

McGill News

alumni magazine winter 2007/08



PLUS

History in the Making:
McGill's Bold
\$750 Million Campaign

The Plainspoken Scientist:
Making Waves in
the Fight Against AIDS

Dentistry for the People:
Tending to Teeth
in the Trenches

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12 Pulling No Punches

Mark Wainberg's blunt outspokenness can put political leaders on the defensive. When one of the leading scientists in the AIDS fight talks, people listen.

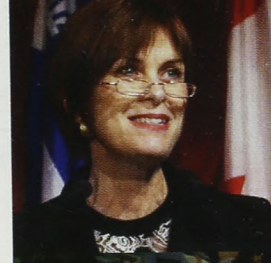
BY MARK ABLEY



18 History in the making

It boasts the largest initial goal of any Canadian university fundraising campaign — \$750-million — but it's about more than just the numbers. Learn how Campaign McGill will help our talented faculty and students make history.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

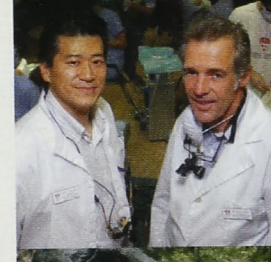


24 Inventer l'avenir

La Campagne de financement McGill nous permettra de réunir les meilleurs esprits — professeurs et étudiants — et de créer un environnement dans lequel ils pourront s'épanouir.

PAR DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

TRADUCTION DE LUCIE LEGAULT



28 Have Dental Drill, Will Travel

The Faculty of Dentistry's Community Outreach Program celebrates 10 years of bringing free dental care directly to the people who need it the most.

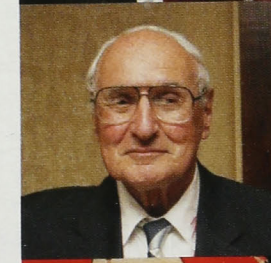
BY PATRICK MCDONAGH



32 True to Their School

They are the envy of other universities and our most steadfast allies. For 150 years, the McGill Alumni Association has been serving the needs of the University's most loyal constituency — our graduates.

BY BRETT HOOTON, BA'02, MA'05



39 A Gift Rewarded

Sometimes fortune smiles when you least expect it. Read the essay that won the Memories of McGill contest.

BY DICK VALERIOTE, BSC'52, MDCM'57



42 Homecoming

It wouldn't be autumn at McGill without the return of some 4,000 graduates to the downtown and Macdonald campuses. Relive the sights and celebrations of Homecoming 2007.

- 02 From the Desk of the Principal
- 03 Editor's Notebook
- 04 Letters
- 06 Newsbites
- 09 Insights
- 40 Reviews
- 44 Honours and Awards
- 46 Alumni Activities
- 48 Alumni Events
- 49 Alumnotes
- 58 In Memoriam
- 60 Epilogue

Keys to our Success

These are rewarding days for McGill. In November, the London-based *Times Higher Education Supplement* ranked McGill the number one Canadian university and number 12 among the world's top 200 universities — a significant jump from 21st last year.

As if that weren't enough good news, McGill was named Canada's number one medical/doctoral university in the annual *Maclean's University Rankings*, for the third consecutive year. The medical/doctoral category includes the 15 Canadian universities that possess a broad range of PhD programs as well as medical schools.

Certainly, McGill entered the 21st century with advantages shared by no other Canadian university, including the highest proportion of graduate students in Canada, an outstanding and enviably pan-Canadian and international student body and faculty, and a powerful global reputation.

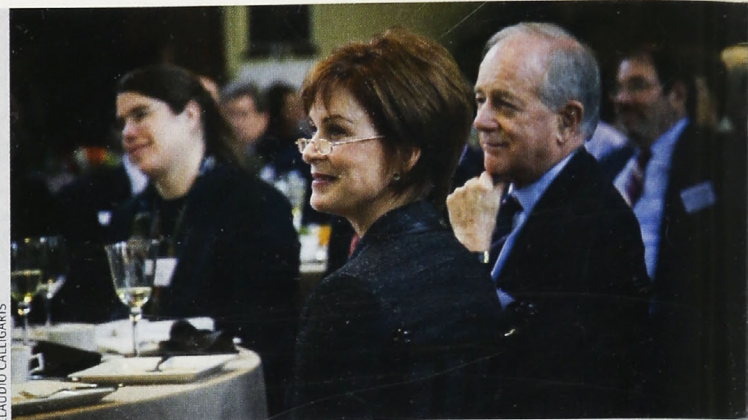
We have built upon these strengths by choosing our targets carefully, and by making hard choices when necessary, to emphasize areas of academic priority when we allocate resources or make new faculty appointments. For their part, our faculty members continue to distinguish themselves from their peers at other universities, in terms of their dedication to teaching and their interest in multidisciplinary research collaboration. And we are placing a major emphasis on the quality of our undergraduate programs, through the follow-up on the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning.

All of this being said, we have also benefited — indeed Canadian universities in the broadest sense have benefited — from strong leadership at the national and provincial levels. The fact that 11 Canadian universities are now on the *THES* global top 200 list is in part a reflection of policy decisions made over the past decade.

In particular, the creation of the Canada Research Chairs program and strong private support have helped make it possible for McGill to hire close to 800 new professors since 2000. The establishment of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, enhanced support for Canada's national granting councils, and Quebec's strong support for university research have also played a key role in our research success. And generous support from our alumni and friends, as well as graduate funding from Quebec and Canada's national granting councils, have made it possible for McGill to attract undergraduate and graduate students that, by every measure, rank among the top in the world.

The result: McGill graduates, McGill faculty and McGill research are having a global impact in virtually every field of human endeavour.

I am very proud that our university — actually, our faculty, our students and our programs — are receiving such acclaim. The



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum sits with Campaign McGill co-chair Yves Fortier at a luncheon following the campaign's official launch.

reality, however, is that competing universities, at home and abroad, are hardly standing still.

Neither is McGill. In October, we launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Canadian university history, Campaign McGill. We are asking our alumni and friends in Montreal, across Quebec and Canada, and around the world to help us raise \$750-million for our students, our faculty and our programs.

Campaign McGill will help us ensure we can welcome talented students with the intellectual gifts and character to succeed at McGill, but who cannot afford to come here without assistance. It will provide an opportunity for alumni and friends to help us attract and retain superbly talented professors and graduate students, and to support their work once they choose McGill and Montreal.

We launched Campaign McGill at the beginning of Homecoming and our first-ever Parents' Weekend, involving hundreds of students, staff, faculty, alumni, parents and friends, because this Campaign represents our collective ambition to attract and retain top talent, to increase access to quality education, and to further enhance our ability to contribute as a great international university.

We are also continuing to advocate in partnership with our Quebec and Canadian university peers for a progressive policy approach to funding teaching and research that is competitive on the world stage — for the benefit of Quebec and all of Canada. Faculty and students at Canada's leading research-intensive universities have achieved so much over the past decade — and we can achieve so much more with the right support.

Through Campaign McGill, and through the ongoing advocacy efforts of our alumni and friends, we will be telling our stories in Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa, and from Bay Street to Beijing and beyond. In the nearly 200 years since James McGill made the magnificent bequest that established this University, every generation has redefined our priorities and worked diligently for their achievement. Now, it's our turn, and Campaign McGill will be a powerful vehicle to carry our legacy forward. 🐦

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM



Cover photo of McGill Alumni
Association presidents, past
and present, by Nicolas Morin

The Problem with Magic



About seven years ago, when I was working in McGill's media relations office, Bernard Shapiro, McGill's principal at the time, dropped by for an informal "state of the University" chat with the communications officers.

McGill had recently embarked on an ambitious and unprecedented hiring exercise. The plan was to hire 1,000 new professors over a 10-year period. McGill had never experienced a faculty renewal program of that magnitude in its history, and a lot was riding on its success.

Many of the professors who had been instrumental in establishing McGill's sterling international reputation were nearing retirement. The University's continued success depended on its ability to attract a new generation of outstanding scholars and scientists. Shapiro didn't seem too worried—at least, not about McGill's ability to recruit promising talents.

The years since have proven him right. McGill's deans and departmental chairs have shown themselves to be savvy talent scouts.

Last February, for instance, four young assistant professors from the Faculty of Science all earned Sloan Research Fellowships, one of North America's most prestigious awards for early-career academics. It was the second year in a row that McGill earned more Sloan Fellowships than any other university in Canada.

More recently, assistant professor Michael Reed, a tuberculosis expert who joined the Faculty of Medicine in 2006, was named Canada's premier young researcher by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

No, Shapiro wasn't concerned about McGill's ability to attract good academics. He was, however, worried about whether they would stay.

Anyone who has been associated with McGill for any length of time is painfully familiar with the term, "underfunding." We've heard about McGill's funding woes for decades now. The reasons behind this are complex and they've changed over time. But, sadly, the funding dilemma persists.

In spite of this, McGill and its people have continued to perform exceptionally well over the years. Former principal David Johnston used to call this "the magic of McGill." Current

principal Heather Munroe-Blum refers to McGill's ability to "punch above our weight."

One of the biggest reasons why McGill has been able to cope with its strained finances so well, pointed out Shapiro, was the remarkable loyalty demonstrated in the past by professors who had built their careers at McGill and wanted to stay. They put up with less than stellar working conditions. They made do with antiquated equipment. They used rubber bands and duct tape to keep their labs operating. We can't expect the same of people who are brand new to the place.

As Shapiro noted, many of our freshest arrivals have worked at some of the best-funded universities in the world. They are used to top-notch facilities. And they have no shortage of options.

According to a recent report from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, this country's universities will be hiring between 24,600 and 34,600 new professors between now and 2016. And that's just Canada. Knowledge-based industries everywhere must soon replace baby boomers poised for retirement.

I don't mean to paint our younger professors in a mercenary light. That just wouldn't be fair. In fact, it's exciting to hear them talk about the work they want to do in the years ahead, the breakthroughs they hope to make. It's entirely reasonable for them to want to work someplace where they'll have every chance of succeeding.

This is something to keep in mind when you consider Campaign McGill and the \$750 million it hopes to raise.

About \$112 million will be spent on ensuring that McGill's facilities are world-class by any standard — by upgrading the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, completing the Faculty of Music's new scoring stage and constructing the McGill Cancer Pavilion, for instance. Most of the money raised, about \$428 million, will go towards endowed chairs, graduate fellowships and student bursaries. As a result, McGill's professors can be secure that they will always have access to talented colleagues and co-workers. Lively minds will continue to populate their classrooms and labs.

I suspect there will always be a certain magic to McGill. But we can't count on magic alone. ✎

DANIEL MCCABE



NICOLAS MORIN

MEMORIES OF MAC

Thank you for your focus on Macdonald Campus last issue. As a recent graduate, I can attest that despite all the “agie” stereotypes, Mac is a world-class institution for zoologists, environmentalists, dieticians and, yes, agricultural scientists.

As a New York City kid, I was pleasantly surprised with the assortment of disciplines and the diversity of backgrounds of the students there, given its small population. (My high school in Queens had two thousand more students!)

I joined Mac in 1996 a shy, blend-into-the-crowd biophilic, and graduated as the campus student president and valedictorian. The tight-knit community of students and faculty is absolutely unique and nurturing as perhaps no other university setting can be. For a biologist, the hundreds of acres of forested land, hands-on field experience and multitude of animal and plant courses was an absolute paradise.

Without finding Mac I would never have been able to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a collections-based zoologist. Where many universities have shifted their focus almost completely to the more economical side of biology (pharmaceuticals, bioinformatics, etc.), Mac kept its focus on fundamentals and practical applications. Because of that focus, Mac graduates stand out among their peers in many sub-disciplines of the sciences.

Mac also gave me my wife. I met Annemarie Noël herping (collecting amphibians and reptiles) during a Natural History of Vertebrates class outing in the Arboretum. (You know

you’ve found the right one if she can still love you after seeing you do a belly flop to catch a garter snake.) Mac has such a special place in our heart that we got married there in 2004.

PROSANTA CHAKRABARTY
BSc(Agr)’00
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Ichthyology
American Museum of
Natural History
New York, New York

THE MIGHTY MARTLETS

I very much enjoyed the article about the Martlets hockey team in your latest issue (“Net Gains,” Summer 2007). I have participated in and followed sports since boyhood, but have, of late, become increasingly disillusioned by professional sports. After I read the fine article on McGill’s fine women’s hockey team, it occurred to me I might follow college athletics more closely. They seem closer to the ideal of what sport should aim toward, what sport can and should be. Now, I will go check if the Martlets have a website...

BROTHER LUKE MICHAEL
COUILLARD, MSW’73
Westminster Abbey
Mission, BC



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

I was pleased to see the article on the Martlets hockey team and the reference to coach Peter Smith: “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.” McGill does not have special admission criteria for athletes, but we

find that people who succeed in school are often successful in other aspects of life, such as athletics. In 2006, McGill student-athletes established a Canadian record for academic performance. One hundred and forty-seven (38 per cent) of McGill’s student-athletes earned Academic All-Canadian status under Canadian Interuniversity Sport guidelines (earning a GPA of 80 per cent or better). Over the past 17 years, McGill leads all CIS universities with a total of 1,526 Academic All-Canadians.

MORTON MENDELSON, BSc’70
Deputy Provost
(Student Life and Learning)
McGill University

DEFINE EVIL

In reference to the article “Building the Case Against Evil” (Summer 2007), I would like to ask the members of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism how they define “war crimes.” The reason I ask is that I found the list of cases mentioned in the article to be rather limited. I know far less about international law than they do, but I can recognize war crimes and violations of human rights when I see them. It does not matter to me whether our “enemies” or our “allies” are committing them.

For instance, the lack of world reaction to the detention facilities (a euphemism for concentration camps) operated by the U.S. in Iraq, Cuba and elsewhere is a sad commentary on our world. There are people in those facilities whose human rights have been violated daily for years. There are several lawsuits going on in connection with those detainees. Those efforts could be assisted. I was hoping to see that item on the top of your list of concerns. I saw nothing. Don’t shy away from certain cases because they have to do with allies. I wish you good luck with your program.

EUGENE BERCEL, BEng’63
Naples, Florida

NOT JUST A DEEP THINKER

Philosophers can also be doers. I met McGill emeritus professor of philosophy Charles Taylor (“Taylor Takes

Templeton," Summer 2007) in the spring of 1957 in Vienna, where he was managing a refugee shelter for Hungarian students who left their country after the failed revolution of October 1956. It was his help and encouragement that led many of us to choose Canada and McGill for a new future. We knew 50 years ago that he was someone very special.

GABRIEL LASZLO, BEng'60
Ottawa, Ontario

DEBATING THE BOYCOTT

I write in reference to Principal Munroe-Blum's condemnation ("Breaking Down Barriers," Summer 2007) of the proposed boycott of Israeli universities by the United Kingdom's University College Union. Whatever view one might have of the proposed boycott, and there is indeed a plethora of views on the issue among partisans of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Principal Munroe-Blum's intervention manifests a double standard. She has devoted much ink and energy in the *McGill News* and elsewhere to condemn the boycott proposal. I wonder if she has been moved to the same extent, if at all, to condemn specific measures that cause Palestinian academics and students to suffer and that violate their academic rights and freedoms, be it through Israeli checkpoints, military closures of universities and schools, or outright violence against the Palestinian academy by the Israeli army.

I stand to be corrected, but Principal Munroe-Blum has not condemned the illegal wall constructed by Israel on Palestinian land, choking the Palestinians off from their livelihoods and schools. Yet, she speaks of breaking down barriers. The oppression suffered by Palestinian academics and students under Israeli occupation seems to be less worthy of condemnation.

Are not our academic colleagues in Palestine as much a part of the McGill community as are "our academic colleagues in Israel"? Principal Munroe-Blum undoubtedly claims to

defend everyone's academic rights and freedoms equally, but it seems that some people are more equal than others.

AZIM HUSSAIN, BA'95, BCL/LLB'00
Montreal, Quebec

Principal Munroe-Blum responded to Mr. Hussain and shared her comments with the News. She wrote, "The fact that Israeli academics and institutions are the target of the proposed boycott is irrelevant. My stance on this issue in no way relates to Israeli or Palestinian politics. Rather, my statements, and those of many of my academic colleagues, are based on the firm conviction that a boycott of any group of academics and universities should be roundly condemned."

THINKING CREATIVELY

Regarding your summer issue's "Letters to the Editor," I would also like to comment on the letter from Bev Akerman, who so categorically regretted that McGill had no creative writing program, and on the response from your editor, who says courses have been offered for "the last 10 years or so." Perhaps there was a hiatus somewhere that I don't know about, but back in 1970, Bharati Mukherjee and Paddy Webb ran prose and poetry courses in creative writing at McGill and I was in the poetry section. I made friends with whom I am still in contact today as a result of that course.

LIDIA WOLANSKYJ, BA'74
Yaremche, Ukraine

SEXIST STORY?

Regarding your article on Rastrophysicist Vicky Kaspi ("The Star Gazer," Summer 2007), the next time *McGill News* features a pioneering male scientist, perhaps the details of his daily child-care schedule could be provided too.

I am joking; the inclusion of that information was glaringly sexist. I seriously doubt that an article on a man would ever include anything on his family life, beyond the name and (maybe) title of his spouse.

ELIZABETH HOSTETTER, MLIS'04
Ottawa, Ontario

Ms. Hostetter raises a fair issue and the magazine's editors certainly weren't blind to it when we ran our piece about Professor Kaspi. The decision to include aspects of Kaspi's family life in the article was the subject of some debate at the News itself. In our interview with Kaspi, she mentioned how, in her high school yearbook, she had listed her life ambitions: to be a famous scientist and to have six kids. We were struck by how she had come so close to achieving those goals and how, on a daily basis, she worked hard to make sure that neither side of her life got short shrift. We weren't looking for a "mommy" story per se, but Kaspi herself turned out to be quite thoughtful and engaging on the topic. Maybe magazine and newspaper profiles ought to focus on that aspect of our lives more often — for men and women. It's part of what makes us human and of interest to one another. If readers do detect that the subject of parenting only comes up in McGill News stories about women, please feel free to bust our chops. Hard.

WHAT DID CYRIL SAY?

