, arguing that she should be the next *Apprentice* because her “background in international trade and foreign languages run in tandem with the Trump Organization's increasingly global integration.”

We'll find out if The Donald agrees.



Mitchell Haaseth/NBC

ASPIRING APPRENTICE

Old Macdonald has a stamp

MACDONALD COLLEGE WAS PART OF A SELECT crowd in 2006, joining an eclectic bunch that also included Queen Elizabeth, *King Kong* actress Fay Wray, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, explorer Samuel de Champlain and duck decoys.

What this group has in common is that they were among the 21 subjects selected by Canada Post to be featured on special commemorative stamps. For Macdonald, the launching of the stamp last fall marked the official beginning of a year-long celebration of its 100th birthday. The 51-cent stamp showcases Macdonald's familiar green, gold and red coat of arms, as well as one of the college's original buildings, known to generations of Mac students simply as the Main Building (since sold to neighbouring John Abbott College.)

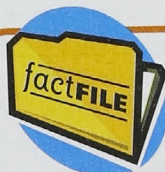
Macdonald takes its name from Sir William Macdonald, a Scottish-born tobacco manufacturer, who believed fervently in the importance of education. Macdonald College was founded on farm properties he purchased at the western tip of Montreal Island in 1904. Construction began the following year, and in 1906 Macdonald turned over the deeds to the Board of Governors of McGill University, along with a \$2-million endowment.

The college first opened its doors to students in 1907 and initially housed three schools – Agriculture, Household Science, and Teachers – which reflected Sir William's personal philosophy that farm, home and school were the three pillars of society.

Today, the 650-hectare campus is home to the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition.

“When Sir William Macdonald founded Macdonald College, it was a landmark in philanthropy,” says Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Chandra Madramootoo, BSc(Agr)'77, MSc'81, PhD'85, adding that the commemorative stamp is a testament to Sir William's leadership and vision in creating what has become an internationally recognized institution.

Anyone interested in learning about events celebrating Mac's centennial birthday bash is invited to visit www.mcgill.ca/macdonald/centenary.



McGill's Rhodes Scholars have included David Lewis, BA'31, who co-founded and later led the federal New Democratic Party, and Canada's former ambassador to the United Nations, L. Yves Fortier, BCL'58, LLD'05.



Tom Gammam/AP Photo

Recently discovered items belonging to James Naismith that were auctioned off in December.

SLAM DUNK HISTORICAL FIND

Along with mementos such as the passport he used to travel to the 1936 Olympics (when basketball became an official Olympic sport), the collection was auctioned off in Dallas in December, fetching about \$715,000. Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, owners of the NBA's Toronto Raptors, were among the successful bidders. Maple Leaf purchased 25 Naismith artifacts and will exhibit them at the Raptor's home stadium, the Air Canada Centre.

One detail that the diaries prove conclusively: basketball was inspired by a game Naismith, BA1887, played while growing up in rural Ontario called "Duck-on-a-Rock." Naismith's brainchild was concocted for unruly students in need of diversion during the cold winter months in Massachusetts, where he worked as a physical education teacher at Springfield College.

The original rules were shaped more by circumstance than conscious intention. Naismith planned to use boxes for goals, for example, but settled for peach baskets when that was all the janitor could find. The first games were played nine-a-side because there were 18 men in his class. Even the installation of backboards was for pragmatic reasons. "If their team was losing," says the 74-year-old Carpenter, "people were climbing onto the railing and preventing the ball from going in."

Does Carpenter think her grandfather would have been surprised by how much the game ultimately grew? "He had no idea. Even when they invited him to the Olympics in 1936, he was awed."

One of McGill's famous graduates has added some new wrinkles to his history. An important cache of James Naismith's personal effects was recently found in the basement of his last surviving relative's home, and it included photographs and documents providing fresh insights into Naismith's invention of basketball in 1891.

According to Hellen Carpenter, Naismith's granddaughter, she always knew the box was there – she just never got around to inspecting it carefully. When she finally did, she discovered a trove of memorabilia, including Naismith's copy of the first rules of basketball, a photograph of the original court (with peach baskets for nets) and a diary that chronicles his early attempts to devise an indoor alternative to football.

The dividends of childhood wonder

CURIOSITY MAY NOT BE KIND TO CATS, but in the case of Lorne Trottier, the entrepreneur's curiosity about the marvels of the universe will do wonders for McGill's Science and Engineering faculties.

Trottier, BEng'70, MEng'73, DSc'06, co-founder of the Montreal-based high-tech video graphics company Matrox Electronic Systems, and president of Matrox Graphics, recently donated \$12 million to allow each of the two faculties to establish an endowed chair and provide fellowship funds to support graduate students.

Physics professor Victoria Kaspi, a world expert on neutron stars and a Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics, will hold the Lorne Trottier Chair in Astrophysics and Cosmology in the Faculty of Science. The Lorne Trottier Chair in Aerospace Engineering will be filled

later through an international search.

In an impassioned address to McGill officials, faculty, students and industry peers – fittingly convened in the Lorne M. Trottier Engineering Building – Trottier explained how the impetus for the gift was rooted in a lifelong fascination with science, stars and sky.

"When I was about 11 years old, a new friend introduced me to the world of electronics," Trottier, (pictured at right) recalled. "I was instantly hooked and began building all sorts of interesting electronic devices, ranging from crystal radios to ham radio gear. I went to the library and started reading every introductory book I could find – not only on electronics, but also on science in general.

"At about the same age, I got my first bicycle. One of my favourite destinations was at Dorval airport, an access road just short of the main runway.

It was a great thrill for me to watch as jets came thundering in at near treetop level. It's a thrill that I have never outgrown."

His gift comes six years after his \$10-million donation towards the construction of the Lorne M. Trottier Building, inaugurated in 2004.



Owen Egan



Owen Egan

Developing McGill's International Influence

Does Canada matter on the world stage? Former Prime Minister Joe Clark – who also served as Canada's secretary of state for external affairs from 1984 to 1991 – doesn't think it's even a question worth asking. We're widely respected on the international scene, insists Clark (pictured above), and we ought to act the part. "Some people think it's all applesauce, but it's true. We do have influence and we underplay it."

He notes that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has placed a lot of focus on Canadian-American relations since taking office a year ago – maybe too much. "We're at

our best when we recognize both sides of the coin, playing an active role in the world and an active role on this continent."

Clark is determined to do his part and he'll be flying the McGill banner when he does. One of Canada's best-known political figures, Clark recently joined McGill as a professor of practice for public-private sector partnerships in the Centre for Developing-Area Studies (CDAS) and as a visiting scholar at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC). "I'll be spared the really hard stuff," Clark says half-jokingly of his new role at McGill. "I don't have to mark any papers."

Maybe not, but he will be busy. Clark will be putting his wealth of experience in foreign affairs and Canadian politics to work in research and teaching programs at CDAS and MISC.

Since leaving the House of Commons, Clark has been acting on his long-standing interest in developing countries. As a director with the Canadian Foundation for the Americas, Clark has in the past helped organize CDAS efforts to attract foreign investment to Haiti. More recently, he led an international delegation that served as official observers for the recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It's the sort of work he wants to continue, collaborating with faculty at CDAS. "When you're no longer in office, you're freer to initiate certain types of discussions," he says. "There are some international issues where I can draw people together and get discussions started where [people in government] can't."

A TO-DO LIST TO DIE FOR

WHILE MANY STUDENTS SPENT LAST SUMMER HITTING THE beach or waiting tables, McGill arts undergraduate Jonnie Penn was busy pondering a weighty topic. What sorts of things did he want to do before dying?

According to Penn, people lose sight of the once-in-a-lifetime things they would like to experience in a world where instant messaging and BlackBerrys provide constant distractions. So, together with his brother and two acquaintances, Penn came up with a list of 100 things that the four of them eventually wanted to accomplish – from getting a tattoo to telling a joke on late-night TV to swimming with dolphins. Then they hopped aboard an RV in their native British Columbia and started getting things done, pledging to help at least 50 other people do the same. They called it the Buried Life Tour – achieving the unusual goals that get buried under day-to-day commitments.

The quartet created a website to chronicle their adventure and as word spread, Penn realized they had struck a nerve. The media came calling, emails flowed in from strangers detailing their own to-do lists, and "middle-aged men kept coming up to us, asking, 'Can I be the fifth guy on your team?'"

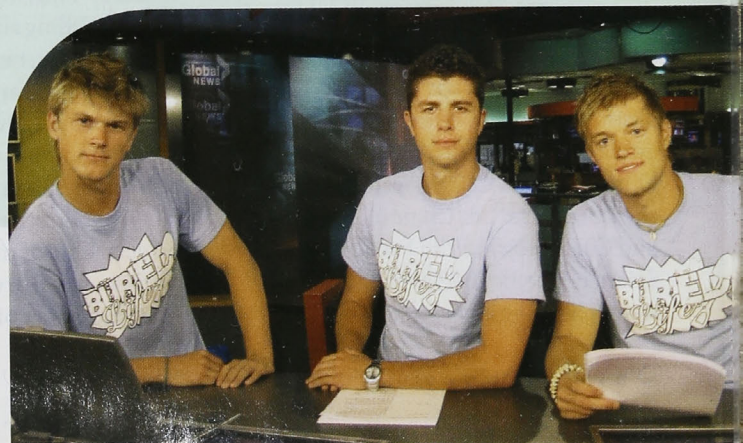
Jonnie Penn (left) and two of his Buried Life teammates co-hosted the beginning of a Global television newcast, the first item on their list of things to do.

They plan to keep the project alive, using the website to chart their progress. The site will also connect people with their own "before I die" aspirations with others who might supply the necessary resources. "Included on our list was 'ride a bull,'" says Penn. "We've had three ranches get in touch, offering to help us out. We'll use the website to help other people the same way."

So far, the Buried Life crew has crossed several items off their list, including leading a parade, briefly co-hosting a supper-hour newscast, spending the night in a haunted house and kissing a celebrity (Stanley Cup winner Mark Reechi).

Says Penn, "One of the things we wanted to do was to say, 'There is always a way to dig yourself out of a rut and do the things that are important to you.'"

For more information, visit www.theburiedlife.com





ARCTIC ANXIETY



According to a McGill scientist, polar bears may soon have even more cause for concern.

The big beasts are already having difficulty coping with the impact of shrinking ice caps on their Arctic terrain. Now, McGill Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences professor Bruno Tremblay, BEng'87, PhD'97, has concluded in a recent study that the Arctic coastline could be

virtually ice-free during the summer months as early as 2040.

Tremblay and his co-researchers, whose work was funded in part by NASA, examined the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the Arctic, tracking the rates of change and modelling possible future scenarios based on what they witnessed.

The simulations offered a disturbing forecast. While there has been a steady decline in summer sea ice over the past three decades, Tremblay believes that this decline could soon increase dramatically – to a rate as much as ten times faster. As he indicated in an interview broadcast on *Canada AM*, the buildup of greenhouse gases is reaching a “tipping point” that will likely eat away at the summer sea ice far more quickly than it has in the past.

In their study, published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, Tremblay and his co-authors warn that these shifts could “further strain the adaptation of native peoples to climate change” – they wouldn’t be able to fish from sea ice in the summer months, for instance. The disappearance of summer sea ice in the Arctic would also accelerate global warming trends, adds Tremblay, since ice-free water absorbs much more sunlight than ice does.

The future isn’t yet cast in stone, says Tremblay. If emission rates of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases were cut back, summer ice levels in the Arctic could undergo a much slower retreat.

A lawyer at long last

IT WAS A CEREMONY 92 YEARS IN THE MAKING.

In 1914, McGill law alumna Annie MacDonald Langstaff (pictured) became the first woman in Quebec to earn a degree in law. It wasn’t until this fall, however, that she was finally granted posthumous admittance to the Quebec Bar.

Why the long wait? It certainly wasn’t for lack of trying. MacDonald Langstaff first attempted to join the ranks of the Bar Association immediately following her graduation. The Bar turned her down, and the reasons behind the decision had everything to do with her gender. According to the law at the time, MacDonald Langstaff required her husband’s permission to engage in business of any kind. The fact that her husband had disappeared some years earlier, leaving her to raise their daughter, earned her no sympathy.

She persisted in challenging the Bar in court, but to no avail. In spite of her lack of official lawyerly status, she forged a reputation as a distinguished legal writer, publishing articles on family law, as well as a French-English law dictionary in 1937.

The law was finally changed in 1941, making Quebec the last province to admit women to the Bar, but MacDonald Langstaff felt it was too late for her. Thanks to her efforts, however, Elizabeth C. Monk, BA’19, BCL’23, LLD’75, became the first woman admitted to the profession in Quebec in 1942.


MacDonald Langstaff’s admission to the Bar owes much to Julie Latour, BCL’86, LLB’86, the current *Bâtonnier* of Montreal, who cites the tenacious MacDonald Langstaff as a role model for all women practising law. The Quebec Bar also awarded MacDonald Langstaff its highest honour, the *Medaille du Barreau de Montréal*, in recognition of her accomplishments.

Former Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard was on hand to receive the prize – he is a partner at Davies, Ward, Phillips & Vineberg, the same law firm (then known as Jacobs, Couture and Fitch) that employed MacDonald Langstaff as a paralegal for nearly 60 years. Bouchard handed the medal over to McGill Dean of Law Nicholas Kasirer, BCL’85, LLB’85, and it will be on permanent display at the Faculty of Law.



McGill Archives

contributors: MICHAEL BOURGUIGNON, GAVIN DRUMMOND, JAMES MARTIN, DANIEL MCCABE, NEIL MCDEVITT, PASCAL ZAMPRELLI



Women weren't permitted to compete for Rhodes Scholarships until 1976. McGill's first female Rhodes Scholar was Lianne Potter, BA'79.

VISIONARY VoyageUR

MCGILL BIOCHEMIST NAHUM SONENBERG (opposite page) thinks of himself as an explorer, inspired by the likes of Columbus and Captain Cook. But the waters Sonenberg metaphorically sails swirl within us – they are the uncharted passages of the human body and invisible to the naked eye.

“The motivation is like that of any explorer,” he says on a tour of his lab in the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building where he

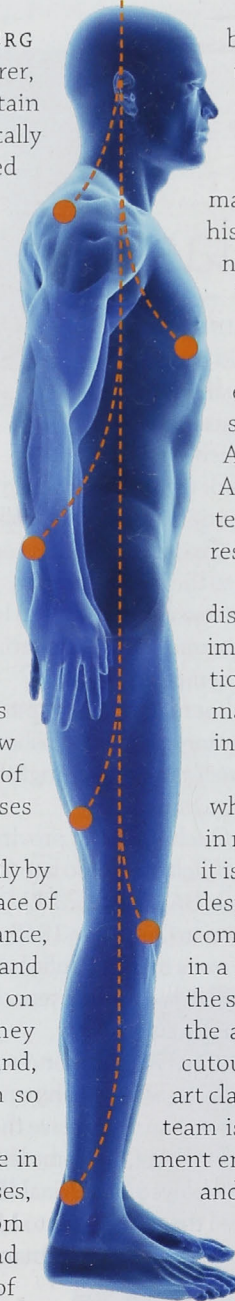
by HUBERT BAUCH

oversees a devoted crew of two dozen post-graduate students. “You can discover a new island, discover Hawaii, even new continents – imagine!”

A James McGill Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and a senior researcher at the McGill Cancer Centre, Sonenberg has been mapping new territory since his arrival at the University in 1979. Former dean of Medicine Abe Fuks calls him one of Canada’s finest scientists, whose efforts have both basic and clinical value. “His work is especially important in explaining how viruses can cause illness in people and is of particular interest to hepatitis, tumour viruses and HIV.”

The human immune system works primarily by recognizing the shape of proteins on the surface of a virus – if those proteins change their appearance, the viruses can breach our natural defenses and wreak havoc. Sonenberg’s research focuses on identifying proteins, finding out how they behave, what determines their behaviour, and, ultimately, altering and manipulating them so they behave, as it were, on command.

Proteins occur in many forms everywhere in our bodies – they are the molecular workhorses, determining and regulating functions from memory retention to aggression impulse and from waste disposal to weight gain. Hundreds of



biological processes – and diseases – fall under the general purview of his research. An excess of some proteins causes cancer, for instance, while a deficiency of others causes diabetes.

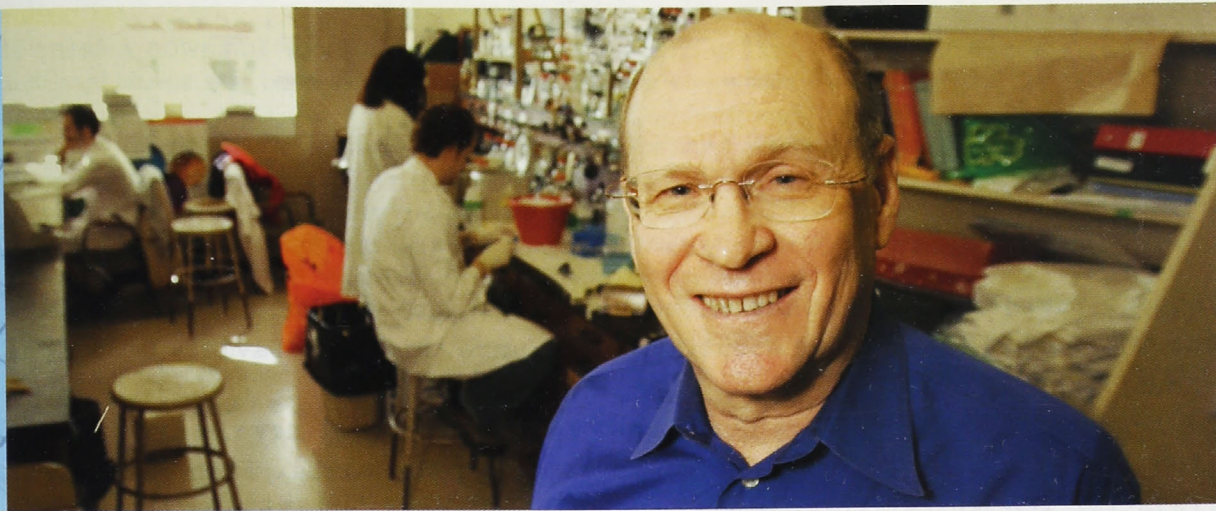
“That’s why it’s important to know this machinery and how it works,” Sonenberg says of his quest. First you want to know the mechanism, and you want to know the components. We think we have most of the components, but we’re not sure yet.”

Among his early discoveries was a protein excessively present in cancer cells that was subsequently found to be a cause of the disease. And – shades of Columbus stumbling on the Americas while in search of China – one of his team’s major discoveries during further cancer research was a protein that aggravates obesity.

“Maybe we didn’t discover America, but we discovered a protein that has turned out to be important,” Sonenberg says. A human application is still some way off, but the finding is of major significance at a time when obesity is an increasing worldwide public health problem.

A related protein affects memory storage, which he has shown can be impaired or enhanced in mice through genetic manipulation. Exploring it is a laborious and seemingly primitive process, despite the high-tech gadgetry at Sonenberg’s command. The work involves observation of mice in a miniature pool with a small island just below the surface that the swimming mice must find with the aid of visual clues – brightly coloured paper cutouts that look borrowed from a kindergarten art class – on the walls around the pool. Sonenberg’s team is trying to determine what protein enhancement enables the mice to read the clues more readily and find the island more quickly.

That kind of basic research – the dogged investigation of process – is critical, says Sonenberg. He deplores the shortsighted



Chwen Egan

concentration in the private research sector on coming up with marketable products quickly instead of probing deeper into the fundamentals of disease, and fears that trend is creeping into university bastions of pure research. "Now, when you apply to federal granting agencies, they want to see that it has some kind of direct application. That's not good."

Sonenberg was born in postwar Germany in a displaced persons camp, and grew up and received his education in Israel. He then joined the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology in Nutley, New Jersey, with a Chaim Weitzmann post-doctoral fellowship. A visa problem which made it difficult to remain in the U.S., and McGill's stellar reputation in his field attracted him to Montreal. He says he was drawn to biology as his discipline because, while it has mysteries, there are no gray areas – things are or they aren't. "What we are doing is the ultimate truth."

Along with the thrill of his discoveries, his career has brought him a bounty of honours: he was named to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and a Howard Hughes International Research Scholar and has received the \$100,000 Killam Prize and the Robert L. Noble Prize of the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

The honours he's received are nice, he says, because they're recognition of his work and help with research funding. "You're treated better, but in terms of prizes, like everything else, there is politics. When I think clearly, it's not the important thing to me. The important thing is to do the good work and then have people recognize it."

What drives Sonenberg is a powerful work ethic derived from his upbringing. "If you want to succeed, you want to be first, and the winner will be the one who works hardest," he says. He rises early, puts in long hours at his lab, then works into the night once he gets home. He and his wife of 34 years, an administrator in Montreal's Jewish school system, have raised two

daughters, now grown and married, who are in the computer field. "They didn't want to go into science because it's too much work," he says.

