McGill News

alumni magazine summer 2007

PLUS

Macdonald Campus: 100 Years of Growing the Future

They Shoot, They Soar: McGill's Mighty Martlets

Counsel for the Oppressed: Law Students Target War Criminals

STAR GAZER

Can cosmic sleuth Vicky Kaspi solve the mysteries of the universe?

THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

OWEN EGAN

Frances Duncan Locke, BA'39

A devoted volunteer continues to make a difference

When Frances Duncan Locke (née Earle) received her BA in 1939, there was no thought of a female as principal, much less a vice-principal or dean. At that time, women were a minority, with 681 women enrolled in degree programs at McGill out of a total of 2,737 students.

Frances always appreciated the opportunity she had to attend university and has been a tireless supporter of higher education for women ever since. She spent many years volunteering with the McGill Alumnae Society and, for 16 years, was a member of the Society's Board of Directors. For eight years, she represented the Society at the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Despite the demands of raising five children, Frances always found time and energy to devote to worthwhile causes. "My philosophy," she said, "was to work in the community, helping others as a way of paying forward the advantages of a university education." In well-deserved recognition of her contributions and her long record of service, she received the McGill Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1989.

Continuing the tradition of assisting others and a lifetime of service to McGill, Frances has decided to establish a permanent link to the University, one that will continue to make a difference in the lives of young people. She has left a bequest to McGill that will provide financial aid for future generations of students in the Faculty of Arts. "This is my way of giving back to the school that has given me so much," she says.

For more information on bequests and planned gifts, contact:
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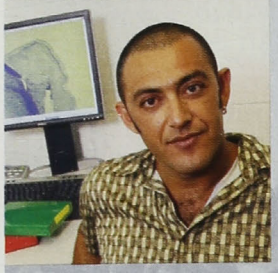

Breaking Down Barriers

Summer in Montreal is a time in which the world is literally at our doorsteps. The city is overflowing with artists, performers and tourists from all over the world. Conversations take place, not just in French and English, but in every language imaginable. Sort of like McGill on any day during the academic year, with sunscreen substituting for parkas and scarves.

As much as our ambience adds to campus life, however, it is far from an adequate measure of our impact. The stunning diversity of our campuses, and the global distribution of our alumni, amplify our ability to be Montreal's window on the world. The strength of our students and faculty, who represent the best and the brightest from the four corners of the world, is a critical asset. But there are other ways to evaluate the impact of our people and programs.

We live in a world in which an epidemic can spread as quickly as a jet can fly. McGill's ability to build a strong future for Quebec and Canada, and prepare its students for a life of accomplishment, is related in many ways to our level of international engagement. In these times, this means focusing strongly on the problems affecting the developing world, and Africa in particular.

While there are examples of astonishing resilience and growth, the continent's troubles are myriad and the litany of sobering statistics is all too familiar. One-third of the population, some 184 million people, suffers from malnutrition. Thousands of children are conscripted for armed combat. Sub-Saharan Africa alone is home to two-thirds of the 40 million people living with HIV in the world. Three hundred million Africans cannot access potable water. The list, sadly, goes on.

Complex issues require complex solutions. McGill professors have nurtured a distinctive, long-standing relationship with African institutions and governments — and with partners from other countries — to develop practical solutions. Together, we actively engage in community-building, in problem-solving, in the pursuit of research with an eye toward real-world application. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, for one, has galvanized McGill researchers. Education professor Claudia Mitchell studies gender-based violence in the context of HIV and AIDS. Mark Wainberg, Director of Research at the Lady Davis Institute of the Jewish General Hospital and of the McGill AIDS Centre, is both a renowned researcher and an effective advocate for universal drug access. Jody Heymann and her colleagues in the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy are helping to break the bottlenecks that impede prevention and care.

Our researchers have been on the ground for many years, building Africa's capacity by training physicians, both at home and in Canada. Dr. Gary Pekeles, Director of the Northern and Native Child Health Program at the Montreal Children's Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre, has taught in the medical faculty at Uganda's Mbarara University and participated in a village-based community development project.

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Chancellor Richard Pound congratulate new law graduate Meaghan Enright.

McGill minds are tackling other issues as well. The McGill Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism is investigating how legal reform can help postwar nations quell unrest after fighting officially stops. Researchers from the Macdonald Campus are applying their expertise to advancing good nutrition and sustainable agriculture through the development of high-protein, drought-hearty crops.

These issues are all complex and nuanced. It is only through the free and open interchange of ideas, and the building of strong and enduring networks, that major universities are able to develop creative and comprehensive solutions. This is as true for social and medical challenges as it is for environmental issues.

How sad, then, that in a world in which dialogue needs to be encouraged, there are those elsewhere who wish to champion exclusion as a means of expression. I refer here to the proposed boycott of Israeli universities by the University College Union in the United Kingdom. I have strongly denounced their proposal, and urged our fellow professors in the U.K. to vote against its passage.

Whenever, and wherever, the academy is threatened, it resonates at McGill. Our academic colleagues in Israel are as much a part of the McGill community as our own students and professors, or those in the Quebec university réseau, or at UBC, McMaster, UCLA or the Max Planck Institute — or the more than 190,000 McGill alumni around the world. Our faculty, staff, students and graduates constitute a powerful global resource, with a powerful track record of building national and international partnerships and effecting positive change. As our experience around the world shows, this is a time to be building new partnerships and breaking down barriers to collaboration, and McGill will continue to do just that.

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM

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INTERIM EDITOR
Daniel McCabe, BA'89

ACTING ASSOCIATE EDITOR
James Martin, MLIS'05

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Susan Murley
Diana Grier Ayton

ADVERTISING
Christina Barile
Tel: 514-398-6043

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
Christina Barile
Jason Pauly, BEd'08

DESIGN
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 Vicky Kaspi by Christinne Muschi

Making Peace with Flux

Back in 1927, Harry Crane Perrin, McGill's first dean of music, promised a crowd of new graduates that his faculty would never stoop to teaching jazz, a musical genre he derided for its "deleterious effect on public taste."

Guess which university currently operates one of the best-regarded jazz programs in North America? Sorry, Harry.

Convocation addresses may not always be terribly prescient, but they can be counted on to offer plenty of juicy food for thought. Universities, thankfully, tend to be pretty choosy in who they hand out their honorary degrees to. Nicole Ritchie, Doctor of Science? I think not. Kevin Federline, LLD? As a harbinger for an imminent apocalypse, perhaps.

More than 6,000 new McGill graduates served as the star attractions in a series of convocation ceremonies that were recently held on the downtown and Macdonald campuses. They received some thoughtful advice from the honorary degree recipients who spoke.

Daniel Dennett, for instance, one of the most influential philosophers of our era, talked about why it's so important to be cognizant of what has transpired in the past. He was talking about his own field, but it doesn't require much of a leap to apply his conclusions to a wider spectrum.

"The history of philosophy is largely the history of very tempting mistakes made by very smart people," he told an assemblage of science graduates. Translation: The best method for avoiding screw-ups is to pay close attention to how others have screwed up before you. Quoting one of his own heroes, legendary McGill cognitive scientist Donald Hebb, Dennett added, "If it's not worth doing, it's not worth doing well."

That's the sort of insight that would probably be foreign to the frustrating fellow that Lily Dionne-Jermanovich, BA'07, once encountered. She described "Smug-Man-from-Saint-Henri-Coffee-Shop" in the valedictory remarks she delivered to arts and religious studies graduates on May 31.

As Dionne-Jermanovich noted, Smug-Man is a very familiar figure to anyone who has ever concluded that going to university to study literature or linguistics, art history or anthropology, is a worthy activity. The question posed by him and his confreres is entirely predictable. What in heaven's name will such a degree equip you to do?

In her thoughtful and bilingual remarks, Dionne-Jermanovich, a cultural studies graduate, responded with a well-reasoned retort. As they wrestle with Kafka, Kierkegaard and the Koran, arts grads come to realize that there are no easy answers and that there are precious few quick fixes. Life, as a consequence, isn't always easy, but it's almost always interesting.

"A liberal arts degree builds in us a comfort with open-endedness, with flux, with instability. And with this comfort comes resilience." Graduates venture out "into a less-structured 'real world' with a heightened sense of ourselves."

I don't think I can match that sort of eloquence, so I'll just add this. Thanks to the magic of Google, I was able to determine the following about Dionne-Jermanovich's time at McGill (and in 30 seconds flat): She was an award-winning student, a competitive tennis player, an actress in student productions, a *McGill Daily* writer, and the co-organizer of an arts festival.

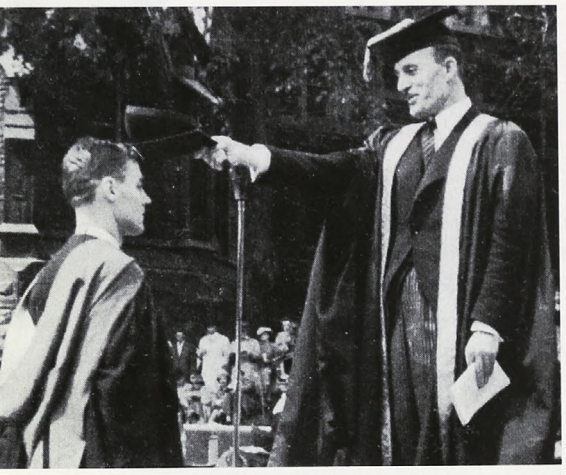
If such a remarkable young woman is so determinedly proud of the time she spent here, McGill is obviously doing something right. So stick that in your café latte, Smug-Man.

Speaking of flux, you might notice that the *McGill News* doesn't quite look like itself. To paraphrase Donald Hebb, if something is worth doing, it's worth doing even better. For many years, editors Diana Grier Ayton and Andrew Mullins established this publication as one of the best alumni magazines in the country and they earned the awards to prove it.

Vice-Principal (Development, Alumni and University Relations) Ann Dowsett Johnston has collected plenty of magazine awards herself as a longtime editor and journalist at *Maclean's*. Under her direction (and with some very imaginative contributions from our designer Steven McClenaghan), we've worked hard to develop a fresher, crisper and bolder look for the magazine.

Hope you like what you read. And if something strikes you as amiss, let me know. I'm always happy to learn from my readers.

DANIEL MCCABE



WHO'S THAT GRAD?

Regarding the graduation photo on the back cover of the Winter 2007 Alumni Magazine, is the date of the picture known, or possibly the name of the graduate?

ERIC MORSE, BEng'54
Escondido, California

How could you have omitted identification of the picture on the back cover? I searched high and low for it in the publication. Was it F. Cyril James? Please solve the mystery!

RON HIERLIHY, BEng'66
St. Albert, Alberta

As an alumnus of our great university, allow me to state how sad I was not to be mentioned in your Winter issue.

Firstly, on the back cover photo, I missed by one being the graduate capped by Principal F. Cyril James. Eric Deakin, the one shown, was just ahead of me during the 1950 graduation ceremonies.

Then the *News* lists several graduates who became writers, but somehow missed out on the name John A. Neal. The desire to write started building up during my undergraduate years (courtesy of those long written examinations) and began to mature during my working life in marketing and consulting. Only in 1988, when the working world had no more use for my talents, did I turn to the written word as an author.

Since then I have written many stories, but only had the nerve to have two of them published. These include "The Lucky Pigeon" based on my experiences as an airman during WW II, and "Bless You, Brother Irvin," the story of the Caterpillar Club (and the many who jumped from planes to become members).

The stories have won no prizes, but I do have many letters to attest to their readability. If anyone is interested in the full details, they can contact me at nealpigeon1@aol.com. But, please rush; after all, I am a 1950 graduate!

JOHN A. NEAL, BSc'50
Calgary, Alberta

The image accompanying our back page ad for the McGill Mentor Program, which featured F. Cyril James (McGill's principal from 1939-1962) capping a brand new McGill graduate, had quite a few people wondering who the young fellow in the photo was (including Vincent Jolivet, BEng'52, who mailed in the ad with a simple note asking, "Is this me?"). Our thanks to Mr. Neal for solving the mystery.

A CLOSE CALL REVISITED

The report of the incident outlined in the letters section of your Winter 2007 issue (Remembering a Close Call) contains inaccuracies. I remember the events vividly as I was the student who left the exam room without permission to go to the washroom.

During all our previous exams, anyone wishing to smoke could do so in the doorway, remaining fully visible to the invigilators. This time though, the invigilators said smoker "X" could not do so. He replied, "Don't be ridiculous; I've done this in six straight exams," and proceeded to smoke in the doorway.

One invigilator left the room at one point. Usually an invigilator accompanied a student to the washroom. I left my seat and indicated to the remaining invigilator that I wished to go to the washroom. He said, "There is only one invigilator." Without thinking, and having been well schooled by Professor Frank R. Scott in human rights, I replied, "That's not my fault," and didn't break stride!

When the second invigilator returned, he sent for the chief invigilator. This person was nervous and piped in a high voice: "I am the chief invigilator," like someone in a Gilbert and Sullivan production. There was a chorus of boos from two-thirds of the class. The chief invigilator went berserk. Brahm Eisenstat said, "Be calm" and the chief invigilator tore his exam paper in half and crumpled it.

At this precise moment Professor Scott arrived, sizing up the situation instantly. He led the chief invigilator out of the room saying, "You don't seem to realize this is the graduating class of a professional faculty." A few minutes later Professor Scott brought back the torn and crumpled exam book and instructed Eisenstat to continue.

As Eisenstat struggled to smooth out the book, he announced, "If I fail, I sue." He passed.

I was summoned to Dean Meredith's office the next day, together with smoker "X." The dean decided to fine smoker "X" $25 for his actions and added a $10 fine for each and every member of the class whether they took part in the booing or not.

Some of us sought out Professor Scott to complain about this. He smiled and answered, "This is an example of British justice: when in doubt, bomb the natives."

I was toasted by some of my classmates at our class party as one who "stood up for the right to take a leak."

LAWRENCE CAPELOVITCH
BA'52, BCL'56
Westmount, Quebec

It's always flattering to read one's name in print (even if misspelled), and especially so to be called "very intelligent."

The article about the incident in the law final exam in 1956 erred in two respects.

(1) The boos first erupted in the exam room when the chief invigilator came in and, before even identifying himself, said: "There will be no trips to the washroom and no smoking in the corridor." This put a sudden end to two long-term traditions in law faculty exams.

(2) The gentleman was about to tear up my paper when he was distracted by a comment from Brahm Eisenstat, who said, "Aw pipe down." Nobody knows to this day whether Brahm was addressing the chief invigilator or the rest of the class, but it was in fact his paper that was torn up. The invigilator in charge of our particular exam spent the rest of the allotted time pasting the paper back together.

JAIME DUNTON, BA'53, BCL'56
North Hatley, Quebec

SUPERIOR IS SUPERIOR

No, Africa's Lake Victoria is not "the largest body of fresh water in the world" (The Delicate Balance of Biodiversity, Winter 2007), not by a long shot. That honour belongs to another lake, quite far from Africa, but rather closer to McGill itself: Canada's own Lake Superior, which has 18 per cent greater surface area and over four times greater a volume of water.

CHRISTOPHER NOBLE, BEng'77
Winchester, Massachusetts

A DIFFERENT TAKE ON TUITION

In Principal Munroe-Blum's column in the Winter 2007 edition of the *McGill News*, she chooses to lobby to end the Quebec government's tuition freeze, without simultaneously calling on governments to invest more in education.

To justify her call for higher tuition rates, she writes, "no government can afford to go it alone when it comes to funding universities."

She neglects to mention in her column that the provincial government of Jean Charest has chosen to allocate billions of dollars towards tax cuts, money that could have been used to support Quebec universities. In addition, Quebec has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in Canada.

The federal government, meanwhile, is swimming in surpluses of billions of dollars and can afford to lower both income tax rates and the GST (in addition to escalating defence spending).

Whereas McGill's principal should lobby governments in the interest of the University, she usually falls short of calling for more government funds and for a halt to the current trend toward reducing the size of the public sector at the expense of young students. If we want our society to be more creative and innovative, as the principal states in her piece, how can we achieve this by placing taller financial barriers in the path of young people who wish to receive higher education?

Everything that is possible should be done to minimize or prevent tuition increases. A good administrator should therefore consider all the options available in order to defend the interests of the University, its administration, its academic staff, and its students simultaneously, not of one at the expense of another.

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER JETTÉ
BEng'99, MEng'01
Longueuil, Quebec

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum replies: I appreciate Mr. Jetté's dedication to the cause of higher education and accessibility. In fact, I continue to advocate strongly and publicly that universities must be a higher priority for governments; that increased tuition rates are not a substitute for sustaining public support; and that those students who can afford to pay a fair cost for their education should do so, while those who require assistance should receive the help they need. The evidence clearly shows that artificially low tuition rates on their own are not the answer to increased accessibility. Even though Quebec froze tuition rates for residents of the province at $1,668 per year in 1994, its degree completion rate is now Canada's lowest.

The recent Quebec budget, which allows universities to raise tuition by $50 per semester, is a move in the right direction. McGill is allocating 30 per cent of all tuition increases to student support. At the same time, we are not relaxing our efforts to persuade governments to invest in strengthening the quality of teaching and research. And we are strongly advocating that Quebec build on its record of supporting universities more generously than other provincial governments, by investing in quality and student aid, and by bringing in matching programs to encourage greater philanthropic support for student aid.

The stakes are critically high: Our economic future depends on increasing both participation rates and the quality of education. This implies increasing public and private investment in universities, and targeting financial aid to those who are in need of assistance.

POOR CHOICE OF WORDS?

I enjoyed hearing from these wonderful writers and the McGill connection was a pleasant bonus (The Write Stuff, Winter 2007). I feel obliged, though, to draw your attention to two issues. First of all, on the cover you describe David Bezmozgis before hitting the big time as a "literary nobody." Surely the word "unknown" would fit better here? Kind of ironic, isn't it? The way you put it kind of slaps at Mr. Bezmozgis, not to mention people like me who are "soon-to-be-emerging writers." Also, McGill unfortunately does not teach creative writing in English. Pity, that.

BEV AKERMAN, BSc'82, MSc'87
Montreal, Quebec

The Department of English has been offering creative writing courses focused on either poetry or fiction for the last 10 years or so, with English professor (and award-winning poet) Thomas Heise scheduled to teach a creative writing course on poetry during the next winter term. The Faculty of Education's Writing Centre also offers courses on poetry and short story writing. Two of the authors profiled in the article Ms. Akerman refers to, David Bezmozgis and Colin McAdam, both credited the vibrant writing scene they encountered during their student days at McGill with playing a pivotal role in their own development as writers. McGill offers plenty of outlets for budding young writers — the student-published literary magazine, Scrivener, *to name one.*

Something on your mind?
Write to us at:
McGill News
1555 Peel Street, Suite 918
Montreal, Quebec H3A 3L8
Or send an email to:
news.alumni@mcgill.ca.

And the Oscar goes to...

PETER BROOKER / REX FEATURES

Award-winning filmmaker Torill Kove

Now that Torill Kove is an Academy Award-winning filmmaker, she might need to work on her ability to correctly identify celebrities. Chances are she'll be bumping into them more regularly.

Case in point: At *Vanity Fair*'s star-studded post-Oscars party, Kove was so thrilled to spot Jon Stewart sitting across the room that her friend — who had previously met the *Daily Show* host — offered to introduce them. As the pair approached Stewart's table, Kove's confused friend exclaimed, "That's not Jon Stewart, that's Bill Maher!" Kove had mistaken one politically-minded comedian for another. "After that," admits the animator, "I kept a low profile."

Kove, MUP'89, wrote, directed and animated *The Danish Poet*, which follows a word-blocked young poet's pilgrimage to meet a famous Norwegian novelist. Kove's husband, McGill music professor and jazz trumpeter Kevin Dean, scored the film; the couple previously collaborated on the Oscar-nominated short, *My Grandmother Ironed the King's Shirts* (1999).

The Oscar win doesn't mean the filmmaker is resting on her laurels. Kove is this year's mentoring director for the National Film Board's Animation Hothouse, a 12-week intensive workshop for emerging animators from Canada and Brazil. She's also busy transforming *The Danish Poet* into a picture book. And, no surprise, there's a new film in the works.

Kove is mum about her next project, saying only that it will be another short. "For many filmmakers, short film represents a stepping stone," she says, "but I don't really see my short films as the path to making an animated feature. I think short film is a legitimate art form on its own." She's uncertain how, or if, her Oscar will affect her next production. "If I propose a good idea for a new film, the Oscar might help — but if I don't have a good idea, the Oscar won't make a difference."

IMAGE FROM *THE DANISH POET* COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

A DESIGN THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

When Dr. Dafydd Williams, BSc'76, MSc'83, MDCM'83, blasts off into the cosmos aboard the space shuttle Endeavour this summer, he'll be carrying along some of McGill engineering student Mustapha Kerouch's handiwork.

Williams will be sporting a patch on his uniform designed by Kerouch for the astronaut's upcoming mission. Kerouch emerged as the victor of the Mission STS-118 Space Patch Design Contest, a competition jointly organized by McGill and the Canadian Space Agency. The idea for the contest originated with Williams himself, as a way of paying tribute to his connections to McGill.

Kerouch's patch won't be the only McGill memento accompanying Williams on the Endeavour. He'll also be taking the University's Coat of Arms and a postcard picture of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, a place Williams enjoyed visiting during his McGill medical studies.

MUSTAPHA KEROUCH

Kerouch says that when he heard about the contest, the decision to enter was a no-brainer. "It was an opportunity I couldn't miss," he explains. As an engineering student, he can't help but be fascinated by the science and technology behind space missions, while the chance to flex his artistic muscles appealed to his creative side — he enjoys computer design and painting when not busy with his coursework.

In designing the patch, Kerouch says he was guided, in large part, by Williams's unique background. The caduceus, symbolizing medicine, appearing in Williams's name, represents the astronaut's pride in being a physician and his role as crew medical officer during the flight.

Waves on the patch mark the fact that Williams is the first Canadian to be both an astronaut and an aquanaut. Williams has been part of two joint NASA/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration missions to Aquarius, the world's only underwater research laboratory, examining how to, among other things, provide medical care in harsh environments.

The upcoming Endeavour flight marks Williams' second trip into space and he'll be taking part in three spacewalks during the mission — a key theme on Kerouch's patch — to do some installation work on the International Space Station. "It's the first time a patch like this will be part of the spacesuit that an astronaut wears during a spacewalk," says Kerouch.

When Endeavour begins its voyage on August 7, Kerouch will be watching the launch from the CSA's mission control room. "I can't wait," he says. "This is something that I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Canadian astronaut Dafydd Williams

BREAKING A million

About 70 McGill students recently raised more than $1-million for the University and they did it one phone call at a time.

The McGill Student Phonathon team places calls to about 60,000 McGill graduates every year. This is the first year that the phonathon cracked the million-dollar mark.

McGill Annual Fund associate Sasha Bateman, who oversees the phonathon, says their approach to raising money eschews the hard sell. "We always tell the students that they're acting as ambassadors for the University."

Plenty of graduates are delighted to hear from current students, peppering them with requests and questions (Can you make sure the *McGill News* goes to my new address? Is Amelio's Pizzeria still around?).

A few graduates are less than thrilled about receiving phone solicitations but, thanks to eight hours of rigorous training, the phonathon callers can easily handle the occasional prickly situation.

"We thicken their skin in training," says Bateman. "We throw everything at them that they might encounter on the phone."

Bateman believes her phonathon charges pick up invaluable tools. "They develop their communication skills and learn how to troubleshoot."

There are more than a million reasons to conclude that they're on the right track.

What Canada is reading

It wasn't all that long ago that Heather O'Neill, BA'94, sold self-produced chapbooks of her writing for a buck a pop outside clubs and metro stations.

These days, copies of O'Neill's first novel, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, are flying off the shelves of bookstores across the country after the Montrealer's improbable triumph in CBC Radio's recent "Canada Reads" competition.

O'Neill was pitted against some topflight talents — critically acclaimed scribes like Timothy Taylor and fellow McGill grad David Bezmozgis, BA'96, and a revered national icon in Gabrielle Roy. Steep competition to be sure, and O'Neill's chances for prevailing didn't seem promising when journalist Denise Bombardier, a Canada Reads panelist, made no secret of the fact that she wasn't much of a fan of *Lullabies*.

Musician John K. Samson was the panelist who championed O'Neill's book, after chancing upon a galley copy of *Lullabies* before it was even published. His arguments won the day, with *Lullabies* edging out Taylor's *Stanley Park* in the final vote.

In *Lullabies*, O'Neill creates a memorable heroine in soon-to-be-teenager Baby — terrifically bright, fuelled by a vibrant imagination and capable of arresting insights. "Childhood is the most valuable thing that's taken away from you in life, if you think about it," she notes at one point.

Baby is also naïvely cocky and dangerously vulnerable to the charms of a smooth-talking pimp. Her dad, while often well-meaning, is anything but father-of-the-year material as he wrestles with a heroin addiction.

O'Neill's own youth mirrors Baby's to a degree. Like her character, O'Neill grew up in some dodgy neighbourhoods, and her own parents' approach to child-rearing could charitably be described as unconventional.

"Writers have always come from all sorts of strange places," O'Neill says. "Literature reflects every part of human experience, every type of background. Writers are like witnesses."

Critics have hailed her authentic portrayal of Baby's youthful point of view. "That's something I worked on for years," O'Neill explains. "I learned to stop thinking like an adult, in a weird way. I didn't want [Baby's] voice to be filtered through an adult perspective."

She says her professors at McGill — one in particular — helped nurture her development as a writer.

"The professors in the English department really encouraged us to be inventive, to take risks." O'Neill recalls how one professor, Paul Piehler, praised an essay she wrote about William Blake, describing it as a "bird of parallel flight" to the famed English poet's own work.

"I kept that note in my wallet for a long time. It made me want to keep on writing."

Bestselling author Heather O'Neill

PHOTO BY OWEN EGAN

The flying physician

In the mid-1970s, a third-year McGill medical student took a break from his studies to visit his parents in Virginia. While there, he happened to tour Tangier Island in the middle of Chesapeake Bay, a community so isolated that its 600 residents still speak the Elizabethan English of their 17th-century founders. The visit made a lasting impression on David Nichols, MSc'72, MDCM'76 — so much so that, when he later started his own family medicine practice, he offered to make weekly house calls to the tiny island.

Country Doctor of the Year David Nichols

Twenty-seven years later, his ongoing dedication to the islanders earned him the Country Doctor of the Year award, an honour bestowed by AMN Healthcare, the largest health care staffing company in the U.S. Every Thursday, and alternating Mondays, Nichols flies his Robinson R44 Raven helicopter to Tangier Island. He's very serious about not missing a visit, even on days when poor weather forces him to trade his half-hour flight for a four-hour boat ride. "Once you start, you have to keep being there for them," he explains. "People depend on you. The island is isolated, it's rural, and it's in desperate need of health care."

During his Tangier visits, Nichols does everything from setting broken bones to performing colonoscopies, but much of his time is spent treating coronary disease. Linguistic anachronism isn't the only peculiarity unique to Tangier: The islanders are susceptible to an extremely rare genetic condition that results in almost absent levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol. As a result, Tangier residents run a high risk of suffering heart attacks in their 30s and 40s.