I was surprised to see the photo of F. Cyril James, and delighted to learn that it was taken at the 1950 graduation, as it was at that event that I received my science degree from him. Furthermore, this is an opportunity to find out, if anyone remembers, just what Dr. James said to each graduate. This question has dogged me for the last 57 years, as my recollection is that he said, as I approached him, either, "Oh brother," or "Here comes another," or "I know your mother." I realize none of these are likely, but I really would like to set my mind at rest. So, if you remember, please let me know.

JOSEPH SHAPIRO, BSc'50
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Something on your mind?

Write to us at:

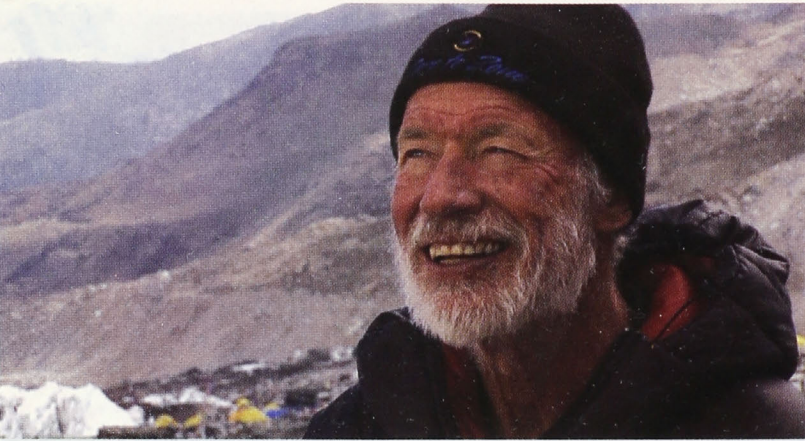
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COURTESY OF WERNER BERGER

Werner Berger at his base camp, en route to becoming the oldest North American to conquer Mount Everest.

Mountain man

On May 22, 69-year-old Werner Berger, MSc(A)'63, became the oldest North American to summit Mount Everest. Then, after soaking in the hard-won view from the top of the world ("There really aren't any words to describe it"), he flew a kite.

"We had a wonderful breeze," recalls the South Africa-born Berger, a business consultant, "but it was a little on the gusty side." The kite, multicoloured on one side and white on the other, is symbolic of a goal that dwarfs even the sizable achievement of climbing Everest: world peace. "It's rather ridiculous that everybody wants peace," Berger says, "but we don't get any closer to achieving it."

Next August (08/08/08, to be precise), Berger plans to summit Kilimanjaro for the third time in his 15-year mountaineering career—and he's bringing his peace kite. Joining Berger will be media, dignitaries and, most importantly, young envoys (aged 18 to 25) from feuding countries. Berger has already confirmed the participation of Israeli and Palestinian youths, and hopes many other countries will be represented. "It will be the kick-off for an ongoing movement for peace," he explains. "It's a bit of a pipe dream, but we've set the date."

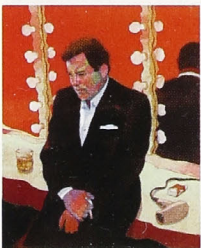
In the meantime, Berger plans to edit his first film. Framed by the story of his Everest climb (a cinematographer was part of the climbing team), the documentary will explore what Berger believes to be a crisis period for North American health. "Sixty-six per cent of people are overweight," he explains. "Twenty-five per cent are clinically obese. Eight out of 10 people die of degenerative disease, not of old age."

Berger has long believed in the healthful benefits of sport. While studying at McGill, he pole vaulted and played rugby. He even met his ex-wife Janice, BN'63, during the annual geologists-versus-nurses hockey game. (She was a goalie, he was a winger.) "But physical education is just part of it," he's quick to stress. "Health is the important thing, and North American health is not in great shape."

Berger has a third project on the back burner. There are currently three Everest conquerors, all Japanese, who are his senior. (The oldest is 71.) "In 2010," he says, "if nobody older has upstaged me, I'll go back to Everest." The climb, however, won't be about changing the world.

"This time," he cheerily admits, "it's strictly ego."

JAMES MARTIN



ZINA SAUNDERS

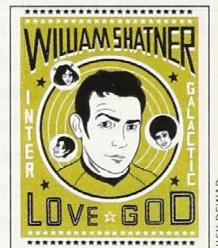


SEAN KENNEY



MARK DULMADGE

THE MANY SHADES OF SHATNER



NICK DEWAR

Illustration, to twist a phrase, is the sincerest form of flattery. To celebrate the 76th birthday of William Shatner, BCom'52, Calgary's UPPERCASE Gallery commissioned 76 illustrators, painters and sculptors to craft impressions of the iconic Emmy winner. The project stemmed from a cross-Canada round trip that curator Janine Vangool and her husband took two summers ago; the couple repeatedly listened to *Has Been*, Shatner's autobiographical 2004 album, and grew enchanted by the actor's winking bluster. "When we got home, I started researching what Shatner has said about his career," recalls Vangool. "I really started to appreciate his self-deprecating humour and his awareness of himself as a character. When I learned he was going to turn 76, I suddenly imagined having 76 Shatners in his honour."

Many of the works in *The Shatner Show* portrayed the Montreal native in the guise of his most famous role, Captain Kirk from

Star Trek. Some artists drew inspiration from Shatner's much-maligned singing career, while others inflated the great man's mythology to engulf pivotal moments in Canadian history (such as the time William Shatner drove the Last Spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway). When the show opened in June, Vangool offered Shatner his pick of the original artwork; he opted for realism over wacky, choosing a sombre backstage portrait by New York artist Zina Saunders.

Shatner didn't attend the show, nor attempt to exercise creative control, but he did give it his blessing. "Some creators love a great sunset; some have in mind my bloodshot eyes," he noted in his official endorsement. "Who am I to stand in the way of all these fine artists and artisans who want to use my lumpy, aging face for inspiration?"

The Shatner Show closed in August, but lives on in a 128-page, full-colour hardcover book, available through www.theshatnershow.com.

JAMES MARTIN

The Faculty of Science made history in more ways than one this September when it kicked off Canada's first integrated Earth System Science (ESS) program. A joint initiative of the Departments of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Earth and Planetary Sciences and Geography, ESS is not only a unique experiment in interdisciplinary education and research — its six faculty members taught the program's first course en masse.

Atmospheric and oceanic sciences assistant professors Pavlos Kollias and Bruno Tremblay, geography assistant professors Bernard Lehner and Navin Ramankutty and earth and planetary sciences assistant professors Jeffrey MacKenzie and Boswell Wing collectively taught a course titled "The Future of the World's Energy Resources," which drew on the unique specialties of each of them.

"All six of us were in the same class at the same time, teaching the students," says Lehner. "It's unique, but it works. Because we come from different backgrounds, we don't always agree, so debates and discussions are bound to break out."

We live on a complicated planet and it helps to have more than one point of view on hand when you're trying to wrap your brain around the many variables that affect such things as climate change. The program also involves professors from the McGill School of Environment and from other disciplines, such as anthropology, biology and chemistry.

"From the student's point of view, the ESS program will complement the traditional departmental offerings with a holistic approach that encompasses the whole planet," says Professor Tim Moore, chair of the Department of Geography.

MICHAEL WOLOSCHUK

Seeing the big picture



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

The ESS teaching team (left to right): Bernard Lehner, Boswell Wing, Navin Ramankutty, Pavlos Kollias, Jeffrey MacKenzie and Bruno Tremblay

UNCOOKING THE BOOKS

Looking for a career that offers intrigue, international travel and a chance to foil capers and outwit bad guys? Well, have we got an accounting job for you.

Forensic accountants combine auditing and investigative skills with accounting expertise to expose illegal financial activity and fraud. And Philip Levi, BCom'70, is one of the best in the field: he was recently named Certified Fraud Examiner of the Year by the U.S.-based Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

A senior partner in the Montreal accounting firm of Levi and Sinclair, Levi (pictured) is regularly called upon when something fishy turns up in a company's financial records or when lawyers



OWEN EGAN

need expert testimony. He has been a part of hundreds of investigations — including the Enron case — exposing frauds ranging from \$100,000 into the billions.

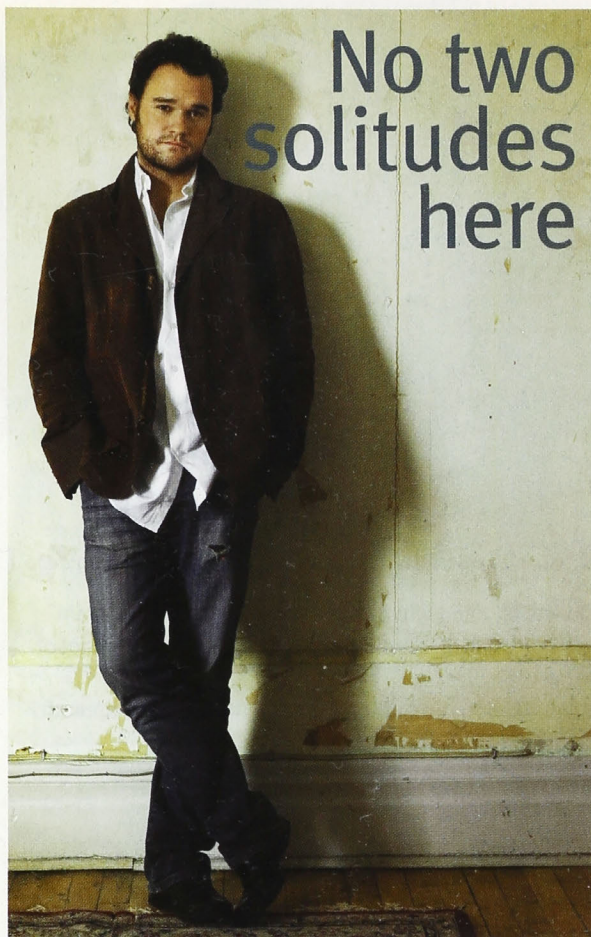
Business is brisk. "Fraud is and always was a growth industry," says Levi. "Enron has not deterred the average fraudster — only the very large and notorious fraudster. Those who commit most of the frauds — the employees and fraud artists — have not been deterred by the stricter legislation in the U.S. or the sentences against high-profile executives."

Levi has executed court orders to search company premises and seize records in scenarios that sound more like an episode of *Law and Order* than a day in the life of a chartered accountant. He has also given public lectures and written articles about identity theft, the fastest-growing form of fraud in North America.

The hard part of the job? "Probably sifting through the large amount of data used by the fraudster to conceal their activities," says Levi. "But with the use of sophisticated forensic software, this has become easier."

Technology may provide fraudsters with new tools, but Levi says that "the average fraudster is not as computer savvy as they might like to think. They leave a trail behind that the qualified fraud examiner can find, and it leads us right to him or her."

ANDREW MULLINS



Montreal-based singer-songwriter Thomas Hellman, BA'98, MA'04, is part of a rare breed — musicians who create and perform well-crafted songs in both English and French. It's unusual, even in a bilingual pop music mecca like Montreal, where bands with followings among both anglophones and francophones tend to specialize in either English (Arcade Fire) or French (Malajube).

"The two languages are like different instruments to me," says Hellman. *Departure Songs*, a CD collection of some of Hellman's work in English, was released this spring, while *L'appartement*, his most recent French album, was made available in France in May.

"I don't feel like I have a mother tongue," he says, explaining that his father, John Hellman, a McGill history professor, is from Texas, while his mother is a teacher from the south of France.

Music critics from both sides of the language divide hail Hellman's music, making favourable comparisons to the likes of Leonard Cohen and Tom Waits. And after recently winning the Prix Félix-Leclerc songwriting award in Quebec, as well as the Prix des Coups de Coeur de L'Académie Charles Cross award for emerging artists in France, his star continues to rise.

Hellman's music career might seem far removed from his graduate work in French literature at McGill, but he believes his studies have informed his art.

Hellman focused on the French writing of Samuel Beckett, who wrote in both English and French, and on the issues of language and identity that it raises. "The bilingualism of Beckett's oeuvre was an essential part of my reflections on identity," he says. "It made me realize that people tend to be more comfortable with simplified understandings of identity. An identity that is fragmentary is more interesting than something more obvious. That's had an impact on my writing."

MARTIN HORN

BODY LANGUAGE

If someone calls you Callipygian and you are not sure what to think, you may need a copy of *Carnal Knowledge: A Navel Gazer's Dictionary of Anatomy, Etymology, and Trivia*. You will find the term means "having beautiful buttocks" and can act accordingly. Be flattered that you have been compared to Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, whose rear end inspired the word, or smack the villain in his buccal cavity (aiming for the mouth).

Charles Hodgson, BEng'81, is a dedicated logophile and has compiled the origins, meanings and uses of hundreds of anatomical words and phrases in *Carnal Knowledge*. Did you know that the word "sideburns" had its origins in the shaving habits of 19th-century U.S. senator Ambrose Everett Burnside? That there is no word in English for that bony bump on the outside of your wrist, referred to by acupuncturists as the "yanglao"?

Hodgson has had careers in engineering and technology management, worked on environmental issues and participated in the dot-com bubble, getting out just before it burst, which is when he started writing full-time.

"Words and wordplay have always been an interest of mine," he says. "Every time I come across some new twist in how a word has developed, I feel it gives me a little more insight into human nature and history."

Hodgson has developed a daily podcast about the extraordinary origins of ordinary words, called *Podictionary*, which has now had three million downloads and been written up in publications like *USA Today* and *Jane* magazine.

While working on *Carnal Knowledge*, Hodgson consulted Dr. Dennis Osmond, McGill's Robert Reford Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, for expert advice. "I'm like many authors in that I'd like to have my errors pointed out to me before publication," he says, "and so I sought out several people who might gently tell me where I'd gone wrong. Professor Osmond was very supportive."

Visit www.podictionary.com for more information.

ANDREW MULLINS

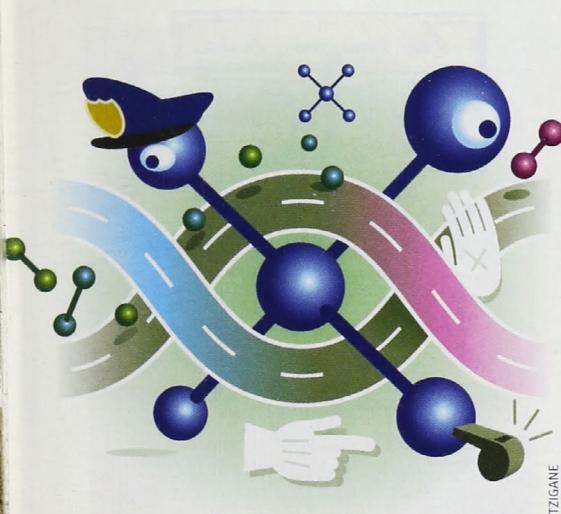


Carnal Knowledge

A Navel Gazer's Dictionary of Anatomy, Etymology, and Trivia



CHARLES HODGSON



TZIGANE

TEENY TRAFFIC COPS

McGill scientists recently found a way to examine the exploits of tiny nucleic acids called microRNAs outside the confines of a living cell for the first time. In so doing, they may have given researchers the world over an important new method for determining how normal cells turn malignant.

Through their innovative new in-vitro technique, the McGill team can now closely monitor — and influence

— the behaviour of the microRNAs, which each steers the conduct of 10 or more genes in humans.

“These microRNAs are powerful regulators of proteins in all cells. They control 30 per cent of all genes in a body,” says James McGill Professor of Biochemistry Nahum Sonenberg. Sonenberg and his collaborators, post-doctoral fellows Geraldine Mathonnet and Marc Fabian, and Thomas Duchaine, an assistant professor of biochemistry at the McGill Cancer Centre, published their findings in the journal *Science*.

“Until now, all the research on microRNAs was done in the cell,” explains Sonenberg. Scientists were limited in how they could affect microRNAs in living cells. “Working in a test tube, you can add and remove whatever you want and you are in control of the process.

“When DNA was sequenced, that was a major advance and a Nobel Prize was awarded,” observes Sonenberg. “We now have a major technical advance. It’s like a tool for us to have better systems.”

MicroRNA is important because it controls the expression of messengerRNA (mRNA), which, in turn, takes the genetic blueprints encoded in our DNA and puts them into action by triggering activity in the parts of our cells where proteins are generated. The microRNA acts as a guidance system for messengerRNA, profoundly affecting the flow of that crucial cellular information.

This opportunity to better explore microRNA represents an important breakthrough, declares Sonenberg. “They are important to cancer proteins and can change cancer at its heart.” Since microRNA is pervasive in the body, he adds, “if we know how to control microRNA, we can control disease.”

DIANE LU-HOVASSE

Happiness is... a large subcortical brain volume?

The source of human happiness has long been the subject of science, song and speculation. Now, researchers at the McGill-affiliated Douglas Mental Health Institute have come up with at least part of the answer: it’s all in your head.

A new study, led by assistant professor of psychiatry Martin Lepage and doctoral student Philippe-Olivier Harvey, has linked anhedonia — the inability to enjoy pleasurable experiences — to the size of a subcortical brain region associated with emotion and rewards. Their findings, published in *Molecular Psychiatry*, may provide new tools in the fight against mental illness.

“It has been well established that anhedonia is a key symptom of major depression and schizophrenia,” says Lepage, the director of the Institute’s brain imaging group. “We chose to study this core symptom in hopes of finding a vulnerability marker to better diagnose these mental illnesses.”

His team found that people with smaller anterior caudate regions have an increased risk of developing anhedonia, and that their pleasure processing seems to be diverted to the logic-driven



MATTHEW FORSYTHE

prefrontal brain regions instead.

“As a result,” explains lead author Philippe-Olivier Harvey, “they process these stimuli more cognitively — instead of genuinely feeling the pleasure, they have to think a little bit more about it.”

With federal and provincial funding, the researchers followed 29 people with no previously diagnosed psychiatric illnesses, evaluating their ability to feel pleasure and examining their brain activity and structure through functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

The study was the first ever to link anhedonia to the size of a particular brain component, and could lead to new treatments and earlier diagnoses for a host of mental illnesses.

MARK ORDONSELLI

Unkindest cut? Maybe not

Circumcised men are more sensitive than previously believed. Not that anyone ever accused them of being more likely than their un-snipped brothers to forget birthdays, fail to notice haircuts or prefer *Dirty Harry* over *Dirty Dancing*. However, when movies of a somewhat more risqué nature are on offer, circumcised and uncircumcised men were just as quick to spring to attention. The findings seem to put paid to the myth that losing the foreskin means losing sexual sensitivity.