Still, he has found time to develop an encyclopedic knowledge of baseball, as well as a reputation for playing a mean game of ping-pong. And he's no grim taskmaster with his students. "He's great. He's fantastic," says his department head, David Thomas, chair of McGill's Department of Biochemistry. "As a colleague he's wonderful. As a graduate school teacher – terrific. A real role model."

Sonenberg sees a new world opening up, one in which cancer is eliminated along with other major diseases, body weight is easily regulated, and intelligence and memory are readily enhanced, all through the manipulation of our proteins with drugs just waiting to be developed. A world in which we understand death – perhaps even overcome it.

"If we fully understand the biology of organisms, including humans, we would know everything about life and death," he said. "We know now why we die. We know everything is determined by the genome. Now that we know how it works, we basically can change it."

He acknowledges fears that the process could take a Frankenstein-like turn, but says there's no turning back scientific advance.

"You cannot stop human beings from experimenting. People say, yeah, this is playing God. But, basically, what is the universe? It's made of atoms, and if we can change the atoms, we can change the molecules of life. We can change the universe. Theoretically this should be possible. Definitely there's a big danger, but the worst disasters have come from human beings, without any manipulation."

He says the main thing holding us back from this new horizon is a shortage of funding. "If we spent as much as we spend on defence, especially in the States, the answers would have been in, because it's doable. The principles are there. It can all be done. We need only the will, and somebody with the vision." 🐦

The Write Stuff

Canadian literature has never been healthier and some of the country's finest authors have emerged from McGill

BY NEALE McDEVITT AND DANIEL McCABE, BA'89

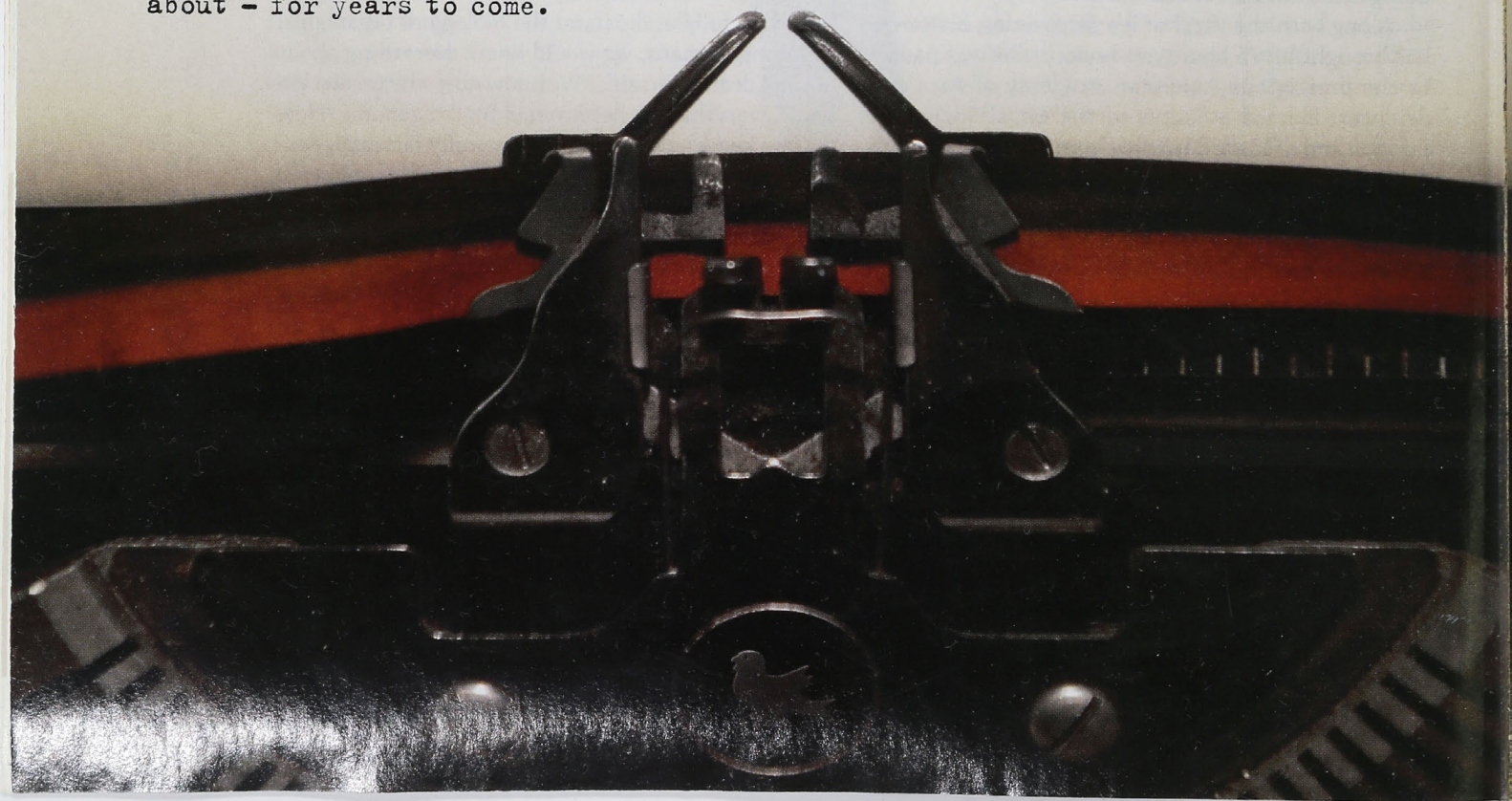
For the longest time, it seemed that whenever the subject of Canadian literature came up, the same names were bandied about. Atwood. Munro. Richler. Davies. Ondaatje. Things have changed.

Canadian writers of substance are now almost legion. The best novels produced in Canada match up against anything authored anywhere in the world. Each year, when the finalists for the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Awards are announced, a fierce debate typically ensues over the many good books that didn't quite make the cut.

Some of the most exciting fiction being produced these days is the work of McGill graduates. Three of the last six winners of the Books in Canada First Novel Award, for instance, are McGill alums - Eva Stachniak, BA'88, Mary Lawson, BA'68, and Colin McAdam, BA'93.

They aren't the only McGill graduates making waves in literary circles. CBC online journalist Katrina Onstad, BA'94, earned raves for her first novel, the acerbic *How Happy to Be*, while the award-winning *Trout Stanley*, by playwright Claudia Dey, BA'95, was described by the *New York Times* as a "deliciously lyrical piece of Canadian Gothic" when it made its Big Apple debut in mid-2006. Andrew Pyper, BA'91, MA'92, draws plenty of attention for his slick, brainy thrillers, as does Edeet Ravel, MA'86, PhD'92, for her poignant tales of love amidst the political strife of the Middle East.

Here are some McGill authors whose work we suspect you'll be reading - and reading about - for years to come.



IS THERE A DOWNSIDE TO PENNING A CRITICALLY acclaimed international bestseller? Mary Lawson would argue yes.

No one was more surprised than she was at the huge success of her first book, *Crow Lake*, released in 2002. Just published in its 22nd country (Poland), the novel propelled Lawson into unexpected literary stardom, with a guest appearance on the *Today Show* and gushing reviews in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and countless other publications.

"I really didn't know what I had done right," Lawson confesses. "I didn't know if I could do it again."

As her follow-up book, *The Other Side of the Bridge*, neared its publication date, Lawson worried about how it would be received. Would she be a one-hit wonder?

Then the new novel made the longlist of one of the world's most prestigious literary awards, the Man Booker Prize. Lawson relaxed. "That didn't necessarily mean that it would get good reviews," Lawson explains. "It just meant that I would care less if it didn't."

As things turned out, the reviews for *The Other Side of the Bridge* have been glowing. "A beautiful read, on every level," declared *The Independent*. "Lawson's gifts are enormous," added the *Toronto Star*. The book has been a fixture on the *Maclean's* magazine list of Canadian best-sellers since its publication last fall.

Two hit novels in a row. Not bad for a woman who was in her 50s when she finally published her first book. "I never had problems putting words on paper," Lawson relates. "My only problem was figuring out what I wanted to say. I didn't know that till I was nearly 50. Had I poured it on, full steam, in my 20s or 30s, I doubt I would have gotten there any sooner."

She nearly didn't get there at all. She spent years writing her first book. "It was no good. I shredded it. It had no heart to it."

Crow Lake was the product of five more years of writing. This time Lawson was satisfied with what she had wrought. She sent it off to publishers.

For the next three years, Lawson collected rejection notices. Then an agent took an interest in the book and began to shop it around. Soon, there was a bidding war among seven publishers. Lawson was pleased, but perplexed.

"I could understand if I had reworked *Crow Lake* and made it a better book. But, no, it was the same exact book, word for word, that had been completely rejected before." Her conclusion? "Luck plays an unacceptably large role in the whole business."

Lawson has lived in Britain since 1968. She treated herself to the trip after graduating from McGill with a psychology degree and ended up staying. She married a British psychologist and raised two sons. But her novels are both set in northern Ontario. Lawson spent many of her childhood summers in the north, and the region's majestic landscape and haunting stillness left a huge impression on her.

Things that you experience as a child "get into your bones at a more fundamental level than anything else," Lawson explains. "It's a cure for homesickness," she says of her books' setting. "I spend a lot of time there in my head."

Lawson remembers her time at McGill fondly. The small-town girl was happily dazzled by the charms of Montreal. Largely as a result, she admits she wasn't a star student.

"That wasn't the fault of the teachers. We had both Donald Hebb and Ronald Melzack back then – really impressive figures and inspirational teachers. Even I noticed that."

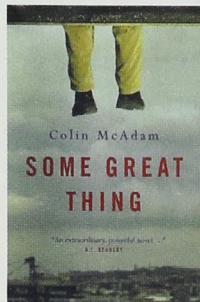
Before taking her first stab at a novel, Lawson dabbled in short stories.

"The great thing about writing a novel, the part that's the most fun, is developing a character over time," says Lawson. "I could never do that to the same extent with short stories and I found that frustrating."

She is delighted when her characters surprise her, as they frequently do. For instance, she had a very clear sense of the personalities of Kate and Matt, the central characters in *Crow Lake*, right from the start. Their brother Luke, though, was largely a mystery. He became a more pivotal figure than Lawson had originally envisioned, emerging from the shadow of his brilliant brother Matt. "He ended up as one of my favourite characters in the book. In many ways, he is the hero." And sometimes characters originate from very familiar sources.

Crow Lake's weepy Mrs. Stanovich, a somewhat ridiculous woman redeemed by her great warmth, is based, a little, on the author herself. "Her weepiness is my own. It's absolutely absurd. I'm ready to burst into tears at anything."





Colin McAdam

Jaelyn Moriarty

WHILE COLIN MCADAM ADMITS TO BEING A GRUMP when he is working on his writing, he is a happy fellow at the moment, and why shouldn't he be? Just days before being interviewed by the *McGill News*, McAdam's wife, writer Jaelyn Moriarty, gave birth to the couple's first child.

McAdam, who recently relocated to Sydney, Australia, volunteers to pay for the phone call for the interview since "calling cards are as cheap as borscht down here." He calls from a phone booth around midnight Sydney time and McAdam admits to be sipping from a "jar of whiskey." Clearly the celebration continues.

When asked what his recollections are of McGill, McAdam laughs. "I was a vaguely miserable undergraduate," he says before quickly correcting himself. "Actually, I was having lots of fun when I suddenly realized that I wasn't going to get very far having fun. That's when I turned miserable."

But the misery melted away when McAdam met a professor who would become a pivotal figure in his life.

He credits his signing up for a classics course taught by Anne Carson as the moment that set the writing gears in motion, however indiscernible at the time. Already well respected worldwide as a poet and a scholar, Carson was, in McAdam's words, "on her way to glory."

"Anne taught me how to read Greek and we started a writers' workshop together. Later on, she was instrumental in getting my novel published. McGill was really where it all started for me."

That McAdam spent much of his time as an English literature undergrad under the tutelage of one of the world's premier poets is supremely evident from the very outset of *Some Great Thing*. Set in Ottawa during the construction boom of the '70s, McAdam's novel follows the lives of Simon Struthers, a privileged, womanizing

"The novel is about how people shape space in terms of their particular passion and curious needs."

bureaucrat, and Jerry McGuinty, a rough-edged, self-made homebuilder. Writing from the perspective of multiple characters, McAdam saves his best poetry, albeit of the blue collar variety, for McGuinty.

"I built this house. Four-square, plaster walls, buttressed from toe to top with an iron goddamn will, my friend, standing proud proud proud," McGuinty tells readers by way of introduction. "I hammered it into the ground and I pushed it to the sky, and with the grace of God and the sweat of men I will build a thousand more."

The voice of Jerry McGuinty first emerged as a protest in the hallowed halls of academe that spawned McAdam's interest in writing. Doing his PhD at Cambridge on 17th-century political translations of Greek, McAdam's patience had reached a breaking point. "I was going nuts writing in this academic language. I thought it would be interesting to translate all this in a more secular voice."

Working in a computer lab, McAdam opened up a new Word document and began free-forming as McGuinty – the narrative alter-ego who formed the foundation of his literary breakthrough. "It really was a 'Eureka!' moment for me."

The resulting novel was hailed by the Governor General's Literary Award jury – *Some Great Thing* was a best fiction finalist in 2004 – as a "bravura accomplishment of voice and style, a burst of pure energy." Literary critic Noah Richler declared the novel would "reinvigorate Canadian fiction."

For his part, McAdam is both bemused and confused at being hailed as one of the new torch bearers for our national fiction. The son of a diplomat, he has lived in Hong Kong, Denmark, England, Australia, Bermuda and Canada.

"I started the book in Cambridge and finished it in Australia, but I was really pining for Canada while I was writing," he says. "It made me start thinking about what home is and how we define the space around it. The novel is about how people shape space in terms of their particular passion and curious needs. A lot of CanLit is preoccupied with place and space, so I guess I wrote a Canadian novel without really intending to."

WHEN DAVID BEZMOZGIS, BA'96, PUBLISHED HIS short story collection, *Natasha and Other Stories*, in 2004, the result was, in veteran critic Robert Fulford's words, a "one-man shock-and-awe invasion of North American literature."

The first-time author experienced almost every perk associated with being a literary sensation – rapturous reviews (in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and elsewhere), prizes (the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, to name two) – pretty much everything except for a spot on the couch next to Oprah.

The author himself happily traces his recent success as an author to his days as a Lit major at McGill.

"From McGill, you can just connect the dots to most of the important events that happened to me in regards to my writing," says Bezmozgis from the jumble of his home in Toronto, currently undergoing major renovations.

When connected, the dots follow the dizzying path of an unknown author who became the talk of New York literary circles almost overnight. Of course, like most "overnight" success stories, Bezmozgis's was years in the making and is a classic tale of one part talent and one part being in the right place at the right time.

Taking a postmodernism class as an undergraduate at McGill, Bezmozgis was captivated by *Water Music*, a novel by maverick American writer T.C. Boyle. A few years later, while doing his MA in film at the University of Southern California, Bezmozgis signed up for a writing class led by the iconoclastic author. Boyle was impressed with his student's fiction and introduced Bezmozgis to Leonard Michaels, another U.S. literary icon. Michaels befriended the young Canadian, and was pivotal in Bezmozgis signing a book deal with Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2002.

In May 2003, Bezmozgis scored a most unlikely hat trick for a novice author – placing stories from his soon-to-be-released collection in *Zoetrope: All Story*, *Harper's* and the *New Yorker*, the Holy Trinity of North American magazines for fiction writers. "My agent called it the trifecta," Bezmozgis laughs.

That magical May made Bezmozgis the poster boy for rookie writers everywhere and created a pre-release buzz for *Natasha* that was unparalleled in an industry notorious for letting short story collections rot on the shelves unless the last name on the cover is Munro.

Natasha is rooted in reality. Toronto serves as the backdrop for the seven linked stories that follow the Bermans, a family of immigrants from Latvia who do their best to fit into their strange new world, as did the author's own family during the exodus of Soviet Jews in 1980.

Indeed, the fictional family members share many similarities with their real-life counterparts, including living at the same address, attending the same schools and working the same jobs. Although fictionalized, "the context of stories is based on experiences either my family has had, or people in the community have had," says Bezmozgis. "One of my motivations was to repre-

sent this community which, up to that point, really hadn't been represented."

Not even 180 pages long, Bezmozgis's slender book nonetheless packs a major wallop. "Taken alone," declared the *Library Journal*, "these stories are charming and pitch-perfect; together, they add up to something like life itself: funny, heartbreaking, terrible, true." "*Natasha* became a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award and is currently in the running for CBC Radio's Canada Reads competition."

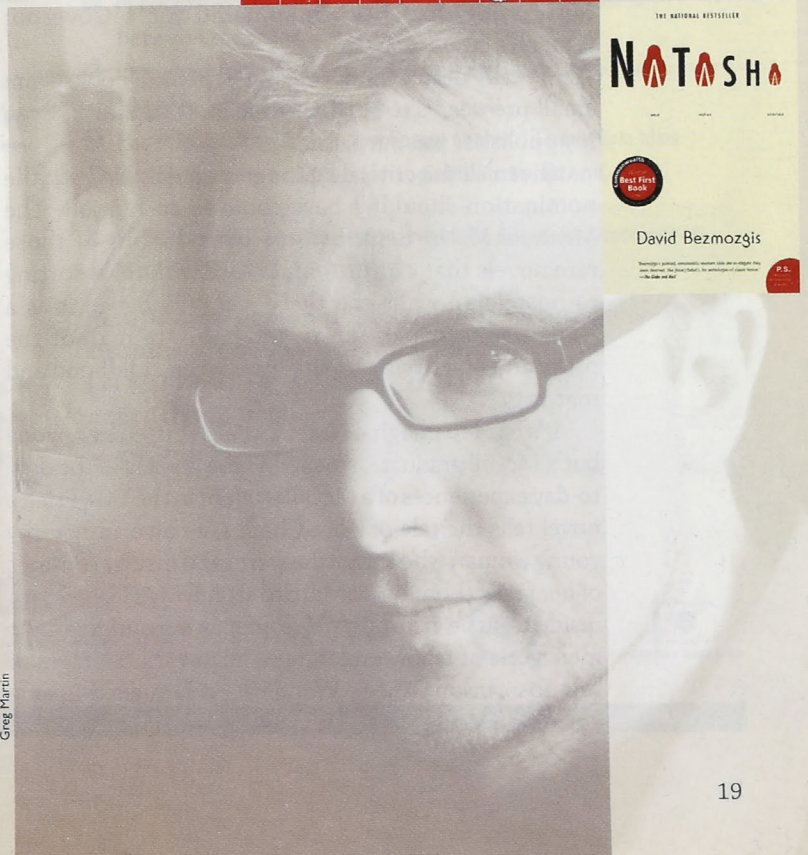
Bezmozgis was busy at Robert Redford's Sundance Institute this past summer, fine-tuning a film project he hopes to direct. "It is set in Toronto in 1988 and, much like *Natasha*, deals in part with a family of Soviet Jews."

He is also working on a new novel. "I keep writing because there are still stories I'd like to tell and I can't resist the challenge of trying to tell them," he says. "When I no longer feel that way, I'll stop."

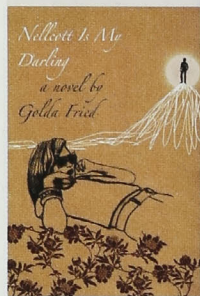
Although the future stretches brightly before him, Bezmozgis doesn't forget the path he's travelled to get there.

"I look back at my four years at McGill as maybe the four best years of my life," he says. "When I was in high school I didn't really have a community that I found interesting – at McGill I did. I co-edited [the student film journal] *Montage*, I got into the McGill theatre scene and was given the opportunity to read and be exposed to other voices and ideas. I think the benefits of that for me were incalculable."

David Bezmozgis



Greg Martin



Golda Fried

Justin Morgan

WHEN GOLDA FRIED, BA'94, LEFT THE COMPOSITION class she teaches at a community college in Greensboro, North Carolina, one October day in 2005, she realized that her cell phone was clogged with messages. Her initial panic – “I thought someone had died” – gave way to joy when she found out that her book, *Nellcott is My Darling*, had been nominated for a Governor General’s Literary Award.

“I really didn’t think they gave them to books from small presses,” she laughs. “I was in total shock. Even my publisher was surprised.”

Given all the critical kudos garnered by *Nellcott*, the nomination shouldn’t have come as such a jolt. The *Montreal Mirror* described the book as “one of those rare novels that captures innocence without resorting to nostalgia,” while the *Globe and Mail* hailed it as a “sensitive, sensual, funny and accurate map of the rocky and mystifying territory between childhood and maturity.”

It’s hard to imagine *Nellcott* being written by anyone but a McGill graduate, steeped as the book is in the day-to-day experiences of a McGill student in the ’90s. Fried’s novel tells the tale of Alice Charles, a naive and quirky young woman who leaves the warm and insular confines of her family home in Toronto to attend McGill. Living in residence, the neurotic newcomer is surrounded by a menagerie of fellow undergrads, all in various stages of self-absorption. Alice’s Wonderland is turned upside down when she falls for Nellcott Ragland, the proverbial

boy-from-the-wrong-side-of-the-tracks, who wears black eyeliner and works in a record store.