Nichols professes "nothing but the best feelings for my years at McGill" — and not just because that's when he met his wife, Dianne, BN'73. Studying under professors such as Dr. Ed Monaghan, MSc'61, DipSurgery'63, profoundly shaped him as a doctor.

"My McGill education taught me that 70 per cent of diagnosis is history. I remember when Dr. Monaghan would ask students to evaluate a problem, if you responded by asking, 'Well, does the patient have this and that symptom,' he'd say, 'No! History, history, history! It's the first thing you've got to do.' The ability to ask questions and extract information is incredibly important. So is making [patients] feel like you're not in a hurry.

"One thing they'll tell you on Tangier is that I'm not a 10-minute doctor," he adds. "And I can definitely thank McGill for that."

THIS FIDDLER GOES FOR BAROQUE

Eight years ago, violinist Sarah Burnell found herself at a crossroads. Despite her talent, her passion for her instrument had waned and she was considering laying down her bow. It was the musical equivalent of a mid-life crisis — and Burnell was only 10 years old. Recognizing that her young charge was bored by Beethoven and being lulled to sleep by Brahms, Burnell's teacher, Nancy Eadie, added a pinch of Celtic fiddle tunes to the Ottawa girl's regular diet of classical pieces. The recipe proved to be the perfect antidote to Burnell's ennui.

Now a first-year Violin and Music Education student in McGill's Schulich School of Music, Burnell effortlessly straddles the classical and Celtic worlds. Last November she was an orchestra member for Opera McGill's production of *Dido and Aeneas*. Three weeks later, she was in Edmonton to pick up her prize as Young Performer of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

"Fiddling was supposed to be put on the backburner once I started at McGill," she laughs, "but apparently that won't be happening." Instead, she'll happily continue her melodious balancing act. Between classes and six hours of Baroque practice a week, Burnell plans to return to the studio later this year to record the follow-up to her first CD, *Sarah'ndipity*.

Burnell isn't conflicted about working in seemingly disparate genres. She savours the technical challenges presented by classical violin, while feeding off the intimate exchanges between Celtic fiddler and audience. "In the end," she says, "Baroque has helped my fiddling and fiddling has helped my Baroque."

GRAHAM LINDSEY

Sarah Burnell

COURTESY OF CANADA POST

Erickson on your envelope, Moriyama on your mail...

In honouring the 100-year history of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) through a new series of stamps, Canada Post is also paying tribute to a trio of remarkable McGill architecture graduates.

In the spring, Canada Post issued a series of four stamps, each paying tribute to a prominent Canadian architect who has received both the RAIC gold medal and the Order of Canada. Three of the four are McGill grads: Arthur Erickson, BArch'50, LLD'75, Raymond Moriyama, MArch'57, DSc'93, and Moshe Safdie, BArch'61, LLD'82. The fourth architect selected is Douglas Cardinal.

Each of the four is represented on the stamps by one of their major works: the University of Lethbridge (Erickson), the Ontario Science Centre (Moriyama), the National Gallery of Canada (Safdie) and St. Mary's Church in Red Deer, Alberta (Cardinal).

"The fact that three of the four are McGill grads is more than coincidence," says School of Architecture director David Covo, BScArch'71, BArch'74. "It's evidence of the role that McGill grads have played, and continue to play, not only in the design and construction of our built environment but also in the shaping of the profession itself."

Maybe so, but there's at least one boast McGill can no longer make about its architectural alums — you can't say they can't be licked.

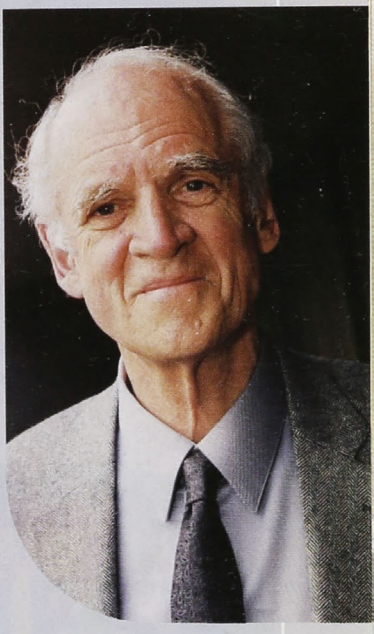
Contributors:
James Martin, Daniel McCabe and Neale McDevitt

TAYLOR TAKES TEMPLETON

On May 2, during a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace, the Duke of Edinburgh presented McGill philosophy professor emeritus Charles Taylor, BA'52, with the 2007 Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries About Spiritual Realities. The prize is worth £800,000 (approximately $1.5-million U.S.), making it the world's largest annual monetary award given to an individual.

Previous recipients include Mother Teresa, Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and palliative care pioneer Cicely Saunders.

"Throughout his career, Charles Taylor has staked an often lonely position that insists on the inclusion of spiritual dimensions in discussions of public policy, history, linguistics, literature and every other facet of humanities and the social sciences," says Templeton Foundation president John M. Templeton Jr. "Through careful analysis, impeccable scholarship, and powerful, passionate language, he has given us bold new insights that provide a fresh understanding of the many problems of the world and, potentially, how we might together resolve them."



COURTESY OF THE TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

Philosopher Charles Taylor

Taylor's often provocative views on subjects such as nationalism, multiculturalism and modernity are widely influential and the Quebec government recently appointed him to co-chair a commission that will examine the debate surrounding the "reasonable accommodation" of cultural and religious minorities in Quebec society.

THE ALLURE OF JIHAD

What is behind the disquieting rise of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the world and why are so many Islamic youths drawn to militant organizations?

These are some of the questions that political science and Islamic studies professor Khalid Medani wrestles with, and he isn't the only one interested in finding out the answers.

Medani was born in Sudan. "When fundamentalism came to Sudan, with prisons and tortures, my colleagues there said to me, 'Why don't you research and write about what's going on and tell the world?' Muslims are trying to understand what's happening to their religion and to their countries."

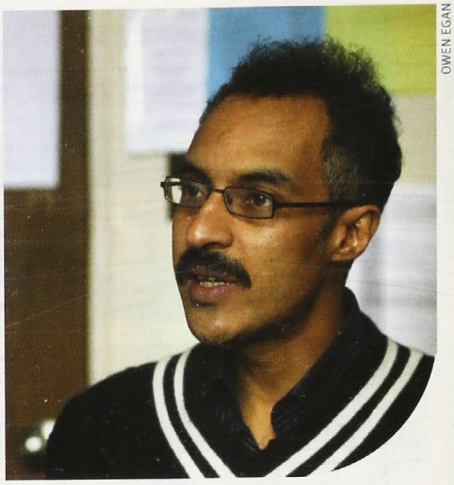
The subject isn't entirely academic for Medani. An acquaintance of his, accused of black marketeering, was killed by the Sudanese government in 1989.

"After that execution, I became obsessed with understanding the linkages between formal and informal institutions and the notion of identity in Islam."

His work recently received a big boost when Medani was selected as a recipient of a two-year Carnegie Scholarship worth $100,000 U.S. He was the only Canadian-based researcher chosen for a scholarship by the New York-based philanthropic foundation, the Carnegie Corporation.

Medani will be looking at the different factors that result in young Muslims joining fundamentalist groups. His approach is multifaceted, interviewing and surveying ordinary Muslims for their street-level perspectives, while also conducting historical and archival research. He wants to get a sense of the various factors — sociopolitical issues, employment histories of local populations, levels of poverty — that might facilitate recruitment by fundamentalist groups.

Medani will also be travelling to Africa to study the expansion of *hawwalat* (unregulated Islamic welfare organizations) and the role of *Alahi*, or private mosques, in providing an environment conducive to recruiting young militants.



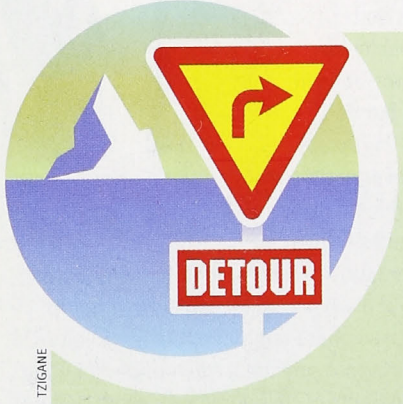
OWEN EGAN

Professor Khalid Medani examines the roots of Muslim fundamentalism

From what he has seen so far in Egypt, Sudan and Somalia, Medani suspects that poverty plays a more important role than ideology.

Like inner-city street gangs in North America, the fundamentalist movement gives young people a sense of belonging to something.

Even when the allure is more ideological, the motivations can be complex, he says, noting some youths join particular groups out of Islamic, ethnic or tribal loyalties.



TZIGANE

Steering clear of Danger

When the *Titanic* sank in 1912, dooming 1,500 of its passengers, it was far from the first vessel to fall prey to the icebergs that stalk the North Atlantic. And even with all the improvements to navigational safety that have been made since, ships plying the northern seas are still at risk of unexpected encounters with a silent frozen menace.

Working with scientists from the National Research Council's Canadian Hydraulics Centre and the Canadian Ice Service, Stuart Savage, an emeritus professor of civil engineering and applied mecanics, has helped develop a computational model that should better predict where an iceberg is headed after being "calved" from the massive glaciers of Greenland.

Fed information on ocean currents, wind patterns and characteristics of the iceberg itself, the model should help ship captains plot courses that will avoid unwelcome surprises. Testing in the Grand Banks has shown the Canadian computational model to be at least 30 per cent more accurate than the existing forecasting model already in use.

While advances in ship design and navigational systems make another outright catastrophe like the *Titanic* highly unlikely, the work is no less important for that. "Even a chunk of ice that's just five or six metres in diameter can do a lot of damage to a ship," says Savage, BEng'60, PhD'67. "What we want to do is to prevent the probability of a collision or an oil spill before it's even a danger."

Nobels in the making?

It's always heartening to start out on the right foot. Four McGill researchers have been named among the 2007 recipients of Sloan Research Fellowships, designed to help early-career scientists establish their labs and research. The New York-based Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awards 118 fellowships each year. McGill's Sloan showing outperformed all other Canadian universities for the second year in a row.

Mathieu Blanchette, Aashish Clerk, Patrick Hayden, BSc'98, and Jacques Verstraete will enjoy two-year fellowships each worth $45,000 U.S. The funds may be used for any research-related purpose, a flexibility rare in academic grants.

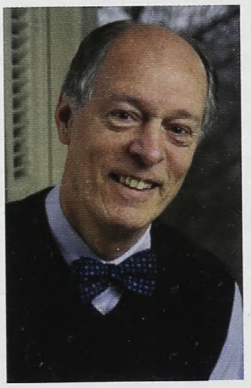
All McGill's new Sloan Fellows came from the Faculty of Science. Mathieu Blanchette, an assistant professor of computer science at McGill's Centre for Bioinformatics, uses complex algorithms to decode the function of DNA. Aashish Clerk, an assistant professor of physics, is a theoretical condensed matter physicist. His main interests concern the complex quantum-mechanical behaviour of electrons in nanostructures.

Assistant professor of computer science Patrick Hayden's work focuses on developing new ways to manipulate quantum information at the very limits of the laws of physics, with the ultimate aim of helping to make quantum computers a reality. Jacques Verstraete, an assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, works in the relatively new areas of extremal and probabilistic combinatorics.

Remember those names. The Sloan Foundation has a good track record for spotting talent: 34 Sloan fellows have gone on to win Nobel Prizes.

PHOTOS: OWEN EGAN

Above: Patrick Selvadurai, at left: Rod Macdonald



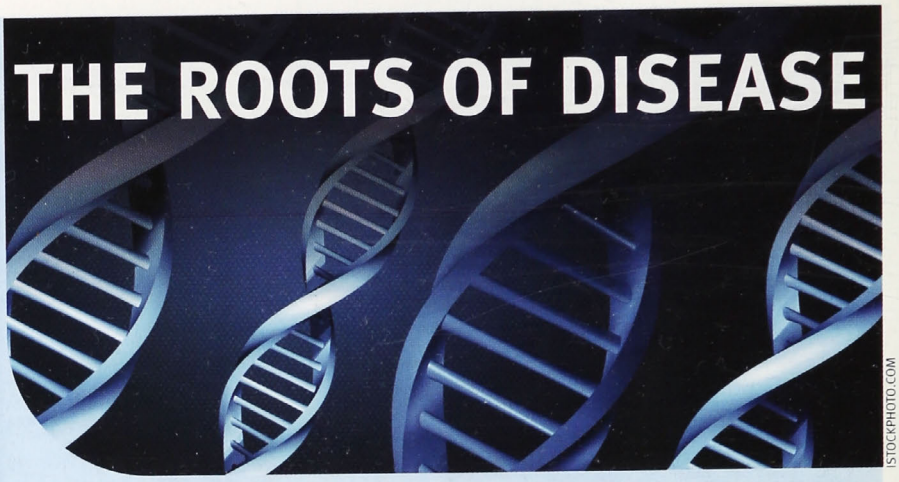
KILLAM CONQUEST

Professors Patrick Selvadurai and Rod Macdonald are the latest McGill scholars to win one of Canada's most prestigious research awards: the Canada Council for the Arts' $100,000 Killam Prize. The McGill pair captured two of the five Killams awarded nationwide this year.

Selvadurai is William Scott Professor and James McGill Professor in McGill's Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics. He is internationally recognized for his work in theoretical, applied and computational mechanics. His work in geomechanics — applying engineering principles to earthly materials — has led to the creation of safer storage facilities for nuclear waste.

Macdonald, former Dean of Law and current F.R. Scott Professor of Constitutional and Public Law at McGill, is a public intellectual known for wide-ranging interests that include child abuse, small claims court and aboriginal justice. Macdonald is humble about his achievements. "I couldn't have gotten the award for being a superstar in one particular area," he says. "I think my career has been characterized by being eclectic; I am not the expert on anything, I am the second-best call on everything."

GETTING TO THE ROOTS OF DISEASE



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Our genes are busy little multi-taskers. Take the PTB1b gene. At normal levels, the PTB1b enzyme helps regulate cell growth and cell division. Too much PTB1b, however, causes cells to grow out of control. Now Michel Tremblay, director of the McGill Cancer Centre, has found that 40 per cent of breast cancer cases in women are a result of over expression of PTB1b.

A mere seven years ago, Tremblay linked this same gene to obesity and diabetes — and pharmaceutical companies are *already* doing human trials for PTB1b-suppressing drugs. This quick progress may mean that a breakthrough breast cancer drug is just on the horizon. "Adapting these compounds is all that is needed to attack breast cancer," Tremblay explains.

Of course, just as one gene can be linked to more than one disease, a disease like breast cancer involves a number of genes working in concert. Fortunately, researchers such as William Foulkes are furthering our understanding of these deadly tangles of DNA segments. Foulkes, the director of McGill's cancer genetics program, recently characterized two mutations on the PALB2 gene that seem to relate to a particular breast cancer "signature." Though it is unclear whether these mutations play a role in causing breast cancer, it appears that individuals with the mutations have a higher risk of developing the disease.

Foulkes describes the discovery — made with collaborators at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital, Harvard's Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the Institute of Cancer Research in London, England, and the Netherlands Cancer Institute — as another "factual brick" in our still-under-construction understanding of breast cancer.

"Approximately 10 genes, including PALB2, have now been associated with a two-fold or greater risk for breast cancer," says Foulkes. "Carriers of mutations in these genes require special surveillance, including magnetic resonance imaging. Some may opt for preventive surgery."

Foulkes's discovery came from studying just two high-risk families. Rob Sladek, on the other hand, recently made a diabetes breakthrough after finding a quartet of DNA needles in a veritable haystack. Sladek is an endocrinologist at the McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre. He joined with pediatrics professor Constantin Polychronakos from the McGill University Health Centre — plus researchers from Canada, London and France — to search the entire human genome for type 2 diabetes-linked genes. The team compared hundreds of thousands of fragments from diabetic and healthy patients. The gamble paid off. Repeatedly.

"Of the four genes we have identified," says Sladek, "two are involved in the development or function of insulin-secreting cells and one plays a role in the transport of zinc, an important mineral required for the production of insulin." The function of the fourth gene is still unknown but, based on the sequencing of the human genome, the researchers suspect it's associated with diabetes.

Nearly two million Canadians live with type 2 diabetes. It's a complex disease, believed to be the result of a multifaceted interplay between genetic and environmental factors. The mere presence of all four of these newly identified genes does not guarantee a person will develop type 2 diabetes; rather, it significantly increases the odds that certain lifestyle choices (particularly an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise) will lead to the disease. Prediction may therefore mean prevention.

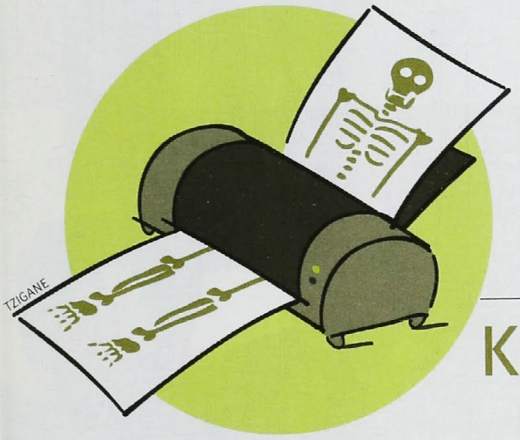
"If we examine a newborn's DNA and discover that he has a 70 per cent chance of developing diabetes if he lives like the average North American," says Polychronakos, "then we can give advance warning for this kid to acquire good lifestyle habits — and hopefully prevent the disease from ever starting."

Although less widespread than diabetes, spina bifida occurs in two of every 1,000 births; the disorder, characterized by incomplete formation of the spine, ranks as the second most common birth defect. McGill biochemist Philippe Gros, PhD'83, and his lab have identified the first gene believed to cause spina bifida.

The defect manifests itself within the first four weeks of pregnancy, long before it is safe to test an embryo. Gros said that the discovery of the gene known as VANGL, although not a cure, could allow scientists to focus their research on identifying where and how the disorder occurs.

"It points the way to focusing research," he says, "and that is a very significant step toward doing something positive for this disease."

Contributors:
Mark Reynolds with files from
Michael Bourguignon, Neale McDevitt,
Céline Poissant, Mark Shainblum,
Pascal Zamprelli and Christine Zeindler



KNEE BONE'S CONNECTED TO THE... INK-JET PRINTER?

Doctors, in dealing with someone in need of a bone graft, have been forced to rely on ceramics or on harvesting bone from other parts of the body in treating their patients.

In the near future, all they might have to do is fire up their ink-jet printers.

A McGill dentistry professor has developed a technique to use the common office technology to create three-dimensional bio-ceramic bones using the same materials found in the real thing.

"We're a long way from seeing this method used in a hospital setting, but it's an important first step toward a revolutionary change in bone-grafting technology," says Jake Barralet, McGill's Canada Research Chair in Osteoinductive Biomaterials.

Barralet, working with researchers from Université Laval and the University of Würzburg in Germany, has taken advantage of the ink-jet printer's ability to print layer upon layer.

"It's similar to a CT scan, in that the image is created one layer at a time. The result is three-dimensional," says Barralet. "Rather than printing on paper, we're printing on a bed of cement powder using an acid instead of ink, which reacts with the cement to print whatever pattern we want."

According to Barralet, these artificial bone sections, composed mostly of calcium phosphate, can be very precisely constructed, with holes designed in the artificial grafts helping to guide the growth patterns of new bone in patients, serving, in effect, as biodegradable scaffolds for regrowing bones.

Barralet's team has successfully cleared one crucial hurdle. They've proven that a network of blood vessels can be encouraged to grow in their implants.

"Before you can get bone, you need a blood supply," Barralet observes.

Barralet believes that the new process his research team has devised might eventually be used in reconstructive surgery or other types of bone repair, and could be much more effective and less risky than harvesting sections of bone from elsewhere in the body to use in bone grafting.

When lifespan is a black and white issue


ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

African Americans in the United States are living longer lives — but they're still, on average, far less likely to live as long as their Caucasian compatriots.

That finding comes courtesy of a study recently published by postdoctoral research fellow Sam Harper and Professor John Lynch, both from the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health. The pair examined 46 million death certificates in the U.S., spanning 20 years, to arrive at their conclusions.

After crunching numbers, Harper and Lynch found that overall life expectancy for American blacks is catching up to that for the white population. Driven by drops in mortality from HIV, homicide and cardiovascular disease, the gap between the two groups is at historic lows.

That's the good news. The bad news is that life expectancy for black men in the U.S. is still six and a half years less than it is for white men. For black women, the gap is four and a half years.

Harper says that the research offers hope that there could be further improvement in life expectancy rates for blacks in the U.S.

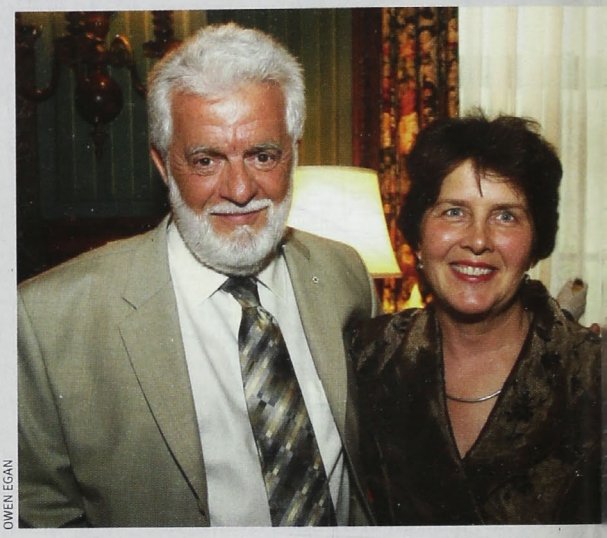
"We found that cardiovascular disease explained about 30 per cent of the existing gap for men and about 40 per cent for women. Our study suggests applying what we already know about cardiovascular disease to try and remedy this gap."

CHEERS TO THE CLASS OF 2007

The sun was hot, the air heavy with pride and relief. This spring, 6,000 new graduates and 14 honorary degree recipients donned caps and gowns for a week of ceremony and celebration.

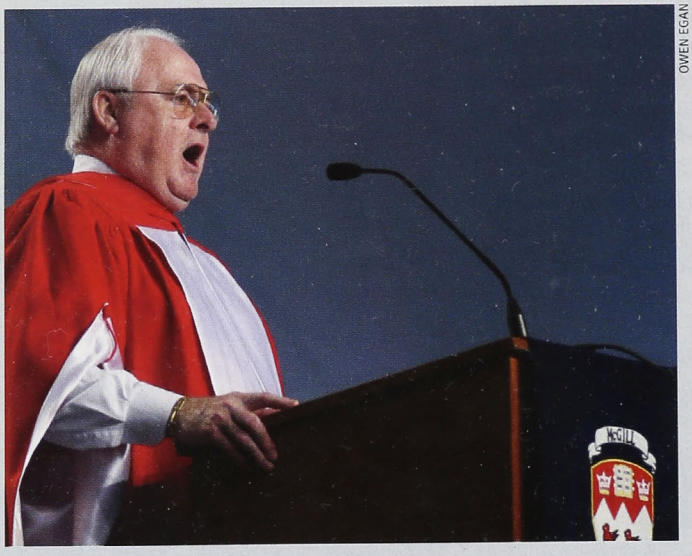
OWEN EGAN

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum applauds Joseph Rouleau, opera legend and recipient of an honorary doctorate, during the Schulich School of Music convocation.



OWEN EGAN

Terry Mosher, best known as irreverent Montreal Gazette *political cartoonist Aislin, celebrates his honorary degree with wife Mary Hughson. "Here I am a Doctor of Letters," he quipped during his convocation address, "and I don't even spell that well."*



OWEN EGAN

Marcel Desautels wears many hats: business executive, McGill benefactor, singer — and now honorary Doctor of Laws. He broke into song during his convocation address, imploring new graduates to "dream the impossible dream" and "whistle while you work."

OWEN EGAN

Master corporal Jeff McCarthy of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada leads the platform party to the Convocation ceremony on lower campus.

CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

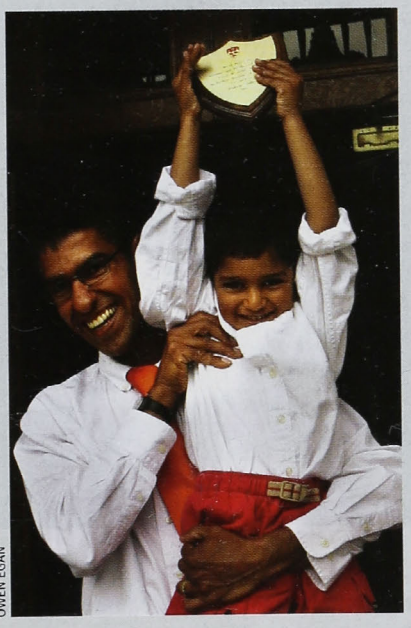
Graduates, family and friends took to the lawn of the Macdonald Campus for the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences convocation.

OWEN EGAN

Shortly after receiving an honorary Doctor of Science, philosopher and evolution proponent Daniel Dennett gave a public lecture at the Montreal Neurological Institute.

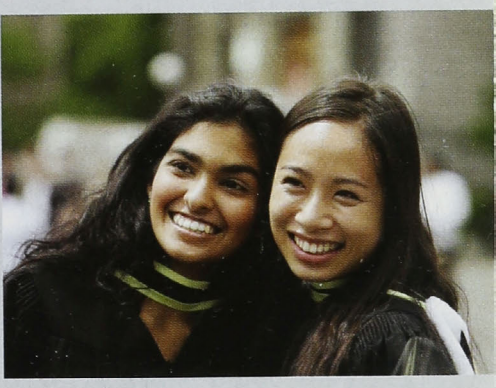
OWEN EGAN

Danielle Laplante-Ip's guide dog, Liberty, accompanied her to class every day. At the Faculty of Arts convocation, Danielle received her Bachelor of Social Work — and Liberty received her own cap.



OWEN EGAN

Computer science professor Kaleem Siddiqi proudly holds his son, Vir — and Vir proudly holds his father's 2007 Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Supervision.



ALLEN MCINNIS

Linah Hashimi and Michelle Wang are ecstatic about their brand new BSc Biology degrees.

OWEN EGAN

Amelie Waldin, who earned a BSc with 1st class honours in microbiology, shares her joy with James McGill (well, with his statue on lower campus).

CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Newly minted grads doff their caps in celebration at the Macdonald Campus.

The STAR GAZER

Award-winning astrophysicist Vicky Kaspi is shedding light on cosmic mysteries and has built an academic program from scratch. Now, if she can only talk her daughter out of wearing the princess costume to school yet again. BY JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

It starts simply enough: star runs out of fuel, star implodes. When a really big star collapses, it forms a black hole with a gravitational field so strong that not even light can escape. When a smaller star self-destructs, it creates a neutron star that, in special cases, can be highly magnetized, extremely heavy and fast-rotating. These pulsars (a conflation of "pulsating radio stars") can rotate more than 716 times per second, emitting electromagnetic radiation in the form of radio waves. Vicky Kaspi calls the waves — audible as a rapid, sharp thrumming — "a heartbeat in the sky."