"It was interesting how well accepted this notion was, despite the fact that there was no empirical basis for it," says Kimberly Payne, PhD '06.

Payne recently compared two groups of males, both trimmed and *au naturel*, between the ages of 18 and 45.

Participants were fitted with sensors both on their arm and on the relevant organ to gauge genital sensitivity to touch and pain. They were then given DVD goggles and shown alternating films with erotic and more innocuous content.

Payne and her McGill research team found little difference in how the men responded to the images. According to Payne, research involving direct measurement of penile sensation had never been done before on sexually aroused subjects.

Payne, now a clinical psychologist in Ontario, conducted the study while working under the supervision of psychology professor Irv Binik, director of the Sex and Couple Therapy Service at the McGill University Health Centre.



JACK RUTTAN

She cautions against reading too much into her results, which were published in the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*.

"This study only measures one sensation, but it does not refute the idea that there may be some differences at some level. No one can deny the anatomical differences between a circumcised and uncircumcised penis."

MARK REYNOLDS



OWEN EGAN

PUTTING SOME WOW INTO THE CLASSROOM

In spite of the flames, sledgehammers and underwater exploits, no one was harmed at the recent launch of McGill's new Winners of Wonderment Lab.

With all the panache of a circus ringmaster, Professor Brian Alters led a crowd of high school students through an unusual display of buoyancy, showing how a single inflated Ziploc baggie can make a 180-pound weight float. The weight, incidentally, was Jason Wiles, manager of McGill's Evolution Education Centre, wearing a soggy but snappy suit

and tie in a 400-gallon tank. Later, Alters demonstrated gravity with a nifty hammer experiment, and showed off a levitating train.

And did we mention a handful of flaming bubbles?

All the flash and dash was about more than Alters' flair for the dramatic. His new WOW Lab aims to captivate students by showcasing "the crazy edge of science," appealing to their sense of wonder in a way that traditional teaching rarely does.

"How better to increase the science literacy of our children," he asks, "than to increase the 'wow' of math and science learning?"

Thanks to an \$800,000 gift from Imperial Oil, Alters and his team of chemists, physicists, biologists and education researchers will spend the next five years developing dazzling experiments and exciting teaching tools. Everything they create will be available free "to any teacher, anywhere.

"This is not a profit-making venture," he says. "This is a venture to improve the 'wow' of science, to hopefully inspire students to study science."

Judging from the students captivated by his performance, Alters is heading in the right direction.

Alters — who's been known to teach from the water tank as well — holds McGill's Tomlinson Chair in Science Education. He believes McGill is a great place for the lab.

"We have incredibly talented people we can call upon here at McGill. If we can't figure something out, we can waddle over to the chemistry department and find a professor who's an expert on whatever question we need an answer to."

MARK ORDONSELLI

Baby Boon

McGill researchers made some reproductive history this summer when they announced the birth of the first baby born from eggs matured and frozen in the lab, an achievement that could give women with cancer or ovarian disease fresh hope for motherhood.

The landmark research effort, headed by the McGill Reproductive Centre's Hananel Holzer, involved 20 patients with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), whose immature eggs were matured and frozen at the centre, located at the McGill University Health Centre's Royal Victoria Hospital. PCOS is a hormone disorder that affects one in 10 women and is a leading cause of infertility.

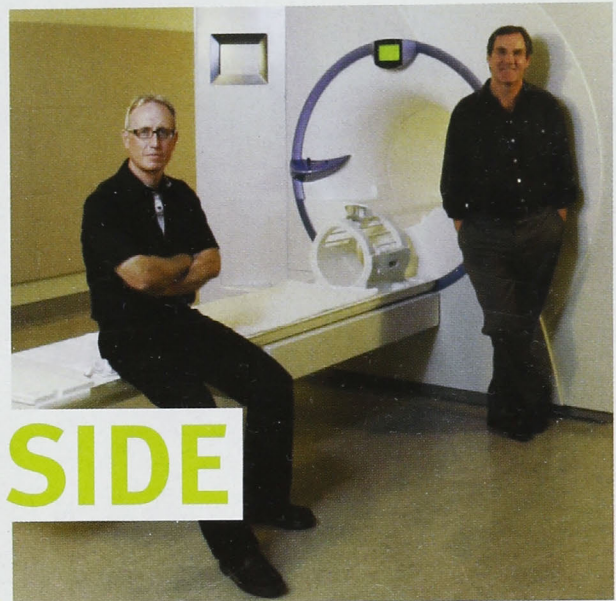


"McGill is a pioneer in both the freezing and individual in-vitro maturation of eggs and this is the first time these two technologies have been successfully combined," notes Holzer, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

Holzer suggests this new technique might also be appropriate for some cancer patients who wish to preserve their fertility, but don't have time in the menstrual cycle to produce mature eggs before beginning cancer treatment.

MICHAEL BOURGUIGNON

MNI researchers Bruce Pike (left) and Alan Evans contributed to the MRI Study of Normal Brain Development



ALLEN MCINNIS

AN INSIDE LOOK AT YOUNG BRAINS

It's taken six years, hundreds of volunteers, thousands of complicated images and millions of dollars. The result, according to Dr. Alan Evans of McGill's Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI), is a vital tool for researchers: the first-ever online database offering detailed information on how young brains blossom over time.

The MRI Study of Normal Brain Development, an effort spearheaded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), involved several research centres and children's hospitals across North America in a bid to better understand how the brain typically develops in children and adolescents. Scores of youngsters had their heads examined with magnetic resonance imaging technology.

"We have massive amounts of information at our disposal that we never had before, which can only lead to better science and new discoveries," says Evans, a biomedical engineering professor who led the MNI team that created the database.

The NIH selected Evans and his MNI team to oversee the coordination of the data being assembled during the mammoth study. Working with six pediatric centres in the U.S., the MNI compiled thousands of images of subjects ranging in age from newborn to

18 years. These were collected over a period of years to chart the development of a healthy brain. Along with the images, the database holds the results of intelligence, neuropsychological, verbal, non-verbal and behavioural tests. All of the data collection, quality control and software design were done at the MNI.

Taken together, the database serves as a globally available "Patient 0" for brain researchers, a control against which they can compare their own data.

"This project is already making waves in the scientific community, as we no longer have to search for suitable control subjects and then take the time to scan and process data before analyzing it," says Evans. "Instead, the control data is at our fingertips, 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Evans explains that the high quality of the images, combined with the breadth of data available online, means that the MNI database can be used by anyone from autism researchers in Japan to psychologists charting intellectual development in Mexican youth.

"The way science is being done is increasingly collaborative on a global scale. It is exciting to see this database being used for so many studies."

MARK REYNOLDS



PULLING NO
punches

Mark Wainberg's impolite war against AIDS BY MARK ABLEY

Mark Wainberg, BSc'66, is not an easy man to intimidate. During his years as president of the International AIDS Society, he grew used to dealing with power-happy politicians as well as activists, the media and senior executives of drug companies. So in 2000, having been asked to lecture in Nairobi, Wainberg decided he wanted to talk to the long-time president of Kenya, Daniel arap Moi, and through a personal contact, he arranged a meeting. Moi — a giant of a man, famous for his crushing handshake — did not expect to be told off by a slight, scholarly-looking scientist from Canada.

"He was notorious for not speaking out about AIDS," Wainberg recalls now. He is sprawled across an armchair in his spacious office at the Lady Davis Institute of Montreal's Jewish General Hospital; three desks and a table contain a profusion of papers and no fewer than 14 coffee mugs. "He preferred to avoid the subject. But his people were getting infected at a very high rate. So I said to him, 'Mr. President, you have to be more outspoken. You have to speak about the need for condom usage. We cannot put our heads in the sand and pretend that young people in Kenya are not getting infected by HIV.'"

Moi was but one of many world leaders to receive the Wainberg treatment: a steely, unabashed insistence that the scourge of AIDS requires government leaders to face the issue head-on. One of the proudest moments of his life occurred in the same year as the Kenya visit, at the end of a huge international AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa. That country's president, Thabo Mbeki, had claimed that AIDS is a disease of poverty, not caused by HIV and not treatable by retroviral drugs; some of Wainberg's fellow researchers were so upset that they wanted the gathering moved elsewhere. But Wainberg insisted it should stay in South Africa. And at the closing ceremony, former president Nelson Mandela — a personal hero to Wainberg — publicly repudiated Mbeki's stand.

Wainberg, who has taken part in many public scraps over the years, knew that accurate information, widely understood by the general public, is essential to the fight against AIDS. He already grasped the importance of the press. On that trip to Kenya, he received a firsthand lesson in the importance of a free press.

"The day after I met President Moi," he explains, "I was in the airport at Kisumu, a city on the shore of Lake Victoria. I happened to be sitting next to a Roman Catholic priest and I noticed that one of the national newspapers had my picture in it. I got up, took a copy of the paper, and read

the article. And it said, 'Professor Mark Wainberg, president of the World AIDS Society, tells the president that young people must abstain from sexual relations in order to prevent the spread of AIDS.'

"I was aghast. I went back to my seat and I found the priest had the paper too. He looked at me and said, 'Excuse me, sir, is this you sitting next to the president?' 'Yes, it is,' I said. He said, 'Sir, I must congratulate you. You are the only person telling the truth about AIDS.' It was a surreal moment. It was so bizarre. But I didn't want to get into a fight in the airport, so I thanked him."

It was one of the rare occasions in his professional life when Wainberg chose to back down. There have been other occasions when his tongue has got him into trouble. After the late journalist and author Nicholas Regush published a book called *The Virus Within*, pouring scorn on the belief that HIV causes AIDS, Wainberg was so furious that he told *Maclean's* magazine, "Regush is the equivalent of a murderer. There are people who will be taken in by his half-truths and may die of AIDS as a result." Regush sued for libel, and on legal advice Wainberg retracted his remarks — "to the extent that my statements were interpreted as a personal attack." He continues to believe that public denial of HIV's involvement in AIDS is an irresponsible abuse.

In August 2006 he served as co-chair of the international AIDS conference in Toronto — an event from which Prime Minister Stephen Harper was conspicuously absent. After the Conservative victory at the polls, Wainberg sent more than 20 emails to the prime minister's office, informing him about the gathering and inviting him to attend. He finally received a voice-mail message from a junior official, declining the invitation.

While at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006, Wainberg took part in a demonstration by sex trade workers seeking better protection against HIV infection



LISE BEAUDRY



PHOTO: CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

“Few researchers of Mark’s stature will take the time that he does to offer support to junior faculty and students.”

Above: Wainberg with internal medicine resident Liz Beauchamp, MDCM’06, and postdoctoral fellow Jorge Martinez

Wainberg did not take the snub lying down. “Mr. Harper,” he declared as thousands of delegates listened and the TV cameras rolled, “the role of the prime minister includes the obligation to show leadership on the world stage. Your absence sends a message that you do not regard HIV/AIDS as a critical priority. Clearly, all of us here disagree with you.”

A DEADLY NEW DISEASE

None of this was what the young Mark Wainberg expected the life of a research scientist to be like. Born in 1945, he grew up in a secular Jewish family in Montreal, attending Outremont High School before gaining an undergraduate degree from McGill and a doctorate in molecular biology from Columbia. In the late 1970s he studied HTLV-1, the first virus proven to cause a human malignancy (adult T-cell leukemia). The co-discoverer of that virus, Robert Gallo, would go on to play a major, though highly controversial, role in the identification of HIV.

Wainberg worked in Gallo’s lab in Washington, DC, while on sabbatical from McGill in 1980. Two years later, the term “acquired immunodeficiency syndrome” would be coined to describe a mysterious new killer that seemed to target gay men. Gallo soon became one of the few biomedical researchers to achieve fame outside the scientific community when he was credited, along with Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, with the co-discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus. Gallo also led the first team to prove that HIV causes AIDS.

Few doubt his genius, but many have questioned his methods. It now seems clear that Gallo used some of Montagnier’s key findings without giving the French scientist due credit. A poisonous rivalry between the two men cast a large shadow over AIDS research for years. In a book review he wrote for the *Montreal Gazette* in 2002, Wainberg admits that “history will probably judge

[Gallo] to have been guilty of excessive zeal in the pursuit of scientific glory,” adding that Gallo’s contributions to our understanding of AIDS have been enormous.

SCIENTIFIC SUCCESSES

After Wainberg returned to Montreal from Washington, he received cells, antibodies and other material from Gallo, enabling him to become the first Canadian researcher to grow HIV in a controlled setting. A major breakthrough came in the late 1980s, with his identification of the anti-viral properties of a drug popularly known as 3TC. Wainberg is quick to praise the work of the late Bernard Belleau, a brilliant organic chemist who was a McGill professor for many years before he co-founded the company BioChem Pharma. Belleau first synthesized 3TC; Wainberg proved it could be highly useful for patients suffering from HIV. Today 3TC, used in concert with other anti-HIV medications, plays a pivotal role in delaying many of the debilitating symptoms associated with AIDS — notably its ravaging effects on the immune system.

Wainberg continues to be active on the research front. A study he co-authored earlier this year that examined HIV infection rates among Montrealers underlined the urgent need to continue public awareness campaigns focused on AIDS. Half of the newly infected HIV carriers chronicled in the study had engaged in sexual relations with partners who had themselves been recently infected and did not realize they were carrying the virus. “We know from experience,” Wainberg says, “that people who know they are HIV-positive are usually prepared to modify their high-risk behaviours.”

The virus continues to take a major toll. Wainberg was among the first AIDS researchers to sound an alarm when HIV, which mutates at an alarming rate, swiftly proved resistant to many drug therapies. He has also worked on

ways to prevent HIV infection in poor countries, such as vaginal microbicides. But 3TC remains the accomplishment which he looks back on with the greatest pride: "That work has contributed directly to the saving of millions of lives. Who could ask for anything more?"

"What has always impressed me about Mark," says his McGill colleague Dr. Marina Klein, an assistant professor of medicine, "is his clear and unwavering support for the conduct of quality research that aims to make a global difference in the HIV epidemic. He never shies away from controversial issues simply because they are not politically correct, but rather addresses problems head-on, armed with scientific evidence that provides him with a certain moral authority."

Klein, MDCM'91, MSc'01, adds that Wainberg is also a wonderful mentor. "He is a tremendous supporter of young scientists — few researchers of Mark's stature will take the time that he does to discuss science or offer concrete collaborative support to junior faculty and students."

Given the tough challenges facing many Canadian scientists, that support is surely appreciated. Most of the general public, Wainberg says, "has no appreciation of the pressures you come under when you need to compete for grants" — nor any idea of how much time goes into the preparation, writing and editing of detailed grant applications. Medical research is very expensive, and the stresses

on researchers are magnified because less than 20 per cent of applicants to our major funding body, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, succeed in winning grants. "It's not a healthy thing," Wainberg remarks, "in terms of the researchers' families. Or their self-esteem. If you're successful, chances are you've got incredible willpower."

The funding pressure may well discourage a lot of young Canadians from choosing a career in pure science. Wainberg says that it also has an impact on the public at large. The quality of our medical schools depends partly on the excellence of research being conducted by the faculty. An environment that is academically stimulating helps to produce better clinicians — and better patient care.

Unlike many scientists, Wainberg does not look on writing as a burdensome chore (he talks enthusiastically about such present-day novelists as Ian McEwan and Vikram Seth). He enjoys seeing articles into print, he never tires of travel and — as a professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology — he loves working with graduate students. However, Wainberg also serves as the director of the McGill University AIDS Centre and as director of research at the Jewish General Hospital. Even though he tries to delegate as much as possible, he still has to spend about one day a week on administration. It's a task, he frankly admits, that he hates. He would much rather use the time on research.

Wainberg with artist A.A. Bronson at the Royal Ontario Museum's unveiling of an AIDS sculpture by the Canadian arts collective General Idea



LINDA DAWN HAMMOND

Thanks, in part, to \$2-million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Wainberg and his colleagues can now work in a high-security HIV/AIDS bio-containment laboratory recently constructed at the Jewish General. The \$5-million facility is equipped to carry out research related to how HIV/AIDS patients respond to different medications and how HIV becomes resistant to drugs that have been developed to combat it. Wainberg also plans to use the lab to train researchers from Africa, the continent that continues to be hit hardest by AIDS.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Compared to a decade ago, the life of most AIDS patients in a wealthy nation like Canada has radically improved. “The drugs are wonderful,” Wainberg says, “and getting better all the time. They have transformed what used to be a death sentence into a manageable chronic condition. Unfortunately, this fantastic progress has not been possible for most people living with the disease in developing countries. I’m very adamant about wanting to make that happen.” Even now, the number of people who die from HIV/AIDS each year exceeds the number who have access to life-saving medications. This is, of course, a political issue rather than a strictly medical one.

In his efforts against AIDS, Wainberg has relied on his political instincts as well as his scientific acumen. “Mark contributed singularly to the recognition of the African AIDS epidemic and, more importantly, to the deployment of highly active antiretroviral therapy programs in the south of the world,” says Dr. Julio Montaner, president-elect of the International AIDS Society.

According to Montaner, Wainberg was determined to hold the 2000 International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, seeing it as an important opportunity to demonstrate to the world the enormous impact AIDS was having in Africa. It was the first time the event was held in a developing country. “At one point, this was felt to be a

rather risky if not dangerous move,” says Montaner. “Mark proved the world wrong when the conference turned out to be a tremendous success.” Montaner describes Durban as “the pivotal event” that paved the way for antiretroviral therapy efforts in Africa.

Wainberg does not expect HIV to be the last virus to wreak unexpected havoc on our society. “There was very little way to predict the emergence of the AIDS virus,” he points out. “And if it happened once, why can’t it happen again? We got a good scare a few years back with SARS, and we all fear another influenza pandemic. But it would be complacent to imagine there won’t be other viruses too.”

HIV remains an astonishingly baffling virus. Researchers keep looking for a pair of holy grails: a cure and a vaccine. “We know how to treat the disease,” Wainberg says, “but we don’t know how to cure it or prevent it. In fact, we have no right to speak of a possible cure — the science is just not there yet. We also have no right to promise anybody that we’ll have a preventive vaccine within the next 20 years.” He glances meaningfully over his glasses. “I hope I’m wrong.”