The 34-year-old Fried admits that reading a pair of coming-of-age novels (Leonard Cohen’s *The Favourite Game* and Daniel Richler’s *Kicking Tomorrow*) inspired her to try her own hand at the genre. Adhering to the

“I think that anyone who’s left home for their first year of school can relate to the book.”

adage “write what you know,” Fried shares a lot in common with her protagonist – although the author admits that she condensed several years of her own experience into Alice’s inaugural one. For starters, both are Torontonians whose fathers are proud, chest-thumping McGill alumni. And, like Alice, Fried arrived at McGill as a wide-eyed freshman, just 17 years old.

Fried is particularly adept at capturing the sights and sounds of residence life and the massive internal upheaval that many students experience when they move away from home for the first time. “Initially, I was really intimidated,” she says. “I didn’t have a lot of friends coming in.”

Like her creator, Alice tries to meet people by becoming the secretary of the ill-fated Film Society, where members spend as much time arguing about which film to show (“You guys had to pick the most obscure Rolling Stones movie, didn’t you?”) to the merits of serving Pop Tarts instead of popcorn.

And while shout outs to the Leacock Building and the Bifteck bar will be welcomed by alumni like old friends, the appeal of this girl-grows-up story is broader than that. “I think that anyone who’s left home for their first year of school can relate to the book.”

Currently, Fried is collaborating with illustrator Vesna Mostovac on a graphic novella. She admits that carving out opportunities to write can be challenging. “Unfortunately, I’m not very disciplined,” she laments. “I don’t think I do a good job of balancing work and writing. It would be easier if I was an insomniac, but I sleep a lot.”

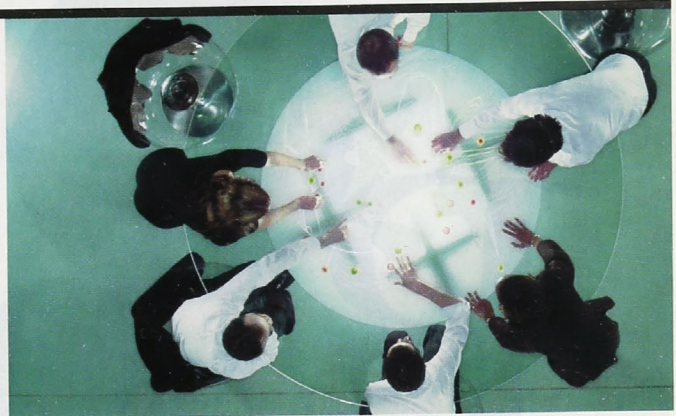
The writing life is an uncertain one with no guarantees of success. After *Crow Lake*, Mary Lawson was approached to give a talk, to encourage other budding writers to stick to it by using her hard-won success as an inspiration.

Lawson didn’t think that would have been honest.

“I should have given up [after the initial flurry of rejections]. The only sensible reason to write is because you love writing.”

To read about another accomplished alumni author, Giller and Governor General nominee Edeet Ravel, visit www.mcgill.ca/news.

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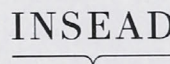
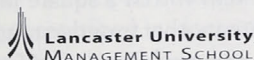
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Biodive

THE DELICAT

If a tree falls in the forest, how many dependent species wind up on the endangered list?

AT MORE THAN 100 KILOGRAMS, THE NILE PERCH is a big fish even in a big pond. In the 1950s, the voracious predator showed up mysteriously in Africa's Lake Victoria, the largest body of fresh water in the world. Likely introduced surreptitiously to support a flagging fishery industry, its population exploded in the 1980s. The result: an important export for fishermen from surrounding Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya and, simultaneously, the decline or demise of hundreds of native fish, including 200 to 300 species of cichlids found only in Lake Victoria.

The loss of these cichlids – small and versatile, with the largest brain-to-body ratio of any fish – stands as one of the most dramatic mass extinctions in recent history. Eventually, the perch population also declined, a consequence of being heavily fished while at the same time gobbling down much of the food the lake had to offer.

The Nile perch scenario poses some timely questions. Biodiversity, or the range of species in a given environment, has an effect on how that environment functions as a system (or, more precisely, as an ecosystem). But so far we know very little about how organisms interact in ecosystems. How and why do species prosper or decline? And why does it matter?

“There is growing recognition that the diversity of life on earth, including the variety of genes, species and ecosystems, is an irreplaceable natural heritage crucial to human well-being and sustainable development,”

writes Michel Loreau, McGill professor of biology, in an article in a recent issue of the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*. “There is also clear scientific evidence that we are today on the verge of a major biodiversity crisis.”

Defining the Problem

The article, co-written with a Ghanaian colleague and signed by 19 top international scientists, recites ominous statistics to prove its case: 12% of bird species, 23% of mammals, 25% of conifers, 32% of amphibians and 52% of cycads (an ancient family of palm-like plants) are currently facing extinction. Climate change could conceivably lead to the disappearance of an additional 15% to 37% of species by 2055.

“Ecology is about interactions,” says Loreau, who joined McGill's biology department in 2005 as the Canada Research Chair in Theoretical Community and Ecosystem Ecology. At the time, then-Dean of Science Alan Shaver heralded the new arrival as the “Wayne Gretzky of biodiversity research.” Like the hockey star, Loreau had clinched most of the top awards in his field. Now he's building our knowledge of the relation between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning – and at increasingly larger spatial scales. After all, it is one thing to examine a model ecosystem within a square metre of laboratory culture, but quite another to understand the complexity of interactions in a square kilometre of forest or field.

Loreau's accomplishments include showing that plant diversity in grasslands increases the yield of

BALANCE OF Biodiversity

McGill experts are studying the question of how to keep the earth's ecosystems in sync.

primary agricultural crops such as corn – a controversial finding, as received wisdom dictated a monoculture in which all interlopers were weeded out. He has researched what happens when herbivores like cows and goats eat plants, demonstrating, among other things, that these plant munchers are crucial in recycling nutrients. His studies, showing that the indirect positive effect outweighed the direct negative effect they have by eating plants in the first place, can also lead us to conclude that ecosystem interactions are not necessarily what they initially appear to be.

Broad conservation efforts have been around for many decades, evident in everything from “Save the Whales” bumper stickers to Sierra Club calendars, but scientists are only now beginning to explore the impact of biodiversity on how ecosystems work. “Because we know very little about biodiversity’s importance to ecosystems, we can hardly predict what will happen in the future as we destroy it,” says Loreau.

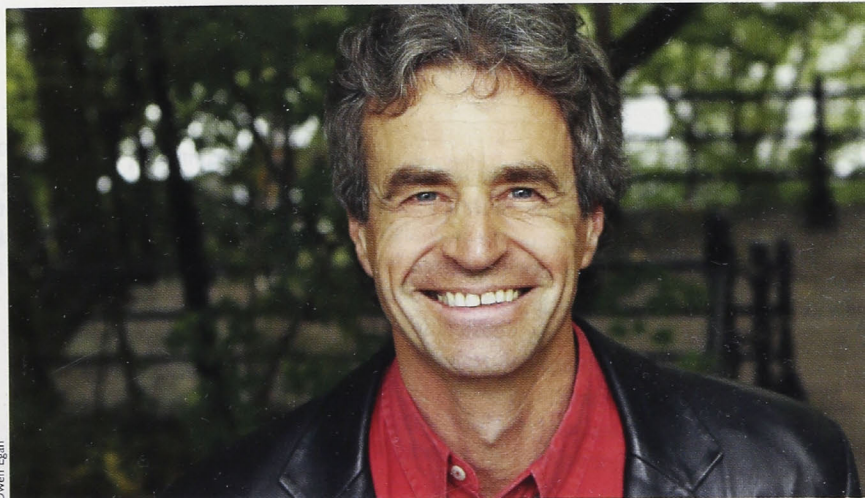
Path of Destruction

We depend on biodiversity in our daily lives, usually without realizing it, he says. More than 20,000 different plant species are being used for medicinal purposes, and even in highly developed countries like Canada, over 40% of drugs prescribed by doctors rely on active ingredients from organisms found in nature. Once these ingredients have been identified, pharmaceutical companies attempt to replicate them in the lab. But

human activities are transforming the habitats where these plants are found, and many species, including those which may carry ingredients with tremendous medical potential, are disappearing before scientists can study them.

Our current pace of biodiversity destruction will inevitably increase as we continue to alter environments, either intentionally through agriculture, logging, mining and the building of subdivisions, or unintentionally through pollution and climate change. Because ecosystem research is in its infancy, we don’t know the full impact of biodiversity loss.

We are on the verge of a major biodiversity crisis, warns McGill biologist Michel Loreau



Owen Egan

Humans are myopic when it comes to visualizing such threats. Consider something we can understand easily: the gift of “ecosystem services,” a deeply anthropocentric concept referring to the idea that nature gives us many useful things for free. As we destroy biodiversity, we change these ecosystem services and will therefore have to start paying for them – literally. For instance, in some places in China, local populations of pollinators, mainly bees and butterflies, have died out, leaving farmers to pollinate their crops by hand. The transmission of some diseases can be reduced by diversity. We get Lyme disease from ticks, but these same ticks bite other mammals too, and research shows a strong link between the number of mammal species in an area and the rate of infection in people. When there are fewer other mammals as targets, Lyme disease rates go up among humans. And so do health care expenses.

International Activism

An initial challenge of biodiversity research has simply been to bring researchers together and define the most pressing questions in the field. “There is a whole process governing how a topic gets on the research agenda, which most people – even researchers – don’t recognize,” says Loreau. “Scientists have much more influence when we are involved in international activities that help define research areas.”

Not one to let grass, or any biologically diverse mélange of foliage, grow under his feet, Loreau serves as Scientific Committee Chair for Diversitas, an international organization that encourages and coordinates biodiversity research across disciplines. Diversitas focuses on understanding how biodiversity works, determining how to monitor changes, studying how species become extinct or endangered, learning how to manage ecosystems of the future, and investigating questions of bio-sustainability and human interactions with ecosystems. The organization’s first open conference, held in November 2005, attracted twice

the anticipated number of applicants, and featured standing-room-only crowds of eager participants.

Activism – intellectual, social and political – forms a second, parallel career for many biodiversity researchers. David Green, professor of biology and Director of the Redpath Museum, is a herpetologist who studies how animal ranges, especially those of frogs and toads, expand and contract across landscapes. From 1998 to 2002, he also served as Chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), an advisory group to the federal government, and today he remains on the Chair’s advisory committee.

Species Squeeze

“The position taught me a lot about how science rubs up against policy,” he says. “Government needs science in order to do its job, but doesn’t know what to ask science, and science doesn’t necessarily know how to give answers to government in ways that policymakers can use.”

Green’s job included informing policymakers on what kinds of activities pose threats to species. “There is no vacuum across landscape, so if one habitat increases, another decreases. And loss of habitat is one of the leading factors endangering species,” says Green. “Often a species will contract to the periphery of a habitat, which may not be where they want to be, but it’s where they can carry on.”

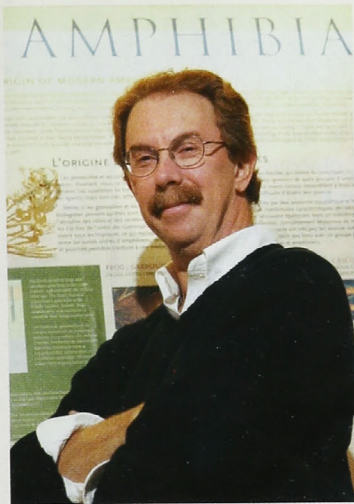
Eventually, even this periphery may become uninhabitable. In the Ottawa-Gatineau region, urban sprawl is putting the squeeze on the Western Striped Chorus Frog, a tiny amphibian whose preferred homeland – a pleasantly soggy field – is attracting developers. Between subdivisions and agricultural methods dependent on fertilizers and pesticides, amphibians are having a rough time of it. And as they eat insects and are eaten in turn by larger predators, the loss of the frogs could translate into more bugs and fewer larger species, thus shaking the ecosystem’s equilibrium.

“We have some general ideas about what happens when you take apart food webs, but the consequences are

Human activities reduce biodiversity by causing extinctions, but we may also be creating environments in which natural selection offers up fewer new possibilities for the future. A *New York Times* article recently pointed to McGill biology professor Andrew Hendry’s

research into finches on the Galapagos Islands – those very finches so instrumental to Darwin’s theory of natural selection. At one secluded area on the island, the finch population had been naturally evolving into those with very small beaks and those with very large beaks, both

of which serve specific purposes. In another area that has been settled by humans, the finch population is rife with hybrid birds with medium-sized beaks. Hendry suggests this is due to the fact that they are thriving on the seeds and rice humans feed them.



Photos: Owen Egan

From left: Herpetologist and government advisor David Green, and Lauren Chapman with one of the cichlids she studies

unpredictable – although not good,” Green said in an interview with the *Ottawa Citizen*. “And [these consequences] are different, in ways you don’t know and can’t plan for, in ways the economy isn’t set up to cope with. Whatever happens, it’s going to cost a lot of money.”

Attracting the Best

Green is a McGill veteran, having arrived in 1986, but many of the University’s biodiversity researchers – in biology but also in other natural sciences, the social sciences, and the McGill School of Environment – have arrived in the past five years. Some are at the start of their careers; others, like Loreau, already sport impressive CVs and are drawn by the University’s commitment to developing this increasingly important area. As a result, the handful of McGill professors working in biodiversity-related areas before 2000 has now grown into the heftiest critical mass of researchers in Canada.

“We saw a window of opportunity to attract some of the world’s top researchers in this emerging area, where ecology and geography meet the environment, where the life sciences meet the social sciences,” says Dean of Science Martin Grant.

One of these new professors is Lauren Chapman, who studies respiratory ecology and aquatic conservation; she taught for over a decade at the University of Florida before coming to McGill two years ago. Chapman is a Canada Research Chair in Respiratory Ecology and Aquatic Conservation. Her research focuses on the growth, reproduction and survival of fish in waters with low oxygen content, which occur naturally in marshy swamplands but can also be created by pollution and other human activities.

The Lake Victoria basin of central Uganda has been Chapman’s second home for much of the last 16 years, and from her base camp among the papyrus swamps of Kibale National Park, she learned the story of the Nile perch.

One current of her research looks at how some fish, including some cichlids, may have dodged the perch’s teeth by taking refuge in swampy hypoxic waters, waiting to return to their preferred habitat when the environment was friendlier. Today, researchers are finding that some species in decline, or even thought extinct, are reappearing, and the cichlids that have returned are once again preferred morsels for the ravenous but now less numerous perch.

“There is no vacuum across landscape, so if one habitat **increases**, another decreases.”



As Director of the Redpath Museum, David Green is also concerned about bringing biodiversity concerns to an immediate and local audience. "Biodiversity is an easy sell for outreach activities, such as our programs with schools," he says. "Kids are very interested, and often biodiversity can be

visible, even in the city: birds are an obvious example." In addition, the Museum sponsors a series of public lectures throughout the year, family workshops and a Freaky Friday film series, among other activities. Public tours are also available. See the website at www.mcgill.ca/redpath.

"The fishery is important to the economies of the countries on Lake Victoria," says Chapman. "We're trying to determine if there is an optimum fishing pressure that would enable the cichlids to continue coming back while allowing the perch to feed on them." An important advantage of Uganda and similar developing countries is that there are fewer levels between the scientists and the upper bureaucracy, "so you can contribute directly to conservation policy," says Chapman, who has also been active in training young African scientists with local experience and knowledge.

Scientists in the field refer to "extinction debt," which is the future loss of species as a consequence of past actions. Much like a financial loan, it merely postpones the inevitable.

"We are seeing a long-term delay in the extinction of species," says Andy Gonzalez, holder of the Canada Research Chair in Biodiversity. "But eventually, as the pressures of living in little isolated communities bear upon them, that extinction debt will be paid."

Gonzalez develops models to track the impact of landscape fragmentation on biodiversity. "We use greenhouse models to shrink a forest to a Lilliputian scale, where we can recreate the pressures we see in larger-scale landscapes," he explains. "And we find the same patterns

of extinction, including extinction debt." The removal of one tiny organism may have profound consequences for the ecosystem. For instance, the loss of cyanobacteria (or blue-green algae), which lives in the mossy forest floor where it takes nitrogen from the atmosphere and makes it available to plants, may alter the nitrogen cycle upon which plant diversity depends, thus altering the growth of the entire forest.

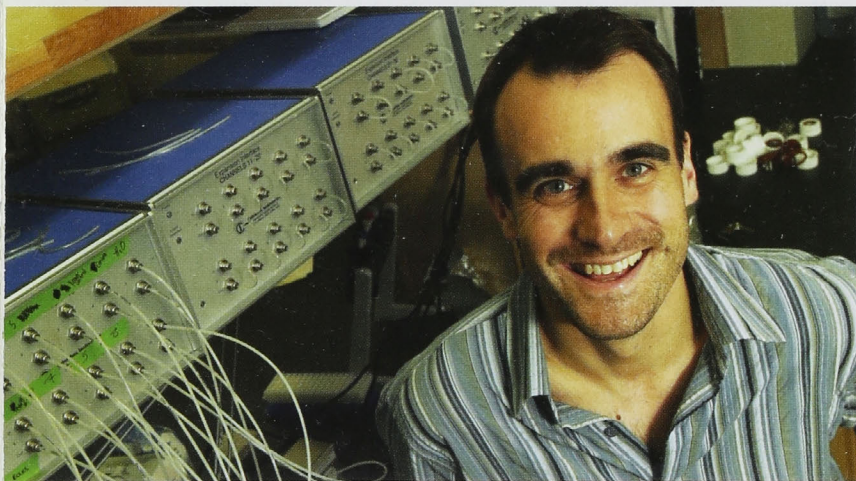
Righting the Scales

One of the biggest players in any ecosystem is, of course, *Homo sapiens*, although we're often excluded from models of ecological change. "For too long ecology has tried to study only so-called 'natural systems,' and has not incorporated the human species," says philosophy professor Greg Mikkelsen, who also teaches in the School of Environment. "At the same time, economic models have not included the environment. But the economy is a subsystem embedded within the ecosystem – and since the whole ecosystem is not growing, the economy cannot grow forever either. How do we find the right scale of activity for the biosphere?"

The biodiversity challenge involves no less than understanding the relations between all the organisms comprising an ecosystem and then finding sustainable ways for humans to live with other species. "This task demands that we bring together taxonomists, ecologists, social scientists, economists, policy specialists and philosophers – we can't understand biodiversity by working independently," Loreau stresses, and McGill, by supporting interdisciplinary teams of researchers, as well as through the McGill School of Environment, has become a national leader.

While much diversity has already been lost around the globe, there are reasons to hope that by bringing together creative research and far-thinking policy initiatives, we may find a way to reverse the current direction. After all, in Lake Victoria some of the lost cichlids have recovered and returned to their home waters – a small fraction of the total numbers lost, but an encouraging fish tale nonetheless. 🐟

Many species are living on borrowed time according to Professor Andy Gonzalez



Owen Egan



ANDREW GRYN

Architect Helps Build the Future

Max Kalman and great-grandson Linden Kalman Walle-Jensen, granddaughter Hilary Kalman Walle-Jensen, great-grandson Ariel Kalman and grandson Daniel Kalman.

The opportunity to celebrate a 100th birthday presents itself to few people, and when Maxwell M. Kalman, BArch'31, reached that milestone this year, he made a unique and generous decision. Rather than be satisfied with receiving the gifts and accolades he deserved, Maxwell reflected on his time at McGill – and decided to give back.

His bequest of \$100,000 will establish the Maxwell M. Kalman Endowment Fund in the School of Architecture. This endowment will support aspiring architecture students, enriching their experience at McGill in a way Maxwell thinks is vital.

“I want to help students in architecture focus on the beauty and art of their area of study, not on how to find a second or third job to make enough money for tuition.”

Maxwell, who came from a modest background, financed his time at McGill with scholarships, bursaries

and hard work. He believes the financial support he received had a significant impact on his ability to study, and ultimately succeed in the field of architecture. Over 35 years as a busy Montreal architect, Maxwell completed more than 1,100 projects. Some highlights of his career include the Norgate Shopping Centre, built in 1949 as Canada's first strip mall, as well as the Workmen's Circle Centre (now the Sala Rosa) on St. Laurent Boulevard.

Maxwell summed up his feelings in a speech delivered by his niece at his birthday celebration: “I am grateful to God for allowing me to enjoy life for 100 years.” About his gift, Maxwell said, “I feel deeply satisfied to know that students in McGill's School of Architecture will forever benefit from this gift, and that they may flourish in their study and practice of the art of architecture.”