In 2000, Vicky Kaspi, BSc'89, left MIT to accept a professorship at McGill, her undergrad alma mater. At the time, she wasn't just the latest addition to McGill's astrophysics program, she was McGill's astrophysics program. The whole thing. Six years later, Kaspi is McGill's Lorne Trottier Chair in Astrophysics and Cosmology, the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics and the latest recipient of the prestigious Steacie Prize in the Natural Sciences. Moreover, she now leads a team that has transformed McGill into the country's locus of high-energy astrophysics research.

✦✦✦

In 1967, Cambridge astronomers studying quasars found their data cluttered with regularly patterned radio signals. Initially attributing the pulses to man-made — and, during a brief spell of UFOmania, alien-made — interference, they eventually identified the signals as energy emissions from a new class of stars: pulsars. The same year, Victoria Kaspi was born in Austin, Texas. "Cosmic coincidence?" muses the researcher. "Maybe."

(Kaspi recently learned that she shares her birthday with an entirely different kind of imploding star. "Anna Nicole Smith was also born in Texas," Kaspi quips, "and her real name was 'Vicky.' Now *there's* a coincidence.")

PHOTO: CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

Vicky Kaspi's father had a PhD from the University of Texas and taught Hebrew literature. Her mother was an electroencephalogram technician who once worked with legendary McGill neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield; she also wrote humorous essays about family life for the *Chicago Daily News*. Kaspi was the youngest of the couple's three children. Her early years were spent in Chicago, then Israel. When Kaspi was five, her mother was diagnosed with a slowly degenerative form of multiple sclerosis; within five years, the disease left her confined to bed. Reflecting on those years, Kaspi simply says, "We had our share of difficulties."

The family settled in Montreal in 1974. Seven-year-old Kaspi regularly, repeatedly lost herself in the pages of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, the story of clever children who embark on a physics-bending quest to rescue their scientist father from an extraterrestrial prison. Later, she graduated to *Star Trek*. (At MIT, Kaspi started naming her computers after female *Trek* characters; that well has run dry, so her current rig is dubbed Spock. And, yes, she owns a pair of pointy ears.) She liked mysteries, too, reading Encyclopedia Brown as a kid, Agatha Christie in her teens. "But I guess the space stuff was my favourite," she recalls. "Anything with a physics flavour."

In school, she liked all things science and math. Even after suffering through classes with a sexist physics teacher, her enthusiasms didn't wane. Next to her photo in the Wagar High School yearbook, a teenage Kaspi laid bare her life ambitions: to be a famous scientist, and to have six kids.

✦✦✦

Vicky Kaspi and her husband wake up at 6:30, then rouse and dress — or at least attempt to rouse and dress — their three children. Her husband, Dr. David Langleben, MDCM'77, chief of cardiology at the Jewish General Hospital, leaves shortly thereafter to make his 7:30

rounds. The babysitter arrives at seven to give breakfast to Ian (6) and Julia (4). At 7:40, Kaspi shepherds the kids and various backpacks into the carpool. Then she goes jogging for 20 minutes; some days, her jog entails running to and from the grocery store. "I don't have time to go to the gym, so I try to find ways to sneak in staying in shape," says Kaspi. "I consider carrying two bags of groceries to be my weight training for the day." Then it's time for a quick shower, and breakfast with Hayley (2) before chauffeuring the tyke to preschool. Barring a traffic snarl, Kaspi settles into her office in the Rutherford Physics Building by 9:30.

✦✦✦

On her office door, beneath the photo of grinning children and next to the cotton ball snowman, a sticker proclaims, "Go Team Kaspi!"

One of the biggest factors in Kaspi's decision to return to McGill was the idea of forming a research group from scratch. "When you're the most recent hire in an established department," she explains, "the department is already moving in a particular direction. There's tremendous momentum. The thought of being able to establish something rather than coming in from the bottom and having a tradition existing was very exciting. A very rare opportunity."

Under Kaspi's direction, McGill is now at the vanguard of pulsar research. The researchers use earthbound radio telescopes and orbiting X-ray telescopes to harvest the cosmos for massive quantities of data. They then use a Beowulf mini-supercomputer, housed on the third floor of the Rutherford Building, to distinguish a pulsar's faint radio signal from the relative roar of cosmic noise.

It's a time-consuming process, the astronomy equivalent of finding needles in haystacks — which makes it all the more incredible that a McGill group, led by Kaspi's then-postdoctoral researcher Scott Ransom, discovered more than 20 pulsars in the globular cluster known as Terzan 5. Scientists believe that understanding these enigmatic clusters — tightly bound collections of millions of stars orbiting a galaxy's rotational centre (there are at least 150 clusters in the Milky Way alone) — may unlock crucial insights into the nature of galactic evolution. To understand how a cluster forms, researchers need to understand its pulsar content — and now they've got 20 more of the elusive stars to study.

What's got Kaspi even more excited, though, are the *kinds* of pulsars formed in Terzan 5 and clusters of its ilk. "They're very strange," she says. "By 'strange,' I mean pulsars in weird binary orbits — two stars orbiting each other at extremely high speeds — that are impossible to form outside of the cluster." The unusual physical properties of these pulsar binary systems allow researchers to perform novel tests of general relativity (GR), Einstein's geometrical theory of gravitation. The theory has only

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

Kaspi shares her couch and her laptop with her children (left to right), Ian, Julia and Hayley.

ever been tested in weak fields, yielding non-definitive results that support not only GR, but several alternative gravitational theories; the strong fields of binary pulsars offer a more definitive testing ground for GR's mettle.

"We're always glad to find a handful of pulsar binary systems here and there," she adds, "but to find 20 binaries at once — some of which will be very interesting to study — is very rare."

✦✦✦

Pre-school means half days. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Kaspi picks up Hayley at 11:45, drives her home for lunch with the babysitter, and is back at her office for 12:30 — *if* she's lucky enough to park her Chevy Venture mini-van close to campus. On Tuesdays and Fridays, Kaspi's niece, a McGill undergrad, collects the tot. (Except on certain Fridays.) And then there's Ian and Julia, who have the same drop-off times, but different pick-ups...

"I can't do it justice with words," Kaspi admits. "I'd have to show you a chart."

There really is a chart, too. Kaspi usually keeps the complicated schedule in her head, meting out directives to her network of operatives on a need-to-know basis. But when she's giving her Steacie Prize Lecture in Ottawa, or attending a NASA colloquium at Alabama's Marshall Space Flight Center, an intricately detailed chart is necessary for keeping the home fires burning.

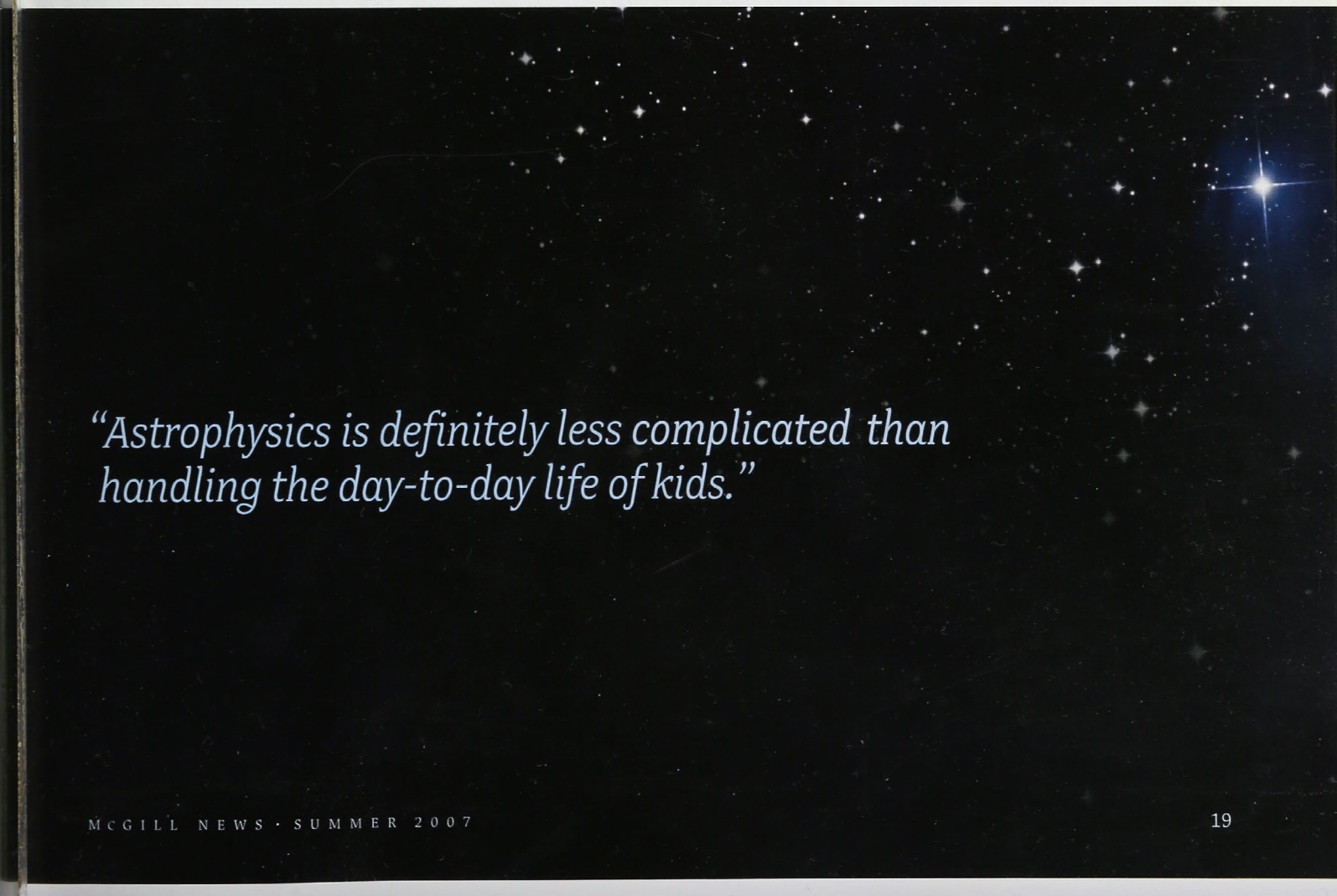
"Astrophysics," says Vicky Kaspi, "is definitely less complicated than handling the day-to-day life of kids. They're wonderful kids, but persuading my daughter that she does not have to wear the princess costume to school every single day? I find astrophysics much easier."

✦✦✦

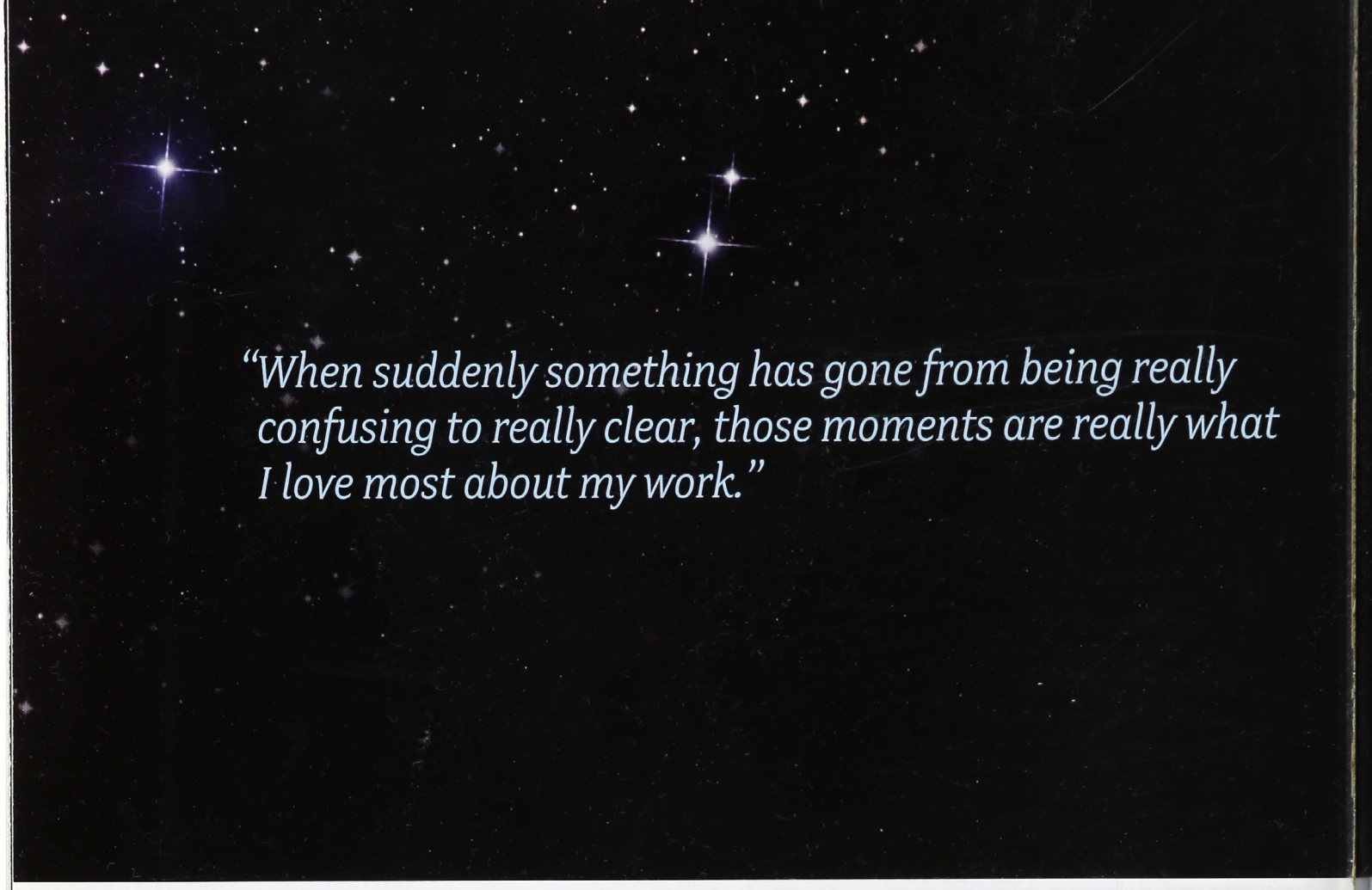
Team Kaspi is composed of six grad students, one research assistant, three postdocs and one undergrad researcher. Between seminars, weekly one-on-one discussions with team members (plus a Thursday group pizza meeting) and regular research meetings with colleagues, Kaspi may soon need an intricately detailed chart for her afternoon schedule.

"At least," she wryly notes, "there's no driving involved."

These days, Team Kaspi is particularly interested in magnetars, the very existence of which was long a quarrelsome point in astrophysics circles. Pulsars are powered by rotational energy; other neutron stars are powered by gravitational energy. But some astrophysicists, like Kaspi, speculated that a new class of star may be powered by the decay of ultra-high magnetic fields. When a magnetic field's strength exceeds 1,014 gauss (G), the quantum theory of electrodynamics kicks in, making it possible to observe a wide array of peculiar behaviour, such as the polarization of vacuums. (To put



"Astrophysics is definitely less complicated than handling the day-to-day life of kids."



this force into perspective, NASA speculates that a magnetar could erase a credit card's magnetic strip from over 160,000 kilometres away.) A magnetar would likely boast a magnetic field of 1,015 G, making it the ultimate field laboratory for watching extreme fundamental physics in action.

Absolute proof of magnetars remains elusive, but Kaspi and her researchers found evidence so compelling that it made true believers of most scientists. For decades, astrophysicists have puzzled over anomalous X-ray pulsars (AXPs), a rare pulsar with no evident energy source. In 2002, Team Kaspi observed X-ray bursts emitting from the AXP known as 1E1048.1-5937. The discovery outs the mystery object as, in all likelihood, a magnetar.

This was huge — "Anomalous X-ray Pulsars Burst Onto the Scene," trumpeted the cover of *Nature* — and Kaspi hopes there are plenty more breakthroughs to come.

"These stars do some very bizarre things," says Kaspi, "and by studying them we can push the frontiers of physics. I feel like if we had only a few more pieces of the puzzle, we could put it all together and really understand them. I'm hoping in the next few years the physics of magnetars will become really clear. When suddenly something has gone from being really confusing to really clear, those moments are really what I love most about my work.

"There have been some areas of neutron star research that I've worked on that frankly bored me," she confesses, "so I moved on. But the work my group is doing on magnetars is extremely exciting."

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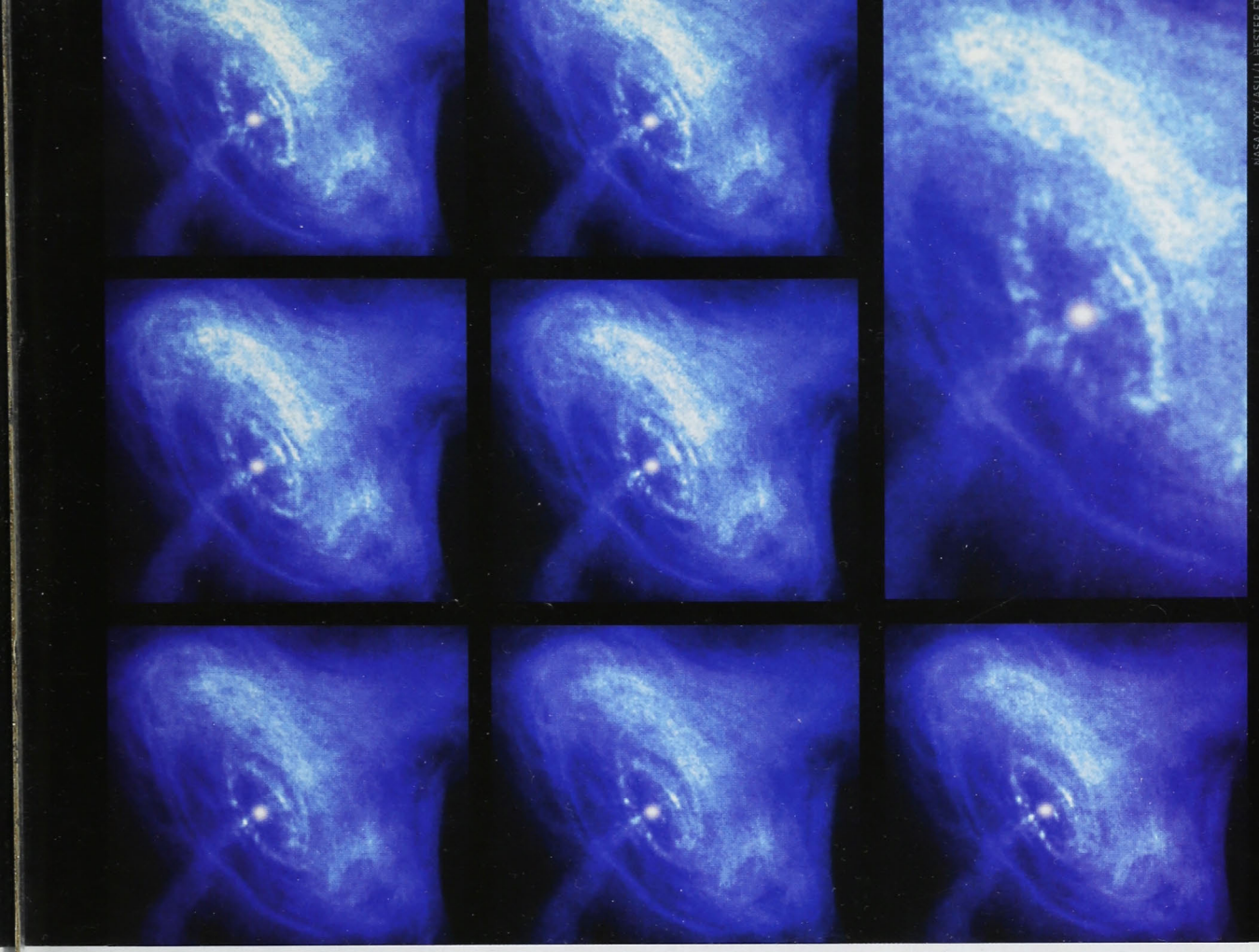
The two oldest kids are usually in bed by 7:30 ("Modulo glasses-of-water and there's-something-scary-under-my-bed-so-come-sit-with-me requests"), with Hayley lingering for an extra 45 minutes. Lunches are made, the newspaper is read. Then Kaspi climbs the stairs to her home office, a spacious ("yet cluttered") converted attic she shares with her husband.

"Some of my most productive hours are when everyone's asleep," says Kaspi, whose work day usually stretches to midnight. "The phone isn't ringing, the email arrival rate has decreased. I can just do a lot of work that way."

Her nights are spent poring over her grad students' analyses of data collected from NASA's Rossi X-Ray Timing Explorer satellite, writing proposals for viewing time at radio telescopes in Puerto Rico (or West Virginia or Australia or the Netherlands), grading papers...

"There's no shortage of things to do."

Before heading to bed, Kaspi leaves a "to be recycled" pile of papers on the kitchen counter. Each morning, four year-old Julia ritualistically roots through the pile, carefully choosing documents according to arcane crite-



The Crab Nebula pulsar (seen as a bright white dot in the centre of the images above) is located 6,000 light years from Earth and rotates 30 times a second.

ria. She then places the liberated pages into what she calls her "work folder." Kaspi once snuck a peek, discovering "this bizarre agglomeration of astrophysics manuscripts, cardiology papers, school notices, bits of newspaper and some bills from the grocery store." Each sheet is covered in Julia's extensive notation ("not in any recognizable language") and precisely ordered.

"She sees that we work," laughs Kaspi, "and this is what work is to her."

✦✦✦

Kaspi knows that even the best laid schedules are subject to disruption. Some of these blips, like dentist appointments, are a drag. Others are joyous, like school plays. Or exploding magnetars.

Sometime between breakfast and carpool, 21,000 light years from Earth, 1E 1048.1-5937 went boom. This was excellent news. "We *live* for these events," beams Kaspi. "When a magnetar goes off, it's a big deal."

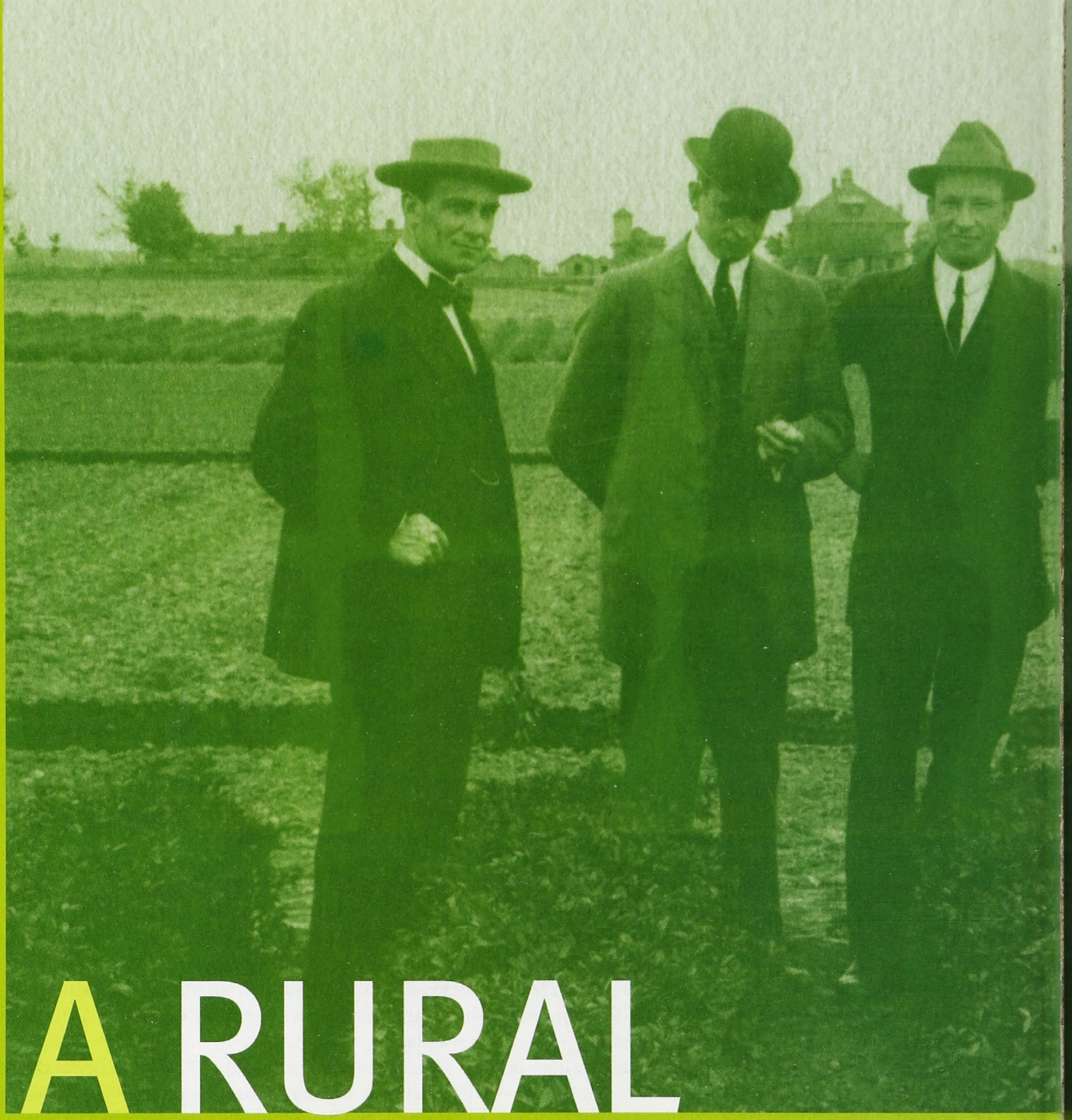
Over the better part of the next week, Team Kaspi scrambles to quickly analyze data, alerting the international astronomical community about this time-critical event. They dash off polite requests to briefly borrow various satellites and ground-based telescopes to observe if, and how, the magnetar's pulse profile and rotation rate changes. It's a rare opportunity to make observations that will (hopefully) demystify the physics of magnetars. When the urgency settles, Kaspi is exhausted, but elated.

✦✦✦

The Steacie Prize is awarded annually to a young scientist or engineer for notable contributions to research in Canada. Kaspi's win recognizes how her work has radically expanded our understanding of neutron stars, putting her in the elite ranks of Canadian researchers.

The Steacie Prize also puts $15,000 in her pocket. Some of the money financed a party for Kaspi's research group ("Because they work very hard"), some of it financed the renovation of a third bathroom at her home (because, well, three kids). Kaspi is thinking about using the rest of the money to spruce up the drab hallways of the physics department. She has her eyes on oversized photos of incandescent spiral galaxies and delicately woven supernova tendrils — objects catalogued by the French comet hunter Charles Messier in 1774, yet still boundless sources of astronomical fascination. Decades after last closing *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Encyclopedia Brown Finds the Clues*, Vicky Kaspi is still driven by a sense of wonder, still a sucker for a good mystery.

"I guess I find the cosmos comforting in the sense that there are objects out there that are billions of years old," she offers. "They essentially have always, and will always, exist. They make the difficulties of life seem somehow trivial."