Few researchers would speak so plainly. But plain speaking has served Wainberg well. On the day he met Daniel Arap Moi, for instance, the Kenyan president was polite; having listened to Wainberg’s forthright words, he made no promises. Yet in the months after that meeting, Moi’s government finally began a major campaign of public education about HIV and AIDS — just as Wainberg had hoped, and just as the priest in the airport had feared. ✦

Mark Abley is a Montreal-based author, poet and journalist. The winner of a National Newspaper Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Abley wrote Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages, a Discover Magazine Top 20 Science Book of the Year. He is a columnist for the Montreal Gazette and the Toronto Star.

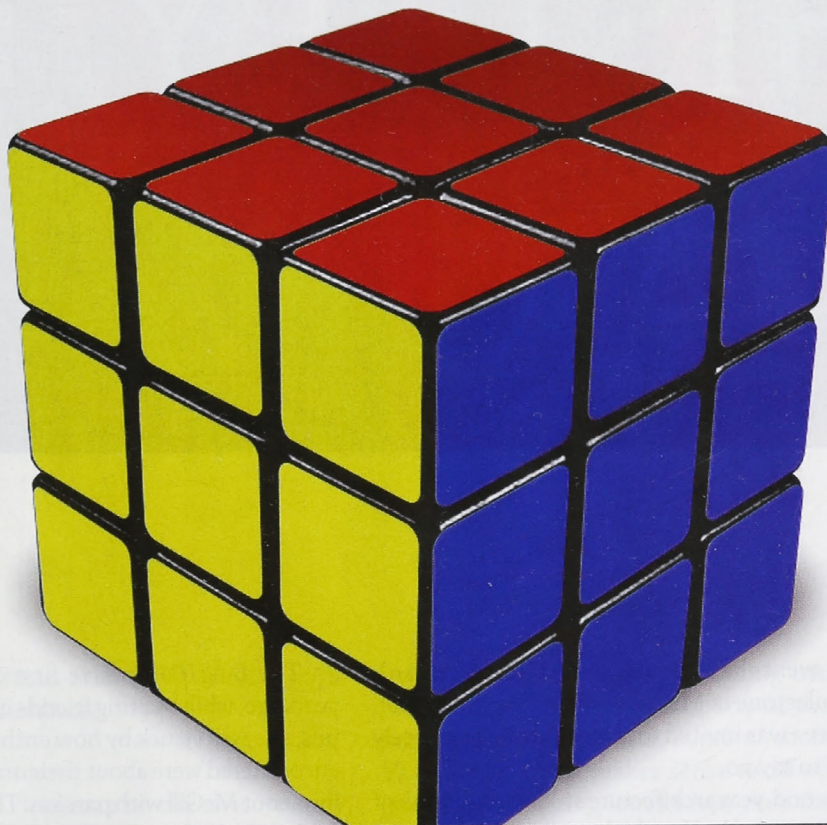
“There was very little way to predict the emergence of the AIDS virus. If it happened once, why can’t it happen again?”

Below from left to right: Wainberg with former U.S. president Bill Clinton at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006; Wainberg with then-French president Jacques Chirac and then-European Commission president Romano Prodi at the International AIDS Society Conference in Paris in 2003



COURTESY OF MARK WAINBERG

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HISTORY {in the} MAKING

McGill has launched its most ambitious fundraising campaign ever to bolster its most precious resource — its people

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

It was an event that will almost certainly be regarded as a milestone in McGill's long history, but when Lilia Koleva was invited to take part, she was sorely tempted to say no.

The shy second-year architecture student can think of a long list of things she'd rather do than climb up on a stage and speak into a microphone in front of dozens of strangers, with TV cameras zeroing in on her. "Every time I talk in front of a lot of people, I get nervous, especially since English isn't my first language," she explains.

When she was approached to participate in the press conference on October 18 that officially launched Campaign McGill: History in the Making, the University's new \$750-million fundraising campaign, Koleva had a perfect way out — she had a class assignment due that same morning.

The thing is, Koleva understood why Campaign McGill was important.

Three quarters of a billion dollars is a staggering sum. It represents the largest initial goal that any university fundraising campaign has ever attempted in Canada. The University has already raised \$325-million for Campaign McGill in the past three years, during the campaign's so-called silent phase — what Chancellor Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, described as "the worst-kept secret in Montreal."

A large chunk of the money raised by Campaign McGill — \$75-million — will be used to fund new scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate students. Lilia Koleva knows firsthand the impact that a scholarship can have on somebody's life.

The Bulgarian native first discovered McGill a few years ago, while visiting friends in Montreal. Touring campus, she was struck by how enthusiastic the students she encountered were about their university. "They were talking about McGill with passion. That really stayed with me. Back home, universities are just places you go to study. There is little interaction between students, or between students and their professors."

The more she found out about McGill and its School of Architecture, the more she wanted to come here. But it didn't look promising.

"In Bulgaria, the economic situation isn't so good," Koleva says. "If I didn't get a scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to come to McGill."

Now the proud recipient of a McGill Faculty Scholarship, Koleva is grateful for the opportunity to be here. She enjoys the close-knit camaraderie of the students and professors in architecture — it's the sort of place where a senior professor like former director David Covo periodically roams the hallways, distributing treats.

She keeps in touch with old friends in Europe, some of whom have pursued architectural studies there. "They only get to see their professors at the front of a classroom filled with 500 students. They don't get to bounce ideas back and forth with them the way we do here."

So Koleva, a little blurry-eyed from a sleepless night — "I finished writing my paper at about six in the morning, my class was at eight and the press conference started at 10" — mustered up her courage and took to the stage.

"I understand that [potential donors] want to see the



students who benefit from their gifts," Koleva says. "Otherwise, we're just numbers."

A HELPING HAND

In Michael Meighen's view, one of the reasons why Campaign McGill matters is because he knows that students aren't numbers. His perspective probably owes something to the fact that his own two sons currently attend McGill.

Meighen, BA'60, was at the campaign press conference too. One of Campaign McGill's three co-chairs, he helped make it a memorable day.

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum announced a \$5-million gift from Meighen and his wife, Kelly. The Kelly and Michael Meighen Endowment for Student Advising and Support will be used to make academic advising at McGill more readily available to students and to support initiatives aimed at making the jump to university life a little less intimidating for new students.

One of the first programs that will likely benefit from the Meighens' generosity is Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs). A non-credit program that was initially offered to new students in the Faculty of Science, or in the joint arts and science bachelor's program, FIGs gives frosh in their first semesters regular access to both a professor and an upper-year student in a small class setting. The discussions tend to be informal and they focus on the sorts of things that new students want to know – how they can best prepare themselves for entry into professional schools, for instance, and what the job prospects are for people in their discipline.

"When you have people coming here from other parts of the province, other parts of the country and other parts of the world, some of them as young as 17 or 18, I think it makes sense to do what you can to give them a helping hand when they find themselves in a strange environment," says Meighen, who also serves on the University's board of governors. "It makes sense to help them be in a position where they can take advantage of the academic opportunities that are available here."

Meighen applauds Munroe-Blum for making the quality of the student experience at McGill one of the central priorities of her administration, through the work of the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning, for example. He thinks McGill's twin ambitions, to be both student-centred and research-intensive, mark it as a unique institution.

"McGill is trying to create an environment that offers all the advantages you would find in both a large university and a small university."

NO BARRIERS TO TALENT

One thing that Munroe-Blum is determined to accomplish, in large part through the money that Campaign McGill will raise, is to make sure that issues related to funding never prevent talented students from choosing McGill.

"If a student is gifted enough to succeed in this environment, I don't want money to ever be the reason why they don't come here," declares Munroe-Blum.

For Yves Fortier, BCL'58, LLD'05, another of

Above left: Munroe-Blum surrounded by Campaign McGill's co-chairs (left to right) Michael Meighen, Yves Fortier and Eugene McBurney

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Above right: Architecture student Lilia Koleva

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN



Above top left:
Principal Heather
Munroe-Blum
announces the
formal launch of
Campaign McGill

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

Above bottom left:
Campaign McGill
international
advisor John
McCall MacBain
with his wife
Marcy and
son Charles

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Above right:
Principal Munroe-
Blum is flanked
by former McGill
principals David
Johnston (left)
and Bernard
Shapiro at a
Campaign McGill
kick-off event

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Campaign McGill's co-chairs, that commitment from the principal played a huge role in convincing him to become involved.

"Making McGill more accessible to students who might not be able to afford the price of admission is a noble goal. That is extremely laudable."

A senior partner and chairman with the Montreal law firm Ogilvy Renault, Fortier served as Canada's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations between 1988 and 1992, and as president of the UN Security Council in 1989. One of the world's most respected international arbitrators—*The American Lawyer/Focus Europe* named him the world's top arbitrator in 2005—Fortier finds that McGill is well known wherever he goes.

"In my work, I travel the world. I've never encountered anyone in Asia, Europe or America who was not familiar with McGill. For many of the people I deal with, McGill represents Montreal to them."

GOING GLOBAL

Fortier's worldwide connections are certain to come in handy. Campaign McGill will be the most internationally ambitious fundraising campaign ever attempted by a Canadian university. "McGill is the only university in the country that could have this kind of campaign," says Marc Weinstein, BA'85, BCL'91, LLB'91, McGill's assistant vice-principal (development, alumni and university relations) and the director of university campaigns.

At a presentation to McGill managers in October, Weinstein detailed how the campaign will evolve over

the next year. Next spring, Campaign McGill will be officially launched in major Canadian centres—Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Then, launches will take place in major U.S. cities, including New York, Boston, Los Angeles and San Francisco. In December, the campaign will launch in Asia. Next will be Europe.

"When you look at the University of Toronto, for instance, about 85 per cent of its students come from the greater Toronto area," notes Munroe-Blum. "Twenty-five per cent of our students come to McGill from the rest of Canada and close to 20 per cent come here from other countries. There is no other university in Canada that has the same kind of international reach."

Eugene McBurney, LLB'77, Campaign McGill's third co-chair, readily agrees. The chairman of the Toronto-based GMP Securities L.P., a leader in global mining finance, McBurney says, "McGill is one of the few true meeting grounds in this country for talented young adults representing every background to come together."

Lending McGill a hand will be John McCall MacBain, BA'80, who will serve as Campaign McGill's senior advisor for international gifts.

The Geneva-based McCall MacBain's Rolodex boasts contacts from around the globe. He is the founder of Trader Classified Media, which became the world's leading company in the local classified sector, with 350 titles and 50 Internet sites in 23 countries. A former Students' Society president and, like Yves Fortier, a McGill Rhodes Scholar, McCall MacBain and his wife Marcy recently created the McCall MacBain Foundation, which funds health and education projects in sub-Saharan Africa,

A WORLD IN THE MAKING

A comprehensive strategic evaluation of McGill's strengths has targeted five broad areas where McGill is poised to have the most impact. These are the areas that Campaign McGill will be focused on.

WELLNESS IN THE MAKING:

Advancing health by addressing such challenges as the need for a more detailed understanding of the biological basis of disease and by devising improved techniques for training health

care professionals in overburdened systems

PROSPERITY IN THE MAKING:

Building the foundations of innovation by understanding how a new age of interconnectedness is transforming our world

BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE MAKING:

Creating the next generation of science and technology, as advances in bioengineering, nanoscience and computer science herald changes comparable to the agricultural and industrial revolutions

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MAKING:

Protecting the environment for countries struggling to upgrade their economic prospects and for those striving to secure their quality of life

COMMUNITY IN THE MAKING:

Strengthening culture and civil society by deepening our knowledge of cultural histories, languages and beliefs and by using an interdisciplinary approach to better understand the major social issues of our times

climate change initiatives and post-secondary education.

"I think Montrealers don't always realize what a jewel they have sitting in the middle of their home town," says McCall MacBain. "They don't always realize just how incredibly well regarded McGill is from far away. It really is seen as Canada's national university."

The McCall MacBains also made quite a splash at the press conference that launched the campaign with a \$5-million gift of their own. The money will be used to create graduate fellowships in the Faculty of Arts.

SUPPORTING GRADUATE STUDIES

The campaign's focus on supporting graduate students captured his attention. Campaign McGill hopes to raise \$115-million for graduate fellowships. Noting that the University already has the highest proportion of graduate students in Canada, McCall MacBain says, "McGill wants to operate at the same level as the best research universities in the world and it wants to attract the best graduate students in the world."

"Graduate students are at the heart of university research and teaching, and have contributed to the teams that have made many of the most important discoveries of our time," noted Munroe-Blum at the campaign launch. "Great faculty members choose universities with great graduate students, and vice versa."

While McGill has no shortage of accomplished professors to offer as graduate advisors, the University does fall short in another important area. "In some cases, talented graduate students we've offered admission to receive fellowships from other institutions that are up to

\$10,000 higher than what we can afford to offer," says Munroe-Blum. In this arena, McGill finds it often just can't compete with many of the other top research universities in the country.

"This is an area where we simply have to improve," the principal insists.

After the press conference on October 18, later in the afternoon, the McGill community was invited to a pair of community barbecues — one downtown, the other at Macdonald Campus — to mark the launch of the campaign. Almost 1,500 students, staff and faculty took part, but not everyone was in a celebratory mood. Members of the student group, the Grassroots Association for Student Power, were close by, handing out flyers to passersby. GRASPé members believe that, in inviting corporate donations, McGill will also allow the corporate sector to have some say in how the University is run.

"I've heard that concern, but the evidence just isn't there to support it," says Munroe-Blum. "We have policies and practices in place to guard against that sort of thing and they work. A gift is a gift, and that means it is no strings attached. You get a tax receipt. You have the right to know that we're spending the money responsibly. But you get no access to intellectual property. You receive no authority over academic decision-making."

In any case, the corporate sector isn't expected to play a leading role during the campaign. "Roughly 10 per cent of the donations we expect to receive will come from corporations," points out Weinstein. The vast majority of gifts directed to McGill will come from individuals, families or charitable foundations.

AN ENERGY BOOST

One of the province's most celebrated institutions, Hydro-Québec, helped make certain that Campaign McGill was officially launched with a bang. The world's largest producer of hydroelectric power, Hydro-Québec announced a donation of \$10-million to the University.

More than half the total amount of the gift, \$5.5-million, will go to the establishment of research chairs in environmental

and energy research in the Faculties of Science and Engineering, and \$1-million will go towards funding research in nanotechnology and environmental law. The balance will support undergraduate and graduate scholarships in law, science and engineering.

The new research chairs will examine such topics as measuring and forecasting precipitation in the short term, integrating wind energy and hydroelectricity in the

transmission grid, and renewable energies and decentralized production.

"This is wonderful news, for Quebec, for Quebec students, and for McGill's ability to be a leader in building a better environmental future for all of humanity," said Principal Heather Munroe-Blum. "The availability of environmentally sound energy sources is critical to Quebec's economic development and to the global fight against climate change."

Opposite page, above left: Hydro-Quebec president Thierry Vandal being interviewed by a TV reporter after announcing the utility's \$10-million donation to McGill University

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

GETTING OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

Planning the campaign's fundraising goals began, in some sense, back in 2003, when Provost Tony Masi asked his deans to take careful stock of their respective faculties and to identify their priorities for the future.

"At McGill, we've tended to do our planning on a year-by-year basis and we wanted to start being much more strategic about it," explains Masi. "We wanted to think carefully about where our academic strengths were and where we thought we could become stronger in the future." Masi believed it was vital for the University to focus its resources on the areas where McGill and its researchers were clearly positioned to be world players. "Nobody can be great at everything," he says.

"We knew we were going into a campaign, so this was also an opportunity to examine our academic priorities and think about the ones that might resonate with the philanthropic community."

What came out of that process was the *White Paper: Strengths and Aspirations*, and one of its defining elements was a call for more interdisciplinary partnerships among McGill researchers.

"Strong alliances were already being forged here," says Masi. The Centre for Language, Mind and Brain, for instance, involves professors from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Medicine and Science, while the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology involves music experts, psychologists, neuroscientists and computer engineers.

"The kinds of questions that are being addressed right now by researchers are bigger, more complex ques-

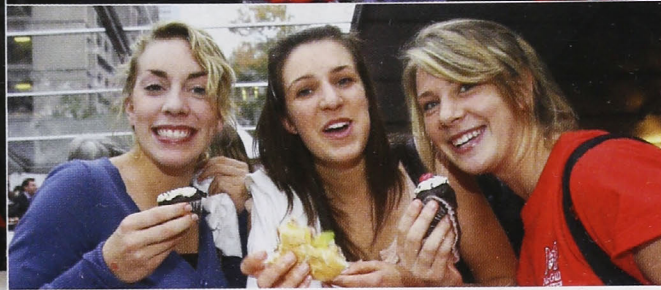
tions than we've ever asked before," explains Masi. "We need to bring together people who have different talents and different types of expertise to try to answer them."

McGill's professors are already busy tackling these questions, says Masi. While many of McGill's past pioneers — celebrated names like Osler, Rutherford and Penfield — continue to be honoured for their achievements, Masi isn't so sure that McGill's current corps of researchers receive their fair share of acclaim. "McGill continues to be an innovative university. We don't get enough credit for that."

WORLD-CLASS TALENTS

Psychology professor Jeffrey Mogil's research on how men and women don't experience pain or respond to pain medications in quite the same way, could conceivably pave the way for a new generation of gender-specific pain treatments. Medical scientists Moshe Szyf and Michael Meaney are widely acknowledged as being at the forefront of epigenetics, a radical rethink of the interplay between nurture and nature, positing that environmental factors can fundamentally alter the nature of our genes.

In the past year alone, McGill scientists have uncovered the genetic underpinnings related to several major diseases, including breast cancer, type-2 diabetes and spina bifida. Grace Egeland, director of the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, recently traveled aboard an Arctic icebreaker to head up the largest Inuit health survey ever conducted in Canada.



"We really are trying to maintain a culture of excellence here," says Masi, and Campaign McGill will play a critical role in safeguarding that tradition. The campaign hopes to raise \$248-million for endowed chairs and professorships, so that McGill can continue to attract top talents to its professoriate.