*For more information on
bequests and planned gifts, contact:
Bequests and Planned Gifts*

*1430 Peel Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 3T3
Tel.: (514) 398-3560, Fax: (514) 398-8012
Email: plannedgifts.dev@mcgill.ca*



McGill



Discover the world 2007

Educational travel programs for the alumni and friends of McGill University. The level of physical activity for each trip is indicated.

Voyage of Discovery: Wonders of the Galápagos Islands

February 23 – March 3, 2007

From \$3,535 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare

Join us for the journey of a lifetime to the Galápagos Islands aboard the state-of-the-art MV *Santa Cruz* and discover a region unmatched in its beauty and its role in the history of natural science. Formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago the Galápagos are literally overflowing with life, including species unknown elsewhere in the world. With virtually no natural predators on the islands, the abundant wildlife is fearless and accepts human company up-close to an extent not found elsewhere on earth.

Active 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

GOHAGAN

Treasures of Southern Africa

April 2 – 15, 2007

From \$5,995 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Experience the diversity of South Africa: tour cosmopolitan Cape Town, cruise to historic Robben Island and visit the wine country towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek. In Livingstone, Zambia, marvel at the Zambezi River's Victoria Falls, and in Johannesburg, explore Soweto and the Apartheid Museum. Enjoy a game-viewing safari at Thornybush Game Reserve in Kruger National Park, replete with zebras, giraffes, kudu and more.

Active 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

Skiing in Colorado

April 9 – 16, 2007

From \$1,589 CDN PP/DO, taxes and airfare included

Your ski adventure will offer you the terrains of Breckenridge. Whether you are a skier or a boarder, Colorado is the ultimate Rocky Mountain destination. Enjoy the atmosphere of vibrant villages, award-winning dining, intimate bistros, quaint shops, and the warmth and hospitality of the locals.

NEW SERIES 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

MERIT TRAVEL

ACA Waterways and Canals of Holland & Belgium

April 16 – 24, 2007

From \$2,045 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Cruise the scenic ring of canals in Amsterdam, Netherlands! Sail to Kampen, Deventer, Arnhem, The Hague and Delft and cruise past iconic windmills at Kinderdijk, with a stop in Willemstad. Travel along the Zeeland coast from Veere. Then, in Belgium, explore historic Bruges and Antwerp.

This departure will be escorted by: Dr. Robert van Huystee, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

Treasures of Japan

May 16 – 26, 2007

From \$4,195 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

See Tokyo Tower and Imperial Palace Plaza before cruising the Sumida River to the city's oldest temple, Sensoji. In Nikko, admire the vast Toshogu shrine complex and surrounding mountain panoramas. Continue to Kamakura, famous for its giant Amida Buddha statue. After ascending Mt. Fuji, visit the hot spring resort of Hakone, and cruise Lake Ashi. Take a bullet train to Kyoto, where 1001 statues of the goddess Kannon await. Lastly, see the shogunate stronghold of Nara.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

Shangri-La

May 25 – June 12, 2007

From \$7,890 CDN PP/DO, airfare included

Begin your journey in China's Yunnan province. This area is still relatively untouched by the current forces transforming China's metropolises. See Tiger Leaping Gorge, monasteries, colourful markets and homes of the Bai and Naxi people. Next, travel to Tibet where the itinerary includes visits to Lhasa, Tsedang, Gyantse and Shigatse. Complete your tour under the bright lights of Shanghai.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

BARAKA TOURS

Romance of the Blue Danube

May 25 – June 8, 2007

From \$3,845 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Marvel at the architecture in Bucharest, Romania, before boarding the deluxe MS *Switzerland II*. See the former Roman harbor of Rousse, Bulgaria, and the town of Vidin. Then, cross over the Carpathian Mountains via the Iron Gate Gorge. Discover Belgrade, Serbia, and visit the Hungarian towns of Mohács and Kalocsa. Explore Budapest, and enjoy a full day on the Danube Bend. Continue to the capital city of Bratislava, Slovak Republic, en route to Vienna, Austria, and Dürnstein. Cruise through the Wachau Valley, and after touring Melk, disembark in Passau, Germany.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA Italian Riviera ~ Riviera di Levante

May 26 – June 3, 2007

From \$2,895 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Visit the charming seaside village of Sestri Levante, and lose yourself in the stunning coastal scenery en route to Santa Margherita. Cruise placid waters to the enchanting harbour of cosmopolitan Portofino and its awe-inspiring Punta del Capo lighthouse. See Genoa, Carrara and the lovely Cinque Terre towns of Vernazza and Riomaggiore. Finally, explore the walled city of Lucca.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA Sardinia & Corsica with Rome

June 1 – 12, 2007

From \$3,345 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

The Mediterranean islands of Sardinia, Italy, and Corsica, France, harbour an independent mystique, each maintaining rich cultural traditions and a distinct native language. Begin near Alghero, Sardinia, and travel the countryside to Bosa. On the Tyrrhenian coast, admire Costa Smeralda, and board a ferry to Bonifacio, Corsica. Cruise Corsica's eastern coastline and continue to Ospedale, in the famous Parc Naturel Régional du Corse, and see the Porto Vecchio. Finally, visit Sartène and Filitosa in Corsica's rocky western region, and transfer to Rome for a tour.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA Greek Isles

June 8 – 19, 2007

From \$3,495 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Turquoise waters, azure skies, and brilliant white villages await you on the islands of the Aegean Sea. Start in historic Athens, and transfer to Rethymnon on the Island of Crete. Visit Chania and the ancient Minoan city of Akrotiri. Island of Santorini. Enjoy fantastic panoramic views from Fira, perched on the rim of an extinct volcano. After cruising to the nearby Caldera Islet of Thirassia, visit a local winery in Ia.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA Ukraine ~ Cruise the Magnificent Dnieper River

July 26 – August 8, 2007

From \$1,895 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Explore the glittering domes of Kiev before sailing the fabled Dnieper River through the heart of the country. After visiting the historic Caves Monastery, stop in Zaporizhia, cultural home of the Cossacks. Then, travel to Kherson at the Dnieper's delta. Visit the Crimean Bakhchisarai, Yalta and Livadia Palace. Marvel at elegant Odessa, the Pearl of the Black Sea. Finally, disembark in Tulcea, Romania, and transfer to Bucharest.

This departure will be escorted by: Dr. Gord Dueck, Adjunct Professor, Department of History, Queen's University

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI



Peru: The Inca Trail

July 27 – August 6, 2007

\$1,959 CDN PP/DO

Retrace the steps of the ancient Incas to the awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu. Spend five days on this fully outfitted and guided adventure through lush forest, above spectacular valleys and in the shadow of icy peaks. Enjoy breathtaking campsites, Inca fortresses tucked among the rugged crags of the Cordillera Vilcabamba and the beauty of walking in a cloud forest of bamboo, orchids and a mix of alpine and tropical flowers. Sightseeing in Lima and Cuzco, the ancient Inca capital, make this the perfect trek-of-a-lifetime.

Very Active 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

ADVENTURES ABROAD

(This tour includes strenuous hikes that are an integral part of the tour.)

Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great

July 30 – August 11, 2007

From \$2,645 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Trace the steps of Peter the Great as you tour St. Petersburg. Encounter his famed replica, The Bronze Horseman, and marvel at one of the world's most impressive art collections in the Hermitage. Board the luxurious MS *Repin*, and sail to Mandroga, Yaroslavl, Goritsy and Kizhi Island. Then, enjoy the scenic countryside of the Volga River as you cruise from Uglich to arrive in Moscow. Explore the Tretyakov Gallery, and immerse yourself in Russian history as you visit the Kremlin's Armory Museum and Red Square. Visit Star City for an exclusive tour of the Russian space program's launch pad, the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

Ultimate Prague

August 3 – 11, 2007

From \$3,215 CDN PP/DO, Airfare and taxes included

On this magnificent journey you will visit the birthplace of Mozart and enjoy *Don Giovanni* at the Estate Theatre where Mozart conducted its world premiere. You will discover Prague's architectural masterpieces, take a day trip to Carlsbad and visit Chateau Melnik and other museums and historical sites. With endless opportunities for those searching for more from life; you will be able to find it all the moment you enter this ancient and original city.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

MERIT TRAVEL

ACA Spain ~ Barcelona & San Sebastian

September 16 – 27, 2007

From \$3,095 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Discover the fashionable and modern city of Barcelona, heart of Spain's culturally distinct Catalonia region. Walk Las Ramblas before touring the prominent art nouveau architectural sites of Antoni Gaudí. In Spain's wine country, see the town of Montserrat. Then, travel to the Basque Country as you drive along the scenic route from Montserrat to seaside San Sebastian. Tour Bilbao, and explore its renowned Guggenheim Museum. Finally, experience the sights of Pamplona.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA Legendary Rhine River

September 19 – 27, 2007

From \$2,395 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Cruise the magnificent Rhine River aboard the MS *Switzerland II*. Visit Bonn, Germany, and sail through the Rhine Gorge to Mainz. Explore Worms and Romanesque Speyer. Discover Heidelberg, the resort town of Baden-Baden and Strasbourg, France. Travel the Alsatian Route du Vin, or Wine Road, through medieval villages and bountiful vineyards, sampling some local vintages along the way. Returning to Germany, see Freiburg, Lake Titisee and Breisach.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA French Riviera ~ Provence & the Côte d'Azur

September 20 – October 1, 2007

From \$3,345 CDN PP/DO per person, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Delight in verdant Provence before exploring the seaside vistas of the French Riviera. In Avignon, see the Palais des Papes, and cruise the Rhône River past ancient city walls. Visit Arles and Orange, and sample local vintages at the wine village of Châteauneuf du Pape. Visit medieval Les Baux as well as St. Rémy and Aix-en-Provence en route to the Côte d'Azur, Nice, Grasse, Cannes and Monaco.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

ACA Italy ~ Sorrento & Orvieto

October 15 – 26, 2007

From \$3,095 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Discover two of Italy's most remarkable regions as you journey through coastal Campania and bucolic Umbria. Begin with a stroll through cliff-top Sorrento. Then, travel along the sunny Amalfi Coast to the town of Positano. Visit Pompeii, the Isle of Capri, Orvieto, Assisi and Florence.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

AHI

Voyage of the Canary Islands & Passage of the Moors

November 7 – 15, 2007

From \$2,995 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare

Join us on a unique journey combining the stunning natural beauty of the Canary Islands and Madeira with the Moorish treasures of Morocco. Board the deluxe, exclusively chartered MS *Le Diamant* in the Andalusian port of Malaga, Spain, and commence your seven-night cruise to Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, famed for its wealth of Spanish colonial architecture. View the imposing Rock of Gibraltar, an outpost of the British Empire, and observe the harmonious blend of past and present in the Moroccan cities of Casablanca and Rabat. Visit Madeira, Cabo Girao, La Palma and Tenerife.

Light 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

GOHAGAN

Romancing India

November 21 – December 11, 2007

From \$7,990 CDN PP/DO, airfare included

This specially prepared 21-day tour includes many major highlights of North and South while maintaining an easy pace. Begin in India's capital city, New Delhi, with a visit to the old walled city and its magnificent Red Fort. Continue to Varanasi located along the River Ganges, before making your way to the incomparable Taj Mahal in Agra and the beautiful pink city of Jaipur. Travel south to Mumbai, and then continue to Aurangabad and Ajanta. From there, board the "Deccan Odyssey" luxury train that will tour the south through Ratnagiri, Tarkali and Goa. The journey concludes in Cochin with a visit to the Jewish Synagogue, one of the oldest in India, and the Dutch Palace.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

BARAKA TOURS

Cuba: A Step Back in Time

November 17 – 30, 2007

\$2,544 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare

The 1250 km long tropical island of Cuba is blessed with a moderate climate and is one of the world's most fascinating destinations. The abundance of tropical vegetation, the warm climate and the slow pace of life all contribute to the impression that hectic western lifestyle has mercifully passed Cuba by. The total lack of advertising and western brand names is what strikes most visitors upon arriving in Havana, now declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the cobbled streets and colonial architecture of Trinidad, vibrant Santiago and laid-back Baracoa.

Light 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

ADVENTURES ABROAD

Silk Road by Train

TBA

From \$7,999 CDN PP/DO, airfare included

Your incredible journey begins with a three-night stay in Beijing before boarding the "China Orient Express." First up is Xian, home to one of the most significant archaeological finds in modern times with its army of terra cotta warriors and horses. We also visit Jia Yu Guan, the Mogao Caves, the ancient city of Gaochang in Turpan, the Heavenly Lake in Urumqi, Kasgar and, finally, we will conclude our journey in Shanghai.

Moderate 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

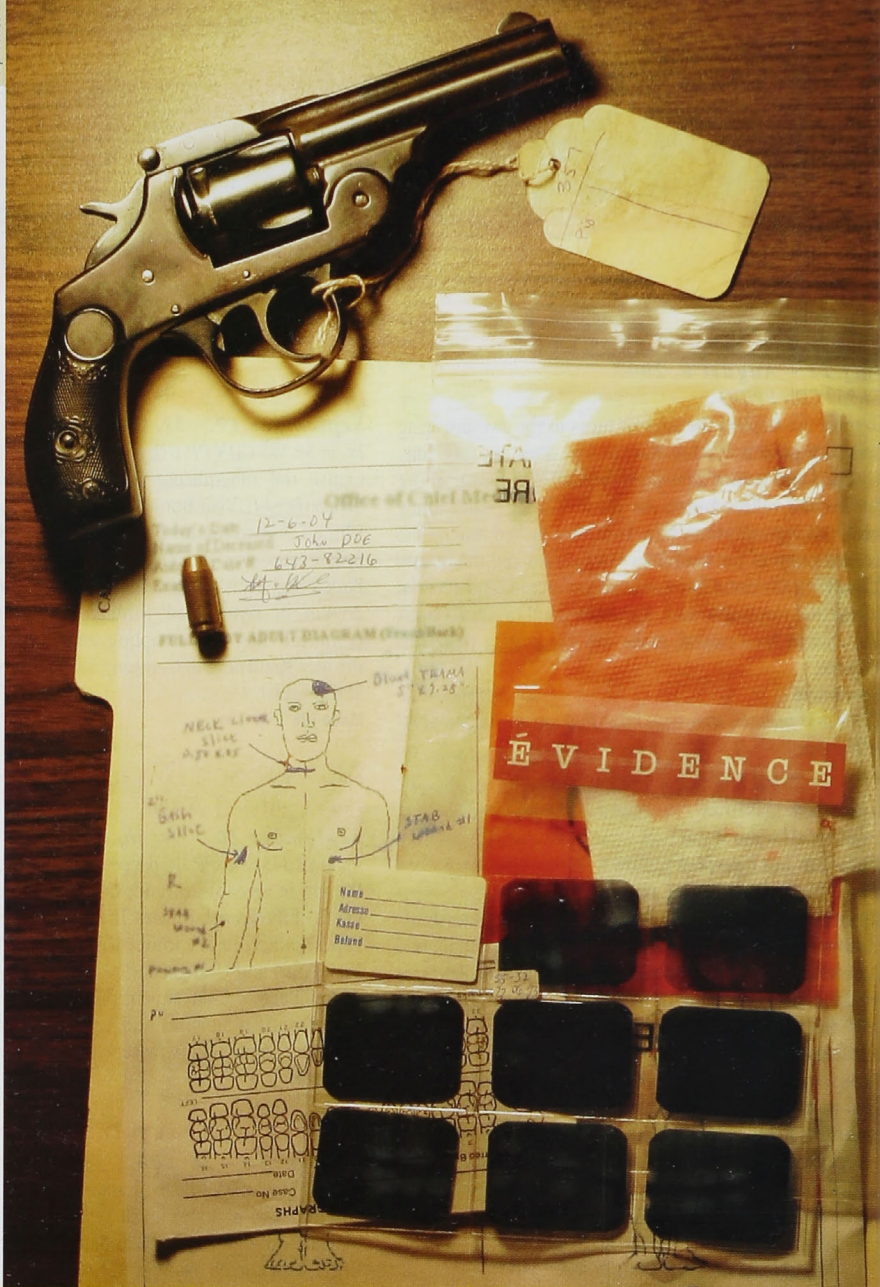
BARAKA TOURS



McGill

For more information about the McGill Alumni and Friends Travel Program, please contact the McGill Alumni Association at (514) 398-8961, or toll-free at (800) 567-5175; or by email at services.alumni@mcgill.ca. Please visit us at www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/travel.

Le Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale de Montréal est l'un des plus anciens et des plus connus au monde dans son domaine. Nous vous présentons les professeurs et diplômés de McGill qui y travaillent et qui, grâce à leurs compétences scientifiques, aident la police à mettre les malfaiteurs sous les verrous.



DÉTECTIVES SCIENTIFIQUES

par DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89
traduction de LUCIE LEGAULT

LORS D'UNE SOIRÉE, QUAND ON LUI DEMANDE CE qu'elle fait dans la vie, Anny Sauvageau sait quelle réaction va susciter sa réponse. « Les yeux s'illuminent », dit-elle, quand on découvre ce à quoi elle occupe ses journées.

Il y a de fortes chances pour qu'elle passe ensuite des heures à répondre aux questions que soulève son travail. Et si elle n'a pas envie de parler à bâtons rompus sur le sujet, «... je dis simplement que je travaille pour le gouvernement, sans préciser ».

Anny Sauvageau est professeure adjointe au Département de pathologie de McGill, mais ce n'est pas ça qui éveille la curiosité des inconnus. Ce qui la met sur

la sellette, c'est son travail de pathologiste judiciaire au Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale (LSJML) de Montréal. « C'est intéressant de travailler dans un domaine prestigieux, dit-elle. On reçoit beaucoup d'attention. »

À en croire les cotes d'écoute des émissions de télé, le grand public éprouve une curiosité insatiable pour les tenants et aboutissants de la criminalistique. Des millions de téléspectateurs se passionnent chaque semaine pour les aventures des détectives en vedette dans l'émission *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* et ses séries dérivées, *CSI: Miami* et *CSI: NY*.

« De nos jours, la télévision réussit beaucoup mieux à exploiter le côté scientifique de notre travail. Il y a vingt ans, la criminalistique qu'on y présentait était totalement irréaliste », souligne le biologiste judiciaire Vahé Sarafian (BSc'72, PhD'92), un des collègues d'Anny Sauvageau au LSJML. « Aujourd'hui, c'est même un peu *trop* réaliste. Certaines de ces émissions dévoilent des secrets, révèlent des choses qui ne devraient pas sortir du milieu médico-légal. »

Anny Sauvageau est du même avis. « Parfois, c'est comme si la télé nous donnait une recette pour commettre un bon crime. »

Ce qui ne veut pas dire qu'Hollywood a raison sur toute la ligne. Le printemps dernier, l'Association des diplômés de McGill a organisé un débat d'experts sur la criminalistique. Anny Sauvageau, qui comptait parmi les experts invités à cet événement qui s'est tenu à guichets fermés, y a fait remarquer avec une pointe d'ironie qu'il y a peu de chances de rencontrer une experte judiciaire « arborant coiffure à la Marilyn et talons aiguilles » sur une scène de crime. En fait, la plupart des spécialistes qui travaillent au laboratoire médico-légal de Montréal n'approchent jamais de la moindre scène de crime.

« Vous vous souvenez de *Quincy*? », demande Sarafian, faisant allusion au personnage d'une série télé qui a tenu l'antenne pendant des années. Jack Klugman y tenait le rôle d'un médecin légiste qui sortait régulièrement de son laboratoire pour aller intimider des meurtriers et les forcer à confesser leurs crimes. « Quincy se chargeait de tout de A à Z. C'est une exemple classique de ce qui ne se fait pas. Dans l'émission *CSI*, les enquêteurs qui se rendent sur la scène du crime se fient à leurs intuitions et interrogent les suspects. Nous ne faisons pas ça. » Et d'ajouter Sauvageau : « Les personnages de *CSI* font en 24 heures ce qui nécessite souvent des mois dans la vraie vie. »

Les experts judiciaires admettront que les cas bizarres mis en scène dans les films ou émissions de télé ne sont pas toujours à ce point différents de ceux qu'ils rencontrent au LSJML. Les gens meurent de toutes sortes de façons insolites. Cette question a été le point de départ des recherches de Sauvageau et bon nombre des articles qu'elle a publiés dans des revues

scientifiques traitent de décès qui sortent de l'ordinaire. Il y a eu, par exemple, le cas du schizophrène qui s'est suicidé en s'étouffant avec du papier de toilette ou celui du type déclaré mort par « asphyxie autoérotique accidentelle » à la suite d'une funeste tentative d'expérience sexuelle sous-marine qui a mal fini, le respirateur de son appareil de plongée, de fabrication artisanale, ayant mal fonctionné.