Macdonald College plant science experts circa 1911 (left to right) Leonard Klinck, G.H. Butler, Robert Summerby and Paul Boving. Jimmy Coull is ploughing the field behind them.

MCGILL ARCHIVES

A RURAL REVOLUTION

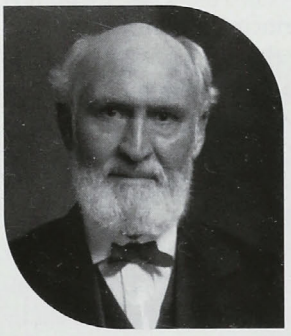
Since its founding 100 years ago, Macdonald Campus has turned agricultural studies on its head — and sent thousands of grads out into the world armed with a great education, a roll-up-your-sleeves attitude and priceless memories. BY MARK REYNOLDS

Sir William Macdonald was a man of contradictions — the very model of Victorian probity, yet deeply anti-religious; living like a "streetcar conductor," yet donating sums to McGill University that were staggering, even by today's standards. He alienated relatives and business partners, yet once spent hours, entranced, watching a tiny chick peck its way out of its shell. One contemporary labelled him, "a paragon of paradoxes."

No fan of pomp and circumstance, Sir William avoided the spotlight. That wasn't at all true for the man who joined forces with him to launch Macdonald College (now Macdonald Campus), in a partnership that would revolutionize agricultural education in Canada.

James W. Robertson was the federal government's commissioner of agriculture and dairying when Macdonald met him in the 1890s. A natural-born showman, the flamboyant Robertson once arranged for a 10-ton chunk of cheese to be displayed at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 to promote Canada's dairy industry.

While Macdonald and Robertson made for an odd couple in many respects, the two men shared a common cause. At the end of the 19th century, rural education was in shambles. Populations were too dispersed, teachers too scarce, and facilities too poorly maintained to effectively educate students.



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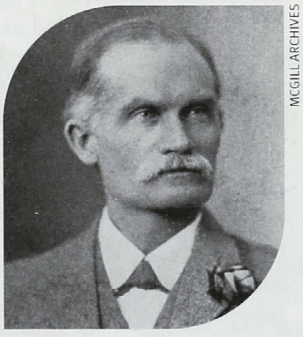


MCGILL ARCHIVES

Pictured: Macdonald College's founder Sir William Macdonald (left) and the college's first principal, James W. Robertson

Through his work as commissioner, Robertson was keenly aware of the situation, as was Macdonald, a native of rural Prince Edward Island who believed deeply in the benefits of education.

Sir William, with Robertson's assistance, established the Macdonald Manual Training Fund. Between 1903 and 1905, Macdonald-funded institutions appeared in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Prince Edward Island. By 1907, more than 20,000 children were receiving the benefits of what became known as the "Macdonald-Robertson Movement."

Macdonald College would become the movement's crowning achievement. Beginning in 1904, Sir William assembled 561 acres of farmland on Montreal's West Island, spending $1.5-million in the process. When the school opened its doors in 1907, he provided an

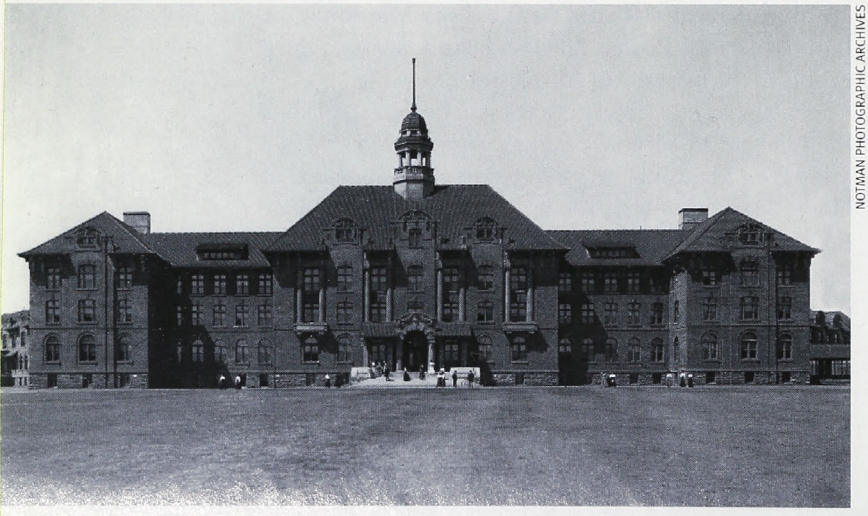
MCGILL ARCHIVES

Mac students inspect dairy cows circa 1910. For decades, the Royal Livestock Show was considered a highlight of Mac's annual winter carnival.

additional $2-million endowment for operating costs. The *London Times* proclaimed that the college would "differ very widely not only from the educational institutions of the Old World, but also from most of those previously existing in the Dominion."

Macdonald was considered unique because it reflected Sir William's belief that a healthy, happy society rested on the three pillars of "farm, home and school." As a result, the college included a School of Agriculture, a School of Household Science, and a School for Teachers.

Robertson presided as principal when the first 215 students started classes in the fall of 1907. Despite Macdonald's support, funding was tight, and while the visionary Robertson had many strengths, finances were not his forte. He resigned in 1910 over philosophical differences with Macdonald. The founder insisted that the college tend to the agricultural interests of eastern Canada, while Robertson wanted Mac to play a larger role on the national and international stage. As the college progressed over time, it would distinguish itself by doing both.



NOTMAN PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

Macdonald College in 1908.

BUILDING A BETTER PIE

Though the early years had their bumps administratively, Mac researchers were productive right from the start, breeding new varieties of clover, alfalfa and soybeans. Robertson's influence extended well beyond his short tenure, largely due to the stellar team of professors he assembled. This initial group included such influential and productive minds as the cereal-breeding pioneer Leonard S. Klinck, who developed Pontiac barley and the Banner 44 variety of oats, and Frank C. Harrison, the agricultural bacteriologist behind a 1914 landmark study of Montreal's milk supply.

If you are what you eat, there's a bit of Macdonald in each of us. The juicy stalks of the hardy Macdonald rhubarb, developed by Professor Harold Murray in the 1920s, are still favoured by many a pie connoisseur today. Plant scientists Emile Lods (Mabel and Roxton oats and Oxford barley) and Martin Raymond (Iroquois and Algonquin corn) became known internationally for the resilient cultivars they bred. More recently, former Mac scientist Shahrokh Khanizadeh, MSc'84, PhD'89, and former dean Deborah Buszard developed the popular Chambly strawberry, specially designed to withstand Quebec's stern climate while retaining its appealing flavour.

Macdonald's current dean, Chandra Madramootoo, BSc'77, MSc'81, PhD'85, says that Mac has played an essential part in the evolution of agriculture in Quebec, but its contributions have been largely unsung. "We were a success story people didn't know about."

In the sixties, for instance, Macdonald soil scientist Angus MacKenzie introduced the province's farmers to a more scientific approach to nurturing their land — which fertilizers to use and when, for instance — so that it could nurture growth in return. The soil-testing service he established at Mac became the model for all government soil-testing laboratories in the province.

MOXLEY'S MOXIE

While MacKenzie helped Quebec farmers boost crop yields, Macdonald animal scientist John Moxley, the man chiefly responsible for creating Mac's Dairy Herd Analysis Service (DHAS), transformed milk production in Quebec.

In the fifties and sixties, the Quebec dairy industry was in dire straits, ranking among the lowest producers in the country. Today, the province's cows churn out three billion litres of milk a year, 38 per cent of Canada's dairy production. "Quebec could not have done that without John Moxley. The gap between where the industry was when John began his work and where it is today is enormous," says Madramootoo.

The far-sighted Moxley looked at both genetics and environmental factors to solve the puzzle of Quebec's underachieving bovines. He criss-crossed the province in his own car, collecting samples, then helped construct computer programs (themselves a novelty) to analyze the data he assembled. He convinced farmers to improve the feed they were offering their cattle and, after settling on the genetic traits that Quebec cows needed in greater abundance, designed an artificial insemination program. "Forty years later, terms like biotechnology and genomics have become popular buzzwords. John Moxley was probably one of the first specialists and we didn't realize it at the time," says Madramootoo.

The DHAS has since evolved into Valacta, a partnership between Macdonald Campus, the Quebec government and the Quebec dairy industry, that ensures that Quebec's dairy producers continue to have access to the sort of expertise that Moxley began providing decades ago.

A "RADICAL BREAK"

By 1929, with research on a roll, the academic leaders of Macdonald College turned their attention to reinventing agricultural education. A faculty committee tabled a report that longtime Mac professor John Snell, in his book *Macdonald College of McGill University*, called "a radical break with tradition in the matter of courses normally offered to students in agriculture."

And it was radical — all credits for applied courses were eliminated and classes focused on basic biological and physical sciences (and English) for the first two years of the agriculture program. "That had an enormous impact," says Roger Buckland, BSc(Agr)'63, MSc(Agr)'65, Mac's dean from 1985 to 1995. The change brought Macdonald's undergraduate programs new respect and served as a model for other agricultural institutions in Canada.

By the late 1950s, there was little doubt that Macdonald was Canada's pre-eminent agricultural college. Close to 20 per cent of all the undergraduates and almost 50 per cent of doctoral students studying agricultural science in Canada were at Mac. "Macdonald College produced the first PhDs in agricultural subjects in Canada, and has, through the past half-century, graduated more than all other Canadian institutions combined," declared then-dean H.G. Dion in 1959.

Tales from the home front

The photos of students in the School of Household Science look almost impossibly quaint to modern eyes – rows of identically dressed women ironing, sewing and cooking in tandem. But those crisply starched aprons belied a serious academic purpose: the introduction of scientific rigour into nutrition and household studies.

When Sir William Macdonald announced that "household education" would be one of the three pillars of the College's curriculum, a Toronto newspaper applauded his effort, pointing out that, despite recent social and technological advances, "on many a farm the windmill sends the water to the cattle while the old-fashioned pump is good enough for the housewife." Forced by isolation to be self-sufficient, rural women in particular needed strong domestic skills to survive, let alone thrive.

In 1907, 62 women signed up for the School of Household Science's first classes, which were originally designed to help young women make "sanitary, comfortable and happy homes in the country." But Katherine Fisher, head of the school from 1910 to 1917, quickly recognized that "a knowledge of the sciences" was key to giving the discipline "a position of dignity," and refined the curriculum accordingly. The two-year diploma in institutional administration, first granted in 1912, fulfilled an urgent need for qualified managers of food services in the military during WWI, and many graduates went on to become prominent in the new field of dietetics.

Today, the School of Household Science lives on in the form of Mac's School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition and the Department of Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry. Graduates in the former go on to use their expertise to promote healthy eating in a wide variety of settings, including schools, clinics, hospitals and seniors residences. These grads are prized for their abilities, says Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Chandra Madramootoo.

"At every convocation, representatives from the Ordre professionnel des diététistes du Québec [the licensing body for dieticians in the province] tell me how terrific our graduates are."

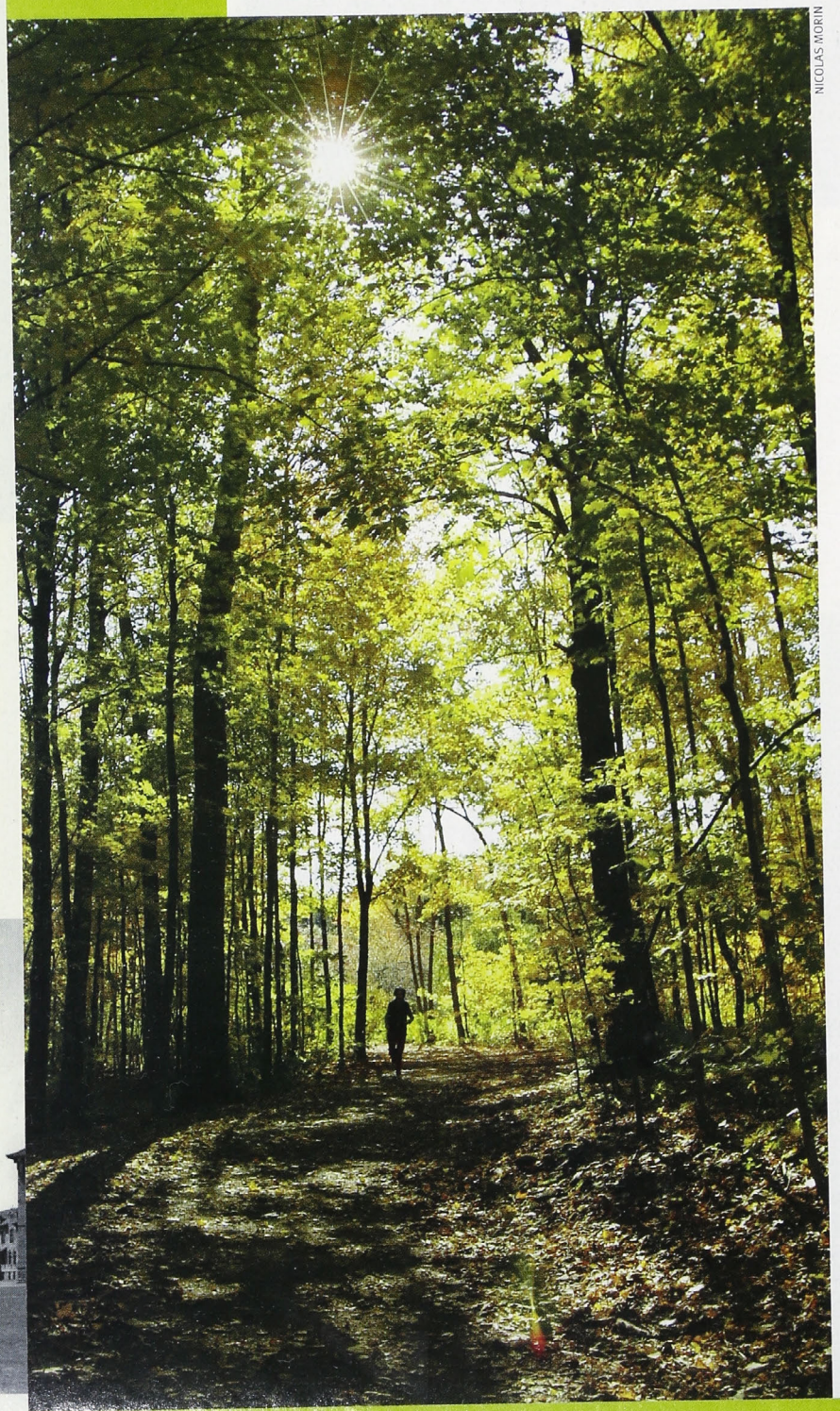
MCGILL ARCHIVES

Household science students circa 1913, busy at work in their infamously unfashionable green and white striped gingham uniforms

"We were a success story people didn't know about."

DEAN CHANDRA MADRAMOOTOO

Buckland himself came to Macdonald as a student because of its emphasis on basic science. "That, and I had heard that the ratio of female students to males was seven to one, because of the education department," he adds with a laugh.



NICOLAS MORIN

He wasn't disappointed on either front – his future wife turned out to be "one of the seven," and Buckland would go on to teach as a professor of animal science at Macdonald, before becoming dean.

CLOSE-KNIT CLAN

While Mac pursued high ambitions for its teaching and research programs, campus life on the largest green space on the Island of Montreal was — and remains — cozy. Investment dealer J. William Ritchie, BSc(Agr)'51, now retired, describes the Mac family as a "clan" in the true Scottish tradition. "We worked, lived, played and loved together. We became friends regardless of race, religion or the part of the world from which we hailed."

Madramootoo, who grew up in Guyana, also found an inviting home. "We would all — students from Africa, India, China — cook together and share our meals. Everyone would sit together and talk about everything under the sun."

Buckland remembers the Macdonald community of his student days as tight-knit and friendly. Most students lived on campus. Many faculty members did too, or, at least, they lived close by. Professors would often invite students over for dinner.

Which isn't to say that everyone always behaved at their best. Stephen Casselman, BSc(Agr)'68, for many years a CBC agricultural commentator, recalls how his class tormented the staff by conducting frequent panty raids, "misplacing" all the cafeteria's cutlery, and taking joyrides on manure spreaders. "In our day," he says, "we believed that education was more than books and, as a result, comradeship meant doing things together."

A LABOUR OF LOVE

The pastoral surroundings of the campus have long been perfect for the sort of lazy strolls that cement friendships. They also provide a vibrant, growing field laboratory, thanks to leaders who saw the value of preserving the island's disappearing green space.

Professors and students looking for William Brittain, BSA'11, dean of agriculture and vice-principal of Mac from 1934 to 1955, often had to don gumboots and wade through the muck and mud of the evolving Morgan Arboretum to find him.

Though an entomologist by training, Brittain, one of Macdonald's earliest graduates, was passionate about horticulture, and he believed Mac's teaching and research activities would benefit greatly if the college could acquire an expanse of natural woodland. Brittain sparked the interest of some prominent Montrealers, including Cleveland and James Morgan (owners of

...enjoys the beautiful surroundings of the Morgan Arboretum

The teacher's teacher

If a single figure could embody the years during which McGill's teacher training program was located at Mac, it would undoubtedly be Sinclair Laird, the man who headed the program for 36 years, between 1913 and 1949. Handpicked by Sir William Macdonald himself, Laird was trained in both Scotland and France. Macdonald College historian Helen Neilson described Laird as something of a benevolent despot — paternalistic in his devotion to his students, autocratic in how he ran his school.

Laird had firm ideas about how a teacher-to-be should comport herself. There was never any excuse for dirty fingernails, and if he spied a little too much leg upon entering a classroom, he would thunder, "Ladies, please pull down your skirts!"

Laird also displayed ample imagination as an educator. He was among the first to advocate for such classroom innovations as using audio-visual methods to supplement lectures, introducing musical activities in schools, and using current events to spur classroom discussions.

Morgan's department stores) and *Montreal Star* publisher J.W. McConnell, whose support allowed for the purchase of nearby property. The land for the arboretum, assembled by the Morgans, was officially turned over to McGill in 1945.

Brittain personally acquired many of the exotic trees now growing there (he was especially fond of birches). Today, the 245-hectare arboretum continues to serve Mac's research and teaching needs, while providing a home to a dizzying array of trees and shrubs, 30 species of mammals, 20 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 170 species of birds. About 30,000 visitors travel to the arboretum each year, coming to ski, hike, bird-watch or take in the fall colours.

MCGILL ARCHIVES

William Brittain

TIME OF TRANSITION

The late 1960s and early 1970s were an edgy period for Mac, in the wake of a Quebec government report that recommended that the Faculty of Agriculture be moved to the downtown McGill campus, freeing Mac's land for a West Island CEGEP. A McGill report written in response, and unanimously accepted by the University's board of governors, concluded that "the transformation of the Macdonald Campus to a CEGEP would lead finally, and probably relatively rapidly, to the disintegration of the Faculty and the ultimate loss by the University of the entire Macdonald site."

David Stewart, whose family were heirs to Sir William Macdonald's estate and had continued their generous support of the college after his death, stepped forward and led the resistance. "He opposed the move and made that adamantly clear," says Buckland. The family threatened legal action to reclaim the land and endowment if the move were to take place. Stewart also offered to provide most of the funds needed for a new Faculty of Agriculture building, as long as it was constructed on the Mac campus.

In the end, the campus stayed put, though the education faculty was moved downtown and a significant portion of land was leased to John Abbott College. The uncertainty took its toll. "We did lose young, energetic faculty to institutions that were more stable, and enrollment went down," recalls Buckland.

But with the opening of the Macdonald-Stewart Building in 1978, the downturn swung back up. For the first time in its history, the campus became home to more than 1,000 students.

NEW NAME, NEW MISSION

In 1991, Macdonald officially became home to the newly renamed Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The timing was excellent. With the 1992 Rio Earth Summit just around the corner, environmental issues were moving to the forefront of both public and research priorities.

Deborah Buszard — dean of the faculty from 1995 to 2005 — says that Mac's students were quick to embrace their faculty's fresh orientation. While wondering what to do with the 30-year old Robertson Terrace, a residence building that was becoming increasingly derelict, Buszard was approached by a group of students with an idea for promoting ecological living on the campus. They wanted to "try living together in an environmentally friendly way, reducing their impact on the environment," recalls Buszard.

The result was the transformation of Robertson Terrace into the EcoResidence. Created out of almost completely recycled materials and featuring state-of-the-art heating and ventilation systems to maximize energy conservation, the award-winning EcoResidence became the first residence of its kind in Canada.

Though Buszard is now a biology professor at Dalhousie University, Mac still holds a special place in her heart.

"Mac's role has always been to serve the needs of people, through education and the creation of new knowledge," she says. "Today [that mission] is probably more important than ever. We need to apply really good science and technology to issues like global warming, soil and water conservation, environmental health, diet and nutrition. Today that role is global."

With files from Brett Hooton, BA'02, MA'05, and Kathe Lieber, BA'71

PHOTO: NICOLAS MORIN

A LIVING LABORATORY

While Macdonald Campus hasn't abandoned its rural roots, its researchers are now active throughout the world, tackling some of the globe's biggest challenges. BY DANIEL McCABE, BA'89

Above: Macdonald Campus is home to nearly 1,500 square metres of high-tech, climate-controlled greenhouse space

It's a phrase that anyone working at an agricultural faculty has to contend with from time to time, one that elicits resigned sighs from some and stern glowers from others.

"Cow college."

"It's interesting how that 'cow college' thing hangs in there," natural resource sciences professor Jim Fyles says wearily. Not long after Fyles began teaching at Macdonald Campus in the late eighties, he recalls traveling to the downtown campus in Montreal for a committee meeting and being introduced to a colleague there. "The guy looked me up and down and said he expected me to be wearing a red-checked flannel shirt."

Fyles isn't sure he was joking.

"Cow college" tends to be viewed as a putdown, a phrase closely linked to traits that no self-regarding scientist would ever want to be associated with — "second-rate," "unworldly," "hick."

If so, it's a term that has precious little to do with Macdonald Campus, which today enjoys widespread

respect, both for its array of cutting-edge research programs and for the impact of its international activities.

A school that once focused its attention on improving the lives of farming communities in Quebec, Mac now tackles some of the most urgent challenges facing the world at large and its researchers are active everywhere from the Arctic to Africa.

Mac professors are working to protect precious water resources in several countries. They're combating environmental threats, tackling deadly diseases, and ensuring that our food is nutritious and free of contaminants.

They're also playing leadership roles on the national stage. Plant science professor Don Smith, for instance, heads up the Green Crop Network, coordinating the efforts of more than 95 researchers at 14 universities across the country, as Smith and his partners examine what sorts of crops could fare best in an atmosphere with elevated CO^2 levels, which are least likely to cause environmental problems, and which might produce useful biofuel alternatives to gasoline.

For his part, Fyles is the scientific director of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Network, a federally funded Network of Centres of Excellence, involving 160 researchers and over 200 graduate students from 35 universities, as well as the federal government, seven provincial/territorial governments, several companies, seven aboriginal groups and at least one major NGO — Ducks Unlimited Canada.

GLOBAL IMPACT

On the international front, the Brace Centre for Water Resources Management has been active in projects involving Egypt, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Central Asia and the Caribbean in recent years and has collaborated with such organizations as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

"The work we do in these countries has quite a wide range," says Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Chandra Madramootoo, who, until recently, was the centre's longtime director. "We work on very specific technical things, like improving drainage and irrigation methods, but we also focus on broader policy concerns. For example, how do you make sure that water is available to all the different sectors of your population?" The centre works closely with decision makers in these countries, people at the ministerial level, "but our approach isn't just top-down. We're also working on the ground with people in small communities, implementing pilot projects on water use and conservation."

Both the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are supporting parasitology professor Roger Prichard's efforts in Africa. Working with colleagues in the U.S. and Uganda, Prichard is trying to perfect a vaccine that can neutralize African trypanosomiasis, also known as sleeping sickness, a parasitic disease that results in 50,000 fatalities in Africa each year. The WHO estimates that up to 500,000 Africans could be infected — the organization's real fear is that the disease, if unchecked, could reach epidemic status, afflicting millions.

"This is one of the few places in the world that's doing this kind of research at a time when parasites and parasitic diseases are becoming a greater cause for concern," says Professor Tim Geary, the director of the Institute for Parasitology.

Thanks, in large part, to improvements in water treatment, parasitic diseases haven't been much of a concern in North America for several decades. As a consequence, "research in this area dried up." Geary, a recent addition to Mac, is a Canada Research Chair in Parasite Biotechnology who examines why some parasites are so successful at eluding the human immune system's natural defences. He believes close to one-third of humans are infected with parasites, with malaria alone claiming more than two million lives a year in Cameroon and Panama. "Thank God McGill had the foresight to keep this place going."

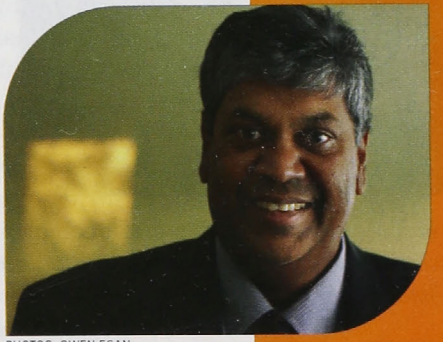
While Macdonald's research programs have global reach, the people who work and study there cherish the decidedly "small town" feel that distinguishes the campus.

"Mac is a real community," says Johanne Philippe, BSc(Agr)'06, a recent graduate who just returned to her native New Brunswick to take up a position as an environmental animator. "The classes are all small, so you get to know the students you work with and you get to know the professors who teach you. They're available to you and that's a huge plus."

OPEN-DOOR POLICY

"We take pride in the fact that professors here don't run to their offices and close their doors," says Madramootoo. With 900 undergraduates on campus and roughly 90 professors to teach them, Macdonald enjoys a very favourable student-to-professor ratio. "Our students appreciate the one-to-one interactions they get to have with their professors."

During Philippe's time at Macdonald, she was part of the Mac Sustainable Project, a student advocacy group that lobbied the campus administration to adopt environmentally responsible practices. Philippe says she was impressed by the response the project received from faculty and staff.



Top: Plant science professor Don Smith Below: Dean Chandra Madramootoo

PHOTOS: OWEN EGAN

"What we focus on here is science for solutions. That appeals to a lot of students." PLANT SCIENTIST DON SMITH

"We weren't just being humoured. When we made presentations, professors would be brainstorming with us, throwing out ideas." She singles out Macdonald Campus librarian Erica Burnham, who welcomed the group's input and took special care to adopt an environmentally friendly approach to the recent renovation and expansion of the Macdonald library. A new café on campus also paid heed to the project's environmental recommendations.

Madramootoo makes it clear that such student activism is anything but a nuisance.

"Our students don't just come here to study environmental sciences, they want to put things into action." Smith concurs. "What we focus on here is science for solutions. That appeals to a lot of students."