A few weeks after the campaign's official launch, McGill received heartening news. Not only did *Maclean's* name McGill as the top medical-doctoral university in the country for the third year running, but the *Times Higher-QS World University Rankings*, published in Britain's widely respected *Times Higher Education Supplement*, listed McGill as one of the top 12 universities in the world.

That kind of success, however, can be a double-edged sword.

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

"There are occasions where I'll be talking to government officials and I'll point to the accomplishments of our students. I'll talk about the extraordinary achievements of our professors. And then I'll remind them of how the institutions we compete with, the best universities in the world, have access to much better funding than we do," says Munroe-Blum.

For instance, the University of Michigan, which is ranked as the 38th best university in the world by the *Times Higher-QS*, has over \$135,000 in total funding per full-time student. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, rated 55th, has over \$54,000 per full-time student. McGill has about \$28,000 per full-time student.

"The reaction I get sometimes is 'If McGill is per-

forming so well, what's the problem?'" As far as Munroe-Blum is concerned, that's the wrong question to ask.

"Imagine how much more we could accomplish if we had the funding to match our ambitions."

"If we don't have access to substantial private support, we simply won't be able to keep [performing at this level]," adds Meighen. "If we do get that support, then I really do think that the sky is the limit."

The press conference that announced the official launch of Campaign McGill took place on the downtown campus, very close to the spot where James McGill lived two centuries ago. Paying tribute to McGill's founder at the launch, Munroe-Blum pointed out how his goal of creating a top-notch university in the heart of Montreal must have seemed iffy at best.

"He made this bequest when his community, Montreal, was a small town at the edge of an undeveloped continent. He cast the product of his lifetime of hard work on the side of free inquiry, on the side of education independent of religious influence, at a time when there was no evidence that a piece of land, on the side of a wintry mountain, on a remote island, on a remote continent, could ever become a great university."

It did.

Somehow, the prospect of raising \$750-million to firmly establish McGill as one of the world's leading universities for decades to come doesn't seem anywhere near as improbable. 🐦

For more information on Campaign McGill, please visit www.mcgill.ca/campaign.

Above top right: McGill School of Environment director Nigel Roulet and plant science professor Don Smith participated in the Healing Our World Symposium, in which some of the University's top professors addressed some of the planet's most vexing problems

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

Above bottom right: Science students Hilary Kellar-Parsons and Alana Battiston and management student Aly McPhee enjoy the food at a community barbecue that took place after the campaign launch

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

INVENTER L'AVENIR

PAR DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89 / TRADUCTION DE LUCIE LEGAULT

McGill vient de lancer la plus ambitieuse campagne de financement de son histoire afin de soutenir sa plus précieuse ressource — ses gens

Lorsqu'on l'a invitée à participer à la conférence de presse du 18 octobre marquant le lancement officiel de la Campagne de financement McGill : Inventer l'avenir, dont l'objectif est de 750 millions de dollars, Lilia Koleva a d'abord été tentée de refuser.

La timide étudiante en architecture peut penser à des tas de choses qu'elle ferait volontiers plutôt que de s'adresser à des dizaines d'étrangers, sous l'œil des caméras de télévision. « Chaque fois que je parle devant un public aussi nombreux, je suis nerveuse », explique-t-elle.

Mais Lilia Koleva savait que la Campagne de financement McGill était importante.

L'argent amassé — 75 millions de dollars — servira en grande partie à créer de nouvelles bourses pour les étudiants de premier cycle. Et Lilia Koleva sait quelle incidence une bourse d'études peut avoir dans la vie de quelqu'un.

C'est en rendant visite à des amis montréalais que l'étudiante originaire de Bulgarie a découvert McGill il y a quelques années. En se baladant sur le campus, elle a été frappée par l'enthousiasme des étudiants qu'elle y rencontrait. « Ils parlaient de McGill avec passion. Chez moi, l'université est simplement un endroit où l'on étudie. »

Plus elle en apprenait sur l'Université et son École d'architecture, plus elle voulait y étudier. « En Bulgarie, la situation économique n'est pas bonne, explique-t-elle. Sans bourse, je n'aurais pas pu poursuivre des études à McGill. »

Fière récipiendaire d'une bourse de faculté de l'Université McGill, Lilia Koleva demeure en contact avec des amis qui étudient l'architecture en Europe. « Les

seules "rencontres" qu'ils ont avec les professeurs se font dans d'immenses classes, en compagnie de 500 autres étudiants. Impossible pour eux d'échanger des idées avec leurs professeurs, comme nous le faisons ici. »

Rassemblant son courage, elle est donc montée sur scène lors du lancement de la campagne.

« Je comprends qu'ils [les donateurs potentiels] veuillent voir les étudiants qui bénéficient de leurs dons, dit-elle. Autrement, nous ne sommes qu'un numéro. »

UN SOLIDE COUP DE MAIN

Pour Michael Meighen (B.A. 1960), père de deux garçons qui étudient à McGill, les étudiants ne sont jamais « que des numéros ». L'un des trois coprésidents d'Inventer l'avenir, il a fait sa part pour que le lancement officiel de la campagne soit une journée mémorable.

En compagnie de son épouse Kelly, il a versé à McGill un don de cinq millions de dollars pour améliorer l'aide scolaire et soutenir les initiatives visant à faciliter la transition des nouveaux étudiants vers la vie universitaire.

« Vous avez ici des gens qui arrivent des quatre coins de la province, du pays et du monde. Certains ont à peine 17 ou 18 ans. Il est normal qu'on leur donne un coup de main pour faciliter leur arrivée au sein d'un nouvel environnement », explique M. Meighen.

Il applaudit la principale Heather Munroe-Blum qui a mis la qualité de l'expérience étudiante mcgilloise au premier rang des priorités de son administration. Selon lui, la double ambition de McGill, c'est-à-dire placer la recherche et l'étudiant au cœur de sa mission, la rend unique.

« McGill crée un environnement qui offre tous les avantages d'une grande et d'une petite université. »



AU-DELÀ DES OBSTACLES FINANCIERS

La professeure Munroe-Blum est déterminée à ce que les fonds amassés dans le cadre de la Campagne de financement McGill servent à s'assurer que les préoccupations financières n'empêchent pas des étudiants talentueux de choisir McGill.

« Si un étudiant est suffisamment doué pour réussir au sein de cet environnement, il n'est pas question que l'argent l'en empêche », déclare-t-elle.

Cet engagement de la principale a grandement contribué à convaincre Yves Fortier (B.C.L. 1958, LL. D. 2005), l'un des coprésidents de la Campagne de financement McGill, à prêter son appui.

« Rendre McGill plus accessible aux étudiants ne pouvant payer les droits de scolarité est un noble objectif. »

Cet ex-ambassadeur du Canada aux Nations Unies est aujourd'hui un arbitre international parmi les plus sollicités et respectés au monde. Partout où il va, il constate la solide réputation dont jouit McGill.

« Mon travail m'amène à parcourir le monde. Jamais je n'ai rencontré, que ce soit en Asie, en Europe ou en Amérique, quelqu'un qui ne connaissait pas McGill. »

UNE PERSPECTIVE MONDIALE

Les contacts qu'il entretient aux quatre coins du monde seront certainement utiles. La Campagne de financement McGill sera la plus ambitieuse jamais mise en ouvre par une université canadienne à l'échelle internationale. « McGill, qui compte des diplômés dans 188 pays, est la seule université canadienne qui puisse mener une telle campagne », a mentionné Marc Weinstein (B.A. 1985, B.C.L. 1991, LL. B. 1991), vice-

principal adjoint (développement, relations avec les diplômés et affaires universitaires) et directeur des campagnes universitaires.

John McCall MacBain (B.A. 1980), conseiller principal de la Campagne pour les dons internationaux, donnera un coup de main.

M. McCall MacBain est le fondateur de Trader Classified Media, un chef de file mondial dans le secteur des petites annonces. Résidents de Genève, M. McCall MacBain et son épouse Marcy ont récemment mis sur pied la Fondation McCall MacBain, qui se consacre à des projets dans les domaines de la santé et de l'éducation en Afrique subsaharienne, à des initiatives sur les changements climatiques et à l'enseignement postsecondaire.

« Je crois que les Montréalais ne se rendent pas tous compte qu'ils possèdent un joyau au cour du centre-ville. Peu d'entre eux sont au fait de l'immense considération dont jouit McGill ailleurs dans le monde », souligne M. MacBain. Les McCall MacBain ont fait don de cinq millions de dollars à McGill pour la création de bourses d'études supérieures en lettres rattachées à la Faculté des arts.

L'objectif visé par la Campagne de financement McGill est de 115 millions de dollars pour la création de bourses d'études supérieures. « McGill veut se mesurer aux meilleures universités de recherche au monde », souligne John McCall MacBain, tout en faisant remarquer que l'Université a déjà atteint la plus forte proportion d'étudiants aux cycles supérieurs au Canada.

« C'est un secteur où nous devons nous améliorer. Parmi les étudiants talentueux aux cycles supérieurs que nous souhaitons recruter, certains se voient offrir

*En haut :
Des centaines
de personnes
ont assisté
aux barbecues
communautaires
qui ont eu lieu
aux campus
du centre-ville
et Macdonald et
qui soulignaient
le lancement
de la Campagne
de financement
McGill*

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS



En haut à gauche : La principale Munroe-Blum tranche la première part du gâteau à l'occasion du barbecue communautaire du centre-ville, en compagnie de représentants du corps professoral et étudiant et du personnel de l'Université
PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

En haut à droite : L'étudiant en sciences Spencer Ng discute avec Louis Vogel, B. Sc. 1951, lors d'un déjeuner donné à la suite du lancement de la Campagne de financement McGill
PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

par d'autres établissements des bourses dont le montant dépasse de 10 000 dollars celles que nous sommes en mesure de leur consentir », a indiqué la principale Munroe-Blum.

FIXER L'ORDRE DES PRIORITÉS

La planification des objectifs de la Campagne a commencé en 2003, lorsque le vice principal exécutif Tony Masi a demandé aux doyens d'évaluer soigneusement leurs facultés respectives et d'en déterminer les priorités.

« Nous voulions nous pencher sérieusement sur nos points forts sur le plan universitaire et sur les secteurs dans lesquels nous estimions pouvoir devenir plus forts à l'avenir. Personne ne peut exceller dans tout », explique M. Masi.

L'un des secteurs sur lequel McGill axe ses efforts est la création d'un plus grand nombre de partenariats interdisciplinaires parmi ses chercheurs. Au Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire en musique, médias et technologie de McGill, par exemple, experts en musique, psychologues, neuroscientifiques et ingénieurs informaticiens travaillent ensemble.

« Les questions sur lesquelles se penchent actuellement nos chercheurs sont plus vastes et plus complexes que jamais. Nous devons réunir des gens qui possèdent des expertises et des talents différents pour tenter de répondre à ces questions. Avec la Campagne, nous espérons amasser 248 millions de dollars destinés à des chaires dotées et à des subventions professorales afin que McGill puisse continuer d'attirer les meilleurs professeurs », ajoute le vice-principal exécutif Masi.

Quelques semaines après le lancement officiel de la Campagne, McGill a reçu une excellente nouvelle. Le classement universitaire mondial *Times Higher-QS World University Ranking* la classait parmi les 12 meilleures au monde.

Ce genre de succès peut toutefois être une arme à double tranchant.

« Parfois, je m'entretiens avec des représentants du gouvernement et je leur souligne les réalisations de nos étudiants et professeurs. Je leur rappelle ensuite à quel point nos établissements concurrents, les meilleures universités mondiales, ont accès à un bien meilleur financement que nous », dit Mme Munroe-Blum.

Par exemple, l'Université du Michigan, classée au 38^e rang des meilleures universités au monde par le *Times Higher-QS*, dispose au total de plus de 135 000 dollars par étudiant à temps complet. À McGill, ce montant est d'environ 28 000 dollars.

« Parfois, la réaction est : "Si McGill connaît une si bonne performance, où est le problème?" » En ce qui concerne la principale Munroe-Blum, c'est la mauvaise question à poser. « Imaginez tout ce que nous pourrions accomplir de plus si nous disposions du financement correspondant à nos ambitions. »

« Si nous n'avons pas accès à un soutien privé considérable, nous ne pourrions tout simplement pas continuer [à assurer une performance de ce niveau], ajoute M. Meighen. Si nous obtenons ce soutien financier, alors je crois que tous les espoirs sont permis. »

Pour plus d'information sur la Campagne de financement McGill, veuillez consulter le site <http://francais.mcgill.ca/campaign>.



OWEN EGAN

Marvin Corber,
C.M., FCA

McGill Holds a Place in His Heart

A decades-long love affair with McGill is about to go public. Marvin Corber has been named Chairman of Bequests and Planned Gifts for the recently launched Campaign McGill. Marvin, a partner with the accounting firm of Richter, Usher & Vineberg – now RSM Richter – will assist in the overall promotion of the mission, vision and priorities of the Campaign, particularly relating to legacy gifts.

“I’m very optimistic about the Campaign because I think our potential success is unlimited,” says Marvin, who, among a long list of volunteer positions, has been a member, deputy chairman and, currently, governor emeritus of McGill’s Board of Governors. McGill, he says, has been important to him ever since he completed the two-year Chartered Accountant program in the late 1950s – studying at night while working during the day at Richter, Usher & Vineberg. At the age of 26, he became the youngest partner in the history of the firm.

In the 1970s, he was invited to join the McGill Fund Council and discovered not only that his love of the University was intact, but that he had an aptitude for fundraising, a skill he has put to good use for such organizations as Centraide, Combined Jewish Appeal and Sun Youth. His dedication to community service has earned him a number of awards, including the Order of Canada.

“I’m a very passionate person,” he explains. “Everything I do in life, I do with a full heart.”

Marvin definitely has a special place in his heart for McGill, where both of his children, Michael (BCom’85, DPA’86) and Deborah (BMus’81) also studied.

“When I was a student, I didn’t appreciate the reputation McGill had,” he says. “Today, it’s recognized as the premier university in Canada and has an international reputation for excellence. Who wouldn’t want to be a part of that?”

For more information on legacy gifts, contact:
Bequests and Planned Gifts
1430 Peel Street, Montreal,
Quebec, Canada, H3A 3T3
Tel.: 514-398-3560, Fax: 514-398-8012
Email: plannedgifts.dev@mcgill.ca
www.mcgill.ca/alumni-planned



McGill

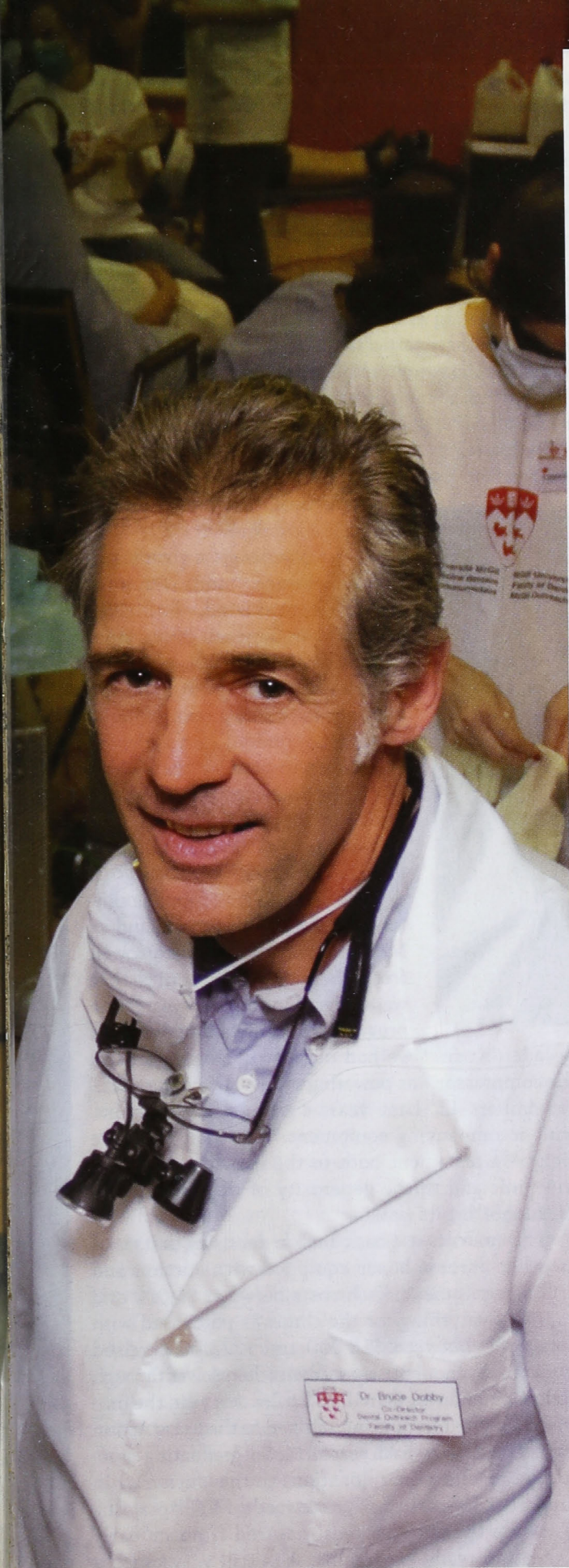
HAVE DENTAL DRILL, WILL TRAVEL

The Faculty of Dentistry's Community Outreach Program has been hitting the streets for a decade, giving patients who can't normally afford dental care cause to smile

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH
PHOTOS BY RACHEL GRANOFKY



Drs. Yu Kwong Li and Bruce Dobby, the co-directors of the Dentistry Community Outreach Program



Nicholas Vermeersch, a tall, burly young man sporting a camouflage T-shirt and a few tattoos, pumps his arm with excitement. “I’m gonna be frozen,” he enthuses, as he reclines into a portable dentist’s chair with improbable excitement. “Yeah!”

It’s not the sort of reaction one would expect to see from a patient during a trip to the dentist, but then, Vermeersch isn’t a typical patient and this isn’t a typical dentist’s office.

It’s a Thursday evening in late September, at Montreal’s Dans la rue, located on a downtrodden east-end strip, where the non-profit organization helps street youth get their lives on track. Dans la rue’s cafeteria, which feeds between 150 and 200 people each day, has been transformed into an eight-chair mobile dental clinic.