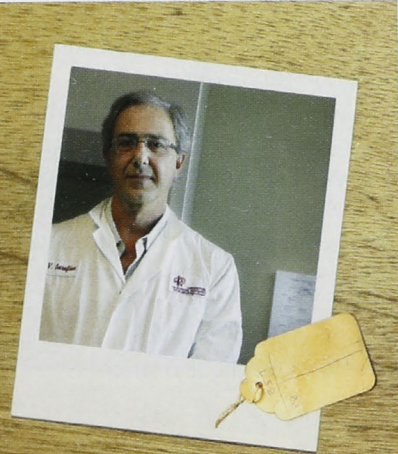
« Ce n'est certainement pas un travail routinier, dit Sauvageau. Vous ne savez jamais de quel genre sera votre prochain cas. » Et il ne faut jamais être à côté de la plaque. « Nous devons être méticuleux. Nous n'avons qu'une seule chance de procéder à une première autopsie. Beaucoup d'éléments de preuve peuvent être perdus à jamais si nous ne la faisons pas correctement. »

Lors du débat d'experts organisé par l'Association des diplômés de McGill, auquel participaient également Vahé Sarafian et Robert Dorion (DDS'72), professeur de dentisterie à McGill, Sauvageau a présenté une série de diapositives qui sont venues confirmer l'étrangeté des cas qu'elle et ses collègues rencontrent.

Une des diapositives faisait référence au cas d'une jeune femme dont le cadavre à demi nu avait été découvert dans un banc de neige à la suite d'une acrimonieuse rupture avec son petit ami. Facile de sauter aux conclusions, mais son corps ne portait aucune marque de violence.

« Les choses ne sont pas toujours ce qu'elles semblent être, prévient Sauvageau. Il est important que les experts judiciaires approchent leur travail sans idées préconçues quant à ce qu'ils vont trouver. » En examinant les cellules cardiaques de la jeune femme, Sauvageau a découvert les signes d'une maladie rare capable de faire passer quelqu'un de vie à trépas en un rien de temps – une maladie qui peut être déclenchée par la consommation d'alcool et l'exposition au froid. Après une soirée passée à boire, la jeune femme était allée faire pipi dans la neige, dernier geste qu'elle a posé avant de perdre conscience et de mourir.

Robert Dorion, directeur des Services d'odontologie judiciaire au LSJML, a connu lui aussi des cas mémorables. Cet expert qui met ses compétences au service de la police depuis plus de 30 ans a reçu le Exceptional Service in the Public Interest Award du FBI pour ses efforts. Le cas qu'il décrit comme étant « proba-



Experts en
médecine légale
Anny Sauvageau et
Vahé Sarafian



Louise Reynolds, accusée en 1997 d'avoir tué sa fille, se présente à son audience de mise en liberté sous caution; L'odontogiste judiciaire Robert Dorion



Owen Egan

blement le fleuron de ma carrière » n'a toutefois pas mené à une condamnation. Il a permis de faire sortir de prison une femme accusée à tort.

Louise Reynolds a passé plus de trois ans en prison en attente de son procès après avoir été accusée, en 1997, du meurtre de sa fille de sept ans par la police de Kingston (Ontario). Le pathologiste qui avait procédé à l'autopsie initiale avait conclu que les blessures retrouvées sur le corps de l'enfant résultaient d'une attaque aux ciseaux. Louise Reynolds fut arrêtée, bien qu'aucune preuve médico-légale ne la liait au décès de sa fille, qu'aucune arme du crime n'avait été découverte et que le pelage du pit-bull présent dans la maison des Reynolds au moment de la mort de la fillette était taché de sang.

Dorion, un expert réputé des traces de morsure comme éléments de preuve – il a récemment édité et publié son premier manuel sur la question – fut appelé à donner son opinion par les avocats de Reynolds. « J'ai su tout de suite qu'une énorme erreur avait été commise », dit Dorion qui, à partir des photographies, a vu que les blessures résultaient de morsures de chien. Son témoignage a joué un rôle capital dans l'abandon de toutes les accusations contre la mère.

Le pathologiste qui avait sauté aux mauvaises conclusions n'était pas un spécialiste judiciaire, ce qui irrite Dorion. De par leur formation et leur expérience, les experts en criminalistique sont spécialement équipés pour analyser les morts suspectes. Dorion tient tellement à ce que les experts en criminalistique soient adéquatement formés, en particulier dans son propre domaine, qu'il a créé un programme d'odontologie judiciaire unique, qui se donne sur Internet. Ce programme est offert par McGill en collaboration avec le LSJML et il cible des dentistes chevronnés intéressés à acquérir une expertise judiciaire.

Les morsures représentent, à elles seules, un défi de taille car plus de 90 facteurs font varier leurs caractéristiques. Elles sont souvent associées à des crimes violents de nature sexuelle – l'arrestation du tueur en série Ted Bundy reposait en grande partie sur des traces de morsure ayant servi d'éléments de preuve. Elles sont également utiles dans les cas de violence faite aux enfants. « Les enfants n'ont pas beaucoup de choix quand ils doivent se défendre », explique Dorion.

Les étudiants qui suivent son cours sur Internet habitent différents coins du monde : Nouvelle-Zélande, Israël et îles Vierges américaines notamment. « Aucun autre programme du genre n'est offert dans le monde au niveau universitaire », ajoute-t-il. Les étudiants finissent par venir à Montréal pour poursuivre leur formation avec Dorion au LSJML, où ils acquièrent de l'expérience pratique dans l'identification des cadavres.

Une partie du programme se concentre sur les catastrophes de grande envergure. Les dents sont en général la partie la plus durable du corps humain, ce qui permet d'identifier des victimes quand on a peu d'éléments sur lesquels travailler, ce qui est le cas lors d'un écrasement d'avion. Les catastrophes ne posent pas toutes les mêmes défis. « Un écrasement d'avion n'est pas la même chose qu'un tsunami », explique Dorion. Dans le premier, les preuves sont compromises par une combustion intense et dans le second, par la décomposition.

Un autre thème qu'aborde le programme de Dorion est la façon de présenter un témoignage d'expert en cour. C'est une partie du travail avec laquelle Vahé Sarafian admet qu'il n'était pas totalement à l'aise au début.

« Vous devez avoir des nerfs d'acier, dit Sarafian. Tous les avocats essaient de faire dire aux témoins ce qu'ils veulent entendre. Certains vous mettent dans une situation stressante afin de vous faire perdre contenance. Ils vont jusqu'à poser la même question six ou sept fois, espérant trouver une ouverture pour vous désarçonner. »

Maintenant qu'il sait à quoi s'attendre, Sarafian dit qu'il aime presque jouer au plus fin avec les avocats de la partie adverse. « Je ne veux pas que les preuves que je présente soient interprétées différemment de ce que je crois qu'elles veulent dire. Pour moi, c'est l'essentiel. »

Une grande partie du travail de Sarafian est axée sur la preuve génétique. « La science a beaucoup évolué, dit-il. Nous sommes vraiment près d'établir une empreinte génétique. Prenons l'exemple de quelqu'un qui a pris dans sa main un fusil ou un couteau; même si cette personne ne laisse derrière elle que quelques cellules, cela représente suffisamment d'ADN pour créer un profil génétique. Il y a quelques années à peine, il nous aurait fallu une grosse goutte de sang. »

Josée Noël (B.Sc. 1996, M.Sc. 2000), une collègue de Sarafian à la division de biologie judiciaire, a commencé à travailler au LSJML il y a quatre ans.

« Au début, je pensais que la tâche serait simple » dit-elle à propos des preuves génétiques, mais le travail s'est révélé un peu plus complexe que ce qu'elle croyait.

« Il arrive que les échantillons sur lesquels nous devons travailler soient un mélange de deux ou trois personnes différentes. Ils nous arrivent parfois sur des pièces de vêtements, lesquels ont été exposés au soleil, à la poussière, aux moisissures. Il pourrait y avoir des champignons. » De tels échantillons peuvent malgré tout fournir des preuves inestimables, mais dégager ces preuves exige de la compétence.

« L'ADN est considérée comme la meilleure preuve scientifique en cour, ajoute Sarafian. Elle n'est plus remise en question. La technologie est acceptée comme étant bonne. La question qui se pose lors des procès, c'est : "À quel point êtes-vous habile dans l'emploi de cette technologie?" »

C'est pourquoi tous les laboratoires judiciaires, y compris celui où travaille Sarafian, consacrent des ressources considérables au contrôle de la qualité – formation intensive pour le personnel, protocoles pour vérifier et contre-vérifier tous les résultats et informatisation accrue des analyses d'ADN.

« Quand je rédige mon rapport, je suis toujours certaine de ce que j'écris, dit Noël. Je n'ai jamais l'impression de prendre des risques. Les résultats ont été confirmés et vérifiés tellement de fois. »

Pourtant, avertit Dorion, ce serait une erreur de mettre toute votre foi dans la seule preuve génétique.

« L'ADN est le plus puissant outil de la criminalistique. Personne ne remettrait cela en question. Mais si je voulais [fabriquer des preuves], je pourrais prélever un seul de vos cheveux sur votre peigne et le laisser tomber où bon me semble. »

Les spécialistes judiciaires du LSJML ont eu affaire à plus que leur part de cas sinistres et troublants. Même les professionnels chevronnés s'efforcent de faire preuve d'impartialité lorsqu'ils sont aux prises avec un crime particulièrement brutal. « Certains cas m'affectent plus que d'autres, affirme Sauvageau. C'est difficile d'être totalement détaché. Vous devez prendre cette émotion et l'utiliser dans votre travail. »

« Ce n'est pas si difficile que ça de trouver des gens compétents qui veulent faire ce genre de travail. Au bout du compte, les résultats de nos efforts ont un réel impact sur la vie des gens », conclut malgré tout Sarafian.

« Je ne fais pas ça pour l'argent, ajoute Dorion. Je peux gagner beaucoup plus en travaillant dans mon cabinet dentaire. J'adore résoudre des énigmes. J'aime les intrigues. »

Ses motivations sont toutefois plus profondes que ce qu'il laisse entendre.

« Si mon enfant disparaissait et que des preuves étaient trouvées par la suite, je voudrais que quelqu'un de compétent m'aide à découvrir ce qui est arrivé. Je voudrais connaître la vérité. »

De la balistique aux best-sellers

Le Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale de Montréal a été fondé en 1914. À l'époque, on voulait utiliser la plus récente information scientifique provenant de domaines comme la médecine, la chimie et la physique pour aider la police dans ses investigations. Le LSJML était le premier établissement du genre en Amérique du Nord et le troisième au monde – les deux autres laboratoires voués à la résolution de crimes étaient en France.

Le premier directeur du LSJML, Wilfrid Derome, un des premiers experts de l'utilisation de l'analyse balistique comme preuve, a joué un rôle crucial

dans la retentissante « affaire Delorme », une série de procès pour meurtre qui ont été parmi les premiers à attirer l'attention du monde entier. En 1922, Adélarde Delorme, un prêtre catholique romain, était accusé du meurtre de son demi-frère dans le but d'encaisser une police d'assurance-vie. Dans l'une des premières utilisations de l'analyse balistique comme preuve, on a réussi à établir un lien entre les balles et un pistolet acheté par Delorme quelques jours seulement avant la mort de son frère.

De nos jours, le LSJML conserve sa réputation sur la scène internationale, en partie grâce au plus célèbre membre de

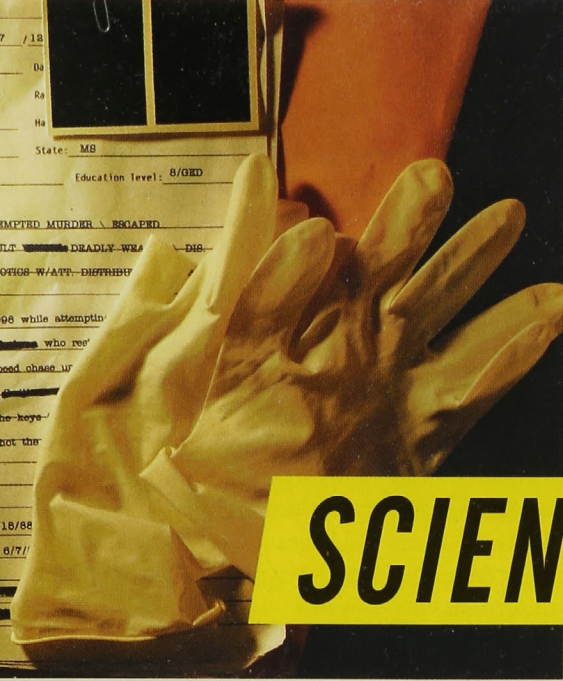
son personnel, l'anthropologue judiciaire Kathy Reichs. Mme Reichs a écrit une série de best-sellers policiers dont la protagoniste Temperance Brennan travaille, comme Reichs, à temps partiel pour le LSJML. (Reichs et Brennan travaillent également toutes les deux pour le médecin légiste en chef de Caroline du Nord.) Les romans ont fourni le canevas d'une populaire série télé, *Bones*.

Reichs est entrée au LSJML après être venue à Montréal pour occuper un poste de professeur invité à McGill. Dans certains de ses livres, en particulier dans *Death du Jour*, McGill tient une place de premier plan.

Le professeur de dentisterie Robert Dorion mérite une part du crédit pour la présence de Reichs au LSJML. C'est lui qui a vivement conseillé au laboratoire de l'engager, se disant que quelqu'un possédant une expertise comme la sienne pourrait leur être très utile. Il n'y a qu'une cinquantaine d'anthropologues judiciaires en Amérique du Nord et très peu parlent français aussi bien que Kathy Reichs.

Dorion agit parfois comme consultant pour les livres mettant en vedette Temperance Brennan. « Quand il est question de dentisterie dans ses livres, Kathy fait généralement appel à moi. »

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Native County: _____ State: MB
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Race of Victim(s): _____



Montreal is home to one of the oldest and best-known forensics labs in the world. Meet the McGill professors and graduates who work there, using science to help police catch the bad guys.

SCIENTIFIC SLEUTHS

by DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

WHEN ANNY SAUVAGEAU ATTENDS A PARTY AND someone asks what she does for a living, she knows what's coming. Once people discover her occupation, "their eyes light up," she says, and the questions really begin.

Sauvageau is an assistant professor in McGill's Department of Pathology, but that isn't what sparks the curiosity of strangers. It's her work as a forensic pathologist at Montreal's Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale (LSJML), that gets her noticed. "It's interesting to be in a field that's seen as glamorous," Sauvageau relates. "We get a lot of attention."

If television ratings are any indication, the general public has a seemingly insatiable curiosity about the ins and outs of forensic science. Millions of viewers tune in each week to watch the sleuths featured on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and its spinoffs, *CSI: Miami* and *CSI: NY*.

"Television is much better now at exploiting the science in what we do. Twenty years ago, the forensic science on TV shows was totally unrealistic," notes forensic biologist Vahé Sarafian, BSc'72, PhD'92, one of Sauvageau's LSJML colleagues. "These days, it's a little *too* realistic. Some of these shows give away secrets. Some things they reveal should stay within the forensic community."

Not that Hollywood gets everything right. For instance, most of the specialists who work at the Montreal forensic lab never venture near a crime scene.

"Remember *Quincy M.E.*?" Sarafian queries about the long-running TV series with Jack Klugman as a medical examiner. He regularly left his forensic lab to browbeat confessions out of murderers. "Quincy did everything from A to Z. That's a classic example of what doesn't happen. On *CSI*, the crime scene investigators follow up on hunches and question suspects. We don't do that."

Forensic scientists do admit that the bizarre cases featured in films or TV shows aren't always that different from what they encounter at the LSJML. People perish in all sorts of weird ways. That was the initial focus of Sauvageau's research and many of her published articles

deal with out-of-the-ordinary deaths. Like the schizophrenic who committed suicide by choking himself with toilet paper. Or the fellow whose ill-fated attempt at an underwater sexual experience was ruled "accidental autoerotic asphyxia" when the breathing device in his home-made diving apparatus malfunctioned.

"This is certainly not a job that's ever routine," notes Sauvageau dryly. "You never know what sort of case you'll be working on next." And you can't ever be off your game. "We have to be meticulous. You only have one chance to do that first autopsy. A lot of evidence can be lost forever if you didn't do it correctly."

Sauvageau also cautions that it's important for forensic specialists to approach their work without preconceived notions about what they're going to find. Her colleague, Robert Dorion, DDS'72, had a memorable case to prove the point. The director of forensic dentistry for the LSJML and a McGill dentistry professor, Dorion has been assisting the police for over 30 years and has received the FBI's Exceptional Service in the Public Interest Award for his efforts. The case that he describes as "probably the high point of my career" didn't result in a conviction, however. It helped get a wrongfully accused woman out of jail.

In 1997, Louise Reynolds was charged by police in Kingston, Ontario, with the murder of her seven-year-old daughter and spent over three years in prison awaiting trial. The pathologist who did the initial autopsy had concluded that the wounds on the child's body were the result of an attack with scissors. Reynolds was arrested, even though there was no forensic evidence linking her to her daughter's death, no murder weapon was found and a pit bull in the home at the time had blood on its fur.

Dorion, a noted expert on bitemark evidence – he recently edited and published the first textbook devoted to the topic – was called in by Reynolds's lawyers for his opinion. "I knew instantly that a huge mistake had been made," says Dorion, who recognized from the photographs that the injuries were the result of dog bites. His testimony played a major role in all charges being dropped.

istockphoto.com

The pathologist who had jumped to the wrong conclusion in the case wasn't a forensic specialist, a fact that galls Dorion. Forensic scientists, by dint of their training and experience, are specially equipped to probe suspicious deaths. Dorion is so determined that forensic scientists be properly trained, particularly in his own field, he created a unique online program in forensic dentistry. The program is offered by McGill in collaboration with the LSJML and targets experienced dentists interested in gaining forensic expertise.

His online students hail from points as diverse as New Zealand, Israel and the U.S. Virgin Islands. "There is no such program offered anywhere in the world at the university level," he says. Students ultimately come to Montreal to train with Dorion at the LSJML, where they receive hands-on experience in identifying bodies.

One topic Dorion's program covers is giving expert testimony in court. It's a part of the job that Sarafian admits he wasn't entirely comfortable with initially.

"You have to have solid nerves," says Sarafian. "All lawyers will try to get witnesses to say what they want them to say. Some lawyers try to do that by putting you in a stressful situation, to make you less sure of yourself. They'll ask you the same question six or seven times, hoping they'll find an opening to trip you up."

Now that he knows what to expect, Sarafian says he almost enjoys matching wits with opposing lawyers. "I don't want the evidence that I'm presenting to be interpreted in a way that is different from what I believe the evidence means. That's my bottom line."

Much of Sarafian's job is focused on DNA evidence. "The science has come a long way," he says. "We need so little to establish a genetic fingerprint. Someone who gripped a gun or a knife, even if they only leave behind a few cells, that's enough to create a genetic profile."

"DNA is considered the best scientific evidence in court," adds Sarafian. "It's not questioned anymore. The technology is accepted as good. The question in trials is, 'How good are you in employing that technology?'"

The LSJML's forensic scientists have dealt with more than their share of grim and unsettling cases. Even seasoned professionals struggle to be dispassionate when contending with a particularly brutal crime. "Some cases do affect me more than others," warrants Sauvageau. "It's hard to be fully detached. You have to take that emotion and put it in your work."

Still, Sarafian says, "It's not that hard to find good people who want to do this sort of work. The results at the end of our efforts have a real impact on people's lives."

"I don't do this for the money," adds Dorion. "I can make a lot more money working at my dental practice. I love solving puzzles; I like intrigue."

His motivations go deeper than that, however.

"If I had a child who disappeared and some evidence later turned up, I would want somebody competent around to help me find out what happened. I would want to know the truth." 🐦

Tales from the crypt

Forensic science might be seen as the wave of the future in terms of solving crimes, but it can also be a useful method for clearing up some mysteries of the past.

In 1991, forensic specialists Robert Dorion and Kathy Reichs received an out-of-the-ordinary request from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal. Jeanne Le Ber, a woman described by the *Montreal Gazette* as "Montreal's first authentic eccentric," was under consideration for sainthood. Her remains had been relocated more than once since her death in 1714 and Church authorities wanted to make sure that the person they thought was buried in her tomb was in fact Le Ber.

Wealthy and well-connected – Le Ber's godfather was Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, founder of the Ville Marie colony that would evolve into Montreal – Le Ber broke away from her moneyed family and became a celebrated religious recluse, spending most of her time in prayer or sewing

elaborate church vestments and altar cloths.

In examining the bones, Reichs saw evidence of considerable wear and tear on the knees – to be expected with someone who would have spent much of her time kneeling in prayer. The remains were also consistent with those of a 52-year-old woman, Le Ber's age when she died.

Dorion noticed distinctive notching on the teeth, the kind that would have been made by repeatedly biting into thread, and Le Ber was known as a prolific seamstress. "Habit patterns can provide information about what someone did for a living," explains Dorion. "Habit patterns form when, say, a carpenter repeatedly [holds onto] nails in his teeth. You can often tell if someone played a musical instrument, by the notching made by a clarinet or a saxophone."

The forensics specialists concluded that the remains were indeed Le Ber's and the case provided much of the inspiration for Reichs's best-selling thriller, *Death du Jour*.