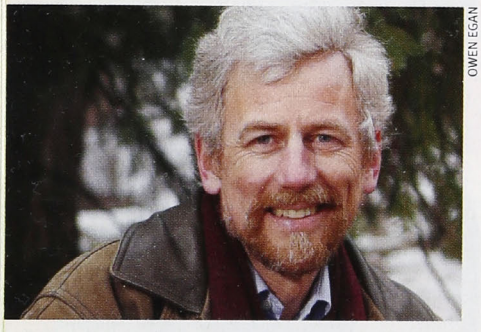
INCREASINGLY POPULAR

The numbers bear Smith out. Undergraduate enrolment was up by 11 per cent this year. Madramootoo says more effort is being directed towards student recruitment and American students have been particularly responsive.

The McGill School of Environment continues to be a hit, with rising numbers of students flocking to Mac to take part in the MSE's unique multidisciplinary approach to environmental studies (The Faculties of Arts and Science are the other chief partners in the MSE, with most other McGill faculties taking part).

It's good news to be sure, but Madramootoo has mixed feelings about Mac's growing popularity.

"With dietetics in particular, we're turning away very good applicants because we just don't have the resources or the space to accommodate them." With obesity and cardiovascular disease rates on the rise, Madramootoo believes Mac ought to be training more nutritionists and dieticians, particularly those who play an educational role.



OWEN EGAN

Natural resource sciences professor Jim Fyles

The many facets of food have been a central concern for Mac researchers since the institution first opened its doors a century ago.

"We look at the whole spectrum of food production here," says Madramootoo, "from what's planted in the ground, to how it is processed, to how healthy something is when it's on your plate." And the science of food is growing ever more complex. Madramootoo notes that Mac researchers are becoming increasingly interested in nutraceuticals and probiotics — foods and food components with medicinal qualities or unique health benefits.

"The molecular sciences are embedded into our agricultural programs," Madramootoo explains. "It's the pillar on which our approach to agricultural sciences will be built in the future."

Mac's associate dean (research), plant science professor Suha Jabaji, points to the work of her departmental colleague Martina Stromvik as one example of this. The young plant scientist uses her expertise in both molecular biology and bioinformatics (using computers to assess and evaluate the reams of data being uncovered about genes and proteins) to decipher what drives the expression of certain genes in plants. Each plant has between 20,000 and 60,000 genes. What kicks the important ones into action? "We could change the genetics of a crop — make it more resistant to droughts or able to produce higher yields," says Jabaji.

Stromvik is part of a new generation of Mac researchers — close to one-third of Macdonald's professors have been hired within the last decade. "We're getting very good people. We're not having a hard time attracting them," Jabaji says. She quickly reels off the names of a dozen or so new hires who she believes are already gaining prominence in their respective fields.

Grace Marquis, a newcomer from Iowa State University, for instance, is McGill's Canada Research Chair in Social and Environmental Aspects of Nutrition, examining why at least one-third of the world's children are malnourished. She has research projects under way in both Ghana and Uganda.

Murray Humphries, PhD'01, an expert on how mammals contend with cold northern climates, is another recent addition to Mac's professorial corps. He was recently awarded a Northern Research Chair in Wildlife Biology and Traditional Food Security by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

CLOSE TO NATURE

"A lot of the younger professors like the collegiality of a smaller campus," Jabaji notes. "And the availability of fieldwork stations at your fingertips is a real selling point."

That last characteristic makes Macdonald unique in Canada, says Madramootoo, who describes his campus as a "living laboratory."

Macdonald is the only institution of its kind in the country that can offer scientists access to an on-campus research farm, orchards, experimental field plots and a 245-hectare arboretum — all within an easy stroll of classrooms and offices.

That doesn't just appeal to professors. "Many of our courses have lab and field components and students really like that hands-on aspect," says Madramootoo.

PHOTOS: NICOLAS MORIN

"When I deal with friends who work in university biology departments, molecular geneticists busy putting new traits into plants, they often don't see the need for field stations," observes Smith. "What I tell them is that about 80 per cent of the stuff that looks great in a lab just doesn't measure up in the field. Nature is complex and it's unpredictable."

Thanks to recent successes in garnering funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and other sources, Mac can also offer its new professors access to high-tech indoor facilities, says Jabaji. A CT scanning laboratory, for instance, built in 2003, is used to provide detailed 3-D glimpses into plants, soil and animals. It's the first facility of its kind in Eastern Canada.

While agriculture is still intrinsic to Mac's research programs, growing concerns over climate change have resulted in environmentally themed research becoming much more prevalent in recent years.

"I laugh when I hear people say we have to go back to nature," says Smith. "Mother Nature isn't always such a nice lady. Look back at the last 200 years and you'll see that nature can be a real SOB sometimes. We have to respect nature and we have to understand it."

Throughout Mac's history, generations of professors have been sensitive to the needs of the people most keenly interested in their research. Historically, that's been the farming community, and Mac can point to a long list of pioneering initiatives and discoveries that have benefited the agricultural sector, particularly in Quebec.

In recent years, the beneficiaries of Mac's research efforts have expanded. The Mac-based Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, for instance, has won acclaim for the way it carefully consults native communities about the research it pursues, while a multimillion-dollar project geared towards improving food processing practices in India, headed by Mac food engineer Vijaya Raghavan, has resulted in the opening of food processing plants and local bakeries throughout Southern India.

"As academics, you can't just swoop in and say, 'We know what all the problems are,' says Jim Fyles, who consults with native groups through his SFM work. "It's really easy for cultures not to connect. You have to take the time to understand another culture before you start working with that culture. I think there is a real sensitivity to that here."

Fyles points to Mac's long-standing motto, "Mastery for service," and its notion that a big part of Macdonald's mission is to put the expertise of its researchers at the use of helping different communities with their everyday concerns.

"At Mac, that rings true to a lot of people. It might sound corny, but we take pride in that."

Clockwise from top left:

The School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition's food labs are used to closely regulate the diets of subjects participating in studies.

Faculty lecturer Donald Wees (with hat) and students analyze the quality of soil.

Every autumn, the Mac Market sells produce grown on the campus to the public.

Mac's orchards grow many apple varieties that have all but disappeared from elsewhere in Quebec.

Coming Events

July 21, San Francisco: Annual Community Service Day. Join fellow McGill alumni and friends for a day of volunteering. The San Francisco Food Bank, 900 Pennsylvania Ave., San Francisco, CA. 12:30 pm. Contact: pdesai@tessera.com.

August 5, Montreal: Stones and Beer bike tour. Starts at the Redpath Museum, 859 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $20 Adults and $10 Students/Seniors. Includes a sampling of ales at the McAuslan Brewery. 4 pm to 8 pm. Contact: Ingrid Birker at 514-398-4086 ext 4094 or ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca.

August 8, Vienna: Canadian Stammtisch. Heurigen 10er Marie, Ottakringer Str. 222-224, 1160 Vienna, Austria. 6:30 pm. Contact: Michelle Epstein at MichelleM.epstein@gmail.com.

August 11, Montreal: Institute of Parasitology 75th Anniversary and Homecoming. Centennial Centre, 21111 Lakeshore Rd., Ste. Anne de Bellevue, QC. 2 pm. Contact: Mary Solana at 514-398-7722 or mary.solana@mcgill.ca.

August 19, Montreal: A live adaptation of Al Gore's Academy-award-winning documentary film *An Inconvenient Truth* by Montreal environmentalist Désirée McGraw. Redpath Museum, 859 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. 4 pm. Contact: Ingrid Birker at 514-398-4086 ext 4094 or ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca.

September 5, France: Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.

September 12, Vienna: Canadian Stammtisch. Heurigen 10er Marie, Ottakringer Str. 222-224, 1160 Vienna, Austria. 6:30 pm. Contact: Michelle Epstein at MichelleM.epstein@gmail.com.

September 13, Montreal: Stones and Beer bike tour. Starts at the Redpath Museum, 859 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $20 Adults and $10 Students/Seniors. Includes a sampling of ales at the McAuslan Brewery. 4 pm to 8 pm. Contact: Ingrid Birker at 514-398-4086 ext 4094 or ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca

October 3, France: Pub Night at The Great Canadian, 25 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris. 7:30 pm. Contact: Louis-Pierre Guillaume at president@mcgillfrance.nu.

October 19, Montreal: McGill Homecoming Weekend 2007. Keep this weekend free! Visit the Homecoming website for more information – www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/homecoming.

October 20, Montreal: A Cocktail Rendezvous with Mtre Julie Latour, BCL'86, LLB'86, the current Bâtonnier of the Bar of Montreal. Royal Victoria College, 3425 University St., Montreal, QC. $5 students and $15 non-students. 12 pm. Contact: 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

October 21, Montreal: Annual David L. Montgomery Run, an event that raises funds for McGill's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, Tomlinson Hall, 475 Pine Ave. W., Montreal, QC. 9:30 am. Contact: eileen.leduc@mcgill.ca.

October 30, Montreal: Robert Vogel lecture series with McGill physics professor Victoria Kaspi, BSc'89. Room 232, Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $30 for the series of five lectures and one lunch. 10 am. Contact: Steven Blagrave at 514-398-6888 or steven.blagrave@mcgill.ca.

November 6, Montreal: Robert Vogel lecture series with McGill parasitology professor Timothy Geary. Room 232, Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $30 for the series of five lectures and one lunch. 10 am. Contact: Steven Blagrave at 514-398-6888 or steven.blagrave@mcgill.ca.

November 13, Montreal: Robert Vogel lecture series with McGill economics professor Christopher Green. Room 232, Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $30 for the series of five lectures and one lunch. 10 am. Contact: Steven Blagrave at 514-398-6888 or steven.blagrave@mcgill.ca.

November 20, Montreal: Robert Vogel lecture series with McGill economics professor Christopher Ragan. Room 232, Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $30 for the series of five lectures and one lunch. 10 am. Contact: Steven Blagrave at 514-398-6888 or steven.blagrave@mcgill.ca.

November 27, Montreal: Robert Vogel lecture series with McGill surgery and gastroenterology professor Gerald Fried, BSc'71, MDCM'75. Room 232, Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC. $30 for the series of five lectures and one lunch. 10 am. Contact: Steven Blagrave at 514-398-6888 or steven.blagrave@mcgill.ca.

Net gains

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

The McGill Martlets came oh-so-close to earning a national championship this year. They'll be even better next season. BY JOHN MEAGHER

When women first began playing hockey at McGill in 1896, the skirt-clad athletes were grudgingly granted minimal ice time, so long as no men were allowed to watch — the only exceptions were the referee and the arena attendant, who guarded the front entrance.

Fast forward 110 years.

The McGill Martlets hockey squad were ranked the No. 1 university team in the country for the entire 2006-07 season, a remarkable feat considering their 21-player roster included nine first-year players. Arguably McGill's most talented and exciting team and unquestionably one of the very best teams in their sport in Canada, the Martlets were eventually crowned Quebec champions and national silver medalists.

Despite a heartbreaking 4-0 loss to the University of Alberta Pandas in the 2007 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship game in March, the Martlets have their eye on the gold in 2007-08.

"We had a very talented group of young players and there are more who want to come to McGill next year," says Martlets head coach Peter Smith, BEd'79, MA'86,

Photo above: Martlets scoring star and MVP Vanessa Davidson
(PHOTO: ALLEN MCINNIS)

PHOTOS: ALLEN MCINNIS

From left to right: Defender Catherine Ward, goalie Charline Labonté, and coach Peter Smith

voted coach of the year in the Quebec conference for the third time in eight seasons.

The squad's recent track record has made recruiting much easier for Smith, who this year added the highly touted defender Catherine Ward and Olympic goaltender Charline Labonté to an already talent-laden lineup.

Ward, a silky-smooth skater blessed with tremendous speed, captained her hockey team at Montreal's Dawson College before coming to McGill. Ward's stellar play at Dawson drew plenty of attention from university recruiters. She was wooed by the likes of Harvard, Yale and Princeton before she settled on McGill.

"It was a great fit for me, because McGill offers me the best of both in terms of hockey and academics," says Ward, a first-year management student who earned CIS rookie-of-the-year honours.

"Catherine is the best all-round athlete I've ever coached," says Smith, who was also an assistant coach with the gold medal-winning Canadian Olympic team at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin. "She's genetically gifted. She'd be good at any sport."

For her part, Labonté backstopped the Martlets to 35 wins, eclipsing the McGill single-season record of 20 set by fellow Olympian Kim St. Pierre in 2002-03. The goaltender's stats this season ventured into Ripley's Believe it or Not territory: 0.80 goals against average and a .957 save percentage.

"Having Charline in nets helped our team to mature," Smith says. "Just knowing she is back there allows our players to take bigger risks with the puck."

Labonté, who has faced shots from the top female players in the world in international competitions, was pleasantly surprised by the calibre of play in the CIS.

"I was looking for a new challenge after the Olympics and this was an amazing experience for me," she says. Labonté and Smith, along with McGill alum and fellow Olympian Kim St. Pierre, BEd'05, recently captured gold as part of the Canadian national team at the 2007 women's world hockey championships.

While Labonté was making saves, sophomore centre Vanessa Davidson, McGill's Female Athlete of the Year in 2007 and team MVP, was busy at the other end of the rink. A gritty power forward, Davidson led the Quebec league in scoring, averaging close to a goal a game and setting several single-season Martlet offensive records.

Not so long ago, the outlook for the Martlets was considerably gloomier. In fact, after winning the Quebec championship in 1985, McGill managed to qualify for the playoffs only once in the next 13 years.

The turnaround began with the heralded arrival of Olympic netminder St. Pierre in 1998. Having an Olympic gold medalist on the team helped the Martlets become competitive once again, and McGill became a more alluring destination for talented young female hockey players.

The Martlets have since captured four conference championships. This season, the team posted its best-ever overall record (36 wins, 4 losses, 2 ties) and earned four out of 12 All-Canadian spots awarded nationally, a CIS honour recognizing all-star-calibre performances. Labonté, Ward and Davidson were all named to the first team, while centre Christine Hartnoll made the second team.

But in addition to their performance on the ice, Martlets players have to meet McGill's tough academic standards — and Smith is careful to stress to his players that school should always come before hockey.

Team captain Shauna Denis reckons that a typical week could include four practices, two games and a fair bit of travel. It's a lot to balance, she allows, but the benefits make it more than worthwhile.

"With hockey, you learn how to get along in groups, how to be competitive in a constructive way, how to resolve conflicts. Those are skills you can use all through your life."

Denis, a management student who arrived at McGill four years ago from a small town in Ontario, says the Martlets played a crucial role in her life when she first came to Montreal. "It's like gaining an instant family. Having that social support is huge."

Labonté says the Martlets are the closest group of

players she's ever been a part of, including her heady experiences with the Canadian Olympic team.

"We were together all the time, it was like we couldn't get enough of each other," relates Labonté, a first-year physical education student. "There were no cliques on this team."

Part of that closeness relates to Smith. Davidson says her coach is "like a second father" to the players.

"He's willing to help us in everything," she says. "He's more than a hockey coach. He wants you to be a better player and a better person."

Smith's McGill players aren't the only ones taking note of his coaching skills. Smith just nabbed his biggest assignment yet — he is the new head coach for the Canadian national women's team. "It's a tremendous honour," he says.

Melody Davidson is the national squad's general manager. The two worked together in Turin when Davidson coached the Canadian team to its gold medal with Smith serving as one of her assistant coaches. She praises Smith as a gifted communicator, adding "Peter is very passionate and knowledgeable about the game."

While the gold medal loss at the nationals still stings, Denis, who graduates this spring and won't be back next season, is philosophical.

By any measure, the Martlets enjoyed a great season, she says, and talented young teams don't always capture championships right away. She remembers reading about Wayne Gretzky visiting the New York Islanders dressing room after the veteran club had just vanquished his youthful Oilers in the Stanley Cup finals.

Gretzky took stock of the Islanders, a battered and bruised bunch proud to display their battle scars, a team that understood that winning demands sacrifice. Gretzky and his teammates soon began applying those lessons, earning four Stanley Cups over the next five years. Keep your eyes on the Martlets, she advises.

Smith, too, believes the best is yet to come.

"Next year, I believe, will be our year."

A Martlets love affair

In 1963, David Kerr, a member of the McGill Redmen hockey team, agreed to lend a hand to the women's team. As he helped coach the Martlets, Kerr took note of a player named Sheryl Drysdale.

"She worked hard and was a really strong skater," he recalls. Soon, he began noticing that Sheryl had other attributes that he admired. And vice versa.

The couple have been together ever since. Recently, they made history with a landmark donation of $1-million to the McGill Martlets hockey program. The gift is the largest ever made to a Canadian women's university athletics program.

"Our time at McGill was very special," says Sheryl Kerr, BCom'67. "I was born in Montreal, but grew up in Belleville, so I didn't know anybody when I got to McGill. Initially, playing hockey for the University was my whole life. The camaraderie in athletics was wonderful for me."

David Kerr, BSc'65, the former chair and chief executive officer of Noranda, says the gift reflects the important role the Martlets played in both their lives.

"Obviously, McGill was an important part of our past and hockey was a really great part of that experience," he says. "It just seemed natural for us to support the women's hockey team."

The donation will allow current Martlet coach Peter Smith to assume a full-time role with the team in an endowed position known as the Kerr Women's Hockey Coach. Smith will relinquish some of his other duties in the Department of Athletics, and focus his efforts on coaching and recruiting for the Martlets.

"It is a great boost for women's hockey," says Smith.

Sheryl and David Kerr, surrounded by members of the Martlets hockey team

DEREK DRUMMOND

KIRK SHANNON

Building THE Case Against Evil

McGill law students are helping international courts bring war criminals to justice.

BY JONATHAN MONTPETIT, BA'03

It's certainly not unusual to find weary-looking law students poring through books in the Nahum Gelber Law Library on a weeknight, but they might not be pondering property law or considering contracts. There is a good chance that they're actually busy thinking about the very worst things that people do to one another in this world, and how they can use the law to address those atrocities.

There is an international effort currently under way to construct a legal system for the pursuit and punishment of some of the world's most notorious human rights abusers and, thanks to some unique programs in the Faculty of Law, McGill students are finding themselves in the thick of the action.

Aside from the tribunals that followed the Second World War, the trying of international crimes against humanity is largely a phenomenon of recent years.

Since its inception in 2002, the International Criminal Court has, for example, issued arrest warrants for members of the Lord's Resistance Army, a paramilitary group believed responsible for mutilating, raping and killing civilians in northern Uganda, and collared Thomas Lubanga, accused of conscripting child soldiers for his Union of Congolese Patriots.

Such legal efforts are raising the global profile of human rights violations, ensuring that massacres resonate with the public consciousness as more than simply a strange name. Indeed, far-off places – Kigali, Srebrenica, Freetown – are now quick to become bywords for injustice as guilty persons are made to pay for their terrible deeds.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY

But the rise of international criminal law has been as complex as it has been swift: the quest for a global brand of justice has few legal precedents. "There is no body of international law out there that is ready-made," says René Provost, director of McGill's new Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. "Judges have had to make it up."

As the world moves to enshrine human rights, the traditional legal approaches to international problems are proving inadequate. The CHRLP has followed suit; the research centre fosters a multi-disciplinary outlook that emphasizes student involvement through an array of internship programs – all in the hopes, Provost explains, of encouraging "a broader understanding of the law. We're trying to abandon an overly state-centered approach to human rights."

Initiated in 2003, the CHRLP draws on McGill's strengths in two different fields: human rights and the study of comparative law.

At left: The Genocide Memorial at Murambi, Rwanda
Below: Fourth-year law student Kirk Shannon

ALLEN MCINNIS

The Faculty of Law's reputation as a leader in civil liberties stretches back several generations, beginning with John Humphrey, BCom'25, BA'27, BCL'29, PhD'45, LLD'76, who wrote the first draft of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and constitutional expert F.R. Scott, BCL'27, LLD'67, who famously tussled with autocratic Quebec premier Maurice Duplessis over the latter's treatment of Jehovah's Witnesses — and carrying on through to Paul-André Crépeau, a key player in the reform of Quebec's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, and former Attorney General of Canada Irwin Cotler, BA'61, BCL'64.

McGill is also the only school in North America to offer in-depth training in both common and civil law — it's a distinct advantage for students interested in international human rights because, in an effort to avoid too close a link with any one country's legal system, tribunals are creating international criminal law as a composite of representative legal systems.

"Tribunals must navigate among various systems and traditions," explains Provost, "which is exactly the way that McGill law students are taught — unlike students in every other law school in Canada."

HUMAN RIGHTS A DRAWING CARD

McGill is a premier destination for students eyeing careers defending human rights on the international stage. "Three-fourths of the applications we get speak to something related to human rights as justification for wanting to study at McGill," Provost says.

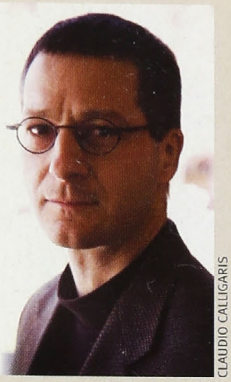
Founded, in part, as a response to students' growing interest in human rights, the CHRLP offers internships, clerkships and work opportunities that give students a chance to apply their book smarts to actual cases of international justice.

The CHRLP's International Human Rights Internships Program pairs students with non-governmental partner organizations, where they gain 12 weeks of practical work experience in human rights investigation, monitoring and reporting. McGill students have traveled to Cairo to help refugee claimants prepare testimonies for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and have done first-hand research on the conditions of Cambodian prisons. They've investigated Pakistan's juvenile justice system, and have worked with Human Rights Watch in New York to monitor Saddam Hussein's trial.

TRAUMATIC TALES

But perhaps the most sought-after CHRLP internship program is the Special Court for Sierra Leone Legal Clinic.

In 2004, the CHRLP joined the "International Criminal Court and Accountability Campaign," an initiative of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada that aims to promote the effective operation of the ICC and other international criminal tribunals.



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

René Provost, director of McGill's Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

"You're quickly reminded that although the genocide is in the past, its wounds continue to lie just beneath the surface."

As a result, the McGill centre provides legal research to judges trying cases of suspected human rights violations during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war. Though 7,000 kilometres separates the University's "remote" clinic and the court in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the two work closely to pursue justice in cases ranging from voter intimidation (by hacking off people's hands) to the conscription of child soldiers.

"One of the dangers of working from afar on a war crimes trial is becoming too detached," explains Benjamin Perrin,LLM'07, who served as the clinic's assistant director in 2005-06. To prevent emotional disconnect, clinic students watched footage of the armed conflict in Sierra Leone. "It was extremely graphic, to say the least," Perrin recalls, "the kinds of images that stay with you forever. It left us motivated to do the very best job we could to help the Special Court in its mission of bringing those most responsible to justice."

The Special Court, established by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations in 2002, requests legal advice from a team of McGill law students, who answer questions of substance (what type of intent is required for a particular kind of crime?), evidence (should hearsay evidence be admitted?) and procedure (under what conditions can the defence or the prosecution access witnesses?).

The students are on standby, ready to respond with sometimes as little as 24 hours notice. "We spent many nights in the library with energy drinks and pizza," says Perrin in a phone interview from his current office at the Supreme Court of Canada, where he is a law clerk.

COURTESY: ANNA MATAS

Recent law graduate Anna Matas works in Freetown for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. In the photo above, she shares a walkway near the court with Mongolian peacekeepers.

McGill's resources, which include the Nahum Gelber Law Library — arguably the best collection of international criminal law writings in the country — have proved invaluable. "We were able to offer the special court research across several languages and legal systems. They really are on a shoestring budget and have to rely on the legal clinic."

While the clinic is based in Montreal, McGill students have had the chance to work directly for the court in Freetown. Anna Matas, BCL/LLB'06, a recent graduate and clinic employee, now finds herself working as the special court's associate legal officer. Her work involves evaluating evidence presented before the court and researching various legal issues for the judges. She acknowledges that her time at the McGill clinic prepared her well to make the jump into the highly competitive field of international criminal law.

"It provided an opportunity for me to deepen my knowledge of the area in which I am now working," she says. "It was also great to have the chance to do something that is both academic and practical."

REAL-WORLD RAMIFICATIONS

Creating that intersection between academia and the real world — what Provost calls "a very important moment in a student's life" — is an essential element of what the CHRLP offers. Given that law school itself can be an intense experience, it is easy for students to lose perspective about the implications of their studies. "The critical thing is that there's an accused in jail whose life may be affected by what they write here," Provost says. "It's the reality of the lawyer's life."

Current students in the faculty readily agree about the value of such an approach. Offering a range of international internships is the perfect complement to classroom education, suggests fourth-year law student Kirk Shannon. As part of the centre's Human Rights Internship program, Shannon spent last summer working for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Located in Arusha, Tanzania, the tribunal prosecutes people — many of whom are former high-ranking government officials — accused of participating in the 1994 slaughter of an estimated 800,000 Rwandans. Shannon worked on the trial of Colonel Théoneste Bagosora, said to be one of the primary masterminds of the genocide, researching the numerous procedural and evidentiary motions filed by the prosecution and the defence. He also condensed hundreds of pages of witness testimonies into succinct summaries. "That half of my job," he recalls, "was gut-wrenching. It was horrific story after horrific story." He says his internship was "a constant wake-up call" that a lawyer's education shouldn't be limited to lectures. "The classroom gives you a taste, but it leaves you thinking, 'Wait a second, I am missing the practical aspect.' To a certain extent, the only way you can really understand is to get your fingers dirty as much as you can."

BRIDGING DISCIPLINES

Exposing students to different influences is at the core of the centre's philosophy. Through workshops and conferences, students are exposed to CHRLP members'

multi-disciplinary research, helping them to think about law in non-traditional ways; the centre encourages students to explore the causes behind certain legal problems, rather than simply focusing on possible solutions. "The law faculty has tended to be somewhat isolated within the University," Provost acknowledges. No longer. In order to properly contextualize legal questions surrounding, say, the history of the armed conflict in Sierra Leone, CHRLP researchers are able to tap the expertise of faculty in the School of Social Work, the Department of Political Science and the Faculty of Education, among others.

"Knowing political and historical contexts is important for several reasons," says Perrin. "The Special Court for Sierra Leone is a hybrid war crimes tribunal, which means that it bridges domestic and international law. This meant, for example, that knowledge of the constitutional laws of Sierra Leone was important. Also, several unique crimes are being prosecuted at the Special Court, such as using child soldiers. It's very difficult to understand such an offence without first appreciating how child soldiers have been used in various conflicts around the world — and in Africa in particular."

By building bridges to other parts of the University, students are given perspectives that prove essential when working in a foreign country. Understanding, for example, the political or economic forces at play in any given society helps shape an approach to justice that factors in not only the demands of the international community, but local traditions as well. For its efforts, the Faculty of Law's International Courts and Tribunal Program recently earned the Award for Excellence in Internationalization from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Before disappearing into the stacks of the Gelber Law Library, Shannon lets slip a boyish grin. He got word the day before that he's been selected to be a law clerk at the Supreme Court. Perrin, for his part, will soon be leaving Ottawa to join the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia; he was recruited as part of UBC's effort to boost its own offerings in the human rights field. Another alumnus of the internship program, François Tanguay-Renaud, BCL'02, LLB'02, subsequently earned a Rhodes Scholarship.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

But measuring success simply in such material terms overlooks the real reason most of these students try to forge a career in such a challenging field. "It's not just an academic interest," says Perrin, who has worked with victims of the Cambodia child sex trade and assisted judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. "You get involved to help a country overcome a very dark period in its history. Each case has its own horrors, but I take hope in the victims who have themselves overcome these atrocities. Our conviction is that people need to be held accountable."