Karen Fung, a fourth-year McGill dentistry student, begins to examine Vermeersch’s mouth. Jodi Chu, a dentistry student from second year, works as Fung’s assistant. The three have all donned protective goggles. “It’s like being in a *Star Trek* movie, with all the masks and equipment,” Vermeersch proclaims.

It’s his first dental checkup in a very long time. He is here tonight because it’s free and it’s taking place in a friendly and familiar environment.

Fung and Cho are two of 16 students at work this evening, all from the Faculty of Dentistry’s Community Outreach Program. For Fung and Cho, this is part of their McGill training. They’re earning credits for a course formally known as “Dentistry 313: Community Clinics.”

ATYPICAL CLIENTELE

Tonight’s patients are all in their late teens and early 20s. Clad in T-shirts and torn jeans, they look like scruffier versions of the students in blue dental coats who are treating their teeth — they’re all young.

“Sometimes you can see a bit of hesitation and intimidation on the part of the dental students their first time here,” says Terri Hill, the resident clinical nurse at Dans la rue. “But once the students start talking with our kids and realize these are just regular people, they’re able to see past the tattoos and piercing.”

Across the room, the hmmm and brrr of compressors, drills and suction tubes competes with the babble of several ongoing conversations. The room bustles with energy; whenever a hand shoots up, a supervising dentist (all are McGill dentistry professors or clinical instructors and every one is a volunteer) hurries over to offer guidance, answer a question, resolve a conundrum.

Everybody here tonight seems relaxed and in good spirits and the free pizza that’s available is only part of the reason why. Dans la rue has been participating in McGill’s outreach program for several years, and you won’t find any of the stereotypical “fear of the dentist” in this room of youthful patients.

“Dental care is just one of the whole array of problems these kids are facing,” says Aki Tchitacov, BA’82, Dans la



rue's executive director. "Honestly, they have so much that is difficult and painful in their lives, going to the dentist, especially in an environment like this where they feel comfortable, is not at all frightening."

In fact, says Hill, these are enthusiastic patients. "The need is great, and the kids appreciate it so much. They even look forward to it.

"They have significant problems," she adds, "from gum disease to rotten or missing teeth — from years of neglect, as well as from malnutrition and abuse. They want to retain what's left, and the clinic affects everything from their overall health to their self-esteem."

"We try to go to places where people have fallen through the social safety net," explains Dr. Bruce Dobby, BSc'76, DDS'81, who, along with Dr. Yu Kwong Li, serves as co-director of the Dentistry Outreach Program for McGill.

TEN YEARS STRONG

The Faculty of Dentistry's community outreach clinics first began operating in 1998, the brainchild of former dentistry professor Michael Wiseman, DDS'85. The program now collaborates with over two dozen agencies, including Sun Youth, the Old Brewery Mission, L'Abri en Ville, the Maimonides Geriatric Centre and Famijeune, to probe, polish and protect the teeth of patients who are unlikely or unable to access treatment from conventional dental practices — patients who are impoverished, recent immigrants, elderly or disabled. The clinic offers cleanings, fillings, oral hygiene education, cancer screenings, denture realignments and repairs — all for free.

The initial efforts of Wiseman saw a small group of volunteer dentists treat patients in outreach clinics; soon the dentists were accompanied by McGill students as well. When Wiseman left Montreal, the mantle of responsibility was assumed by two of his long-time volunteer dentists, Dobby and Li, who have guided and expanded the program over the last half-dozen years, in the process transforming it into a credit course.

Today they have a lengthy roster of dentists eager to serve as volunteers, and some, like Dr. Ronnie Fagen, BSc'66, DDS'68 (a clinician who instructs McGill dentistry students on prosthodontics), and adjunct dentistry professor Louise Desnoyers, appear as regularly as the coordinators. Dental assistants Randi Margolis and Zina Bianco, whose day jobs involve working with Li and Dobby in their respective private practices, also lend their expertise for each outing.

Marnie Taylor, the administrative coordinator in the Office of the Dean of Dentistry, schedules the clinics with the partner agencies and keeps track of which students have taken part when. If a clinic is open for business somewhere, Taylor is present, registering patients and booking follow-up appointments for procedures that are too complex for the mobile clinic.

The dental work itself is all performed by third- or fourth-year students, with first- and second-year students acting as their assistants. By graduation, each student will have participated in eight to 10 clinics. "When I went to school, community dentistry was just a lecture," Dobby recalls. "But our students are getting a real slice of society. They're going to graduate from one of the best schools in North America and they'll make good incomes, so if we can impart some sense of social awareness at the same time, they receive a more complete education."

"Our students get a great learning experience," adds Dean of Dentistry James Lund, who himself takes part in outreach clinics regularly. "They learn that you can give very useful dental treatment in a community setting using simple mobile equipment. And they're introduced to patients they would never see in any dental office anywhere in Montreal. You have to go out and find these people in order to help them."

This year will see 19 mobile clinics take place across the island of Montreal, an impressive growth from the six annual clinics that were offered in the early years. The program has come a long way in a decade. "At first we had only two little chairs and the compressor was powering off every five minutes," remembers Li. Last year, there were six chairs, with accompanying equipment. This year, there are eight — a testament both to the growing success of the clinic and to the generosity of the donors who are supporting its work.

The students use basic mobile dentistry units that look like chrome boxes equipped with suction and drilling equipment. Each costs between \$6,000 and \$8,000. Everything for the clinics is purchased with donations. Between \$10,000 and \$12,000 is raised every year by the dentistry students themselves through various fundraising activities. Earlier this year, the program benefited from being selected as the Class Action project for 2007 — each year all McGill graduating classes pool together their donations to the University in support of one particularly noteworthy McGill project.

While the program has matured from its early rough-and-ready excursions, it is still very much a

"We try to go to places where people have fallen through the social safety net."

BRUCE DOBBY

hands-on operation for Dobby and Li, who can now boast finely honed roadie skills. At least twice a month they meet in the late afternoon, load a van (parked beneath the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building) with the chairs, dental units and other accoutrements of the trade, drive to their clinic-for-the-night, and set up in time for early evening sittings; at the end, with the help of students, they take it all apart again. "We've learned through experience how to organize everything," says Li, noting that the after-clinic load-out now takes less than an hour.

Experience has also helped them get patients in the seats. "In the beginning, there were times when we had to pull people off the street," he laughs. "But now we have a reputation as offering a viable, useful service."

It's a service that Li and Dobby are anxious to expand.

OPENING WIDER

Currently, when patients need extractions or X-rays, they are referred to one of the outreach program's sessions at McGill's 40-seat student clinic at the Montreal General Hospital, where dentistry students receive the bulk of their practical training.

"Often [the outreach program's] patients need even more complicated things — a root canal or a partial denture, perhaps — that are not in our program's scope," explains Dobby. Soon, though — and again, thanks to donor generosity — patients from the outreach program will have access to more complicated restorative dentistry treatments at the Montreal General clinics.

For patients who meet certain economic and medical criteria, the outreach program will offer a simple deal in exchange for more sophisticated and expensive forms of dental care — pay what you can. "If they need a treatment that costs \$400 and can only pay \$25, then we'll pick up the other \$375," explains Dobby.

"It's a natural evolution," he says. "We want to provide more complex services to the most vulnerable sectors of the community, who, under the current way in which dentistry is funded, have no way to get treatment."

The Faculty of Dentistry as a whole is concerned with the issues that revolve around access to public dental care. In an interview with the *McGill Reporter* earlier this year, Dean Lund made his feelings on the subject plain. "It is an absolute aberration that teeth are not covered by Medicare while every other part of your body is. What are young families who are struggling just to make ends meet to do?"

But cost isn't the only issue. Trust can also be a barrier.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Research done by Dr. Christophe Bedos, an assistant professor of dentistry at McGill, shows that Montreal's indigent population tends to reject the dental system altogether, even though patients on welfare have free access. He also studies how dentists, in general, relate to poor patients.

"These two worlds are in conflict," says Bedos. "Dentists would like to help their [less well off] patients, but they do not understand their behaviours and believe they are not interested in their dental health" — these patients often miss scheduled appointments due to poor time management skills, for instance. "On the other side, welfare recipients think dentists are just money makers, thinking about their own interests. Some dentists manage to overcome these problems, but many do not."

The outreach program is doing what it can to bridge that gap. "You really learn how hard it is for some people to get dental care," says fourth-year student Kerry Anne Flintoff. "We don't do complicated stuff here, but we do make a difference. My patient is a smoker and had stains all over his teeth. But now he looks totally different, he's leaving here happy. But the main thing is that you are helping people who otherwise wouldn't get any dental care."

At the Dans la rue cafeteria, as the autumn evening sky darkens outside, Karen Fung is putting her finishing touches on the now-frozen Vermeersch's teeth. By now, the clinic is winding down; one by one, the air compressors are shut off and the patients check out their shinier teeth.

Across the room, Dominique, a slim, personable young woman, stretches her legs after an examination and cleaning. Her student-dentists are searching for a mirror, so she can assess their work. "I feel really lucky. Dentists are expensive," she says. "And it's good for the students to work on people who don't have enough money to pay."

Dominique also needs a root canal, and could well be one of the first beneficiaries of the outreach program's subsidized care program. "But now they are going to make my teeth even," she says, pointing to her slightly misaligned incisors. She lowers herself back into the chair and smiles; she's feeling good, her teeth are looking great.

For Dominique, life just got a little better. 🐦

Patrick McDonagh, a former associate editor of the McGill News alumni magazine, is a Montreal-based freelance writer. Four of Patrick's articles for the News have earned prizes from the Canada Council for the Advancement of Education.





McGill Alumni Association presidents, past and present. From left to right: current MAA president Ann Vroom, BA'67, Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, Sally McDougall, BSc'68, Dip Ed'69, Robert Faith, BA'53, DDS'58, and Morna Flood Consedine, DipEd'71, MEd'77, DEd'85.

**For 150 years,
the McGill Alumni
Association has been
the University's
not-so-secret weapon**

William Dawson was a principal with a problem. His university, quite literally, was a mess.

Surveying his campus, Dawson, who became McGill's fifth principal in 1855, had ample cause for dismay. The new Arts Building was badly damaged by a hail of rocks, courtesy of dynamiting taking place at the nearby McTavish Reservoir. The ruins stood, as Dawson wrote, "amidst a wilderness of excavators' and masons' rubbish, overgrown with weeds and bushes."

Dawson watched wearily as the cows contentedly grazed on McGill's unfenced grounds. The school wouldn't attract new students if it resembled, as he put it, "a common, used for pasturage." Even back then, before universities had to compete fiercely for faculty and students, Dawson understood the importance of appearance. His campus badly needed a makeover.

The new principal and avid naturalist decided that enough was enough, and rolled up his sleeves to begin planting trees. The saplings would grow and provide clear, natural markings of the lower campus grounds.

Dawson didn't dig alone. Planting alongside him were members of what would become the McGill Alumni Association (MAA). The fledgling organization's trademark devotion to the University was evident right from the start.

TRUE

TO THEIR SCHOOL

BY BRETT HOOTON, BA'02, MA'05

THE TIES THAT BIND

“There is some kind of magic, that’s all I can say, about McGill alumni. There is a loyalty here, and an enthusiasm for this institution that almost defies definition,” says Ann Vroom, BA’67, president of the MAA. “They have been, and continue to be, the envy of other institutions — certainly in Canada.”

The source of that loyalty can be difficult to pin down.

“We’re not a tiny university, but it’s the kind of bond that you would expect from a smaller university where students live on campus and form very tight-knit circles,” notes Vroom. “In this position I’ve travelled a fair bit, and certainly you find that the connection alumni feel is even stronger the farther you get away from Montreal.”

Honora Shaughnessy, MLS’73, the executive director of the MAA, believes her association plays a pivotal role in nurturing those ties.

“I think the Alumni Association provides continuity through the ages, and provides the opportunity for graduates to connect with each other and with McGill in a way that the University itself can’t do, because the leadership changes. The one constant is this organization.”

The McGill University Society, which has since evolved into today’s Alumni Association, was first established in 1857, two years after Dawson’s arrival. By 1876, the group had renamed itself the Graduates’ Society of McGill University and rewritten its constitution. Its guiding purpose would be “to bind the graduates more closely to each other and to their Alma Mater.” The Society soon established a library endowment fund for the University, while also lobbying for additional staff and better facilities.

Many of the best-known names from McGill’s early history served on the society’s executive. Sir Thomas Roddick, MDCM1846, the McGill medical professor who introduced Lister’s antiseptic practices to Montreal, served as president, while Carrie Derick, BA1890, a pioneering geneticist who became McGill’s first female professor, was a two-term vice-president.

One of McGill’s most famous graduates (and professors), Sir William Osler, MDCM1872, also left his indelible mark on the Graduates’ Society. After serving several years on the society’s governing board, he became its president in 1881.

Osler championed the notion of bedside teaching, taking students along with him on his hospital rounds, so that they could witness his interactions with patients firsthand instead of relying on lectures or textbooks alone.

Still, Osler was hardly dismissive of book learning — he wrote *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, which remained the most influential medical textbook for almost 50 years. “To study the phenomenon of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all,” he once wrote.



Above: Principal William Dawson

Above right: McGill circa 1850s

Middle left: Thomas Roddick

Middle right: Carrie Derick

Below left: William Osler

Below middle: McGill University Library circa 1885

Below right: Graduates’ Society of McGill University coat of arms circa 1850-1885



PHOTO CREDITS:
 DAWSON: WILLIAM NOTMAN/MCCORD MUSEUM
 MCGILL CAMPUS: MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
 RODDICK: MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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PHOTO CREDITS:
FEMALE GRADUATES: MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
COMPANY ON PARADE: FROM R.C. FETHERSTONHAUGH'S MCGILL UNIVERSITY AT WAR
MOLSON: WM. NOTMAN & SON/MCCORD MUSEUM

Left: McGill's first female graduates in 1888

Below: The No. 2 University Company on parade in 1915

Bottom: Percival Molson

"[McGill alumni] have been, and continue to be, the envy of other institutions."



Osler was an enthusiastic book collector himself—he would bequeath his collection of 8,000 volumes, many of them quite rare, to McGill. The Graduates' Society redoubled its efforts to boost the University's library holdings in the wake of Osler's involvement with the group, and between 1878 and 1890, the school library's collection rocketed from 5,000 to 13,000 volumes.

ADMIRABLE ALUMNAE

As the 19th century came to a close, the reach of the Graduates' Society grew as McGill alumni extended their influence outside Montreal. Beginning in 1895, Graduates' Society chapters were established in Ottawa, New York, Halifax, Toronto and British Columbia. An important new addition sprang up closer to home with the establishment of the Alumnae Society in 1889.

McGill began admitting women undergraduates in 1884, and when the first class of eight graduated four years later, these trailblazers vowed to maintain their connection to the University and promote McGill's spirit of leadership and activism in the world at large. In 1891, the Alumnae Society helped establish the Girls Club and Lunch Room, where female shop and factory workers—some of whom earned 60 cents for a 10-hour day—could buy meals for just a few pennies. Other services were added, including a fund for unemployed women, dressmaking classes, programs for children and a library.

The Alumnae Society also championed women's suffrage. Although Canadian women were granted the right to vote by the federal government following the First World War, it wasn't until 1940 that women in Quebec received the vote. McGill alumnae joined their francophone sisters in the battle for equal rights, employing such tactics as dropping leaflets from airplanes.

The society still exists today, known now as the McGill Women's Alumnae Association. Its activities include the Muriel V. Roscoe Lecture Series (speakers have included Sheila Copps and Elizabeth May), Alumnae Scholarships and—in collaboration with the Women Associates—the annual two-day McGill Book Fair, a can't-miss event for Montreal bibliophiles.

While the Graduates' Society played an important role during McGill's early years, the organization was thrust into the national spotlight when the First World War began in August 1914. Principal William Peterson was in England at the time and the University was out of

session for the summer. The Graduates' Society wrote to Prime Minister Robert Borden, offering their assistance in the Canadian war effort.

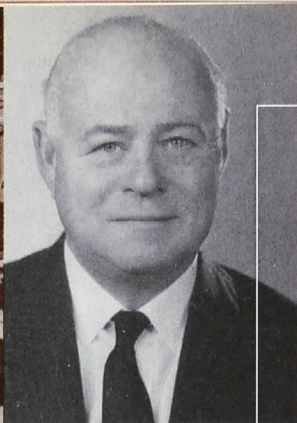
Borden responded with a call for McGill to put together a battalion. Within a matter of weeks the Society raised \$25,000 for uniforms and equipment. By October 1, members of the McGill Provisional Battalion were standing shoulder-to-shoulder on the lower campus for an inspection by the Governor-General.

The Graduates' Society ensured that the soldiers were outfitted and trained with such speed that they were the first provisional unit to be presented on parade in Canada. The unit formed the University's initial wave of volunteers, a commitment that would ultimately result in 3,059 McGill men and women serving the war effort and 363 sacrificing their lives.

MOLSON MAKES HIS MARK

Among McGill's recruits was Percival Molson, BA1901. Handsome, well-liked and unfailingly decent, Molson epitomized the promise of a generation that would be decimated by the war. At 16 he had been a member of hockey's Stanley Cup-winning team, the Montreal Victorias, and at McGill was named "Best All-Around Athlete" three years in a row, a feat unmatched in the University's history. After graduating, he became the youngest person ever named to McGill's Board of Governors and later served for two years as a Graduates' Society vice-president.

In May 1914, the former star athlete began raising money for a new McGill stadium. When the war started,



“Alumni have an objectivity when they look at the University. They can ask, ‘Why doesn’t McGill do this?’”

Above: Women working in a Montreal factory circa 1914

Above right: E.P. Taylor

Right: Program cover for the Victory Reunion in 1921



Molson was quick to enlist and he was fighting in Europe when the McGill Graduates’ Stadium opened in October 1915. He was severely wounded in Belgium in 1916 and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. Although it took a year to recover from his injuries, Molson insisted on returning to the front. He was killed in action just a few weeks later. A \$75,000 bequest in his will paid off the

stadium’s remaining construction costs. Fittingly, the complex was renamed in his honour.

One of the Graduates’ Society’s most enduring creations was launched in December 1919, when the first issue of the *McGill News* was published. Over the course of the next 88 years, the magazine would pick up dozens of awards. Stephen Leacock himself was on board for the magazine’s first edition, serving as the head of its editorial committee.