Forensic anthropologist and author Kathy Reichs on the set of *Bones*, a TV show inspired by her work and writings



The Way It Works, Douglas Gibson Books, 2006, \$36.99, by Eddie Goldenberg, BA'69, MA'71, BCL'74, LLD'04

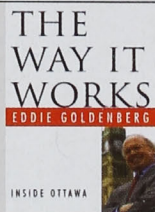
A book on Canadian politics that calls itself *The Way It Works* invites raised eyebrows about its presumptuous title, but if anybody can offer an insider's account of recent Canadian political history, it's surely Eddie Goldenberg.

Goldenberg spent decades as Jean Chrétien's trusted right-hand man, following him to a succession of Liberal cabinet posts and, finally, the Prime Minister's Office where Goldenberg toiled as Chrétien's senior policy advisor for ten years.

And while Goldenberg clearly admires his former boss deeply and lists many of Chrétien's strengths – his calm under pressure, his uncannily accurate political instincts – he acknowledges that Chrétien sometimes came across as unsympathetic. The former prime minister disliked displaying emotion in public and didn't want to be seen as playing politics in the wake of calamities. As a result, Chrétien didn't have Bill Clinton's knack for radiating compassionate concern during times of crisis.

One criticism that still clearly irks Goldenberg is the charge that Chrétien and the PMO functioned, in journalist Jeffrey Simpson's memorable phrase, as a "friendly dictatorship." Goldenberg argues that Chrétien allowed his ministers considerable elbow room and tried to involve both cabinet and the Liberal caucus in setting priorities for the government. Trouble is, says Goldenberg, cabinet ministers and MPs rarely look at the big picture. They invariably focus on their own departmental or regional concerns. "The alternative to 'governing from the centre' is not governing effectively at all," he writes.

The Way It Works offers plenty of memorable anecdotes. We discover, for instance, how former Université de Montréal rector Robert Lacroix helped



convince Chrétien of the need for the Canada Research Chairs program by slyly comparing Canada's universities to Chrétien's beloved Montreal Expos baseball team – both were adept at developing all-star talent, but both had problems competing with rivals with deeper pockets.

Anyone interested in Canadian politics will be intrigued by Goldenberg's behind-the-scenes perspective on the last Quebec referendum and the Iraq War, and by his views on such figures as former prime minister Paul Martin and new Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, who may one day hold the country's top job.

The Way It Works offers an engaging and insightful read and is not just for diehard political junkies.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

Satanic Purses: Money, Myth and Misinformation in the War on Terror, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006, \$34.95, by R.T. Naylor.

At this point, even President Bush agrees that he and his team have made mistakes in their war on terror. That never-discovered stockpile of WMDs in Iraq, for one thing. Abu Ghraib, for another.

According to McGill economist Tom Naylor, that's just the tip of the iceberg. In his biting new book, *Satanic Purses*, Naylor catalogues a depressingly long list of fumbles. Some he attributes to ignorance of the Muslim world, others to underhandedness on the part of the Bush administration and/or other players looking to capitalize on the fallout from 9/11.

Naylor, who teaches a popular course on the underground economy that introduces students to the ins and outs of money laundering and black marketeering, focuses most of his attention in this wide-ranging book (which tackles everything from recent Sudanese history to the trafficking of "conflict diamonds") on the Bush



administration's fixation on terrorist financing.

He says the notion that millions of dollars are being funnelled through shadowy channels to support al-Qaida is simply wrong-headed. Naylor argues that there is little credible evidence to support the theory, and besides, determined terrorists don't need a whole lot of money to be successful. The instigators of the 1993 attack on New York's World Trade Centre, which resulted in \$500 million in damage, spent about \$400 to put their plan into action.

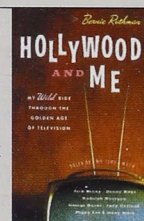
Naylor also claims that the U.S. administration's obsession with stamping out "terror dollars" is having a disastrous impact in the Muslim world, disrupting the work of Islamic charities that fund hospitals, orphanages and medical services, and preventing Muslims in the West from using the hawala system of money transfers (which wires funds to parts of the world where few banks exist) to support family members living in poverty. Naylor contends that the U.S. government's heavy-handed approach to hawala and Muslim charities is far more likely to create bitter new enemies than keep resources out of the hands of Osama bin Laden and his ilk.

How much you care for *Satanic Purses* might depend on your political outlook – one man's "cynical" is another man's "snide." Still, Naylor's detail-packed work, recently named a *Quill & Quire* book of the year, offers plenty of food for thought.

DM

Hollywood and Me, Greystone Books, 2006, \$22.95, by Bernie Rothman, BCom'54

The old adage says there's no business like show business, and Bernie Rothman couldn't agree more. In *Hollywood and Me*, he takes readers on a "wild ride through the Golden Age of television" in his "un-memoir," so





called because the focus is on the characters he met along the way.

From his early theatrical productions at McGill in the company of William Shatner and Leonard Cohen, Rothman went on to become a writer and producer for the most brilliant stars of the time. Comedy, dance, music, drama – from variety shows to feature films, star specials and musical extravaganzas, Bernie Rothman became a highly sought-after Hollywood television producer.

His anecdotes provide a glimpse into what it was like to work with entertainment legends – and it could be a challenge. He recalls finding Rudolf Nureyev soaking in a bath 20 minutes before show time and remembers anxious moments producing a Burt Reynolds special in a maximum security penitentiary. But there was also the thrill of watching Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie dance the jitterbug onstage at an all-star jazz concert he produced and of being a one-man audience for an impromptu performance by Peggy Lee after a few drinks.

Rothman expresses appreciation for the entertainers who brought his work to life. As a writer on the Judy Garland Show, he develops an admiration for the “funniest woman I’ve ever met.” Though he acknowledges the difficulties of working with her, he sees beyond them: “...the angst in her personality comes as no surprise. What surprises me is the personal warmth, kindness, charm, and humor she shows everyone – especially the little people.”

Thrown into the celebrity mix are tidbits from Rothman’s personal life and the struggle to keep his family together as his fortunes rise and fall. “The good times can turn into bad ones; the lucky streak doesn’t last forever. It’s fun, it’s exciting, but it sure ain’t easy.” Hollywood players

need cunning and fierce negotiating skills to succeed in the “savage jungle” of the entertainment industry. It’s all part of the game, one Rothman seems to enjoy as much as receiving the Emmys and the Gemini Awards. *Hollywood and Me* is a light, pleasurable read by someone who learned from the best how to entertain a crowd.

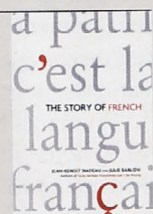
COURTNEY MULLINS, BCOM’06

The Story of French, Alfred A. Knopf Canada, 2006, \$36, by Jean-Benoit Nadeau, BA’92 and Julie Barlow, BA’91

The progressive adoption of French across the globe is rooted in two simple realities: the language has either been forced upon people, or they have taken an interest in learning it. In *The Story of French*, Jean-Benoit Nadeau and Julie Barlow delve into the language’s complex history and its effects on current national and international policies. From the quest for a common European language, to France’s global imperialism and the language’s subsequent evolution in the colonies, there have been atrocities committed and populations suppressed in the name of French.

By contrast, French is also historically the language of social progress, equality and human rights, and was the leading international language of culture and diplomacy. Knowledge of French was considered a requirement for better-educated classes around the world as late as the 1970s. One of the most carefully sculpted languages, it is governed by the Académie française, an institution set up in the early 17th century and based in the purist ideal of François de Malherbe, “the biggest language snob the world has ever seen.”

Nadeau and Barlow chart the history of French from its origins in Celtic, Gallo-Roman, and Indo-European languages, its rise to domination as the world’s *lingua franca*,



and its elbowing aside by English in the past half-century. Written like a novel, *The Story of French* is a captivating informational exposition. Nadeau and Barlow expertly and engagingly depict the influence of French, spoken today by 175 million people in 63 countries, on education and literacy, arts and sciences, political and technological innovation, internationalism, and cultural diplomacy in the creation of a francophone identity that transcends national borders.

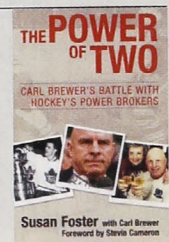
CM

The Power of Two, Fenn Publishing Company, 2006, \$34.95, by Susan Foster, BA’66

Susan Foster met National Hockey League star Carl Brewer in 1963 when she was an 18-year-old high school student planning to attend McGill. Brewer and the Toronto Maple Leafs made an appearance at a Scarborough, Ontario, factory where her father was employed, and Foster says when she and Brewer were introduced, each felt “some extraordinarily powerful connection” between them.

The instant attraction might have gone no further had their paths not crossed again a few months later when Foster was enrolled at McGill. That second chance meeting was the beginning of a relationship that continued until Brewer’s death in 2001 and profoundly changed professional hockey along the way.

In *The Power of Two*, Foster recounts the story of their life together and of Brewer’s turbulent career in the NHL. He was a loner, a man with a quick temper and an agile mind who retired several times from hockey, on one occasion to go back to university. Tormented throughout his life by crippling self-doubt, Brewer was also passionate, loyal and ferociously determined, qualities that fuelled his





and Foster's two-decade battle with the NHL to secure players' rights to pension money. Foster was the methodical researcher and steadfast mate (the pair eventually married) to Brewer's obsessed crusader, and together the pair brought down high flying agent Alan Eagleson, who cheated the players he supposedly represented.

Former McGill principal David Johnston appears briefly in the book, as he was appointed in 1995 to evaluate a legal question and was among the first to recognize the validity of the couple's claim.

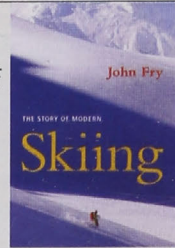
The book is both fascinating and frustrating, with the willful naiveté of the NHL players prolonging the struggle for justice by Foster and Brewer. As journalist Stevie Cameron says in her foreword to *The Power of Two*, "It tells a story that will make you proud, and one that will break your heart."

DIANA GRIER AYTON

The Story of Modern Skiing, University Press of New England, 2006, \$27.95, by John Fry, BA'51.

Former *SKI* magazine editor-in-chief John Fry has written a compelling history of alpine skiing in North America, focusing mainly on the post-World War II explosion in the sport's popularity. His book covers every aspect of skiing's modern development – the resorts, techniques and teaching, equipment, competition – and the people involved in them.

Fry traces the development of recreational skiing in North America (which first took hold in the Laurentians north of Montreal), as it grew from a rope-tow, brown-bag-lunch outdoor activity to a hillside-condo, mingle-with-celebrities lifestyle.



The continent's oldest downhill ski club, the Red Birds Ski Club, was founded by McGill skiers in 1928 and in 1933, Red Bird George Jost competed at the International University Ski Championships in St. Moritz and won – the first non-European to do so. Over the years, generations of McGill students and graduates boarded the Laurentian-bound "snow train" on weekends, heading "up north" to the ski shacks they shared with friends.

Fry's knowledge of everything and everybody connected with skiing is impressive, and the book is packed with interesting tidbits (Bobby and Ethel Kennedy met at Mont Tremblant, the forerunner to the snowboard appeared in the 1920s).

Whether you're a ski buff or snow bunny, this is a great book to curl up with on a winter afternoon.

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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



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That's exactly what the McGill Alumni Association is going to do now that we've hit the 150-year mark. But we need your help.

We invite you to share your fondest recollections of your time at McGill. We want the scoop on cherished professors, first loves, eccentric classmates, hip hangouts and the moments you experienced at McGill that changed your life forever.

We'll be publishing many of the McGill memories that we receive on Alumnilife (www.alumni.mcgill.ca/alumnilife) and the best submissions will win prizes. To be eligible for a very special grand prize, send your entry by May 15.

Visit www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/my_mcgill to download an entry form, or submit by regular mail to My McGill, 1555 Peel Street, Suite 918, Montreal, QC H3A 3L8. Entries shouldn't exceed 500 words, so choose yours carefully!

Also, be on the lookout for a wide range of events offered by the Alumni Association and its various branches throughout the world to commemorate our 150th anniversary.




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HOMECOMING

It was quite the affair. Close to 4,500 weekend guests flocked to McGill's downtown and Macdonald campuses between October 19 and 22, 2006, and there was no shortage of events for them to choose from – over 60 in all. Macdonald Campus kicked off celebrations for its 100th anniversary, attracting 500 graduates and friends for its Homecoming festivities, a new record. Homecoming visitors had plenty to think about – the popular Classes Without Quizzes program featured 17 professors



Nicolas Morin

Standing by her principals

At a reception before the Leacock Luncheon, Lois Roth Shapiro found herself flanked by McGill principals past and present. Pictured with her are Heather Munroe-Blum and Roth Shapiro's husband, Principal Emeritus Bernard Shapiro, BA'56, LLD'88.



Nicolas Morin

See you again at the 75th

At the James McGill Dinner, Vice-Principal (Development, Alumni and University Relations) Ann Dowsett Johnston chatted with some graduates who remember what life was like at McGill in a bygone era. Pictured: (left to right) Alfred Pick, BA'36, MA'37, BCL'40, Keith Richan, BSc'36, Vice-Principal Dowsett Johnston and Leonard Picard, BA'36.



Nicolas Morin

Back in class

Once again, Classes Without Quizzes were a Homecoming hit, as grads flocked to McGill classrooms to learn about everything from uniquely Canadian dialects to the effects of stress on memory. Professor Brian Alters (pictured), director of the McGill-Harvard Evolution Education Research Centre, talked about why so many North Americans are skeptical about evolution in spite of overwhelming scientific evidence.



Nicolas Morin

Homecoming hug

While there were events aplenty to entertain and educate during Homecoming, the best reason to attend is still to reunite with old friends. Leith Thompson, BSc(Agr)'56, and Yvonne Stevenson share a warm embrace, while Lloyd Seaman, BSc(Agr)'56 (left), and Al Stevenson, BSc(Agr)'51, look on.



HIGHLIGHTS '06

expounding on their areas of expertise, ranging from the economics of the world oil market to how stress affects memory. Graduates came from points as diverse as Bermuda, Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, New Zealand and the Slovak Republic to reunite with former classmates. But hold on to your hats! With the McGill Alumni Association celebrating its 150th anniversary next time around, Homecoming 2007 promises to be bigger and better than ever.



Owen Egan

An impressive audience

The Faculty of Science's annual Undergraduate Research Conference was highlighted by a presentation from an illustrious graduate – Nobel laureate Rudolph Marcus, BSc'43, PhD'46, DSc'88. Here, physics student Guillaume Lambert discusses his project on quantum nanofluidics with Dr. Marcus.



Claudio Calligaris

Long way to travel

Susan E. Parrish-Connell, BSc(HEc)'66, didn't let a little thing like 22 hours in the air get in the way of a good time. The New Zealander (centre) was toasted by fellow Macdonald College alumni as the grad who journeyed furthest to celebrate Mac's 100th anniversary. Applauding her efforts are Vice-Principal Ann Dowsett Johnston and Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Chandra Madramootoo, BSc(Agr)'77, MSc'81, PhD'85.



Nicolas Morin

Breakfast with the dean

Engineering Dean Christophe Pierre hosted a Homecoming breakfast and members of the Class of '51 turned out bright and early for coffee, bagels and fresh news about McGill engineering. Shown left to right are Constance Lewes, Michael Lewes, BEng'51, Monty Squire, BEng'51, Principal Munroe-Blum, Colin Treadway-Hoare, BEng'51, John Mackay, BEng'51, Dean Pierre and Henrique Cavalcanti, BEng'51.



Nicolas Morin

Writers and company

A trio of former McGill students who've made names for themselves in the literary world, Katrina Onstad, BA'94, Tom Allen and William Weintraub, BA'47, treated Homecoming attendees to excerpts from their most recent books at the perennially popular Lunch et Livres event.



HOMECOMING

Laughs at the Leacock

The Leacock Luncheon attracted a record crowd of 1,200 who giggled and guffawed with moderator Derek Drummond, BArch'62, and guest speaker Edward Greenspan, one of Canada's best-known defence lawyers (inset picture). Greenspan turned the tables on master teaser Drummond by producing a book he co-authored on the history of a Montreal badminton club – a tome, Greenspan dryly noted, that the McGill library system was in no hurry to get back.



Nicolas Morin

Chancellor Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, attempted to protect himself from Drummond's barbs by donning a hard hat. Pound was surrounded at the head table by women highly skilled at redirecting enemy fire – Olympic gold medalists and Team Canada goalies Kim St-Pierre, BEd'05 (left), and Charline Labonté, a first-year phys ed student. Labonté succeeded St-Pierre as the McGill Martlets netminder.

Spruced-up library

About 250 Homecoming attendees were on hand for the official reopening of the newly renovated Macdonald Library and Learning Centre, which, thanks to over \$4.2 million in gifts from graduates and other donors, boasts enhanced computer technology, rooms for group projects, environmentally friendly lighting and carpeting, and a walkway linking the library to the Macdonald-Stewart Building.



Claudio Calligaris

Attending the ceremony were: (from left) Dean Madramootoo, Francis Scarpaleggia, BA'79, Member of Parliament for Lac St-Louis, Vice-Principal Dowsett Johnston, Chancellor Pound, Trenholme Director of Libraries Janine Schmidt, Macdonald Library head librarian Erica Burnham, BA'94, MLIS'98, Provost Anthony Masi and Geoffrey Kelly, BA'81, MA'85, Member of the Quebec National Assembly for Jacques-Cartier.



Nicolas Morin

Speaking of science

Over 800 people turned out for the Beatty Memorial Lecture by renowned evolutionary theorist Richard Dawkins. Dawkins, Oxford University's Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science, and author of such acclaimed books as *The Selfish Gene*, discussed how our "greater scientists deploy a wildness of imagination, which, in the case of an Einstein or Heisenberg, outclasses the best science fiction."



Claudio Calligaris

Golden voices

The Green and Gold Revue – a song and skit troupe composed of Macdonald graduates who first showcased their skills as students at Macdonald variety shows in the late '40s – treated Homecoming attendees to a concert featuring the "Songs of the Century." Pictured performing are Harold Blenkhorn, BSc(Agr)'50, Orchid Reid, BSc(Agr)'52, and Bill Ritchie, BSc(Agr)'51.



Brain talk in Beantown

Boston area alumni were treated to a lecture in October from famed Harvard University psychologist Steven Pinker, BA'76, the author of several best-sellers about language and the human brain. Pictured are: (left to right) McGill Annual Fund officer Jason Finucan, Boston Alumni president Ian Pilarczyk, BA'92, LLM'97, DCL'03, Lindsay Cook, BA'75, and Pinker.

To the pub, bub

Members of the Toronto Young Alumni celebrated the beginning of the school year in September in much the same manner many of them did during their time at McGill – with a pub night.



Left to right: Anders Sorensen, BA'05, Denis Barrington, BCom'01, Marianne Sung, BCom'01, Patricia HoCoy, BA'05, and Sebla Meric, BEng'03.

Cutting the cake

The McGill Alumni Association kicked off its 150th anniversary in January with a soiree for MAA presidents and volunteers, past and present, held at the McConnell Winter Arena. Party-goers toasted the MAA's next 150 years and watched the McGill women's hockey team in action.



Nicolas Morin

Parcelling out pieces of the MAA's birthday cake are (left to right), MAA senior executive director Honora Shaughnessy, MLS'73, former MAA president Morna Flood Consedine, MEd'77, DEd'85, former MAA president Keith Ham, BA'54, BCL'59, current MAA president Ann Vroom, BA'67 and Vice-Principal Ann Dowsett-Johnston.

Spreading the word about science

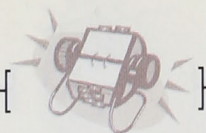
Assen Nicolov, BSc'75, and his wife Christine Young hosted Dean of Science Martin Grant and some McGill alumni and friends at their home near Seattle. Grant updated the gathering on what his faculty is up to, including the new Office for Undergraduate Research in Science and the BA&Sc degree for students keen on studying both arts and science.

Left to right: (front row) Marianne Shey, Christine Young, Jenora Jolly; (back) Assen Nicolov, Dean of Science Martin Grant, Lori Whittaker, PhD'86, MDCM'98, Adel Youakim, BSc'82, PhD'88, and Tom Bussing, BEng'80.



Alums in Antarctica

The McGill Alumni and Friends educational travel program will take you anywhere – even to the bottom of the world. Proudly unfurling the McGill flag in Antarctica are (left to right) Cynthia Struthers, Rochelle Magoon, Robert L. Consedine, Keith Powell, MBA'73, Doug Magoon, BEng'70, Jack Nield, Janet Nield and Peter Auld, MDCM'52.



AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

MELVIN BARCLAY, BSc(Agr)'64, was presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, recognizing his leadership in 4-H. Melvin has also been recognized for several other accomplishments, including the Distinguished Services Award from the New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists and the James Robb Award, which is the highest honour given by the New Brunswick Federation of Agriculture. Melvin is a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

CYNTHIA SURETTE, BSc(Agr)'00, and **ANDREW WINTERBORN**, BSc(Agr)'00, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Benjamin, in February. They were married in Georgetown, Ont., in 2001. In 2005 they moved to Rochester, NY, where Andrew is a resident in the Department of Comparative Medicine at the University of Rochester. Contact from Mac friends is welcome at Cynthia@Surette.com.