COLIN ROWE

Benjamin Perrin, a former assistant director of McGill's Sierra Leone clinic, at the Supreme Court of Canada where he has been working as a law clerk.

Kirk Shannon agrees. During his internship in Tanzania, he took 10 days to tour Rwanda; even after hearing gruesome first-person testimonials in the courtroom, he was profoundly affected by what he saw on the streets of Murambi and Kigali. "Seeing a teenager with a deep scar — from a machete — across the side of his head, that really wakes you up," he says. "You're quickly reminded that although the genocide is in the past, its wounds continue to lie just beneath the surface."

Below: Former Liberian president Charles Taylor, charged with war crimes, appears before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. At right: A 14 year-old victim of the political violence in Sierra Leone.

PHOTOS: (LEFT) GEORGE OSODI / AP PHOTO (RIGHT) ADAM BUTLER / AP PHOTO

APPRIVOISER LES TRAUMATISMES

Une étoile montante s'attache à alléger le poids des souvenirs oppressants.

PAR JEFF ROBERTS BA'00, BCL/LLB'05
TRADUCTION DE ISABELLE CHEVAL

Les souvenirs peuvent être tout à la fois doux et douloureux. Les victimes de violence, de viol ou de mauvais traitements risquent d'être atteintes du syndrome de stress post traumatique (SSPT) qui les oblige à revivre indéfiniment leurs souffrances. Ces retours en arrière peuvent être invalidants au point que de nombreuses personnes atteintes du SSPT ont de la difficulté à entretenir des relations stables, à garder leur emploi et, dans des cas extrêmes, à sortir de chez elles. Aujourd'hui cependant, les travaux avant gardistes de Karim Nader leur apportent une lueur d'espoir.

Les expériences du chercheur donnent en effet à penser que les souvenirs oppressants peuvent être dépouillés de leur pouvoir par l'administration d'un médicament couramment prescrit pour l'hypertension — le propranolol — dès lors que le souvenir d'un événement traumatisant revient en mémoire. Les résultats des recherches de Karim Nader, qui ont été publiés dans *Nature*, ont attiré l'attention de la BBC et de *60 Minutes*. Ses travaux lui ont également valu de figurer au palmarès du prestigieux « Canada's Top 40 Under 40 » du *Globe and Mail*/Caldwell Partners et le magazine *Forbes* l'a récemment nommé au rang des « Dix personnes susceptibles de changer le monde ».

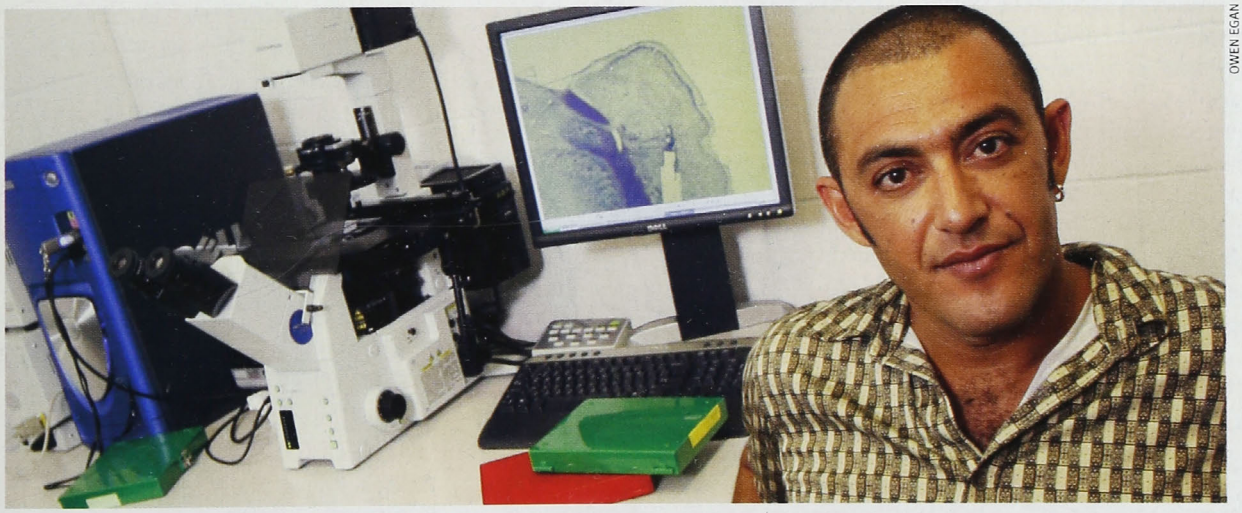
Les travaux de Karim Nader partent de l'hypothèse que les souvenirs, qu'ils soient anciens ou récents, sont instables pendant le processus de remémoration. Lorsqu'une personne se remémore activement un souvenir (comme lorsqu'une personne souffrant du SSPT revit son traumatisme), le souvenir est extrait de la mémoire et doit être restauré. Ce processus est analogue au transfert de données informatiques actives du disque dur vers la mémoire vive. Après la remémoration, le souvenir est « reconsolidé », ou réimprimé, et restauré sous une forme stable. Or, il se trouve que pendant cet état dynamique, les souvenirs peuvent être manipulés.

D'après les expériences qu'il a menées sur le rat, le chercheur de 39 ans né au Caire a « redécouvert » que les souvenirs émotionnels peuvent être reconsolidés dans l'amygdale, faisceau de neurones qui héberge un aspect émotionnel de la mémoire. La prise de médicaments bloquant la reconsolidation de l'amygdale, l'animal se comporte comme si le phénomène émotionnel n'était pas très vif; d'autres recherches ont montré que le propranolol avait le même effet chez l'humain. En administrant du propranolol à une personne victime d'un SSPT qui se remémore un événement horrible, le souvenir du traumatisme est reconsolidé avec la charge émotionnelle d'un mauvais souvenir ordinaire, en somme non invalidant. Le souvenir reste aussi vif qu'auparavant, mais son caractère disproportionnellement traumatisant est atténué.

Professeur agrégé au Département de psychologie de l'Université McGill depuis 2001, Karim Nader précise qu'il n'essaie pas d'effacer les souvenirs ou de créer un médicament utopique qui purgera le monde de ses mauvaises expériences. La peur, la culpabilité, la colère et d'autres émotions désagréables font partie de la vie. « Il s'agit d'émotions qui guident notre existence. Chaque jour, nous prenons des décisions inspirées par la crainte de ce qui pourrait se produire », souligne t-il. « Nous cherchons seulement à atténuer le souvenir traumatisant de sorte qu'il ne soit pas écrasant et qu'il puisse être traité à l'aide de moyens thérapeutiques traditionnels. »

Les conséquences des travaux de Karim Nader sont considérables. Avec son collègue Alain Brunet, psychologue clinicien au Département de psychiatrie, il a déjà démontré que le propranolol pouvait soulager le SSPT. Certains sujets de recherche ont répondu de manière si positive qu'ils ont pu reprendre leurs activités professionnelles, une victoire personnelle qu'ils croyaient impossible. D'autres résultats sont moins spectaculaires, mais tout aussi profonds; même chez les sujets expérimentaux qui souffraient d'un SSPT depuis 30 ans, les symptômes physiques (moiteur des mains, accélération du rythme cardiaque) ont considérablement diminué d'intensité au souvenir d'incidents traumatisants.

« Tout effet quel qu'il soit est extrêmement encourageant », précise Karim Nader, qui prévoit étudier comment différentes doses de propranolol peuvent aider les patients à alléger leurs souvenirs traumatisants. Le seul fait de permettre aux réactions physiques de retrouver un niveau normal est déjà formidable en soi. »

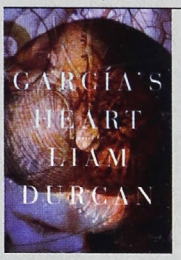


OWEN EGAN

Le professeur de psychologie Karim Nader atténue les symptômes invalidants des personnes souffrant d'un état de stress post-traumatique et les aide parfois à retrouver une vie normale.

GARCIA'S HEART

McClelland & Stewart, 2007, $32.99, by Liam Durcan



Liam Durcan might be making himself enemies in the world of writing.

It's bad enough that the first-time novelist is scoring rave reviews with his recently published *García's Heart*. It's bad enough that the McGill neurology professor wrote the book in his spare time while pursuing his research and treating patients during the day. But that he crafted such an assured novel in only nine months, in spite of a demanding full-time gig at the Montreal Neurological Institute?

That's the kind of thing that could drive other novelists mad with envy.

Given Durcan's day job, it's unsurprising that neurology plays a prominent role in this novel. Its protagonist, Patrick Lazerenko, is a former professor (academics will nod knowingly at Durcan's sly take on the poisonous jealousies that can take root in university departments) who has earned big bucks by using his brain imaging know-how in a very marketable way.

Patrick advises companies on how well their ad campaigns work by analyzing brain scans and taking note of which marketing messages set the neurons of potential customers ablaze with the right sort of responsive activity.

His skills are duly noted by the defence team for a suspected war criminal — can Patrick's neurological research cast doubt on the accused's culpability? As it turns out, Patrick knows the suspect quite well.

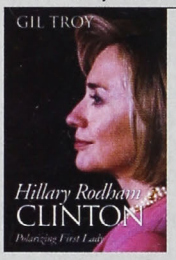
Hernan García was once a widely respected Honduran doctor who arrived in Montreal under mysterious circumstances to open a small grocery shop. García played an instrumental role in Patrick's life as a mentor and father figure. Can this possibly be the same man who helped a military regime carry out torture? The book uses flashbacks to great effect, gradually teasing out the tale of Patrick's complicated connections to the García family.

García's Heart is a gripping page-turner, not so much a whodunit as a could-he-have-done-it. One of the book's key themes relates to how well we can truly know anyone else. As one character puts it, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is to figure out somebody's life?"

DANIEL McCABE, BA'89

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: POLARIZING FIRST LADY

University Press of Kansas, 2006, $28.50, by Gil Troy



McGill historian Gil Troy's most recent book focuses on Hillary Rodham Clinton's rollercoaster experience as a U.S. first lady.

When Bill Clinton won his first presidential election, he promised voters that his brainy bride would play a significant role in his administration. What the Clintons hadn't reckoned with, writes Troy, an expert on presidential couples, was the American public's wariness of first ladies who take too active an interest in their husbands' policy-making. Nobody elected her, after all.

Americans viewed her attempts to revamp the health care system with considerable suspicion. That helped engineer its failure, but she was also the author of much of her own misfortune. She failed to rally sufficient support and the plan was too complicated — the Reagan-era antipathy towards big government still held much sway.

Troy suggests that the up-and-down nature of the Clintons' marriage also played a role in the failure. Bill's considerable political skills might have saved the day, but he was reluctant to impose them on a wife still seething from his skirt-chasing misadventures.

Strangely, Hillary's principal contributions to Bill's presidency were probably her dogged counter-attacks on his enemies in the wake of his adulterous scandals. In the midst of the Monica Lewinsky/impeachment drama, Troy argues that Hillary "all but single-handedly saved Clinton's presidency." She didn't quite mask her rage at her husband, but made it plain that she supported his work, while vilifying "the vast right wing conspiracy" that tried to derail Bill, not by attacking his policies, but through an unseemly focus on sex.

Americans, though disappointed in their president, thought she had a point.

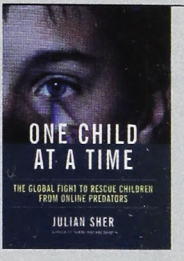
Troy paints Clinton as a complex figure. Recounting her Methodist religious roots and family-oriented background, he takes note of her nuanced views on abortion and Hollywood's glamorization of violence, suggesting that she is far from the knee-jerk radical her enemies paint her to be. While she can be a thoughtful voice on ethics-related issues, Troy notes how Clinton's own conduct in the business world hasn't exactly been squeaky clean.

Troy tells his tale in a brisk and highly readable manner. At its end, Hillary has been bloodied, but she emerges triumphant with a political career all her own. With the race now on for the American presidency in 2008, her story is far from over.

DM

ONE CHILD AT A TIME: THE GLOBAL FIGHT TO RESCUE CHILDREN FROM ONLINE PREDATORS

Random House, 2007, $34.95, by Julian Sher, BA'75



Journalist Julian Sher has reported on conflicts in Kosovo, Somalia and Baghdad. He's looked into dark places while researching books on biker gangs and the Ku Klux Klan. But nothing prepared him for what he found in the realm of online child predators.

"This was by far the most difficult subject I ever had to confront," he says at the end of *One Child at a Time*. The book is a harrowing account of actual cases and shows how the Internet has turned the exploitation of children into a booming global enterprise. At one time, pedophiles had trouble finding each other. Now, they can locate kindred souls in a matter of minutes, and the enthusiastic acceptance of their perversions breaks down whatever guilt or fear might have held their behaviour in check before. According to Sher, the Internet offers budding child molesters "a training ground where the new and the nervous can learn the tools of the trade from mentors and masters."

For police, tracking down pedophiles and rescuing their young victims — one study says that almost 40 per cent of them are age five or below — seemed at first an impossible task. Images of exploited children on the Web numbered in the millions and increased at the rate of 20,000 a day. Sher tells of Toronto police officer Paul Gillespie, who became so frustrated, that he fired off an email late one night to Bill Gates, basically saying, "You created this mess, now fix it!"

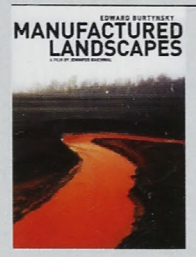
Gates took the message seriously, and Gillespie gave a presentation at Microsoft headquarters to show executives the magnitude — and the horror — of what he and other cops were dealing with. It worked. Gates made engineers and money available to develop a database to sort, compare and store information on exploited children. Over time, credit card companies and Internet providers cooperated with police, and law enforcement agencies around the world began sharing information and expertise.

One Child at a Time is compelling, but hard to read and hard to forget. Pity the Microsoft executive who saw a couple of images for barely seconds, and says the pictures are still "burned in my head. I want to get rid of them, and I don't know how."

DIANA GRIER AYTON

MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES

Mongrel Media, 2007 (DVD), $34.95, directed by Jennifer Baichwal, BA'90, MA'96



Discomfort undercuts beauty in the work of photographer Edward Burtynsky, where iridescent lava flows are actually rivers of mining waste in northern Ontario, and intricate nests of rainbow-coloured string are really discarded wires about to be set ablaze in Chinese scrapyards.

Burtynsky was a traditional photographer of "pristine" landscapes when, in 1981, a wrong turn in Pennsylvania coal-mining territory — his surroundings suddenly barren, alien — opened his eyes to the transformative power of industry. The detour inspired him to devote his career to seeking out "the largest industrial incursions that I could find... to show the dimensions of our extractions, in the landscape."

This Genie-winning film follows the Ontario photographer to Asia, offering a behind-the-scenes look into his artistic process as he clambers around a ship-breaking yard in Bangladesh, tours the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River and directs a group photo of 6,000 Chinese factory workers. But this is no personality profile or environmentalist salvo; there are no talking heads, narration is limited to Burtynsky's barebones contextualizing comments, and neither his nor director Jennifer Baichwal's politics are on parade.

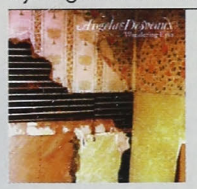
Baichwal's camera thoughtfully explores Burtynsky's still images, unearthing tiny moments of hidden humanity. In one scene, a dot in a photo of Utah's Bingham Canyon copper mine is slowly revealed to be a tiny truck speeding along the 500 miles of roads ringing the massive pit — then a reverse zoom returns the truck to insignificance.

Any non-cinema viewing does an unavoidable disservice to the epic size of both Burtynsky's subject matter and photos (his exhibition prints are huge). The DVD transfer, however, is sharp and clear, and the bonus features — particularly an extensive photo gallery narrated by the artist — further deepen this meditation on industry's lasting footprint.

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

WANDERING EYES

Thrill Jockey, 2006, $22.99, by Angela Desveaux, BSc(Agr)'02



When Angela Desveaux released her CD last fall, she wandered into a crowded field. Turned out that 2006 was a banner year for women tackling country-type tunes with a decidedly indie sensibility.

Neko Case, Lucinda Williams, Jenny Lewis and Amy Millan all put out well-received records that could be roughly lumped together under that loose description. Easy enough for a newbie doing similar stuff to get lost in the shuffle.

To Angela Desveaux's credit, that didn't happen. Publications like *Hour* and *Exclaim* named *Wandering Eyes* to their best-of-the-year lists, as did the influential webzine *PopMatters*.

While doing her degree in environmental biology at Macdonald Campus, Desveaux perfected her musical skills performing at local bars on open mike nights. Her affection for bluegrass and western music stems from growing up in a Cape Breton household where Hank Williams and Lefty Frizzel dominated the family turntable.

Desveaux has a knack for crafting music tinged with wiser-than-I-wish-I-was regret and her lovely, subdued singing offers just the right amount of ache to give the material punch. Many a seasoned Nashville veteran would be thrilled to come up with songs offering the same sort of gritty melancholy.

DM

Bowling Buddies

Young Ottawa alumni bowled them over at a fall get-together. Knocking down ten-pins is only one of the activities of Ottawa young alumni. Busy branch members hold monthly pub nights, dance the salsa and participate in local charitable events. They've even organized a choir.

Left to right: Sue Zwanenburg, BA'90, Graham Barr, MLIS'97, Yong Ling, MSc'99, Vanessa Lang, BSc'02, and Eddie Chow, BScArch'91, BArch'93.

Dialing Donors

Alumni relations staffer Maria Keenan is shown front and centre with a crew of volunteers in Vancouver who called donors to say thanks for their gifts to McGill during the past year.

Below: Stephanie Deutsch gets a floral tribute from Kingston Branch President George Wright, BEng'66.

Queen of Kingston

Margaret Somerville recently gave a talk to alumni in Kingston, Ontario, but she wasn't the only star of the evening. Stephanie Deutsch, BCom'37, was also recognized because this spring marks the 70th anniversary of her graduation.

Above: Margaret Somerville, DCL'78, with guest Mary Reid

Say Cheese

Executive Director Honora Shaughnessy gave a presentation on the history of the McGill Alumni Association at a meeting of the James McGill Society in April. Congratulating her on a job well done – and a great smile – are Dentistry grads Bob Faith, BA'53, DDS'58, and Bruce Dobby, BSc'76, DDS'81. To read about the MAA's fascinating history, see www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/alumni150.

OWEN EGAN

Out California Way

More than 140 alumni and friends of the University gathered together on April 25 in Los Angeles at an event co-hosted by the McGill Alumni Association, the Consul General of Canada in Los Angeles and the Quebec Government Representative in Los Angeles. Psychology professor Daniel Levitin, author of the best-seller *This is Your Brain on Music*, was the featured speaker.

Left to right: Vice-Principal (Development, Alumni and University Relations) Ann Dowsett Johnston, Michel Shane, BA'80, and Ellen Shane, BCom'80

Left to right: Reyna Solomon, Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Dane Solomon, BA'79

Daniel Levitin (right) with Consul General Alain Dudoit

AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

EPHRAIM A. MUKISIRA, PhD'94, was appointed in April 2006 as Director of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, an organization that brings together research programs in food crops, horticultural and industrial crops, livestock and range management, land and water management and socio-economics in Kenya.

ARCHITECTURE

H. PETER OBERLANDER, BArch'45, acted as Senior Adviser to the Commissioner General for the U.N. World Urban Forum while it convened in Vancouver in June 2006. Peter was also the inaugural recipient of the Canadian Institute of Planners President's Medal for lifetime achievement.

HARRY VANDELMAN, BArch'55, graduated with distinction from the Drawing and Painting Program in the Faculty of Fine Arts at Concordia University. Harry works in his studio at the RCA Centre in the St. Henri district of Montreal and can be reached at rann69@vdn.ca.

J. ROBERT THIBODEAU, BArch'76, was elected in October 2006 as Registrar of the College of Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for a three-year term. J. Robert is architect and principal of Thibodeau Architecture & Design.

PIERRE GENDREAU, BSC(Arch)'79, BArch'80, was promoted to Senior Associate with the Baltimore-based architectural firm of Gaudreau, Inc.

GASTÓN CASTAÑO, MArch'06, was awarded first prize for Best Paper Presentation at the 17th Annual Latin American Conference on Health Care Architecture and Engineering in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2006. The title of his paper was "Bariatrics: Design for Large Patients" and drew upon research Gastón conducted for his McGill research project.

ARTS

JOHN M. LETICHE, BA'40, MA'41, is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. John has written a new book titled *Russia Moves into the Global Economy* (Routledge Press, 2007), which presents a comprehensive review of the important economic and political developments currently taking place in Russia.

MAUREEN SABIA, BA'62, is the new Non-Executive Chairman of the Canadian Tire Corporation's board of directors. Maureen has been the principal of her own consulting practice since 1986, assisting businesses with organizational and strategy issues. A lawyer, she has held senior positions in both the public and private sectors. Maureen has served on the board of governors of the University of Guelph and on the board of trustees of Sunnybrook Medical Centre, where she also chaired the Sunnybrook Medical Centre Foundation. She founded the Women in Management Research Project at the University of Western Ontario. Maureen has been a Canadian Tire director since 1985.

JOHN FRY, BA'51, published *The Story of Modern Skiing* (University Press of New England, 2006). John is founding editor of the award-winning *New York Times* magazine *Snow Country*, and is a member of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame.

MARTIN PUHVEL, BA'53, MA'54, is a Professor Emeritus of English at McGill. Martin has published his third book dealing with the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, entitled *Beowulf: A Verse Translation and Introduction* (University Press of America, 2006).

BILL YOUNG, BA'61, is the co-author, along with Danny Gallagher, of *Remembering the Montreal Expos*, a book that looks back fondly at "Nos Amours."

FAY R. ROGG, BA'62, is Chairman and Professor of Spanish in the modern languages department of the City University of New York's Borough of Manhattan Community College. She is the co-author, along with Manuel Durán, of *Fighting Windmills: Encounters with Don Quixote*, published by Yale University Press. The book traces the impact that Cervantes's *Don Quixote* has had on writers and thinkers across centuries and continents, while also exploring the details of Cervantes's life and the central themes of the adventures of Don Quixote and his earthy squire Sancho Panza. The *Library Journal* recently described *Fighting Windmills* as "an engaging and convincing study... recommended for all literary collections."

BYRON AYANOGLU, BA'67, wrote *Crete on the Half Shell* (Harper Collins, 2003), which was republished in four countries and is being made into a feature film. Byron also published *New Greek Cuisine* (Harper Collins, 2005), and produced and wrote Algis Kemezy's latest documentary film, *Mimetoliths*, which was an official selection of 11 film festivals and was launched commercially in October 2006.

PERRY SCHNEIDERMAN, BA'68, served as Commedia Master for the Stratford Festival's production of *Don Juan*, starring Benoit Briere and Perry's former student, Colm Feore. The play, mounted in both official languages, was also presented at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in Montreal. Perry is in his second term as Chair of Ryerson Theatre School at Ryerson University in Toronto.

WILLIAM JAMES BOOTH, BA'75, MA'78, published *Communities of Memory: On Witness, Identity, and Justice* (Cornell University Press, 2006), a book that argues that memory holds a defining place in determining how justice is administered. William is Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

LINDSAY COOK, BA'75, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Maple Leaf Foundation. Established to foster cultural and educational relationships between New England and Canada, the Foundation sponsors an annual student exchange

program enabling high school students from Boston to visit a Canadian city, and their counterparts from the Canadian host city to visit Boston. Lindsay is also a member of the board of directors of the New England-Canada Business Council, as well as a member of the board of overseers of MCPCA-Angell, the second oldest humane society in the U.S.

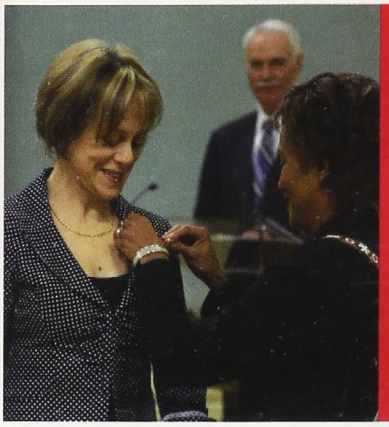
KENNETH MATZIORINIS, BA'76, MA'79, PhD'88, received the Distinguished Teaching Award for Continuing Education from McGill University in May 2006. This is the second time Kenneth has won this award, the first time coming in 1993. Kenneth also received the 25-Year Service Award from John Abbott College, where he has been teaching economics since 1981.

KATHRYN BEATON, BA'79, joined the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) in the new position of Vice-President of Administrative Services. Kathryn will provide leadership in human resources, as well as financial, campus and information technology operations. SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training.

BRUCE HILL, BA'83, was named the first Director of Development for the Canadian Medical Foundation in Ottawa.

ROCCO ROSSI, BA'84, is the CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Rocco completed a 480 km solo kayak trip from Toronto to Ottawa last summer and raised $150,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Centre for Stroke Recovery.

FLORENCE BORDAGE, MA'86, was named Manager of Training for all of Groupe Encore ITS, a Montreal-based company specializing in corporate travel management, meetings and events. Friends and class members can reach her at florence.bordage@encore.ca.



FIONA REID, BA'72, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Bishop's University in June 2006 and in the following month was appointed a member of the Order of Canada. A Canadian theatre icon, she has twice won a Dora Mavor Moore award for acting. Her television and film credits include the 1970s series, *King of Kensington* — for which she is still recognized as Al Waxman's wife, Cathy King — and the 2002 box office hit, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding.* In 2005, she was nominated for a Gemini after her guest appearance on the critically acclaimed CBC series, *This is Wonderland.*

ELIZABETH CORDEAU-CHATELAIN, BA'86, launched a new event management company based in Calgary, Alberta, called Cordeau Clancy Perron Marketing & Events International Inc. Elizabeth has been in the public relations business for 20 years and has also been a board member of the McGill Alumni Association of Southern Alberta for the past few years. She is married to Jean-Paul Chatelain, a chef and native of France.

GLENDA OUELLETTE, BA'87, was appointed Vice-President, Broker Relations & Sales, with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia based in North Vancouver, B.C. Glenda is a former president of the Insurance Institute of B.C. and former governor of the Insurance Institute of Canada. Glenda completed an Executive MBA at Queen's University this May.

CATHERINE CALLAHAN, BA'88, MEd'90, completed a Master of Landscape Architecture at Cornell University in May 2006, and was married to Bret LeBleu one month later in Woodstock, New York.

HEATHER (HANSON) BERRY, BA'89, is an Assistant Pprofessor of Multinational Management at the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from McGill, Heather completed her MSc in international and European politics from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She worked as a research analyst and Ways and Means Committee associate in the U.S. House of Representatives, before earning her PhD in international business and strategy at the University of California, Los Angeles. Heather is married and has three children.

SHANNON O'DONOGHUE, BA'89, is Acting Director, Mountain Culture, at the Banff Centre, whose flagship program is the world-renowned Banff Mountain Film Festival, screening 450 films from 30 countries each year. Mountain Culture at the Banff Centre promotes understanding and appreciation of the world's mountain places by providing a forum where people can share and find inspiration in mountain experiences, ideas and challenges.