VICTORIOUS HOMECOMING REUNION

In 1921, the magazine summoned graduates back to their alma mater for what was originally dubbed the “Victory Reunion.” Organized by the Graduates’ Society, this first Homecoming also marked the centenary of the University’s founding in 1821. Alumni from around the world flooded back to Montreal.

The weekend’s most important event was a general meeting called by the Graduates’ Society, where Principal Sir Arthur Currie addressed the graduates. A remarkable 3,000 alumni — nearly half of all living graduates at the time — filled the downtown Capitol Theatre.

The Graduates’ Society remained keen to serve, and in the early 1930s, alumni approached Principal Currie, offering to undertake “some definite work that was needed by the University.” Currie believed that McGill’s most pressing need was for a gymnasium, but there was no money to build it. He asked the group to take on the task of developing plans and raising the necessary funds. In 1936, the \$350,000 fundraising campaign began. This amount would build an armoury, gym and other related facilities. As the campaign wore on, the financial target fell short due to the lingering hardships of the Depression. An unused bequest from Lady

Strathcona, donated 20 years earlier, was put toward its original purpose of building an armoury. In 1939, construction began on the gymnasium — named in honour of Sir Arthur, who died in 1933 — a project that had been called for since the late 1800s.

During the Second World War, McGill students, faculty, staff and graduates again answered the call to bear arms for their country. In total, 6,298 McGill men and women served with the Armed and Auxiliary Forces, of whom 287 lost their lives. As with the First World War, the Graduates’ Society felt a responsibility to recognize and support McGill’s contribution to the war effort. The *McGill News* was sent to all alumni serving overseas and each issue carried a section called “On His Majesty’s Service,” containing reports of McGill personnel on active duty.

The most important component of the Society’s response to the war effort was the War Memorial Campaign, intended to create a monument to those who served and to provide a facility that would enhance campus life for student-veterans.

BY TRAIN OR BY PLANE

The three-year campaign nearly doubled its original goal, raising over \$750,000 for the addition of a memorial swimming pool at the Currie Gym. Money poured in from as far away as Africa and South America. A group in England, unable to send money out of post-war Britain, purchased and shipped tiles for the swimming pool.

Graduates’ Society president Eric Leslie, BSc(Eng)’16, LLD’61, ran the campaign out of Canadian Pacific Railway’s offices at Windsor Station (where Leslie worked as CPR’s vice-president and comptroller). Travelling in his personal railway car to 28 different cities, Leslie would invite graduates to drop by for an after-work drink in his specially equipped railcar, where he would sweet-talk many into making a donation or assisting the campaign in some other fashion.

This wouldn’t be the last time that a McGill graduate employed such unorthodox techniques to raise funds for his alma mater. Having established the Alma Mater Fund in 1948, Canadian business tycoon E.P. Taylor, BSc’22, LLD’77, then crisscrossed the continent in his Grumman Mallard amphibious plane to drop in on 31 alumni branches to solicit donations. The Alma Mater Fund’s kickoff was noted in the *McGill News* with a plea to graduates from Taylor, explaining

that small annual donations served the same function as the yearly interest from a large, one-time gift—which only a few could make. By giving a little each year, he famously wrote, graduates could serve the University as “a living endowment.”

His reasoning hit home. In its first year, the Alma Mater Fund set a North American fundraising record, collecting over \$137,000 and helping the University cope with a post-war boom that saw enrolment balloon by 150 per cent while sources of funding shrank.

Taylor’s scheme has continued to connect with graduates ever since. Last year, the fund received more than \$6.3 million.

WHEN THE FUR REALLY FLEW

In the 1950s, the Graduates’ Society ventured into show biz, helping transform a student musical into a national phenomenon. The annual McGill Red and White Revue, usually a tepid imitation of a Broadway musical, was turned on its ear in 1957 by law students Tim Porteous, BA’54, BCL’57, James Domville, BA’54, BCL’57, Donald MacSween, BA’56, BCL’61, and Erik Wang, BA’54, BCL’57. Their wildly successful *My Fur Lady* was a witty satire that poked fun at Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent’s smug Liberals, Quebec’s puritanical approach to censorship, academic life at McGill and the latest singing sensation, Elvis Presley.

Choreographer Brian Macdonald, BA’54, and former music student Galt MacDermot also played pivotal roles in the production and many of *My Fur Lady*’s key creators went on to prominent careers in the arts — MacDermot, for instance, composed the music for the Broadway smash *Hair*, Macdonald went on to become an internationally renowned choreographer and MacSween became the general director of the National Arts Centre.

The original seven-night run on campus was such a success that the musical eventually snowballed into an 18-month, cross-Canada tour. But not without the help of the Graduates’ Society and its business-savvy executive secretary, Lorne Gales, BA’32, BCL’35, LLD’79, a strong supporter of the show from the outset. Gales committed the society to a \$4,000 guarantee against losses so that *My Fur Lady* could enjoy a second, longer run the following summer. When this was a success, Gales sought a further

\$5,000 to take *My Fur Lady* to the Stratford Festival. The support came from six alumni “angels,” including E.P. Taylor. The show was eventually seen by more than 400,000 people and grossed \$900,000 — a staggering amount for that time.

The Alumni Association would go on to support many subsequent student ventures. Perhaps the most ambitious took place in the fall of 1992, when the Graduates’ Society organized a European tour for the University’s award-winning 22-piece jazz band.

Students who took part in that tour are now among Canada’s top jazz talents, including vocalist Denzel (Pinnock) Sinclair, BMus’93, and saxophonists Joel Miller, BMus’93, and Christine Jensen, BMus’94, MMus’06. A TV audience of three million watched the group perform on Ireland’s *The Late, Late Show*.

AT THE SERVICE OF STUDENTS

In recent years, the MAA has put even more effort into programs and services that target the needs of McGill students. For instance, the MAA organized hometown send-offs for new McGill students in 37 different locations this year, including New York, San Francisco, Paris, New Delhi, Hong Kong and Cairo. Incoming frosh get the chance to meet other new students so they’ll know a few friendly faces once they get to Montreal. Also invited are alumni, current students and MAA staff who soothe last-minute jitters and answer questions from students and parents about the University and the city.

Top: McGill’s jazz band performing in Britain in 1992

Bottom left: The Graduates’ Society released recordings of such songs as “Hail Alma Mater” in 1958

Bottom middle: *My Fur Lady* co-creator James Domville with newspaper clippings about his hit musical

Bottom right: A 1957 publicity poster for *My Fur Lady*

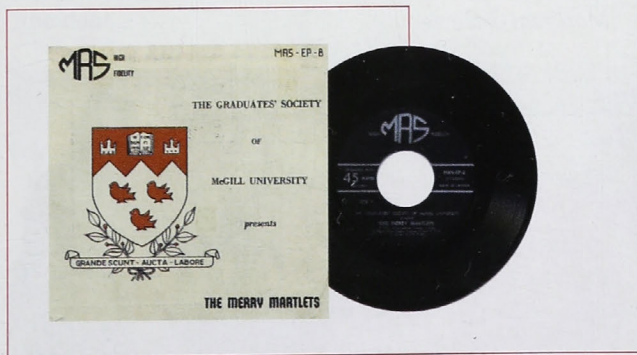
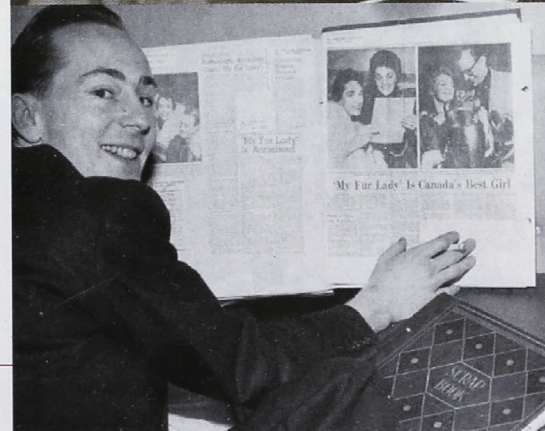


PHOTO CREDITS:
MCGILL JAZZ BAND: SIDNEY HARRIS
EVERYTHING ELSE: MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The MAA collaborates with McGill's Career and Placement Services in organizing a mentorship program that puts students in touch with McGill grads who are working in fields that pique the students' interests. While students are on campus, the MAA provides financial support for a variety of student-run projects, clubs and sports teams, and MAA staff help organize events and assist students with their own fundraising campaigns.

The MAA's month-long "Backpack to Briefcase" lecture series, offered to students in the spring, provides invaluable tips for post-graduation living. Lectures deal with everything from managing finances to putting together wardrobes and proper dining etiquette. In all, MAA activities served the needs of about 12,000 students last year.

HUNGERING FOR BRAIN FOOD

The MAA has also shifted its focus in recent years in terms of the services it provides to graduates.

"People now are so busy, they don't just want to come out for a social event. If they are going to come to the University for something, it has to have some intellectual content," says Vroom.

The MAA has co-sponsored the award-winning "Mini" series since 2001, a wildly popular public lecture series featuring some of the University's top researchers in management, medicine, music and science, all offering up their jargon-free expertise to audience members who range from high school students to retirees. More recently, the MAA's McGill Reads Book Club has been

presenting some of the University's leading literary scholars dissecting the works of such authors as Alice Munro, Raymond Chandler and Jane Austen.

Some things haven't changed much over the years. The MAA still dedicates itself to the task of keeping McGill graduates in touch with the University and with one another. Homecoming, the MAA's signature event, regularly attracts 4,000 graduates back to the downtown and Macdonald campuses each year. The McGill Alumni Online Community has signed up more than 25,000 members since its launch in 2004. Its site (www.alumni.mcgill.ca) offers graduates email addresses for life, helps them connect with former classmates and provides information about upcoming McGill events.

Alumni are invaluable allies for the University, says Chancellor Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, a former MAA president. "You would expect your principal and the staff to speak on behalf of the University, because they're paid to do that. The folks who have been through the institution and still support it are that much more credible."

That credibility sometimes extends to criticisms about the University itself.

"If you've been working at McGill as long as I have, you can lose your objectivity," says senior development advisor Tom Thompson, BSc(PE)'58, MEd'78, who has been working with McGill graduates for more than three decades. "I believe that alumni have an objectivity when they look at the University. They can ask the question, 'Why doesn't McGill do this?'"

Shaughnessy agrees. "Maybe they're our litmus test, in a way, of how well we're doing."

While the MAA can take pride in its many accomplishments over the past 150 years, there is no time to get relaxed about it, insists Vroom.

"There's a huge family out there, and there is a huge untapped reservoir of good will. We need to constantly be looking for ways to bring more of that good will into McGill." ❦

A proud McGill graduate himself, Brett Hooton spends his days as a communications officer for his alma mater and his evenings as the theatre columnist for the Montreal cultural weekly, Hour. Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, he has written for a wide range of print and online media, including the Kansas City Star and the Montreal Gazette.

The McGill Alumni Association sponsors the International Students' Skating Party (right) and supports a wide range of student clubs, including the McGill University Rowing Team (below)

Below right: MAA staffers are on duty each autumn in the McGill Parents Tent to answer queries from the parents of new McGill students

PHOTO CREDITS:
SKATING PARTY: OWEN EGAN
PARENTS TENT:
CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS



Richard Valeriote and his wife, Polly Valeriote, BA'53 (right), with MAA past president Morna Flood Consedine (centre)

A GIFT REWARDED

BY RICHARD VALERIOTE, BSC'52, MDCM'57



To help mark its 150th anniversary, the McGill Alumni Association held a contest, inviting graduates to submit some of their most memorable McGill moments. Well, our grads are always up for a challenge, and the stories poured in from all over the world. The grand prize winner, Dr. Richard Valeriote, from Fairfield, California, earned a trip to Montreal to attend McGill's Homecoming festivities. We're pleased to share Dr. Valeriote's winning entry below and invite readers to visit www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/alumni150 to sample some of the other McGill memories—some of them touching, some of them funny—that our graduates shared with us.

My journey through medical school had been difficult. I frequently hitchhiked home to Guelph, Ontario, and approached business owners and family friends for loans so I could continue my studies. At the end of my second year, I was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to enter a sanitarium for a year, while my wife Polly (whom I met at McGill) and our two young daughters moved in with my mother. Once I was back on my feet and reunited with Polly, the last two years of medical school passed quickly. In final year, we were seeing real people with real illnesses, and the courses we had taken in bacteriology, pathology, medicine, etc., were coming to fruition in the manifestation of various diseases in our patients.

By now, having procured enough money to get through three or four months, I was able to study hard, but I needed a bit more to finish the year. One day, there came a rap on the door.

"Are you Richard Valeriote?" inquired a voice.

"Yes," I replied. "How can I help you?"

He took out an envelope and gave me a cheque, explaining that Mr. John W. McConnell, who owned the *Montreal Star* and who had been a benefactor of McGill University for many years, inquired of the student counsellor if he knew a deserving student. Reverend Knowles had told him of my coming from a family of 16 children, and that I was married with young children. He said that I had won hands down. This was a gift, not to be repaid, he said.

One cold, wintry morning, Polly and I went to St. Patrick's Cathedral for Sunday mass. The priest told of the poverty of many people in the South Pacific. The words I remember most were "No matter how bad off you think you are, there are people who are much worse off, who barely have enough to eat. You have a moral obligation to help them. Give and it shall be returned to you a hundredfold."

I nudged Polly and inquired, "How much should we give?" She said, "Are you kidding? We only have \$100 to our name in the bank." So I wrote out a cheque for \$4 and put it in the collection basket.

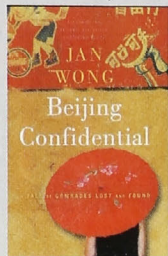
The next morning someone appeared at our door. He said he was from McGill and gave me an envelope. I opened it and found a cheque for \$400. "What is this for?" I said. The fellow explained that a little boy had drowned in the water-filled excavation of a hospital under construction. The parents had set up a scholarship in his name for a student deemed a worthy recipient by the University. Once more, Reverend Knowles came to my assistance and directed the cheque to me.

I remarked to Polly, "You know, I gave \$4 in church yesterday, and it came back a hundredfold. I never believed this would happen." Polly said, "You should have given \$10, not \$4!" We both laughed and celebrated our good fortune.

Final exams followed soon after. Medical school graduation was a high point in my life. My parents and Polly's both attended, and I am sure that they were glad to see the end of this long struggle. 🐦

BEIJING CONFIDENTIAL

By Jan Wong, BA'74, published by Doubleday Canada



Few North American journalists have a better sense of contemporary China than Jan Wong. She studied at Beijing University during the

Cultural Revolution in the 1970s (one of only two Westerners allowed to do so at the time), then returned as the *Globe and Mail's* China correspondent during the late 1980s and early 1990s, covering, among other things, the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

Beijing Confidential chronicles Wong's most recent visit to the Chinese capital. She makes the trek with her family, ostensibly to give them a last glimpse of the city before it is utterly transformed. In the rush to prepare Beijing for the 2008 Olympics, the city is being modernized at breakneck speed and the country's leaders have little sympathy for the notion of protecting heritage landmarks.

Wong has another motive. As a "stupid, wannabe Maoist from Montreal, trying to prove I was as stalwart and tough as the next guy," she ratted on a Chinese schoolmate who had confided in Wong about wanting to move to the U.S. In the midst of the Cultural Revolution, such desires were scandalous and the consequences for harboring them, if discovered, could be dire. Wong bitterly regrets what she did and desperately wants to know what has happened to that woman since.

As Wong goes about her search, she meets with old friends and acquaintances, marveling at how most are now far more interested in expensive home decor trends than they are in official Communist party orthodoxy.

China itself is changing dramatically, becoming an economic powerhouse. Wong isn't surprised. "A half-century of communist rule, after all, is a mere blip on the consciousness of a civilization

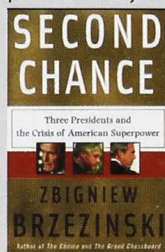
that first expressed its mercantile instinct in the Silk Road" — the ancient trade route that connected China with the outside world centuries ago.

Anyone familiar with Wong's writing knows she has a fine instinct for detail, as well as a biting wit. Both are skillfully employed here. It's always a rewarding experience to see China through her eyes.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

SECOND CHANCE: THREE PRESIDENTS AND THE CRISIS OF AMERICAN SUPERPOWER

by Zbigniew Brzezinski, BA'49, MA'50, published by Basic Books



check. Unexpectedly, your opponent falls apart and you're the last superpower left standing. The world should pretty much evolve the way you want, right?

As Zbigniew Brzezinski notes in his latest book, that hasn't been the case for the United States since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Brzezinski, a professor of American foreign policy at Johns Hopkins University, has more than a simply academic perspective to offer — he served as national security advisor under U.S. president Jimmy Carter.

In *Second Chance*, he examines the presidencies of the three men who have led the U.S. since the end of the Cold War — George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, finding fault with all three, but to varying degrees.

The first President Bush gets the highest marks as a "superb crisis manager," skillfully building an international coalition to force Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait and deftly dealing with the many potential calamities associated with the USSR's unexpectedly swift disintegration.

But Brzezinski doesn't believe Bush

Imagine you're a country, embroiled in a decades-long stand-off against the one adversary powerful enough to keep your ambitions in

was bold enough. In the wake of his Gulf War triumph, for instance, Brzezinski thinks Bush should have pushed hard for a Middle East peace accord. In fact, Brzezinski is critical of all three presidents on that front, arguing that a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would rob Muslim extremists of one of their chief rallying points for new recruits.

Clinton showed early promise, in Brzezinski's estimation, but was largely undone by inconsistency (showing resolve against ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, but not in Africa) and his own indiscretions (Monica-gate).

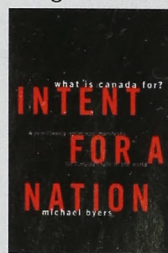
As for the fellow currently occupying the Oval Office, well, that chapter is called "Catastrophic Leadership." Brzezinski describes the war in Iraq as a "geopolitical disaster" with wide-ranging consequences — everything from giving the Taliban a second wind in Afghanistan, to fueling anti-Americanism in Latin America and elsewhere.

Brzezinski is forthright about the way world opinion is shifting against the U.S. His country risks being "universally viewed as arrogantly imperial in a postimperial age." George W. Bush's successor would be wise to pay heed.