ARCHITECTURE

ROBIN WRIGHT, BSc(Arch)'70, BArch'71, is department head of Project Management Services for the McGill University Health Centre. Robin and her team oversee all phases of client service concerning construction projects, renovations and redesigns for the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Montreal General Hospital, the Montreal Neurological Institute, the Montreal Children's Hospital and the Montreal Chest Hospital.

JAY HISCOX, BSc(Arch)'91, BArch'93, is the new director of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.



PASCALE TREMBLAY, BSc(Agr)'85, qui a animé le magazine *Cultivé et bien élevé*, reviendra à l'antenne de Télé-Québec cet automne à l'animation d'un nouveau magazine, *La vie en vert*. Pascale a commencé sa carrière à Radio-Canada. Pascale a aussi présenté une série documentaire sur les jardins du Québec à TV5 et au Canal Évasion. Le 28 juin 2006, le premier ministre du Québec, Jean Charest, ainsi que le ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, Yvon Vallières, annonçaient la nomination de Pascale au poste de commissaire de la Commission sur l'avenir de l'agriculture et de l'agroalimentaire québécois.

ARTS

PHILIPPA HUNTER, BA'50, exhibited her paintings last November and December at the Roberts Gallery in Toronto, the oldest fine arts gallery in Canada.

LEONARD ROSMARIN, BA'59, MA'60, retired from Brock University in 2003 after 34 years as professor of French Literature. Since then, Leonard has completed two projects: *Liliane Atlan ou la quête de la forme divine* (Les Éditions du Gref, 2004), a book about Franco-Jewish writer Liliane Atlan, and an English adaptation of Atlan's play *Les Mers rouges*, which was produced at Toronto's Fringe Festival in 2005.

JOHN B. DOSSETOR, PhD'61, has published *Beyond the Hippocratic Oath* (University of Alberta Press, 2006). The book, subtitled *A Memoir on the Rise of Modern Medical Ethics*, outlines John's own ethical decisions during his career as a nephrologist.

ROGER H. BARNESLEY, MA'68, PhD'71, received an honorary PhD in Education from Saint John's University in Bangkok, Thailand, in January. Roger has held several university positions, including Associate Professor and Chair in the Psychology Department at the University of Lethbridge, Dean of Education and professor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, and professor and Vice President of Academics at Saint Thomas University in New Brunswick. Roger is President and Vice-Chancellor of Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C., formerly University College of the Cariboo.

JOHN KLASSEN, MA'68, was recognized for his 30 years of scholarship and dedication to the Department of History at Trinity Western University with a fellowship in his name. The John Klassen Fellowship will be awarded yearly to a fourth-year history student who demonstrates high academic achievement.

BARBARA SCHULMAN, BA'68, co-authored a book entitled *Dancing in the Elevator*, a compilation of anecdotes about life with Alzheimer's disease. The book is available at www.alzheimerottawa.org, with all proceeds going to the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa.

SHERRILL E. GRACE, MA'70, PhD'74, has published her 16th book, *Theatre and Autobiography* (Talonbooks, 2006), with co-editor Jerry Wasserman.

BARBARA MOSES, BA'71, has written a book entitled *Dish: Midlife Women Tell the Truth about Work, Relationships, and the Rest of Life* (McClelland & Stewart, 2006).

KARL NERENBERG, BA'71, DipEd'72, has been Director of Corporate Communications and Public Outreach at the Canadian Institute for Health Information since 2005. This followed five years as Director of Communications for the Canadian-based Forum of Federations, and more than 20 years at Radio-Canada and CBC as a producer, director and executive producer. Karl's wife, **MARTHA PLAINE**, BA'70, a writer and consultant, and Karl's son, **JACOB NERENBERG**, BEng'03, are both McGill graduates as well.

FRANK DANS, BA'72, became the artistic administrator of the Cleveland Orchestra after 12 years with the Atlanta Symphony in the same post.

NICHOLE RICALENS POURCHOT, MA'73, a écrit *Les facettes du français* (Aramand Colin, 2005).

REED WAY DASENBROCK, BA'74, was appointed Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of New Mexico. Reed had served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since 2001.

SHELDON GOLDFARB, BA'75, had his book, *Remember, Remember*, shortlisted for


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the Arthur Ellis Award for best Canadian juvenile mystery novel of 2005.

CHRISTOPHER W. KIMBALL, BA'77, is the new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at California Lutheran University, and will relocate with his family to Thousand Oaks. Christopher was previously Provost and Dean of Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn.

MARLENE EISNER, BA'80, is editor-in-chief of the *Suburban*, Quebec's largest English weekly newspaper. Marlene has been with the *Suburban* for 12 years in various editorial positions, and was previously with the *Gazette* for six years.

ELISE MOSER, BA'84, CertHRMgmt'00, co-edited an anthology of short fiction with Claude Lalumière called *Lust for Life: Tales of Sex and Love* (Véhicule Press). Elise's 2004 CBC/QWF Short Story Competition-winning story, "Malke's Baby," and her 2005 runner-up story, "Allons Enfants de la Patrie," were both included in Claude's edited anthology *Short Stuff: New English Stories from Quebec*.

FRANK P. HARVEY, BA'85, MA'88, PhD'93, is a Canada-U.S. Fulbright Scholar and the 2007 J. William Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair in Canadian Studies at the State University of New York (Plattsburgh). Frank is a professor of Political Science and International Relations and former Director of the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie University.

MICHELLE TACK, BA'85, was a featured speaker at the 15th annual RSA Conference, the most prestigious information security event of the year, in February in San Jose, California. Michelle is a senior member of the executive management team at Apani Networks, a leading enterprise network security software provider.

CHRIS GUTKIND, BA'86, is a librarian in London, England, and had his first collection of poetry, *Inside to Outside*, published by Shearsman Books in the United Kingdom. Chris's mom, **ALICE GUTKIND**, MLS'74, MA'77, and sister, **KATHERINE GUTKIND**, BA'77, were both McGill grads, and his father, the late **PETER C.W. GUTKIND**, was a McGill professor.

JEFF MORGENSTEIN, BA'86, was awarded the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for 2005. Jeff has been a high school Spanish and Theory of Knowledge teacher for the past seven years at

Land O'Lakes High School in Florida, and is pursuing his doctorate in Interdisciplinary Studies in Education from the University of South Florida.

JAMIE BROWN, BA'90, was appointed Head of Corporate Finance for Canaccord Adams Inc., a leading independent financial services firm, in Boston.

FRANCESCA IACURTO, BA'90, is Vice-President of Government Relations at Genworth Financial Canada, based in Ottawa.

ROBERT EDISON SANDIFORD, BA'90, had his fifth book, *The Tree of Youth and Other Stories*, published by DC Books of Montreal. Set in cosmopolitan Canada and beautiful Barbados, the collection is available in Canada, the United States and Barbados.

TANYA CHURCHMUCH, BA'92, was appointed Senior Media Relations Advisor at Concordia University. Tanya comes to Concordia with extensive reporting and anchoring experience at Global Television Quebec since 1998.

CORINNE POHLMANN, BA'92, MA'94, was appointed Director of National Affairs of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). Corinne is based in Ottawa and will be responsible for managing CFIB's strategic direction on national issues.

KEITH DONAHUE, BA'96, and **MEREDITH NELSON**, BA'96, moved from Dublin, Ireland, to Raleigh, North Carolina, via Ottawa last fall. Keith is a Director at Harris Corporation and Meredith stays home to take care of Patrick Gordon, born in May, a little brother to three-year-old William.

LOUISE SLINGER, BA'96, completed an MBA in international business in a tri-continental program in Mumbai, Philadelphia, Tokyo

and China, and just returned to New York in August from China.

TYLER LEVINE, BA'97, co-wrote the horror movie *Set to Kill*, which debuted in March 2006. Tyler was a television producer for five years before making the leap to feature films in 2004.

ELIZABETH A. HAYDN-JONES, BA'98, lives in London, England, and works in the press office of the campaigns department of Amnesty International UK. In September 2005, Elizabeth completed her MA in Human Rights from the University College London and was given distinction for her thesis, which exposed and examined the failures of private health care provision in the United States.

SAM ROBERTS, BA'98, released his third album, *Chemical City*, last April. The first single off that album, "The Gate," was among the nominees for a 2006 MuchMusic Video Award.

ELENA GIBBONS, BA'02, is a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, and was married to Brian Serapiglia in Connecticut in July 2006.

JASON MAGHANOY, BA'03, graduated in last spring from the National Theatre School of Canada, in Montreal. Jason's graduating play, *Say Yes*, was presented at the Monument National in April 2006.

ANDRÉ MARTIN, BA'04, is training in classical theatre at the University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program.

APRIL NORRIS, BA'06, is the fifth generation of women in her family to graduate from McGill, including her mother, **LINDA MARSH NORRIS**, BE'd'77, as well as her great-grandmother and two distant aunts, who graduated before 1900.

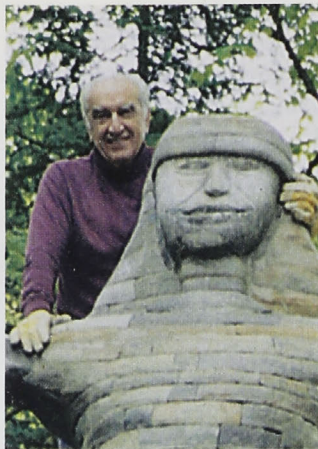


CHAD GAFFIELD, BA'73, MA'74, has been named President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Known as one of the country's foremost socio-cultural historians, Chad has spent most of his academic career at the University of Ottawa, where he earned awards for both excellence in research and excellence in teaching. Chad leads the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure initiative, which is creating cross-indexed databases from 100 years' worth of national census information to shed light on the making of modern Canada. SSHRC is an arm's-length federal agency that promotes and supports university-based research and training in the social sciences and humanities.



DENTISTRY

ROBERT B. J. DORION, DDS'72, was awarded the Odontology Section's Reidar Sognaes Award of Excellence in Forensic Odontology by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences at its 58th annual Scientific Meeting, held in Seattle, Washington, in February. Robert is the Director of Forensic Dentistry at the Ministry of Public Security for Quebec.



HARRY ROSEN, DDS'53, a respected Montreal dentist, long-time McGill dentistry professor and accomplished sculptor, was the subject of a television documentary, *Dr. Harry Rosen – Renaissance Man*, that aired on the PBS Mountain Lake series *Art Express* on November 1. The documentary had its official premiere at McGill, with a screening in Moyse Hall on October 19. Harry, an expert on prosthodontics and restorative dentistry, has taught at McGill for over 50 years. In collaboration with the Faculty of Dentistry, Harry has created the Dr. Harry Rosen Endowed Clinical Teaching Fund, to assist young clinical instructors in developing their teaching skills – by offering them access to training opportunities and improved teaching tools, for instance.

EDUCATION

DAWN BROWN, MEd'79, has published her second book, *Been There, Done That...Now What?* (Creative Bound, 2006). Dawn also has another book out called *That Perception Thing!* (Creative Bound, 2002), which she wrote after 22 years at Carleton University as Director of Student Life Services and head of Career Services. For the last three years Dawn has been a professional speaker and writer, as well as a private counsellor through her own company, Perception Shift.

ROBIN N. MICHEL, BEd'80, is a professor and a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Cellular and Molecular Neuromuscular

Physiology in the Department of Exercise Science at Concordia University. Robin was the first scientist to demonstrate the key role of calcineurin in the sequence of events that prompts muscle cells to grow and become more energy-efficient.

CHRISTINE HELMER, BEd'87, has moved to Cambridge, Mass., and is teaching as a Senior Scholar in Theology at the Harvard Divinity School.

MARTIN RAYMOND, BEd'90, MA'96, won the Father George Kehoe Memorial Award

for coach of the year for the 2005-2006 season. Martin is head coach of the McGill men's hockey team.

ATHINA GALANOGEORGOS, BEd'92, MEd'96, was appointed Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services for the Montreal School Board. Athina has been the Principal of Rosemount High School in Montreal for the past three years.

KIM ST-PIERRE, BEd'05, and assistant coach PETER SMITH, BEd'79, MA'86, took home gold medals in women's hockey at

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the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics. **TYSON HEUNG**, BE'd'05, also participated in the Olympics, competing with the German short track speed skating team. Other McGill grads who helped in the organization of the Winter Olympics include **DEREK COVINGTON**, BA'92, a sports services officer for the Canadian Olympic Committee, **RICHARD POUND**, BCom'62, BCL'67, a member of the International Olympic Committee and Chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency, and **HOWARD STUPP**, BEng'78, BCL'83, LLB'83, who is also a member of the International Olympic Committee.

ENGINEERING

KEN KALMAN, BEng'66, PhD'70, had his play, *Defenceless*, produced in June 2006 by Stone Circle Theatre in Ajax, Ontario.

ALLAN KOHL, BEng'68, DipMgmt'72, MBA'78, was appointed president and CEO of KOM International, in Montreal. KOM International is a consulting firm that provides supply chain and logistics experience to clients in many industry sectors.

SANDRO SCOLA, BEng'84, MEng'89, was promoted to Senior Manager of Bridges and Structures for Canadian National/Illinois Central Railroad.

AMMAR M. AL ASSAM, BEng'95, MBA'97, is Director of Business Development for Dewan Architects & Engineers, a leading architecture and engineering consultancy firm, and lives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

HEALTH SCIENCES

JOHN D. HSU, BSc'57, MDCM'61, received a commendation from the Los Angeles County Board Supervisors for 32 years of excellent service. John recently became Emeritus Clinical Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. In the past year John has been a visiting professor at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, the Shriners Hospital in Greenville, S.C., the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Centre in Oswestry, England, and the Technical Orthopaedic Program in Munich, Germany. John is presently revising the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' reference text-

book, *Atlas of Orthotics & Assistive Devices*, as Senior Editor.

ANNETTE RUDY, BSc(OT)'70, is Executive Director of the Griffith McConnell Residence, a seniors' residence and long-term care centre in Montreal. Annette's daughter, **LAURA RUDY**, BCom'05, is a recent graduate of McGill's Desautels Faculty of Management.

D. DOUGLAS MILLER, MDCM'78, was appointed Dean of the School of Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia, in Augusta, Georgia, in July 2006. Douglas is a cardiologist who also serves as chair of internal medicine at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

RANA ZEINE, PhD'93, joined the faculty at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois, as Research Assistant Professor, after having completed her residency training in Anatomic Pathology and Neuropathology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2004.

KEITH FLEMING, MDCM'01, married Anne Chalmers of Bridgton, Maine, in September 2005. Several medicine graduates were in attendance, including **SIMON BERGMAN**, MDCM'01, MSc'05, **JEFF GOLAN**, MDCM'01, **EYAL GOLAN**, MDCM'03, **STEPHEN SOHMER**, BSc'96, MDCM'01, **ROBERT MARANDA**, BSc'97, MDCM'01, **STEPHANIE MINORGAN**, BSc'97, MDCM'01, and **ALEXANDRA DEPOKAMANDY**, MDCM'01.

NICOLAS GILBERT, DipEpid&Bio'03, was appointed head of Health Canada's Indoor Air Quality Section. Nicolas will supervise the revision of Health Canada's indoor air quality guidelines and eventually develop a new set of guidelines.



Taffi Rosen

MARLA SHAPIRO, MDCM'79, is the medical consultant for CTV *National News* and *Canada AM*, as well as the host of the show *Balance: Television for Living Well* and a columnist for the *Globe and Mail*. In 2005, she received the North American Menopause Society Media Award, given annually to a media professional whose work has expanded the knowledge and understanding of menopause. Marla also won the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada/Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Award for Excellence in Women's Health Journalism in 2006 for her television documentary *Run Your Own Race*, which detailed her battle with breast cancer. She has just published *Life in the Balance: My Journey with Breast Cancer*, which expands on her difficult journey from doctor to patient.

LAW

LES VANDOR, BCom'76, BCL'80, LLB'80, has joined Lang Michener LLP as Counsel. Les will continue co-hosting his regular legal call-in shows on CBC Radio and CTV.

HERBERT BROWNSTEIN, BA'79, BCL'82, LLB'83, and **MITCHELL BROWNSTEIN**, BCom'83, BCL'87, LLB'87, have been partners in the law firm Brownstein, Brownstein and Associates since 1990, specializing in business and immigration in Montreal. In November 2005, Herbert was elected a city councillor for Dollard des Ormeaux and Mitchell was re-elected a councillor for the city of Côte Saint Luc.

BRAD WYLYNKO, LLB'89, made partner with the Australian national law firm Clayton Utz, and has been living with his wife in Perth, Australia, since 1999. They have three children, Ella, 5, Nicholas, 2, and their youngest, born in May 2006. Brad's practice focuses on environmental law in the Asia Pacific region.

TASHA KHEIRIDDIN, BCL'93, LLB'93, is currently a visiting lecturer at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, teaching a course on the conservative movement in Canada. She is also writing a book about the relationship of economic systems to human behaviour. Tasha is the former Ontario director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

MARTIN-PIERRE BOULIANNE, BCL'95, LLB'95, et son épouse, Judith Harvie, sont les heureux parents de Simone, née en avril 2006.

JONATHAN LEVINSON, BCL'95, LLB'95, was appointed Assistant General Counsel at Concordia University. Jonathan will provide advice on legal and policy matters,



as well as draft, negotiate and review university policies and agreements with third parties.

MANAGEMENT

RUBEN ROSEN, BCom'57, was appointed Chair of the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) by the Ontario Minister of Health. This is one of 14 LHINs created by the Minister to manage, plan and fund health care services across the province.

MARTIN L.B. WALTER, BCom'58, is Vice-Chairman of the Massachusetts Alliance for International Business, a non-profit organization that helps small and medium-sized Massachusetts companies compete in the global economy. Martin is also director of Walter Property, a development company in Guernsey, in the Channel Islands. Martin lives with his wife in Needham, Mass.

STEVE BOWER, BCom'73, was appointed Acting CFO of Wi-LAN Inc., a Calgary-based provider of broadband wireless communications solutions.

MARION KIRSH, BCom'76, DPA'78, moved to the Ontario Securities Commission in



TIMOTHY R. CARSLY, BA'58, BCL'61, has joined McGill as Legal Counsel dedicated to the area of Development, Alumni and University Relations. In this new role, he provides legal advice and support to staff and administrators across the University on matters relating to gifts made to McGill. A member of the Quebec bar since 1962, Tim has for some time provided guidance to the University as the partner in the firm of Borden, Ladner, Gervais (BLG) responsible for the McGill account. BLG has agreed to a two-year secondment to allow McGill access to his legal expertise on a full-time basis.

Toronto as Associate Chief Accountant after 21 years at RBC Financial Group. Marion has also been volunteering at the Canadian Cancer Society's Ontario Division for the last six years.

GLENN CHARLESWORTH, BCom'79, was named President and CEO of Lakeland College, in Vermilion, Alberta, by its board of governors. Glenn was chosen primarily for his extensive history with the college as a professor, program head, chairman and, most recently, Executive Vice-President.

JEAN-PIERRE DE MONTIGNY, MBA'80, is Vice Chairman of the Board of Blackmont Capital, and was recently appointed Chairman of D-Box Technologies Inc., a company that designs and manufactures high-technology motion simulators for the entertainment industry.

CATHERINE ROWE, BCom'86, was appointed Executive Director of External Affairs at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital. Catherine was formerly Director of Major Gifts at Centraide of greater Montreal for 12 years.

JOHN SNISARENKO, BSc'86, MBA'91, is Vice President and General Manager of Ophthalmology at Novadaq Technologies Inc., a developer of medical imaging systems for the operating room.

CARRIE ANN MAZOFF, BSc'97, BCom'98, and husband **PETER MAZOFF**, BCom'96, welcomed their daughter, Paige, into the world in October 2005. Carrie and Peter have moved back to Montreal after a six-year stint in Boston.

PHILIP O'NEILL, BA'87, MBA'03, was elected President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan in June 2005 for a two-year term. Philip works at the McGill MBA Japan program of the Desautels Faculty of Management in Tokyo.

LISA OUELLET, BCom'87, announces that the Management Class of 1987 is now acknowledged on a plaque that has been permanently displayed on the wall of the Bronfman Building near the Dean's office, thanks to the tremendous support of Kristine Jones and the entire Desautels Faculty of Management.

COREY ANNE BLOOM, BCom'90, DPA'93, was elected Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) in February. The ACFE is a 36,000-member global association dedicated to providing anti-fraud education and training.

YALMAZ SIDDIQUI, BCom'92, is Environmental Strategy Advisor for Office Depot, a leading provider of office products and services. Yalmaz is responsible for increasing understanding of environmental issues and opportunities among suppliers, customers and associates in order to help improve the environmental performance of the company.