NICHOLAS LEONARDOS, BA'90, was the recipient of a 2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. The award, worth $25,000, is given annually to unsuspecting teachers, principals and educators from around the U.S. as a way to reward, attract and retain top educators in the nation's public schools. Nicholas is a principal at South Elementary School in Stoneham, Mass.

ADAM DODEK, BA'92, is Chief of Staff to the Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Michael J. Bryant. Prior to assuming this position in July 2005, Adam served as Minister Bryant's Director of Policy. Adam can be reached at adam.dodek@jus.gov.on.ca.

JASON HRENO, BA'92, was awarded the Jim Burt Screenwriting Prize by the Writers Guild of Canada at the Annual Canadian Screenwriting Awards ceremony in April 2006 in Toronto. Jason was

OWEN EGAN

ANNEMARIE ADAMS, BA'81, the McGill School of Architecture's William C. Macdonald Professor, was recently named as the first Arcus Endowment Scholar-in-Residence at the University of California, Berkeley. The Arcus award consists of a $40,000 stipend and accommodation for one semester at the Weston Havens house, which was designed in 1939 by Harwell Hamilton Harris and is considered a masterpiece of 20th-century architecture. Adams, who has both a master's and a PhD from Berkeley, will teach a graduate seminar at the university in January, 2008, entitled "Sex and the Single Building," that will explore a range of settings – bars, gyms, hospitals, spas, brothels, beauty parlours and hotels – where various forms of body care take place.

awarded this prize for his work on *Two Mountains*, a feature script he wrote. Jason is a television director and screenwriter who divides his time between Los Angeles and Toronto.

NADIR AHMAD, BA'93, is the Chief Resident in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Nadir finished his residency in June 2007 and will attend Vanderbilt University in Tennessee for a one-year fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology and microvascular reconstruction.

JENNIFER ANDREWS, BA'93, delivered her second child, Gillian Ella Butler, a sister for Alex. Jennifer is an Associate Professor in the English department at the University of New Brunswick and the co-editor of *Studies in Canadian Literature*, a biannual, bilingual journal devoted to the study of Canadian literature in English and French.

PATRICK BURKART, MA'93, published *Digital Music Wars: Ownership and Control of the Celestial Jukebox* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), with Tom McCourt. Patrick is Assistant Professor of Telecommunication and Media Studies in the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University.

GERALD MICHAEL BUTTS, BA'93, MA'96, and his wife Jodi Heimpel Butts welcomed the arrival of their son, Aidan Ignatius, born on May 6, 2006. Gerald is Principal Secretary to Premier Dalton McGuinty and lives in Toronto.

ADELIA (CELLINI) LINECKER, BA'93, is a freelance business reporter and author of *What Color is Your Piggy Bank: Entrepreneurial Ideas for Self-Starting Kids* (Lobster Press, 2004). She and her husband, Anton, have two sons, Michael Peter and Gabriel William, and live in Los Angeles.

CAROLYN RATNER, BA'94, has joined the American Medical Association as Legislative Counsel, and works from their Washington, D.C., office.

CHRIS TAYLOR, BA'94, has published *Passing It On: Life Lessons of 130 Great American Leaders*, which examines the guiding philosophies and principles of Nobel Prize winners, Olympic gold medalists, senators, CEOs and other high achievers.

TIM HORNYAK, BA'95, published his first book, *Loving the Machine: The Art and Science of Japanese Robots* (Kodansha International, 2006). Tim is a journalist based in Tokyo.

MARLENE K. SOKOLON, BA'95, has published *Political Emotions: Aristotle and the Symphony of Reason and Emotion* (Northern Illinois University Press). The book examines Aristotle's understanding of emotions, relaying how the Greek philosopher's ideas resonate with current psychological theories. Marlene is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Concordia University.

DAN KIPNIS, BA'96, and his wife Trish Mulvoy announce the birth of their first child, Eloise Michaela, in September 2006. Dan is Senior Education Services Librarian within the Education Services Department of the Scott Memorial Library at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pa. Dan invites friends to contact him at dan.kipnis@jefferson.edu.

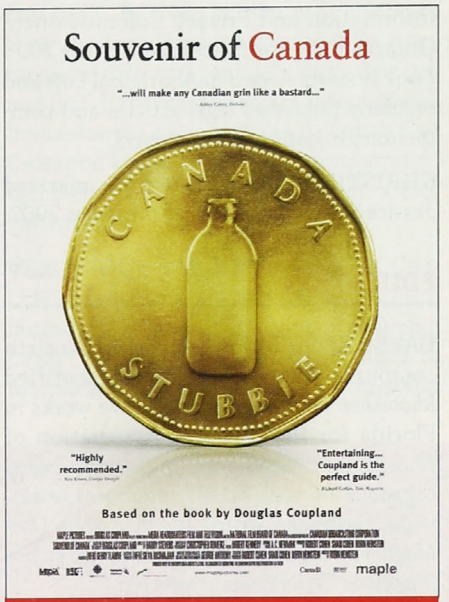
HEATHER SANSOM, BA'96, MA'99, ended her role running sales and marketing at the It Department Inc. in Ottawa to begin working in marketing management with Cognos, Inc., also based in Ottawa. Heather would love to hear from Professor John Shingler, as well as from fellow religious studies and political science classmates at hrsansom@hotmail.com.

SAMAN (AHSAN) ASAD, BA'98, has been working as Global Leadership Fellow and Project Manager of the Council of 100 Leaders: West Islamic World Dialogue at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. From 2004 to 2005, Saman studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where she completed a Master's in Developmental Studies.

DOUGLAS BURGESS, BA'99, was awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City. Douglas will conduct research at the Gilder Lehrman Collection, and the title of his project is "Gentlemen of Fortune: Pirates, Governors and the Crown in the Atlantic Colonies, 1688-1718."

MARGARET CARLEEN, BA'99, joined the litigation practice group at Hanify & King, PC, in June 2006 as an associate. Margaret earned her law degree from Suffolk University Law School, and previously worked at Melick, Porter & Shea, LLP, in Boston as an associate, gaining experience in products liability and construction, premises and property damage cases.

MATTHIEU SOSSOYAN, MA'99, teaches anthropology at Vanier College, where he was granted tenure in 2005. Since graduation, Matthieu has given several conferences and written articles on the Kahnawake Iroquois, which was the topic of his MA research. In June 2004, Matthieu married Marie-Eve Roy and in March 2006, their son, Zachary, was born.



ROBIN NEINSTEIN, BA'96, directed the feature documentary *Souvenir of Canada*, based on the best-selling book by Douglas Coupland. The documentary, which takes a playfully nostalgic look at Canadian pop culture and identity, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2005. Robin is an executive at CBC Television in charge of production for drama and is responsible for bringing new programming and talent to the CBC. Robin's production, *The Four Seasons Mosaic*, earned three Gemini Award nominations in 2005.

LEE ANNE BUSTARD, BA'00, is Vice President of the technology practice group in the GCI Read-Poland office, the Texas division of GCI Group, which itself is the public relations division of Grey Global Group. Lee Anne will provide strategic public relations counsel and program execution for clients including Dell, Global 360 and Wayport.

KENT DANIEL GLOWINSKI, BA'00, received his LLB from the University of Victoria in 2005 and now practises privacy law as a policy analyst in Toronto at

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario. Kent was the recipient of the 2003 Cook Roberts Award in Aboriginal Law and regularly publishes legal articles and commentary in national newspapers.

CHRISTIAN LANDER, BA'01, married Jessica Sawrey in Los Angeles in May, 2007.

EDUCATION

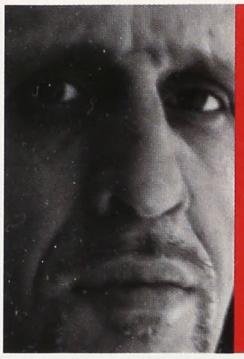
DAVE CROSS, BEd'80, published his sixth computer instructional book, entitled *Photoshop Finishing Touches*. Dave works in Florida for the National Association of Photoshop Professionals, a member-based organization with 50,000 members worldwide. Dave also writes for *Photoshop User Magazine*, and is Editor-in-Chief of *Adobe Illustrator Techniques* newsletter.

SUSAN ELLIOTT-JOHNS, MEd'86, PhD'05, was appointed in July 2006 to the position of Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario. Susan teaches language arts and literacy while continuing her research in the area of teacher education in literacy.

ALYS GEIGER, BEd'86, was named Assistant Director of the Women's Federation Combined Jewish Appeal. Alys is responsible for outreach and the education of women in the Jewish community, as well as handling fundraising events for the Annual Women's Campaign.

PETER LEESINSKY, PhD'92, was appointed head of the American Bilingual School in Kuwait this January.

EMILY BIERMAN, BEd'06, and William Bradley welcomed their first child, Syrscha Noelle Holz, into their lives in September 2006.



FRANK RODICK, MEd'88, is a Toronto-based photographic artist, who is represented by the Andrea Meislin Gallery in New York City. In 2006, he received rave reviews for his solo exhibit *Arena*. Frank's work combines traditional and modern techniques to produce dark, often haunting images that explore the human psyche. His photographs currently appear in collections around the world, including museums in Belgium, Denmark and Argentina. In a recent interview, Frank said that it was during his time at McGill that he "developed the discipline needed to be a successful professional artist." For information about Frank's upcoming exhibits, visit www.frankrodick.com.

ENGINEERING

PETER IRWIN, PhD'74, the President and Chief Executive Officer of RWDI, a consulting engineering firm based in Guelph, Ontario, has been awarded the Jack E. Cermak Medal by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Cermak medal is awarded to an individual in recognition of a lifetime of achievement in the field of wind engineering. Peter's experience in wind engineering dates back to 1974 and includes extensive research and consulting in wind loading, aeroelastic response, wind tunnel methods, and instrumentation.

BRIAN HARRIGAN, BEng'88, is the country representative for Zambia for the non-governmental international development organization, Africare (www.africare.org). This organization focuses on the means to improve health, food, agriculture, water and sanitation, and women's empowerment in the region.

RICHARD SURPRENANT, BEng'91, and his family returned to Alberta in 2005 after four years of living in Europe and Asia working for Shell. Richard is now managing the operations department of Shell's Scotford refinery near Edmonton.

PRAVEEN PRASANNA, BEng'96, MEng'98, and KAREN SUM, BEng'96, MEng'99, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Sebastian, in March 2006 in Cambridge, Mass. Praveen and Karen would love to hear from friends at praveen.prasanna@mail.mcgill.ca.

HEALTH SCIENCES

BRYCE WEIR, BSc'58, MDCM'60, MSc'63, Professor Emeritus of the University of Alberta and the University of Chicago, was the recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society in June 2006. Bryce is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S.

CLAIRE (LYPACZEWSKI) MALLETTE, BScN'79, completed her PhD in Nursing at the University of Toronto, and for the past four years was the Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Professional Practice at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. In September 2006, Claire became the Director of Nursing Education, Placement and Development at University Health Network in Toronto.

JEAN-PIERRE FARMER, BSc'79, MDCM'83, was appointed Chief of Surgery of the Montreal Children's Hospital, part of the McGill University Health Centre. Jean-Pierre has been a staff neurosurgeon at the Montreal Children's since 1990. He also holds positions at both the Shriners Hospital and the Montreal Neurological Hospital. In 2001, he was appointed as a director of the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

LAW

JOHN C. BERTRAM, BA'58, BCL'64, received his PhD in Education from the Université de Sherbrooke in October 2005.

SUSAN CAMPBELL, MEd'95, and **SHARON HUDSON, MEd'95,** were honoured as Women of the Year in Education by the YWCA at its annual "Femmes de mérite gala" in May 2006. They were recognized for their work as Co-Directors of Collège Mother House, a Montreal institution that has provided professional training to women since 1907. The college was on the verge of closing when Sharon and Susan took over in 1995. With the support of McGill's Faculty of Education, they tailored their Master's program to saving the Mother House. The ensuing campaign was a success, and in April, the school celebrated its 100th anniversary.

JEAN-PAUL HUBERT, BCL'66, retired in June 2006 after 35 years in Canada's Foreign Service, 17 of which he served as ambassador to several countries, in order to take an appointment as Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of History and Political Science at the Université de Sherbrooke. Jean-Paul was also elected to a two-year appointment in August, 2006, as Chair of the Interamerican Juridical Committee for the Organization of American States.

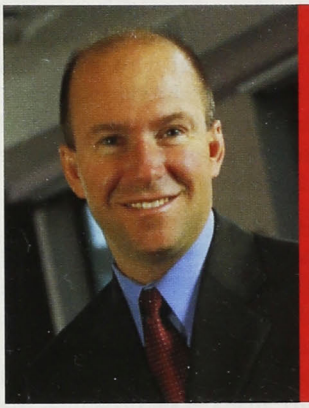
LEWIS KLAR, BA'67, BCL'70, LLM'73, a Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta, was awarded the 2007 J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research. This award is the University of Alberta's most prestigious research award and it is the first time a member of the Faculty of Law has been named a Kaplan Laureate.

TODD VAN VLIET, LLB'85, became President of Environmental Refuelling Systems, Inc., an Edmonton-based company that specializes in fuel logistics and storage, after 20 years in private practice.

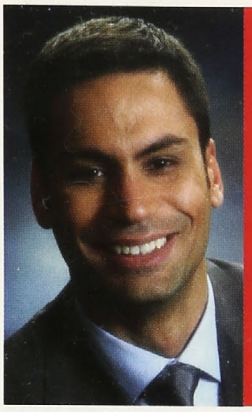
HANSON HOSEIN, LLB'92, BCL'93, owns and operates HRH Media Inc., a film production company based in Kelowna, B.C. In 2005, Hanson and his partner, Heather Hughs, produced *Independent America: The Two Lane Search for Mom & Pop*. In 2003 Hanson covered Operation Iraqi Freedom as a correspondent for NBC News, and helped coordinate NBC's coverage from Baghdad a year later. Hanson recently collaborated with LISA YARMOSHUK, BCL'93, LLB'93, on a series of films for the United States Agency for International Development in southern Africa.

PAUL MOEN, LLB'93, and ISABELLE DAOUST, BCL'96, LLB'96, will celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary this summer with their two young children, Beatrice and Eric. Isabelle is the senior international humanitarian advisor at the Canadian Red Cross and Paul is director of federal government affairs in Canada for Amgen, a U.S. biotech firm.

VÉRONIQUE MALKA NASSER, BCL'93, LLB'93, joined Nachman & Associates, PC, a business immigration law firm, as a Foreign Legal Consultant. Véronique specializes in international child abduction matters and



ALAIN BELLEMARE, MBA'93, has taken on additional responsibility as Executive Vice President, Pratt & Whitney Strategy and Development. He retains his current position as President, Pratt & Whitney Canada. In his expanded role, he will lead the strategic planning and business development initiatives supporting the company's short- and long-term business growth objectives. "I am very excited about this new challenge and look forward to taking on a larger role," he said recently. Alain joined Pratt & Whitney as Vice President, Manufacturing, in October 1996, was named Executive Vice President in June 2001, and appointed President in June 2002.



GERRY SKLAVOUNOS, BCL'98, LLB'98, was elected to the National Assembly of Quebec as a Liberal Party MNA for the riding of Laurier Dorion on March 26, 2007. Gerry has been practicing criminal law since he was called to the Quebec Bar in 1999. He has served on the board of directors for the Fondation de bourses d'études, as vice-president for public relations and advisor to the Hellenic Canadian Congress, and has been a frequent contributor to a televised Greek-language legal clinic broadcast on the CH Global channel. He is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks.

will support the firm's immigration initiatives by helping those who need Canadian legal advice, particularly in the areas of immigration and family law.

ROBERT A. PETERSON, BA'96, BCL'03, LLB'03, was promoted to Senior Development Officer with the British Columbia Cancer Foundation on Vancouver Island, and will help supporters make major and legacy gifts to fund cancer research at the B.C. Cancer Agency.

HILLEL NEUER, BCL'98, LLB'98, is Executive Director of UN Watch, a non-governmental organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Hillel speaks regularly before the UN Human Rights Council and recently testified as an expert witness on UN reform at a hearing of the U.S. Congress. Hillel has also appeared on CNN several times in the last year, including a live debate with Zimbabwe's UN ambassador.

CHRISTOPHER WATERS, LLM'98, DCL'02, is the editor of a recent book entitled *British and Canadian Perspectives on International Law* (Brill, 2006). The book discusses the impact of public international law on the legal systems in the United Kingdom and Canada. It also examines the contributions of British and Canadian practice to the development of international norms.

KIRIAKOULA HATZIKIRIAKOS, LLM'02, is a lawyer at the firm McMillan Binch Mendelsohn, specializing in the area of secured transactions-financing. Kiriakoula has also published a book with Lexis-Nexis Butterworths entitled *Secured Transactions in Intellectual Property: Software as Collateral.*

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

MARY MAYER HENNELLY, MLS'77, is a chapter author for the book *Running A Small Library: A How-To-Do-It Manual*, edited by John Moorman. Mary is the Associate Vice-President for Learning Resources at Tidewater Community College libraries in Virginia.

KEVIN MANION, MLIS'97, was elected President of the New York Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and was also promoted to Director of Information Services at *Consumer Reports*. Last year Kevin published *Consumer Reports: Images of America* (Arcadia, 2006), which brings together 70 years of photos from the archives of *Consumer Reports*. Kevin is

presently working on his MBA at Pace University in New York City.

JEAN-PIERRE GUILLET, MLIS'06, published a children's book titled *Le monde du Lac-en-ciel* (Pierre Tisseyre, 2006). Jean-Pierre graduated just as his two daughters, Joelle and Dominique, began their undergraduate studies at McGill.

MANAGEMENT

RICHARD M. WISE, BCom'62, was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Society of Appraisers (ASA). Fellowship is bestowed on accredited senior members who have made outstanding contributions to the valuation profession. Richard is Vice-Chair of the Business Valuation Standards Committee at the ASA.

MARK GALLOP, BCom'83, is a Vice-President at MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc., Canada's oldest independent investment firm. Mark joined the firm in 1998 as a portfolio manager after a career in private banking in Montreal and Ottawa.

ALEXANDER TOELDTE, MBA'86, is Executive Vice-President of Paper, Packaging & Newsprint at Boise Cascade LLC, and lives with his wife, NICOLE LAGACE-TOELDTE, MBA'87, in Idaho.

MICHAEL (BAOQI) DING, MBA'88, DPA'93, is Director of Hedge Fund Research at Altegris Investments Inc. in La Jolla, California. Prior to joining Altegris in May 2006, Michael was Vice- President at Abria Alternative Investments Inc.

KATHY FAZEL, BCom'91, was appointed Vice-President at Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management Ltd., in Montreal.

JAMIE GOLOMBEK, BCom'92, is Vice-President, Taxation and Estate Planning, at AIM Trimark Investments. In August 2006, Jamie was awarded the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario's Award of Distinction, which honours CAs who demonstrate leadership and outstanding achievement in their professional lives and communities. Jamie is married to TALI HAREL, BA'93, and they reside in Toronto with their three children.

MARIA LUISA BATTISTA, BCom'99, and her husband THOMAS J. AWAD, BEng'99, are proud to announce the birth of their son, David James, born in September, 2006.

JAWAD HUSSAIN QURESHI, BCom'00, has been a South Asia Political Analyst for the International Crisis Group in Islamabad, Pakistan, since May 2005.

RYAN ROGOWSKI, BCom'00, was promoted to Associate Director of Structured Derivatives Sales at HSBC Global Markets in London, England. Ryan recently married Karen Rogowski and they are expecting their first child.

MUSIC

AVA LEE MILLMAN FISHER, LMus'68, is a music therapist and works as the music and creative arts therapist at the West Side Mental Health Team, in Vancouver, B.C. Ava recently published an article in the *Journal of Synagogue Music* entitled "An Overview of Music Therapy, its Relationship to Music Pedagogy, and its Application in Empowering Jewish Adolescents with Special Needs to Succeed at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations."

DONALD STEVEN, BMus'72, was appointed Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Rider University, in Lawrenceville and Princeton, New Jersey.

JONATHAN G. BAYLEY, BMus'75, was appointed Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Research and Continuing Education in the Faculty of Education at the University of Windsor in Ontario.

EDMUND BROWNLESS, BMus'79, MMus'84, gave a Liederabend on Robert Schumann's birthday last July at Dr. Hoch's Konservatorium in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, which was the year and month of the 150th anniversary of Schumann's death. Edmund has lived in Cologne and Frankfurt since 1983, singing, recording and teaching a repertoire that ranges from medieval to modern music.

ALDO MAZZA, BMus'79, Director and Founder of the KoSA Percussion Workshops & Festival, and Founder of the KoSA Academy, performed with singer Petula Clark last summer in Montreal. Aldo also performed several shows accompanying singer Frank Sinatra Jr., as well as playing in the 11th edition of the KoSA International Percussion Workshops & Festival in Vermont.

TRISHA BARTLEY, LMus'92, completed her LLB degree at the University of Western Ontario, playing regularly for Orchestra London. Trisha will be articling with the Crown Attorney's Office in London, Ont., and plans to pursue a career in criminal law while continuing to play in the Orchestra.

LESIA MACKOWYCZ, BMus'98, MMus'00, moved to Germany to begin an opera career after winning a Canada Council Grant. Lesia is singing full-time at the Stadttheater Hildesheim as a lyric coloratura soprano, while continuing to pursue other opera contracts at such opera festivals as the Eutiner Sommerfestspiele, Germany's second largest opera festival.

PIERRE-DANIEL RHEAULT, BMus'99, was elected president of the SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) Board of Directors in Montreal in May 2006. Pierre-Daniel has written scores for more than 240 television programs, three feature films, over 250 CBC radio dramas, and more than 40 museum, national and international exhibitions. Pierre-Daniel is a guest lecturer at McGill's Schulich School of Music, teaching two courses in film scoring techniques.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

LLOYD ALEXANDRA HENRY, BTh'74, is retired, but continues to serve on the Board of Regents of Huntington University, federated within Laurentian University, in Sudbury, Ontario. Lloyd also has been reappointed by

SHANNON MERCER, BMus'99, a rising star in the world of Canadian opera, recently collaborated with legendary *Monty Python* comedian Eric Idle, singing in the world premiere of *Not the Messiah (He's a Very Naughty Boy)* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The comic oratorio, written by Idle and John DuPrez, is based on the Python troupe's Biblical spoof, *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. "The casting call was for a classically trained soprano with skills in comedy," Mercer told the *Ottawa Citizen*. "And that's exactly who I am." She'll be attached to more conventional fare this fall, performing Pamina in Opera Hamilton's production of *The Magic Flute*.

Muskoka Presbytery, the United Church of Canada, to serve another three years.

SCIENCE

HUGH HAMILTON, BSc'49, MSc'50, PhD'53, is a retired senior executive and officer of the Northern Telecom Corporation. Hugh enjoyed a long and varied career that ranged over a broad spectrum including research, product development, marketing and management. His responsibilities took him to Europe and the Far East and he lived for extended periods in Zurich, Tokyo and Chelmsford, England. He and his wife Barbara live in Mississauga, just west of Toronto, where he pursues his hobbies of gardening, woodworking and writing. Hugh describes his recent book, *As I Remember It: A Feast of Anecdotes*, as "a kind of declaration of what I have learned about living a satisfying life." The book is available through General Store Publishing House (www.gsph.com).

CYRIL M. KAY, BSc'52, received the Outstanding Contribution to the Alberta Science and Technology Community Award at the November 2006 Alberta Science and Technology Awards. Cyril is Vice-President, Research for the Alberta Cancer Board and Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry at the University of Alberta.

CALVIN KALMAN, BSc'65, has written the book *Successful Science and Engineering Teaching in Colleges and Universities*. Calvin is Professor and Undergraduate Program Director in the Physics Department at Concordia University. He is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at McGill.

MICHAEL CORBER, BSc'68, retired from the Canadian public service after a 35-year career. Throughout his career, Michael worked in a number of federal departments and agencies, primarily in human resources management. Michael ended his career as Director General of Audit Operations at the Public Service Commission. Michael is married to BERYL KALMAN, BA'68, DipEd'69, who works as a research historian.

JOHN H. DOI, BSc'69, has retired after serving for 37 years as an educator in three provinces and a territory. John was a teacher, guidance counsellor, assistant principal, principal, chief deputy superintendent, superintendent and associate superintendent, and worked in two district offices and in schools at the elementary, middle, junior and senior high levels. John and his wife, Joanne, are residing in Calgary, Alberta.

RHODA MADOFF, BSc(PT)'69, retired after 36 years in physiotherapy. Rhoda reports that she now has more time to spend with her two grandsons, Edward and William. Rhoda welcomes classmates and friends to contact her at rmadoff@yahoo.com.

HELEN SAIBIL, BSc'71, holds the Bernal Professorship of Structural Biology in the School of Crystallography at Birkbeck College, part of the University of London in England. Helen was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of her research on, among other things, the structure and function of molecular chaperones.

CHARLES W. TU, BSc'71, has been a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of California, San Diego, since 1988 and has been Associate Dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering at the University since 2005.

JOSEPH Y. CHEUNG, BSc'72, is Director of the Division of Nephrology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Joseph is also the Capizzi Professor of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College. Joseph's research focuses on, among other things, exercise training in postinfarction hearts, phospholemman and cardiac function, and calcium and congestive heart failure.

DR. ALAN J. COHEN, BSc'72, was appointed Adjunct Professor of Geology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. In addition to teaching, Alan is pursuing projects to increase scientific cooperation between geoscientists from academia and industry. Alan took early retirement from Royal Dutch Shell in July 2005, where he had served most recently as Chief Geophysicist for the Western Hemisphere. In August 2005 he lost his New Orleans house to Hurricane Katrina.

MOHAMED S. EL-AASSER, PhD'72, is Lehigh University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He was recently elected a fellow of the American Chemical Society's Division of Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering. A professor of chemical engineering, Mohamed is known internationally for his pioneering research in polymers, particularly polymer latexes and emulsion polymerization and their application to surface coatings.

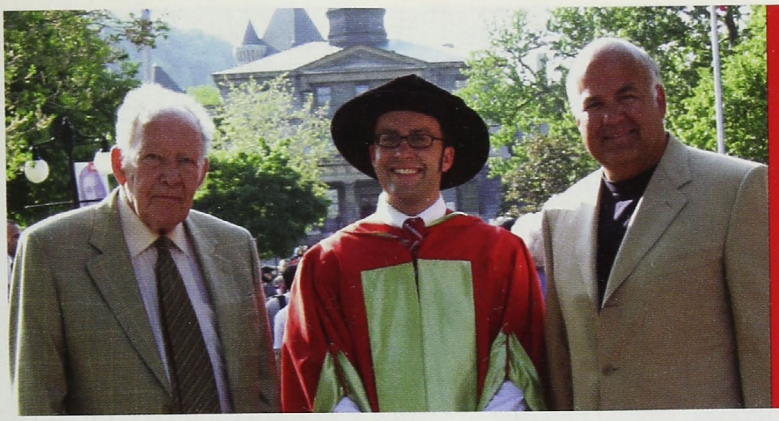
ALASTAIR D. MACDONALD, PhD'72, retired in December 2004 as Interim Dean of Science and Professor of Biology at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, after joining the university in 1969. Alastair reports spending his time now travelling the world to enjoy food and wine, gardening and catching up on his history and anthropology reading.