ANTOINETTE PAOLINI, BCom'96, DPA'98, works as a finance manager for Cott Beverages USA. She was married to David Lepre in May 2005 and resides in Tampa, Florida. Antoinette would love to hear from old friends at alepre2721@yahoo.com.

ARTHUR KAH-GIT WONG, BCom'97, married Dr. Haejin In in September 2005 in Seoul, South Korea, which was followed by a traditional Chinese wedding banquet in October in Vancouver. Among the guests were McGill alumni **ADRIAN YU**, BEng'98, **MEGAN MITCHELL**, BA'97, **VIVIAN CHAN**, BSc'98, **MIRELLE NGUYEN-TU**, BSc'96, **FERHAT KASSAMALI**, BSc'97, MSc'01, **BYRON JUNG**, BEng'96, **JOSEPHINE JUNG**, MSc'00, and **DEEPAK JAIN**, BEng'96. Arthur is a business systems analyst for Akamai Technologies in Cambridge, Mass.

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DEEPAK DAVE, BCom'98, returned to London, England, in January to work for UBS Investment Bank Emerging Markets after working in Johannesburg as Director of Investment Banking Credit Risk for Barclays Bank International.

SIMA GHANEM, BCom'98, lives in her hometown of Amman, Jordan, with her husband, Prince Abbas Bin Ali, and her two daughters, Karma, 4, and Rania, 2. After graduation Sima worked for UNICEF and an advertising firm, and also taught at an elementary school. Sima presently works at The Linen Store, which she opened last summer. Sima's sister, **LANA GHANEM**, BCom'06, completed her business degree at McGill this summer with a concentration in marketing and finance.

CATHERINE LIEPINS, MBA'04, was hired by the National Bank of Canada and works in Montreal. Last December Catherine won \$10,000 in a business plan contest, which she credits to her McGill MBA and the Department of Entrepreneurial Studies for teaching her how to write a convincing business plan.

DIANNE LYNCH, PhD'06, was associate

professor in the Department of Journalism at Ithaca College, in New York state, before becoming Dean of Ithaca's Roy H. Park School of Communications in 2004. Dianne was also previously an instructor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an associate professor in the same department at Saint Michael's College in Vermont.

MUSIC

KERRY STRATTON, BMus'74, is Conductor and Music Director of the Toronto Philharmonia, and since 1992, he has also been Music Director for the Huntsville Festival of the Arts. Stratton's engagements have included the Vienna Symphony Chamber Orchestra, the Prague Chamber Philharmonic and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. In January 2001, he became the first Canadian to conduct the St. Petersburg Camerata in the Hermitage Theatre at the Winter Palace.

MICHAEL CAPON, MMus'88, was appointed Director of Music at Timothy Eaton

Memorial United Church in Toronto last March. Previously, Michael was organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

BEATRIZ ILARI, PhD'02, is an associate professor of music education at the Federal University of Paraná, in Curitiba, Brazil.

SCIENCE

DOROTHY WARBURTON, BSc'57, PhD'61, received the Allen Award from the American Society of Human Genetics in October. The award is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions and continued productivity in the field of human genetics through research and/or teaching.

FLORENCE SHANFIELD GORDON, BSc'63, MSc'64, PhD'68, and **SHELDON GORDON**, MSc'65, PhD'69, are contributors to the book *A Fresh Start for Collegiate Mathematics: Rethinking the Courses Below Calculus*, which was published by the Mathematical Association of America and contains 49 articles written by mathematics educators.

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JOHN HARNAD, BSc'67, is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Concordia University and recently won the CAP-CRM prize in theoretical and mathematical physics from the Canadian Association of Physicists in recognition of his "deep and lasting contributions to the theory of integrable systems with connections to gauge theory, inverse scattering and random matrices."

DON SMILLIE, BSc'67, was awarded an Alberta Centennial Medal in December 2005 by the government of the province of Alberta. The award is a one-time commemorative medal that celebrates the centennial year of the province joining confederation in 1905. Medals are conferred upon individuals who have made significant contributions to the community and society in Alberta. Don has spent the past 30 years as a member and chair of several program and industry advisory committees at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

ESTHER H. STEINHAUER, BSc'69, joined the 100-member intellectual property practice at the law firm Hunton & Williams, and will work as counsel from their New York branch.

JEAN-MARIE DUFOUR, BSc'71, received a 2006 Killam Prize, Canada's most distinguished annual award for outstanding career achievements in engineering, natural sciences, humanities, social sciences and health sciences, worth \$100,000. Jean-Marie is a professor of Economics at the Université de Montréal and specializes in econometrics.

DAVID FRIENDLY, BSc'71, has retired from Gulf Canada and Petro-Canada after 31 years of service, and is now President of David Friendly Consulting Ltd. With his new company David hopes to help the next generation of loss management and response professionals apply life-saving principles in the areas of economic and social protection.

NICK DI PIETRO, BSc'72, MSc'75, was appointed Piping Engineering Lead in the facilities group for the Hibernia Topside Upgrading Project, an offshore petroleum extraction project, and serves as Exxon Mobil representative for technical matters. Nick lives with his wife, **OLGA (BISCOTTI) DI PIETRO**, BA'74, and their three sons are all busy with their own studies.

G. PAUL DONNINI, BSc'72, PhD'77, was

appointed President of ITT Flyght Canada after serving two years as Vice President. Paul is pleased to report that his sons, **MICHAEL ROBERT DONNINI**, BEng'05, and **DAVID T. DONNINI**, BSc(PT)'04, have followed proudly in his footsteps by graduating from McGill.

GORDON JARDIN, BSc'74, is CEO of the management team at Franklin Credit Management Corporation in New York City. Gordon's company acquires, manages and sells sub-prime residential mortgage assets.

YUK-SHAN WONG, MSc'76, PhD'79, was appointed Vice President of Administration and Business, as well as Adjunct Professor of Biology at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

MICHEL C. BARBE, PhD'79, is Senior Manager of Research and Development and High Technology for the tax services group at Samson Bélair/Deloitte & Touche, and works from his Montreal office. Michel will coordinate all claims for R&D tax credits in the pulp and paper sector.

JATINDER P. AHLUWALIA, BSc'84, has joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine as an associate professor of internal medicine, specializing in gastroenterology. Before this position, Jatinder was on faculty at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, and also volunteered as a staff physician at the Free Medical Clinic of Iowa City.

PHILIPPE GIARO, BSc'84, was appointed to the Board of Directors at SearchGold Resources Inc., and will also take over as President and CEO of the company.

TAMMY CLIFFORD, BSc'92, MScA'93, completed her PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Western Ontario in June 2002 and has held faculty appointments with the University of Ottawa since 2002. Tammy and her husband became first-time parents in April 2004, and one year later Tammy joined the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health as the Director of Project Quality in the Health Technology Assessment Directorate.

ANTHONY DAVIS, PhD'92, works at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Anthony and his wife, Kristine, are delighted to announce the arrival of their twin sons, Arthur Eliot and Benjamin Ezra, in March 2006. Anthony and Kristine welcome news from friends at tony_davis@cybermesa.com.

JEAN-PHILIPPE DARCHE, BSc'97, played in Super Bowl XL as the long-snapper for the Seattle Seahawks, who lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers 21-10. J.P. was only the second player from a Canadian university to participate in the Super Bowl.

JAKE S. SHERKOW, BSc'04, completed a master's in biotechnology from Columbia University in February, and will be entering law school at the University of Michigan.

CYMANTHIA THOMAS, BSc'05, is the recipient of Ross University's Eliza Anna Grier Scholarship, which is worth \$2,000 per semester and is named for Dr. Eliza Grier, who was the first African-American doctor in the state of Georgia. Cymanthia will be studying in Ross's School of Medicine.

SOCIAL WORK

RACHEL (ARLENE) GUNNER, BSW'72, MSW'73, has published her first book, *Beyond These Walls: The True Story of a Lost Child's Journey to a Whole Life*, about her work with a woman with 26 personalities. Rachel is a psychotherapist in private practice in Austin, Texas, where she lives with her husband, Morrie. Her daughter is a Rhodes scholar working on her doctorate at Oxford.

ROANNE WEISMAN, BSW'74, has had three new books published in the "Own Your Health" series: *Your Sick Child* (HCI, 2006), with John D. Mark, *Pain* (HCI, 2006), with Adam Perlman, and *Healthy to 100* (HCI, 2006), with Alexa Fleckenstein.

JANE BLANCHARD, BSW'91, works as a prearrangements counsellor and social worker at Kane & Fetterly Funeral Home with **BRIDGET FETTERLY**, BA'89, who is the president and owner of the Home.

Send information for Alumnotes to:

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The 1920s

Gertrude Emma "Dickie" (Sullivan) Bernardin, DipPE'28, at Côte St-Luc, Que., on April 13, 2006

Florence (Newman) Richards, BHS'29, at Collingwood, Ont., on December 27, 2005

The 1930s

Anne (Hyde) Hodgson, BA'30, at Saint-Sauveur-des-Monts, Que., on March 4, 2006

Edythe (Rubin) Mendelsohn, DipPE'31, at Montreal, on March 10, 2006

Jack Hendelman, BA'35, at Montreal, on March 26, 2006

Robert A. Peck, BA'35, MA'42, at Île Bizard, Que., on February 21, 2006

Bryan P. Malley, BSc'36, at Burlington, Ont., on February 13, 2006

George W. Smiley, BEng'36, at Magog, Que., on March 31, 2006

Eileen Isobel Baxter Henderson, BA'37, at Toronto, on March 19, 2006

Andrew A. Stevenson, BA'37, at Montreal, on March 28, 2006

Archie Peddie, DipAgr'38, at Ormstown, Que., on March 27, 2006

John C. Starr, BEng'38, at Key Largo, Fla., on March 3, 2006

Joyce Gifford, BA'39, at Ottawa, on January 20, 2006

The 1940s

Alexander D. Hamilton, BEng'40, at Victoria, B.C., on February 18, 2006

Edna Beatrice (Rettie) MacRae, BHS'40, at Kingston, Ont., on April 17, 2006

Guy R. Turgeon, MDCM'40, at Sun City, Ariz., on March 24, 2006

John R. G. Bennett, BEng'42, MEng'49, at Ottawa, on January 18, 2006

Mary S. Blair, BA'42, at Peterborough, N.H., on February 3, 2006

Allan C. Findlay, BEng'42, at Mooresville, N.C., on March 1, 2004

Sophie Olynyk, DipSW'42, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on January 27, 2006

John Ellis Gilbert, MDCM'43, at Hanover, N.H., on December 16, 2005

Harold R. Young, BEng'43, at Sussex, N.B., on January 28, 2006

Shirley Doreen (Winder) Cockhill, DipEd'46, at Ottawa, on June 20, 2005.

Madalene Darrach, DipEd'46, at Sutton, Que., on March 29, 2006

John H. Pazur, MSc'46, at State College, Pa., on July 30, 2005

Donald S. Mathews, BEng'47, at Edmonton, Alta., on March 30, 2006

Donald P. Brady, BSc(Agr)'48, at London, Ont., on March 18, 2006

Thomas S. Brown, BSc(Agr)'48, at Kelowna, B.C., on February 23, 2006

W. E. Duggan Gray, BCom'48, at Vernon, B.C., on March 12, 2006

Renfrew D. Mather, BCom'48, at Ottawa, on November 5, 2005

Barbara Lindsay (Place) Moore, BA'48, at Toronto, on March 7, 2006

Allan H. Mallette, BEng'49, at Amherstview, Ont., on December 29, 2005

John W. Pitts, BEng'49, at Vancouver, on February 3, 2006

The 1950s

John Edward Aiken, BSc'50, DipM&BA'56, at Guelph, Ont., on June 2, 2006

Mary Carole (Mackenzie) Challis, BA'50, at Kingston, Ont., on March 14, 2006

John De Souza, BSc'50, PhD'55, at Newport, Vt., on October 7, 2004

Enid Anne (Forbes) Thomson, BSc(HEc)'50, at Lachute, Que., on January 11, 2006

George A. Cowley, BA'51, at Ottawa, on February 5, 2006

Cynthia Dobell, BA'51, at Chicago, on June 9, 2006

David W. Hone, PhD'51, at Victoria, B.C., on January 4, 2006

Miriam (Constant) Leboff, BA'51, at Los Angeles, Calif., on November 10, 2005

Lawrence Alexander Lynch, BSc(Agr)'51, at Kingston, Ont., on December 29, 2003

Hugh G. Marshall, BEng'51, at Hudson, Que., on March 2, 2006

Dennis Murch, BCom'51, at Torrance, Calif., on January 9, 2006

Murray A. L. Williams, BA'51, at Brampton, Ont., on March 4, 2006

Michael M. Bone, BCom'52, at Haut St. Maurice, Que., on March 1, 2006

James L. Parsons, BEng'52, at Greenville, S.C., on May 29, 2005

John Samuel R. Bains, MSW'53, at Winnipeg, on November 23, 2005

James A. Fraser, BA'53, at Ottawa, on September 1, 2005

Christine Elizabeth (Sexton) Hughes, BSc(PE)'53, at Toronto, on February 2, 2006

Edward "Ned" S. Heney, BA'54, at Morrisville, Vt., on February 13, 2006

Michael N. Levitt, BA'54, MDCM'58, at Palm Desert, Calif., on February 27, 2006

George S. Petty, BCom'54, DipM&BA'59, at Key West, Fla., on March 15, 2006

Lionel Todman, MSW'54, at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on October 17, 2005

Barbara G. Kuhn, BN'55, MSc(A)'67, at Guelph, Ont., on December 15, 2005

The 1960s

Sophie Rozycki, DDS'61, at Mississauga, Ont., on July 6, 2006

Henry J. Prominski, LLM'61, at Gainesville, Fla., on April 1, 2006

Dugald Christie, BSc'62, at Ottawa, Ont., on July 31, 2006

Rudy V. Javosky, BArch'62, at Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 7, 2006

Henry Suld, PhD'62, at Spring Hill, Fla., on February 6, 2006

Lois R. E. Gerth, BLS'63, MLS'71, at Montreal, on January 6, 2006

Peter F. Lindsay, BEng'63, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on January 26, 2006

Shelagh (Young) Keator, BEd'64, at Oakville, Ont., on January 5, 2006

Marianne Bluger, BA'67, at Ottawa, on October 29, 2005

Chandru N. Ramchandani, BEng'67, at Peterborough, Ont., on February 7, 2006

Eileen Cater, BA'69, at Denville, N.J., on May 17, 2006

The 1970s

Jean-Guy Hébert, BSc'71, at Ottawa, on February 15, 2006

Ignjat Vukovich, MEng'71, at Montreal, on March 22, 2006

John "Mark" Markland Molson, BA'72, at Miami, Fla., on January 19, 2006

Peter Edward Payne, MBA'72, at Toronto, on March 2, 2006

James Kirk MacGeachy, MSc'75, PhD'78, at Île-Cadieux, Que., on August 20, 2006

Paul Charles Knowlton Miller, BSc'75, at Georgetown, Ont., on March 10, 2006

Mary (Miller) McAteer, BEd'79, at Stirling, Ont., on March 25, 2006

The 1980s

Alexander "Sandy" W. Macdougall, MDCM'80, at Duntroon, Ont., on February 22, 2006

Leslie (Fish) Blumenthal, BEd'81, in Israel, on January 6, 2006

Ghassan Michel Dani, MBA'87, at Montreal, on January 20, 2006

Lee Stephen Donahue, BTh'87, at London, Ont., on January 9, 2006

The 1990s

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

Elizabeth "Holly" Rorke Nelson, MEd'96, at Montreal, on December 2, 2005

Faculty and Staff

Angel Alonso, Associate Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Physiology, at Montreal, on July 6, 2005

What's in a Name?

by LOUISE FABIANI, BSc'80

ACCORDING TO ORTHODOX ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, Adam's great faux pas in the Garden of Eden wasn't sharing the apple with Eve. It was naming the animals. The use of words – chosen by one and conferred upon another – immediately set *Homo sapiens* apart from the rest of creation. Thus began a tension-rife, us-and-them relationship between human and non-human that has lasted to this day. Names designate, isolate, classify, signify and clarify – and whoever is doing the naming, however well intentioned, has the upper hand.

Although I generally agree with this interpretation of Christian mythology, vis-à-vis the human penchant for naming other beings, it saddens me to see words blamed for anything. Words are wondrous things, full of history and music, suggestive of the length and breadth of the imagination. I am well aware of how easily the products of creativity can be turned into weapons – anyone ever taunted in the schoolyard knows that – but I have too many fond memories of words, names and naming to dwell on the ugly side for long.

I grew up in a word-loving family: witty, book-loving parents; younger brother (Marc, MA'95) who later became a phonologist, employing his musical ear in the study of linguistics. I had started writing poems and stories by the age of 11, and became an incorrigible punster.

All of us, plus several cats, had multiple nicknames. In fact, when I was four or five years old, I could not give a quick answer when someone asked me who I was. We all considered wordplay to be kind of a metalanguage, and found foreign vocabularies and esoteric lexicons fascinating. The world of words was a world of wonders.

But, for me, the natural world had an even stronger pull, so when I enrolled at McGill in the late 1970s, it was as a major in biology. The first courses I took were huge affairs held in Leacock 132. They emphasized the nitty-gritty of life: biochemistry, molecular genetics and microbiology. I was too befuddled by enzymes and energetics, too dazzled by memorizing pathways to delight in any terminology. (Still, I could not resist drawing cartoons – usually visual puns – of microbes and unicellular animals in my notebooks as an outlet for my frustration.)

Then, in the fall of 1978, I took "Canadian Flora." At last I had a whole-organism course, rich in nomenclature. I was in heaven.

Under the steady tutelage of Professor Marty Lechowicz, augmented by field trips and access to the Stewart Biological Sciences Building greenhouse and the herbarium, my classmates and I learned to "botanize": go out and identify local plants. Two fundamental shifts in my world view occurred very quickly. First, the hitherto vast, largely unknown, and mostly green world of plants became *organized* into individual species, linked like-to-like into families we could recognize by certain traits. Second, my working vocabulary easily doubled within a few months – and continued to grow long after the course ended.

Going through the glossary of *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* by Gleason & Cronquist (1963 edition), which I've carried through umpteen moves, I can still recognize the agents of my transformation if not, immediately, their meanings. Autotrophic, corymbose, decumbent, endocarp, glabrous, lanceolate, pinnipalmate, reticulate, scabrous, tomentose, villos, xeric, zygomorphic: how their robust Latin and Greek etymology enchanted me.

Some words stayed within the botanical realm forever, while others slipped into poetry – literally. When, after working in the McGill libraries for almost a decade, I did my Master's in Environmental Studies at York University, I wrote many poems that drew on that botanical lexicon (as well as the zoological). Those poems comprised my first book.

Thanks also to that first course in botany, I have become a nutritionally savvy Slow Food cook, an amateur herbalist and a much better gardener. And I continue to botanize whenever the opportunity arises. But the effects go beyond all that, shaping my entire regard for the natural and the cultural. By naming, by forming associations as well as distinctions, one cannot help but love and appreciate more fully the tremendous diversity of life – and how interrelated everything is.

That's plenty to take from a single undergraduate course, I'd say. Thanks, Marty. 🌿

Louise Fabiani is a science writer, naturalist and author of The Green Alembic (Signal Editions, Montreal, 1999). Knowledge of Eastern North American flora is also significant in the novel of speculative fiction she has just completed.



Betsy Bauer/Corbis



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- Disability
- Extended Health & Dental Care

Contact us today for your FREE no-obligation information package and join the growing number of alumni who use this plan to secure their families' financial security.

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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.

Most people assume they are covered sufficiently under their provincial health plan. What they don't realize is that provincial health plans cover less than they may think. To ensure your health and dental needs are covered, consider the Alumni Extended Health and Dental Plan.

Dental care, prescription drugs*, alternative therapies (massage therapy, chiropractors, naturopaths, etc.) and vision benefits – these health care items and services are essential for the well-being of your family. Unfortunately, they are not covered under provincial health plans.

The Alumni Extended Health and Dental Plan features a variety of options to fit all needs and budgets. The value-added *ManuAssist*[™], a 24-hour emergency travel assistance program, is included at no additional cost to you. ■

[†] 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.



Remember

Be a mentor to a McGill student.

If you're reading this, there's a good chance you're a leader in your field, your industry, your community. And if you're like many graduates, you feel that part of your success is due to an individual who taught, nurtured or influenced you while you were at McGill.

So why not, in turn, give a McGill student the chance to benefit from your knowledge and wisdom? The McGill Mentor Program is seeking graduates willing to share their experiences in the real world, with current students. The extent to which you wish to be involved is up to you.

If you are interested, please visit www.alumni.mcgill.ca/mentor. Hundreds of students seeking mentors have already signed up for the upcoming year.

For more information about the programs and services offered to McGill graduates, please visit: www.alumni.mcgill.ca

To learn more about the McGill Mentor Program, please contact Shannon Consedine, Alumni Services Associate.
Email: studentprograms.dev@mcgill.ca or telephone: 514 398-3148