VIOLA POLOMENO, BSc'77, MSc(A)'81, is an Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa. Her research and clinical interests focus on perinatal sexuality, or how to help parenting couples stay friends and lovers. Known as the Love Nurse, Viola maintains a clinical practice in perinatal education.

JOHN P. SMOL, BSc'77, has won the G. Evelyn Hutchinson Award from the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. The prize honours excellence in any aspect of limnology and oceanography. A Biology Professor at Queen's University, John uses different biological indicators, such as fossils, to examine the ancient history of lakes and outline the consequences of pollution and global environmental change.

DON BRINKMAN, PhD'79, is Head of Research and Curator of Vertebrate

JENNIFER LILLY, MSc'05, provided weather forecasting and wind information to the U.S. Sailing Team at the Good Luck Beijing-2006 Qingdao International Regatta in August 2006. She is a meteorologist with Sailing Weather Services in Watertown, Mass., an organization that offers weather consulting and forecast services to sailors, adventurers and the wind-power industry. From glassy calm to 20-knot gusts, Jennifer deciphered daily conditions for the U.S. team. As an experienced sailor herself, her insights proved to be an advantage. Her team came home with three medals — two gold and one bronze — despite facing tough competition from 40 countries.



REID AIKIN, BSc'99, PhD'06, is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Nice. His research involves the understanding of Hedgehog protein and its role in various forms of cancer. He is the third generation to have received his bachelor and doctorate degrees from McGill. His grandfather, **ARCHIBALD AIKIN, BSc'41, PhD'49,** and father, **KENNETH AIKIN, BSc'70, MDCM'74,** came before him. Although he was never pressured to follow in their footsteps, Reid remembers the impact of visiting campus with his family. "Hearing stories, seeing them point out new buildings, old ones," he says, "it was hard not to feel connected to McGill."

Paleontology at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta.

MONA NEMER, PhD'82, became Vice-President of Research at the University of Ottawa on September 1, 2006. Previously, Mona was the executive director for planning and development at the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM), a research institute allied with both the Université de Montréal and McGill. She had also been director of the IRCM's cardiac development research unit since 1992. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in cardiovascular cell differentiation.

FRANCO VACCARINO, MSc'81, PhD'83, is the new Principal of the University of Toronto Scarborough. Franco is an award-winning scholar who has been internationally recognized for his interdisciplinary research accomplishments in the areas of neuroscience, addiction, mood and anxiety systems. A former vice-president of both the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, Franco will serve as a University of Toronto vice-president in his new role.

AVRAM WHITEMAN, BSc'83, obtained his Master of Public Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin in May 2005, and also received a fellowship from the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine in June of that same year. Avram is the Medical Director of Occupational Health Services at Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

JEAN A. BÉRUBÉ, BSc'86, is a scientific researcher with Natural Resources Canada in Quebec City. Jean recently published the 2007 edition of his book *Tutto Italiano: Le guide des vins italiens disponibles au Québec.* The guide describes 1,000 Italian wines available at the SAQ and gives ratings for over 2,000 wines.

SOPHIA NADUR, BSc'88, is enjoying life in London, England, working full-time as Manager of Global Coffee and New Product Design for Kraft Foods and studying part-time for an LLB degree at the University of London.

PAUL-FRANÇOIS PARADIS, BSc'88, co-authored the paper "Measurements of the thermophysical properties of liquid tungsten by electrostatic levitation," which was presented and awarded first place at the 26th Conference of the Japan Society of Thermophysics in Tsukuba, Japan, in October 2006.

MURALI RAJAGOPALAN, PhD'88, became a Fellow of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) in May 2006. Fellows of the SPE are elected and recognized for their contributions to the plastics industry. Murali works as Director of Materials Research, Golf Ball R&D at Acushnet Co., researching and developing, among other things, Titleist golf balls.

BAO NGUYEN, PhD'93, took third place at the 2006 Canadian Operational Research Society's Practice Prize Competition with his study "Concepts of Operations for the Side Scan Sonar Autonomous Underwater Vehicles Developed at DRDC Atlantic," co-authored with David Hopkin, Handson Yip and John Fawcett. Bao works for NATO in Italy.

VITTORIO ADDONA, BSc'00, MSc'02, PhD'06, is a statistician and has joined the Mathematics and Computer Science Department as an Assistant Professor at Macalester College in Minneapolis, Minn. Vittorio's area of research interest is survival analysis, a branch of biostatistics, which is used in studying the natural history of diseases.

SIGALIT HOFFMAN, BSc'00, JESSE MORANTZ, BSc'00, and ESTHER PRINCE, BSc'99, MSc'02, graduated from the Medical School for International Health (MSIH), a collaboration between Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva, Israel, and Columbia University's Medical Center. The MSIH is the only medical school in the world with the mission of training future physicians in global health.

DENIS LAFRANCE, PhD'03, was appointed Vice-President Quality Systems at ANRAD Corporation. Located in Montreal, ANRAD develops flat panel X-ray detectors for medical imaging applications.

VICTOR FUAD NASREDDINE, PhD'03, relocated to Pittsburgh, Pa., and works for LANXESS Corporation as a Technical Leader for Specialty Elastomers in the Application and Business Development division for the NAFTA region.

SOCIAL WORK

RUTH WHITE, BSW'88, MSW'91, is Assistant Professor of Social Work at Seattle University. Ruth is U.S. Director of the Maama Omwaana Project, a community-based "safe motherhood" project that she co-founded in 2004 with Mary Mukajanga, providing prenatal care to expectant mothers in Njeru, Uganda.

GOLAM M. MATHBOR, MSW'95, was appointed in July 2006 as Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Monmouth University in New Jersey.

Send information for Alumnotes to:
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Canada H3A 3L8
Fax: 514-398-5293
Email: news.alumni@mcgill.ca

THE 1920s

SAMUEL L. EIDINGER, BA'29, MDCM'35, at Montreal, on July 16, 2006.

THE 1930s

PAUL B. BEESON, MDCM'33, at Exeter, N.H., on August 14, 2006.

JOHN D. HEAMAN, BEng'33, at Kingston, Ont., on September 2, 2006.

ROBERT V. NICHOLLS, BSc'33, MSc'35, PhD'36, on March 9, 2007.

EDGAR H. COHEN, BA'34, at Montreal, on July 13, 2006.

GRETCHEN M. (HOME) FRASER, BA'34, at Oakville, Ont., on July 28, 2006.

MARK E. GOLDENBERG, BA'34, MSW'67, at Saint-Laurent, Que., on January 11, 2005.

ISABEL D. GREENWOOD, MDCM'35, at Ottawa, on March 13, 2007.

ISABEL L. MACKAY, BHS'35, at Stellarton, N.S., on May 9, 2006.

EDITH ELIZABETH DUNCAN, BA'36, at Victoria, B.C., on July 22, 2006.

MURIEL (BAKER) GILLEAN, BA'36, at Belleville, Ont., on July 25, 2006.

MARGARET E. (KILPATRICK) GIBBINS, BA'37, at Montreal, on July 28, 2006.

BETTY (WILÉN) MILNES, BSc'37, at Trois Rivieres, Que., on October 17, 2006.

ANDREW A. STEVENSON, BA'37, at Montreal, on March 28, 2006.

FORREST JOHNSON, BA'38, at Victoria, B.C., on August 15, 2006.

ANGUS CAMPBELL DERBY, BSc'39, MDCM'41, at Kingston, Ont., on July 22, 2006.

ENRIQUE H. ESTRADA, DDS'39, at Guatemala City, Guatemala, on April 25, 2006.

THOMAS M. MACINTYRE, BSc(Agr)'39, MSc'41, at Amherst, N.S., on April 28, 2006.

THE 1940s

MOIRA (LEATHEM) DAY, BA'40, at Toronto, on May 8, 2006.

JAMES ROBERT DODDS, MDCM'40, at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que., on August 30, 2006.

DOROTHY MAY (KEAY) STOVEL, BA'40, at Montreal, on September 24, 2006.

JOHN M. "DON" DOUGLAS, MSc'41, at Cambridge, Ont., on August 2, 2006.

FRANK MACKINNON, BA'41, at Calgary, Alta., on July 16, 2006.

GORDON A. MCGIBBON, BEng'41, at Kingston, Ont., on October 2, 2006.

ELIZABETH MCNAB, BA'41, at Montreal, on December 31, 2006.

JOHN F. C. DIXON, BSc'42, PhD'47, at Toronto, on October 1, 2006.

KENNETH HENERY-LOGAN, BSc'42, PhD'46, at Somerville, N.J., on October 22, 2006.

DOUGLAS D. HUNTER, BEng'42, at Warkworth, Ont., on July 18, 2006.

MARION MARGUERITE "PEGGY" (ROBINSON) MILLARD, BHS'42, at White Rock, B.C., on May 4, 2006.

ROBERT H. CLARK, BEng'43, MEng'45, at Whitby, Ont., on January 1, 2007.

OTTO C. CLEYN, BEng'43, at Morin Heights, Que., on July 14, 2006.

JOAN (JOHNSON) DOYLE, BSc'43, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., on November 24, 2005.

MANUEL "TEDDY" GOLD, BEng'43, at Val David, Que., on July 27, 2006.

ANDREW KELEN, BSc'41, MDCM'43, MSc'48, at Ottawa, on December 16, 2006.

JOAN W. (AITKEN) METCALFE, BSc'43, at Cape Cod, Mass., on August 23, 2006.

MARTHA ANNE (HOW) NOVINGER, BA'43, BLS'46, at Calgary, Alta., on May 17, 2006.

ABRAM AMSEL, MA'46, at Austin, Texas, on August 31, 2006.

RUSSELL C. BRADFORD, BSc(Agr)'46, at Perth, Ont., on September 6, 2006.

JOHN A.W. IZARD, BEng'46, at Victoria, B.C., on January 24, 2006.

W. KENNETH MUIR, BEng'46, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on May 29, 2006.

GEORGE F. BASSETT, BEng'47, in California, on October 7, 2005.

MARY ANNA (CROCKER) FLEMING, BSc(HEc)'47, at Delta, B.C., on August 31, 2005.

THOMAS J. GAVRILOFF, BSc'47, DDS'51, at Edmonton, Alta., on June 30, 2006.

GORDON E. SANSBURN, BSc'47, at Windsor, Ont., on August 13, 2006.

WILLIAM "BILL" M. WILSON, BCom'47, at Toronto, Ont., on September 15, 2006.

RAYMOND EARLE CHANT, BEng'48, MEng'50, at Winnipeg, Manitoba, on August 30, 2006.

LEE DONALD HUTTON, BSc'48, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on September 27, 2006.

GEOFFREY S. MURRAY, BCL'48, at Ottawa, on July 31, 2006.

ERNST I. TAYLOR, BA'48, at Sudbury, Ont., on March, 20, 2006.

PETER H. CAMERON, BEng'49, at Brockville, Ont., on August 4, 2006.

JOSEPH W. CARR, BSc(Agr)'49, MSc'51, at Deep River, Ont., on April 15, 2006.

WILLIAM GORDON DENOVAN, BSc'49, DDS'51, at Vancouver, B.C., on September 1, 2006.

JOHN ELDER, BSc'49, MDCM'51, at Montreal, on November 14, 2006.

MORTON FLOM, BEng'49, at Phoenix, Ariz., on June 20, 2006.

JOHN WILLIAM GARTSHORE, BCom'49, at Montreal, on July 27, 2006.

GEORGE DUNCAN HARVEY, BEng'49, at Milton, Ont., on July 11, 2006.

G. NORMAN IRVINE, PhD'49, at Victoria, B.C., on May 7, 2006.

W. GEORGE PEACOCK, BEng'49, at Kingston, Ont., on July 17, 2006.

VERA E. RAE-BROWN, BA'49, at London, England, on November 1, 2006.

DONALD KEAN ROY, BSc(Agr)'49, at Pointe Claire, Que., on July 15, 2006.

MELVILLE W. SMITH, BCL'49, at Pierrefonds, Que., on March 31, 2006.

THE 1950s

BERTHA CAZA, BSc(HEc)'50, at Saint-Anicet, Que., on November 1, 2006.

WILLIAM ERRINGTON, BCom'50, at Newmarket, Ont., on October 1, 2006.

LARS FIRING, BEng'50, DipM&B'55, at St. Catharines, Ont., on February 23, 2007.

JAMES "JIM" DAVID JARDINE, BEng'50, at Calgary, Alta., on August 8, 2006.

JOHN GOWEN MELVIN, BEng'50, at Deep River, Ont., on February 10, 2007.

DONALD EDWARD SMITH, MDCM'50, Dip.Int.Med.'55, at Oshawa, Ont., on July 11, 2006.

ALEXANDER M. WRIGHT, MDCM'50, at Brookline, Mass., on September 27, 2006.

BASIL MACKENZIE HALL, BArch'51, at Southampton, Ont., on September 21, 2006.

ELIZABETH ROSSINGER, MSW'51, at Fredericton, N.B., on January 27, 2007.

RAYMOND HENRY VALLIERES, BEng'51, at Sherbrooke, Que., on September 8, 2006.

A. ARTHUR WILLIAMS, BEng'51, at Vancouver, on October 28, 2006.

MARY JANE (COLDWELL) FORSTER, BSc'52, at White Rock, B.C., on April 24, 2006.

HUGH S. MILLER, MDCM'52, at Vancouver, on February 3, 2007.

ALLISON (CLELAND) MINARD, Dip.Nurs.T&S.Ph'52, at Wolfville, N.S., on November 1, 2005.

ROBERT GRAYDON GOODALL, BA'48, MDCM'53, MSc'56, DipSurgery'59, at Kingston, Ont., on May 27, 2006.

DONALD GREENLEAF JOSS, BCom'53, at Nassau, Bahamas, on September 28, 2006.

DOROTHY SPENCE, BSc'43, BLS'53, MLS'66, at Montreal, on June 7, 2006.

DIANE "DANNY" FRANCENA (DEBOO) DRAPER, BA'54, at Toronto, on September 4, 2006.

SABINA (SYNOWICKY) PASICNYK, BSc'54, at Prince George, B.C., on June 25, 2005.

BRIAN D. BLAIR, BEng'55, at Cypress, Calif., on April 10, 2004.

FRANCES CAPLAN, BA'55, at St. Petersburg, Fla., on July 16, 2006.

KENTON C. LAMBERT, MDCM'55, at Goderich, Ont., on September 16, 2006.

MORTIMER S. SMITH, BA'53, BCL'56, on March 7, 2006.

CHARLES TANNER, BSc(Agr)'56, on March 30, 2006.

R. F. PATRICK CRONIN, MDCM'53, MSc'60, was a widely respected cardiologist and clinician at the Montreal General Hospital. He served as McGill's dean of medicine from 1972 to 1977. While still dean, he was recruited by the Aga Khan to oversee the construction and operation of hospitals in Pakistan, as well as to set their curriculum for educating medical personnel. In the accompanying photo, Dr. Cronin (pictured with his wife, Sis) is celebrating the completion of his science degree from Princeton in 2000 — a degree he had actually begun 50 years previously. That gap earned him the distinction in the 2005 *Guinness Book of World Records* as the student who spent the longest time in an undergraduate program (52 years and 111 days).

THE 1960s

JENNIE M. (SMOLY) CARUTHERS, BSc'61, PhD'65, at Boulder, Colo., on January 8, 2006.

BENJAMIN ESAR, BEng'61, on September 4, 2005.

RONALD C. REED, MDCM'61, at Victoria, B.C., on November 19, 2006.

RICHARD JACK, MDCM'62, on July 15, 2006.

JANET P. GRANT-TYRRELL, BSc'59, MDCM'63, at Hamilton, Bermuda, on February 10, 2007.

WILLIAM W. ZALOWICZ, BCom'64, at Montreal, on August 20, 2006.

THOMAS ERICSON WOOD, MSc'66, at London, Ont., on September 30, 2006.

JANET MARGARET WOOD, BN'68, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on September 7, 2006.

JANICE ANN PAUCH, BA'69, BEd'77, at Nelson, B.C., on September 8, 2006.

JAMES RYAN, BA'69, at Boston, Mass., on May 21, 2006.

THE 1970s

ENA LAZARUS, MLS'71, at Montreal, on July 2, 2006.

GARY W. OGDEN, BSc'71, MDCM'75, at Scio, N.Y., on January 19, 2007.

KATHLEEN ANDERSON, BMus'74, CertProfFrench'92, at Montreal, on August 19, 2006.

MAIMO VEERMAE, BN'74, at Downsview, Ont., on June 1, 2006.

THE 1980s

DOUGLAS ROBERT CHARMAN, BCom'80, at Calgary, Alta., on February 10, 2006.

GARY FRANK WEIMANN, BEng'81, at Calgary, Alta., on July 9, 2006.

MAUREEN MACCREADY, BSW'86, at Oakville, Ont., on March 7, 2006.

MARY "MIRA" FRANCES JACQUES, BTh'87, at Ottawa, on September 17, 2006.

FACULTY AND STAFF

MARY ELLEN (WOODSWORTH) BEWS, Associate Professor of Education, at Victoria, B.C., on August 18, 2006.

JOAN (SEWELL) MALLORY, Montreal Neurological Institute, at Montreal, n May 25, 2006.

AARON R. WASSERMAN, Professor of Biochemistry, at Montreal, on August 11, 2006.

WILLIAM "BILL" YULE, Professor of Entomology, at Lachine, Que., on September 25, 2006.

Adventures in Azerbaijan

BY KRISTIAN GRAVENOR, BA'86


TZIGANE

My professional ambitions had sputtered. I found myself retyping press releases for a small local paper that even my mother had stopped reading. My framed BA in history from McGill seemed to look down upon me disapprovingly. I needed a little adventure in my life.

So when a friend introduced me to an official from the Azerbaijani embassy over lunch in Montreal, I was quick to try to horn my way into the diplomatic biz.

When my new Azerbaijani acquaintance mentioned how he wished more Canadians knew about his country, I seized the opportunity. In a moment of massive overexuberance, I promised to make the oil-rich former Soviet Republic known from St. John's to Victoria. "I'll make Azerbaijan as familiar to Canadians as Avril Lavigne's sneakers," I recklessly promised.

I oozed the confidence one feels before fully understanding the task at hand. Surprisingly, my lunchmate assumed I knew what I was talking about.

Soon enough, I was aboard a flight to the ancient walled city of Baku on the Caspian Sea, accompanied by two Ottawa freelance writers who also had an appetite for free junket lunches. I furiously devoured some guide books I brought along for the trip.

There was something heady contributing to the travel buzz: I was being taken seriously. The Azerbaijanis were blissfully unaware that my professional pedigree consisted of penning such articles as "How to Run from Restaurants Without Paying Your Bill."

My fellow Canadians and I soon got used to being chauffeured around Baku in a creaky Soviet-era black government car. The driver sported a fantastic Lanny McDonald 'stache. He was, like most every Azerbaijani I encountered, polite and timid.

The G-man looked particularly jittery one day as he ushered me into an oak-paneled office. We had a tête-à-tête with Azerbaijan's Minister of Tourism. "How should we get Canadians to come to Azerbaijan?" he asked.

I rambled on about how they should consider developing the Caucasus Mountains into ski hills. I told him Canadians notice countries that play ice hockey. I suggested the ancient Zoroastrian temples be renovated.

Just as I was rolling, I absentmindedly squeezed my lemon slice — the citric sliver that comes with the ritual tea — and soon my hands were soaked with juice. The minister looked at me pitifully, summoned a secretary to help me wipe my hands, and ended the meeting.

News of the mishandled lemon surely traveled discreetly through Azerbaijani diplomatic corridors, casting sticky doubts on my promises of getting Azerbaijan into Canadian headlines.

Later, we Canucks packed into the black car and our guide zoomed us up to Azerbaijan's largest private TV station. To our mutual surprise and horror, we were quickly miked up and cameras were switched on. Apparently all of Azerbaijan would be treated to a prime-time, simultaneously translated interview of three Canadians offering deep insights. Unfortunately, we were the Canadians.

"What do Canadians think about Azerbaijan?"

"Canadians think of Azerbaijan as... a... fine place with many natural wonders," I stammered.

The country surely saved bundles on electricity as Azerbaijanis across the land switched off their TVs in record numbers.

The black car next hauled us to the countryside, where we were introduced to a muddy refugee camp full of people who'd lost their homes in a war with Armenia. A poet gave a speech about the brotherhood of Azerbaijan and Canada. Another refugee asked me if Canada could help find his brother who was MIA.

Thankfully, my sense of uselessness was soon assuaged by yet another government-supplied feast of ripe tomatoes, lamb kebabs and longwinded vodka toasts. Our government guide dutifully translated every salutation to Canada from around the table, until I finally caught something recognizable.

"Did you just say Phil Esposito?" I asked.

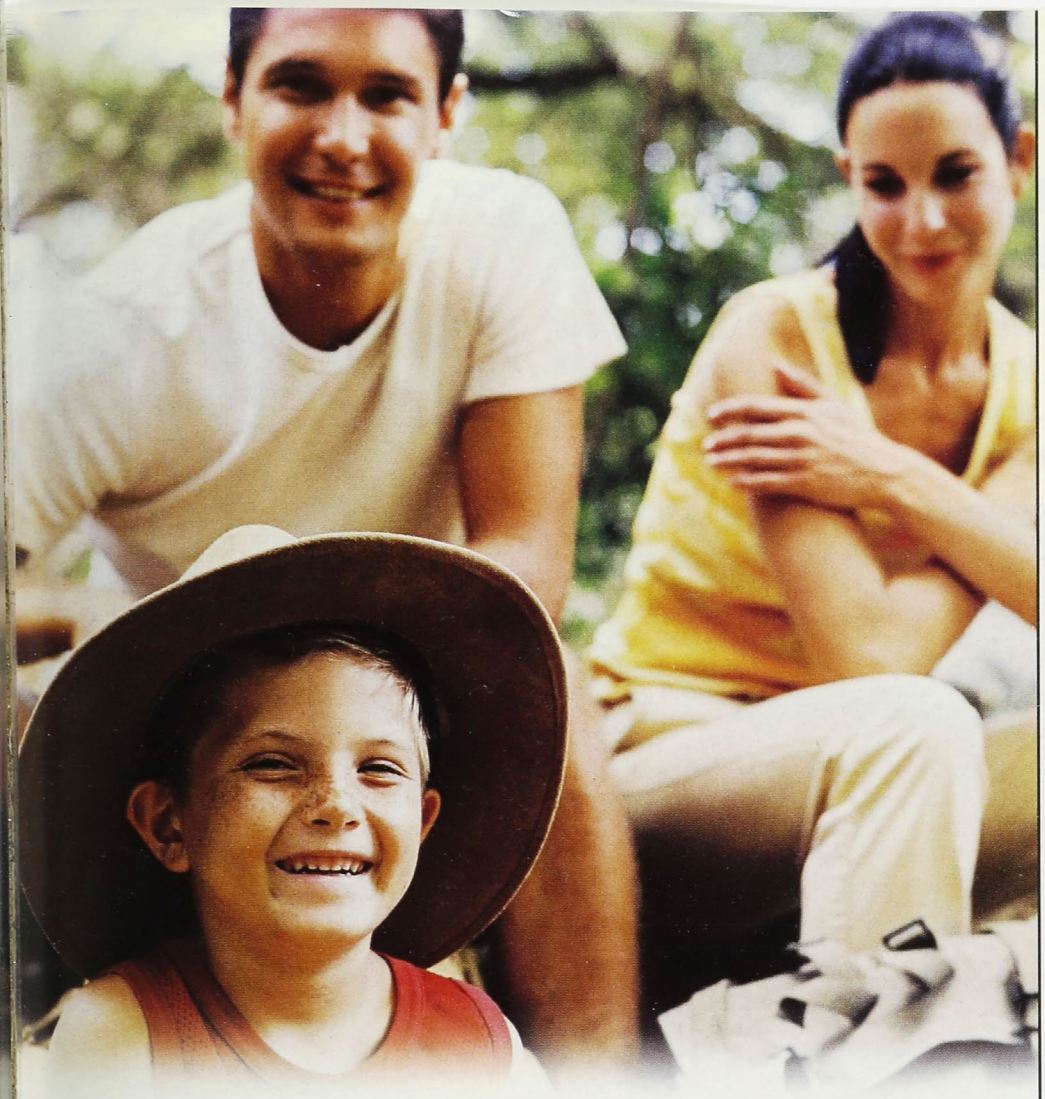
Apparently we had just drank to Phil Esposito's sterling efforts in the 1972 Canada-Russia summit series. The Azerbaijanis wanted to thank Esposito — albeit extremely belatedly — for his role in Canada's win over their former Soviet overlords.

After a week of dodging Baku's crazy traffic, pub crawling in the old city and lazily people-watching in Fountain Square, it was time to return to Montreal.

I'm not sure the trip was a success. And while I've written several articles about Azerbaijan since then, I might not have convinced a single Canadian tourist to visit the country.

Except one: I'm definitely going back.

Kristian Gravenor is a former columnist with the Montreal Mirror, *and his work has also appeared in* Canadian Business, Saturday Night, *and other publications. He is the co-author of the guidebook* Montreal: The Unknown City.



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Alison Naimool
Product Manager –
Manulife Financial

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

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

* Not available to Québec residents.

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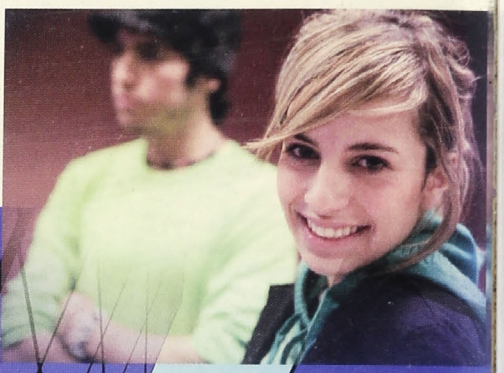
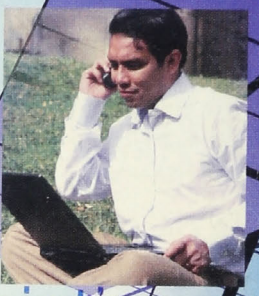


Accounting

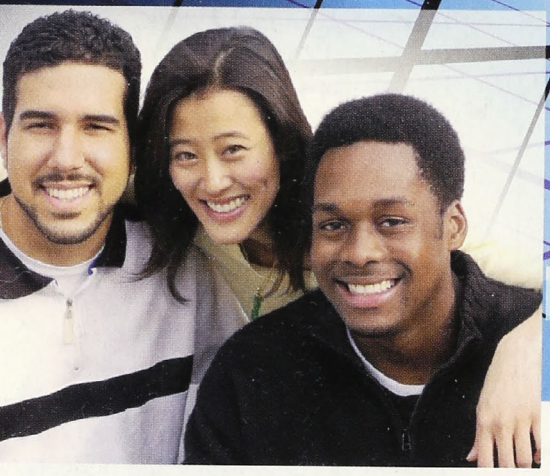
Entrepreneurship

Human Resources

e-business



Logistics



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