DM

INTENT FOR A NATION: WHAT IS CANADA FOR?

by Michael Byers, BCL'92, published by Douglas & McIntyre



Michael Byers' fascination with international affairs dates back to the childhood summers he spent in Saskatchewan,

when he watched American B-52s soar overhead on their way to the High Arctic, where they waited for the order to proceed into Soviet airspace and drop their nuclear payloads.

Today, Byers argues that Canadians can't sit idly by and watch events in the

world unfold without exerting their influence on the international scene. And Byers insists that Canada *does* have influence. In the preface for this book, he writes, "We are — take a deep breath and don't laugh — a powerful country."

Byers is the University of British Columbia's Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law. He believes Canada can make a difference in the world when it comes to issues like climate change, economic development, and even U.S. foreign policy. We have done it in the past, he stresses, throwing out several examples, one being the key role that McGill's own John Humphrey played in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Responding to George Grant's influential *Lament for a Nation* (1965), which painted a far gloomier portrait of Canada's ability to affect the world around it, Byers presents a passionate plan for Canada to assume the mantle of global player. The book's strength lies in his ability to demonstrate how the international stage magnifies words and actions exponentially. The slightest transgression can do irreparable damage to a country's credibility, while simple gestures often come to be remembered as moments of bold leadership.

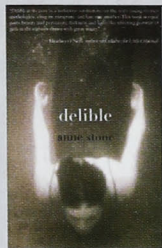
For Byers, the 1997 Ottawa Landmines Convention embodies both. Canada successfully headed an effort that resulted in 151 countries banning underground explosive devices. However, in Afghanistan, Canadian soldiers are part of a coalition force that utilizes landmines (planted by the U.S., which didn't sign the treaty). Byers doesn't hesitate to point out the hypocrisy.

One question is whether his aggressive tone will sway an audience historically wary of dogmatic proclamations about what their country should or should not be. Nevertheless, this poignant call to arms is sure to convince readers that, at the very least, no one should ever see the contrails of fighter jets and pretend that they're merely clouds.

BRETT HOOTON, BA'02, MA'05

DELIBLE

By Anne Stone, MA'97, published by Insomniac Press



One day, 14-year-old Lora Sprague's sister, Mel, who is one year her senior, vanishes. In most books, the rest of the tale will focus on finding Mel and solving the mystery of her disappearance. Anne Stone's haunting *Delible* takes a different tack entirely.

We never find out for sure what happened to Mel (though what we *do* know hints at anything but a happy ending). The book, instead, deals with a family forced to confront monstrous uncertainty, a family that probably won't ever have the solace of firm answers.

Stone challenges her readers to venture beyond pat assessments. Mel is the kind of kid that cynical cops and reporters dismissively sum up as "troubled." School wasn't going well. She was moody. Family relations could be turbulent. Mel mused about running away. Tsk, tsk. These things happen.

But a situation like Mel's can't be summed up quite so neatly, *Delible* insists. A diary entry written during a temporary rage doesn't eclipse complex lifelong ties. There is love in Mel's family. It's messy and it's muddled, but it's there.

Stone does adroit work in balancing her various narrators' distinct voices. Most of the story is told from Lora's point of view, but the girls' mom and grandmother each get to steer the narrative at times. Some of the book's most wrenching observations are delivered by Karin, the mother. "They find comfort in thinking the worst of you," Karin says of other parents. What "keeps their own kids safe is this one fact: *They're not you.*"

The Vancouver-based Stone was obviously affected by the disappearances of so many women from her city's notorious eastside and the slow and seemingly indifferent response this elicited from authorities there. Dark and delicately

written, *Delible* isn't an easy read, but it's a profoundly affecting one.

DM

GHETTOBLASTER

by Socalled (Josh Dolgin, BA'00), released by JDub Records



On "Rock the Belz," one of the songs on the new album *Ghettoblaster*, Theodore Bikel's rich voice begins to rumble with its familiar authority when something a little unusual happens. As the 83-year-old Bikel — an Oscar nominee and Broadway veteran — celebrates his Jewish heritage, a much younger rap singer starts issuing supportive hollers and yelps.

It's just one in a series of many satisfyingly eclectic moments, courtesy of musician Josh Dolgin, aka Socalled, a hip hop enthusiast with an abiding soft spot for all sorts of Jewish musical traditions — Cantor music, Klezmer tunes, you name it. Socalled takes impish delight in breaking down barriers between different types of music and recombining them in lively and innovative ways. And he has managed to assemble an impressive group of musicians to play along, including 92-year-old pianist Irving Fields (who penned hits for Doris Day and Guy Lombardo), trombonist Fred Wesley (a member of James Brown's band) and violinist Sophie Trudeau (Godspeed You! Black Emperor).

Highlights include "You Are Never Alone," a funky Gene Autry update, which playfully posits, "Frankly, there's nothing so unusual about being a Jewish cowboy," before smoothly matching Montreal alt-country performer Katie Moore's gritty warmth with gospel singer Doris Glaspie's soulful vocals and New York rapper C-Rayz Walz's rhythmic wordplay.

Looking for a CD by somebody who's too busy inventing his own formula to pay heed to the "same old, same old" that lines too many of the shelves at HMV?

Give *Ghettoblaster* a try.

DM

HOMECOMING '07

Seeing old friends is always cause for celebration, but the alumni who attended Homecoming 2007 found themselves in the midst of a truly landmark event. Over 4,000 graduates packed McGill's downtown and Macdonald campuses between October 18 and 21 for a weekend of exciting and educational activities. For some graduates, the trek back was a long one—Homecoming participants



CITIES IN CRISIS

Anna Tibaijuka illustrates the rapid and chaotic urbanization occurring in developing countries around the world. Over 650 people got up early on a Saturday morning to hear the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Program, (UN-HABITAT), discuss ways to make cities more socially and environmentally sustainable.



OWEN EGAN

DON'T BUILD 'EM LIKE THEY USED TO

Following the Dean's Breakfast for the Faculty of Engineering, mechanical engineering students Mathieu Patenaude, Nicholas Gervasi and Karim Sawaf look on as grad Eduard Hoyer, BEng'67, kicks the tires of their Mini Baja. No word on whether they took it for a spin around campus.



TEACHER'S PETS

Once again, alumni flocked to Homecoming's Classes Without Quizzes (CWOQs), hoping to relive their student days without the stress of exams. Enthusiastic participants spent the afternoon learning about everything from the history of gossip magazines in Canada to scientific explanations for paranormal events.



HEARING AID

In his CWOQ lecture, "This is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession," psychology professor Daniel Levitin explored why our favourite songs inspire us to feel love, longing or an uncontrollable urge to get up and dance. Levitin is an award-winning producer and consultant who has collaborated on albums with the likes of Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan and Blue Öyster Cult.

journeyed here from such places as the Dominican Republic, England, Israel, Puerto Rico, Barbados, the Czech Republic and Bermuda. While in Montreal, they helped to mark an extraordinary series of special occasions, including the 150th anniversary of the McGill Alumni Association (MAA), the closing festivities for Mac's Centennial, and the first-ever Parents Weekend. To top it all off, alumni had the opportunity to take part in the official kickoff ceremonies as Campaign McGill: History in the Making got underway. The wine glasses have barely been put away, but the MAA staff and volunteers are already hard at work planning for next year. Even though 2007 was great, they're determined to make Homecoming '08 even better. PHOTOS BY NICOLAS MORIN



WORD BUFFET

(Left to right) Authors Bill Brownstein, BCom'69, Heather O'Neill, BA'94, and Alex K. Paterson, BCL'56, served up a side of literary insights at this year's Lunch et Livres event. The three graduates read from their latest works, answered questions and signed a few books for their adoring fans.



UNEARTHING MONTREAL'S PAST

Participants in the first-ever Parents Weekend got an in-depth look at Montreal's history during a tour of the Pointe à Callière Museum. Nearly 600 proud parents attended an array of family-friendly events, including classes, a football game and a hike on Mount Royal.



SCHULICH SHINES

The Spotlight on Schulich concert got Homecoming 2007 off to a classy start. The musical extravaganza featured live jazz, opera and orchestral samplings, plus a demonstration of experimental instruments and innovative research gadgets, all from the faculty and students of McGill's world-renowned Schulich School of Music.



CHUCKLES ALL AROUND

The jokes came fast and furious again this year at the 38th annual Leacock Luncheon. Head table guests, international entrepreneur and philanthropist John McCall MacBain, BA'80, Westmount mayor Karin Marks, CertEd'72, and Senator Michael Meighen, BA'60, couldn't resist the sharp wit of guest lecturer George Bowser from the acclaimed comedy duo, Bowser & Blue.



RAINING LAUGHS

Chancellor Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, braces for a deluge of good-natured ribbing from the Leacock Luncheon's perennial moderator, emeritus professor of architecture Derek Drummond, BArch'62. McGill Alumni Association board member Daniel Lalonde, BCom'67, Martlet volleyball star Jennifer Thompson, McGill board of governors member Lili de Grandpré, MBA'81, and guest lecturer George Bowser momentarily forget that they could be next.

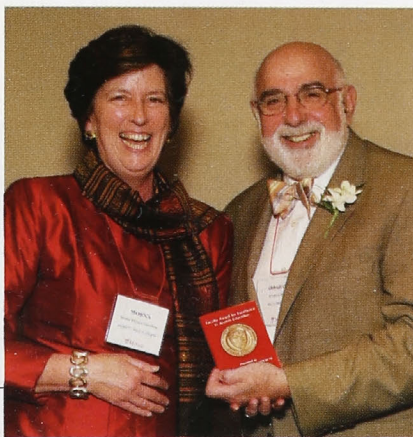
HONOURS & AWARDS

PHOTOS BY NICOLAS MORIN

The McGill Alumni Association's staffers are certainly a dedicated lot, but even they can't handle the hundreds of events and activities organized each year by the MAA without a helping hand – lots of helping hands, actually. On May 24, some of the McGill graduates, friends, faculty, students and staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty received a well-deserved opportunity to shine in the spotlight at the MAA's annual Honours and Awards Banquet.

DRESS TARTANS REQUIRED

Piper Graham Batty pays homage to McGill's Scottish heritage. Every year the sound of bagpipes leads banquet guests from the evening's opening reception to dinner and the awards ceremony.



DEDICATED DOCTOR

Former Dean of Medicine Abraham Fuks, BSc'68, MDCM'70, receives the Faculty Award for Excellence in Alumni Education from former MAA president Morna Flood Consedine, DipEd'71, MEd'77, DEd'85. As Dean, Dr. Fuks visited alumni branches around the world, and continues to serve as an indispensable ambassador for McGill.

MOBBED BY MCDOUGALLS

The star of the evening was former MAA president and tireless volunteer Sally Drury McDougall, BSc'68, DipEd'69, who was awarded the MAA's top prize, the Award of Merit. Befitting her star status, she attracted quite an entourage. Family members, including nine McGill grads, surprised Sally by flying in from across Canada for the ceremony.

Back row, left to right: husband Douglass McDougall, BA'67, son Reid McDougall, BSc'97, DipEnvSt'98, brother Reid Drury, son John McDougall, BEng'95, MEng'98, son Todd McDougall, BEng'95, Robert Gaudreau, MBA'76. Front row, left to right: Principal Heather Munroe-Blum, Penny Ballem, BSc'71, sister-in-law Shelagh Drury, MBA'82, Sally McDougall, sister Pansy Gaudreau, BEd'74, CertIncEd'07, daughter-in-law Emilie Caussignac, BA'96, and daughter-in-law Margo McDougall.





HAIL HARVEY

David Harvey, MDCM'55, seen here receiving the E.P. Taylor Award from MAA honorary treasurer Allan Lanthier, BCom'69, led the charge when his classmates celebrated their 50th reunion by raising more than \$150,000 for curriculum development in the Faculty of Medicine. It set a new record for reunion class gifts in the Faculty, and Harvey organized the effort, inspiring the generosity of classmates through his own personal pledge.

BEANTOWN'S MVP

Trish Duff, BA'88, associate director of the Alumni Association, presents Boston branch leader Ian Pilarczyk with the President of the Year Award. Members of the Boston branch enjoyed a wide-ranging series of events last year — everything from wine-tasting and career networking, to a new “McGill Reads” Boston book club and lectures by the likes of famed Harvard neuroscientist (and McGill grad) Steven Pinker.



Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Chandra Madramootoo, BSc(Agr)'77, MSc(Agr)'81, PhD'85, with Class of '61 representatives Cameran Mirza, BSc(Agr)'61, and Gale Elliot, BSc(Agr)'61.

A CLASS WITH CLASS

The Macdonald Class of '61 is a tight-knit bunch that stays in touch, thanks in large part to the Herculean efforts of long-time class vice-president Gale Elliot. Their joint fundraising projects have benefited the recently renovated Macdonald Campus Library, and class members are planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation in 2011 by creating two new scholarships.

AWARD WINNERS

AWARD OF MERIT

Sally Drury McDougall, BSc'68, DipEd'69

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

David M. McEntyre, BCom'67

HONORARY LIFE

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Frederick B. Kriebel and
Shannon Lenhan

E. P. TAYLOR AWARD

David M. Harvey, MDCM'55

DAVID JOHNSTON AWARD

Dean of Dentistry James Lund

EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

“McGill Brings the Spirit of Montreal to Boston” organized by the McGill Alumni Association of Boston

CHARLES PETERS BRANCH AWARD

McGill Alumni Association of Victoria

PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ian Pilarczyk, BA'92, LLM'97, DCL'03, president of the McGill Alumni Association of Boston

D. LORNE GALES AWARD

Macdonald Class of 1961

FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ALUMNI EDUCATION

Joe Schwarcz, BSc'69, PhD'74
Abraham Fuks, BSc'68, MDCM'70

GRETTA CHAMBERS STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Laura Robinson, BSc'08
Timothy Lussier, MDCM'09
Jessica Snelgrove, BEng'07

Waxman the Ironman

Even after a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a sub-4-hour marathon, alumnus Jordan Waxman, BA'86, LLB'91, BCL'92, could still muster the strength to display his McGill pride. On October 13, the former varsity swimming captain competed in the gruelling Ironman World Championships in Hawaii.



What's "Bon Voyage" in Hindi?

At the McGill Send-Off in New Delhi on August 7, soon-to-be first-year engineering students Sunny Malhotra (left) and Shilpa Sitaram (right) exchanged notes on what to expect once they arrive in Montreal. Every summer, the McGill Alumni Association sponsors similar Send-Off events in cities around the world, including New York, Geneva and Singapore.



Helping Hands

This year, the San Francisco Food Bank will distribute nearly 26 million pounds of food, or enough for 55,000 meals per day. On July 25, the McGill Alumni Association of Northern California pitched in by sorting donations, stocking shelves and packing boxes as part of the branch's Annual Community Service Day.

Back row, left to right: Louis Chan, BEng'71, Carroll Henschel, BSc'93, Ron Collett, Victor San Vicente, BSc'70, Palash Desai, BEng'93, MEng'96, Cristina Capac, Dinu Radian, MBA'04, David Davidovic, BSc'79, MBA'88, Al Goldspiel, BEng'64, Erica Davidovic, Manisha Sharma, Gilbert O'Young, BSc'00. Front row, left to right: Mark Cooke, Leslie Hilford, BSc'93, BSc(OT)'96, Rié Shigematsu Collett, MBA'96



Home Field Advantage

The McGill Young Alumni cheered on the Montreal Alouettes on September 23, as the team battled it out with the Edmonton Eskimos. The annual football game get-together draws over 300 recent grads and friends, and is the largest and most popular event on the MYA's busy calendar.

Cheerful Chocoholics

Toronto alums Shari Chung, BSc'00, MSc'01, MDCM'06, and Anita Csapo, BA'94, BEd'96, satisfied their chocolate cravings during a special tasting session in the city's historic Distillery District on February 28. Soma Chocolates treated local McGill graduates to an inside look at the chocolate-making process and quizzed participants on the sweet stuff's history.

Colourful Imaginations

Future members of the Alumni Association of Georgia crafted some special artwork during the group's May 20 visit to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Parents and children alike were treated to crafts, storytelling and even giant sculptures of insects.



Smooth Sailing

Members of the Hong Kong alumni branch enjoyed picture perfect weather during their Alumni Boat Trip on August 19. The laid-back group flew the McGill flag as they visited the Noon Day Gun, enjoyed a 13-dish lunch and splashed away the afternoon in the beautiful Causeway Bay.



EDDIE CHOW

A Capital Good Time

Young alumni in Ottawa enjoy some fiendish fun at the September installment of their monthly Wicked Wednesday Pub Night. In addition to toasting old McGill, enthusiastic branch members maintain a full schedule of events, including hockey games, dinners and trips to the ballet.

Left to right: Paul Waksberg, BCom'92, Julie Polisen, BCom'99, CertE-Comm'02, Parry Athenaios, BCL/LLB'00



Wandering Weatherman

Atmospheric and oceanic sciences professor Ron Stewart, an expert on extreme weather, blew into Lunenburg, Nova Scotia on June 9 as part of the "McGill on the Move" lecture series. Members of the McGill Alumni Association of Nova Scotia packed the local yacht club to hear his stormy tales of droughts, floods and tornadoes.

Left to right: Annette Rudman, BSc(OT)'84, Trish Leyenaar, MBA'00, Professor Stewart's wife Terry, Bill Ritchie, BSc(Agr)'51, and Professor Ron Stewart



Chasing a Cure

Alumni in Montreal laced up their sneakers and ran in support of cancer research. The McGill team raised approximately \$1,000 as part of the 27th annual Terry Fox Run on September 16.

Left to right: Gillian Prendergast, BA'07, Rithya Caroline Ky, BEng'97, Joshua Vorstenbosch, BSc'04, Roslyn Bowers, BEd'90, MEd'06, Jasmine Bowers

Ancient Adventure

Past and present collided during the McGill Alumni Association's recent trip to Sardinia, off the coast of Italy. Participants in the MAA's travel program had the opportunity to explore some of the 8,000 nuraghi, or prehistoric ruins, that dot the island's landscape.





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Coming Events

January 12, Boston: Annual Volunteer Afternoon at the Greater Boston Food Bank, 99 Atkinson Street, Boston. 12:30-1 pm. (social time); 1-4 pm. (volunteer work). Contact: Boston Branch at boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.

January 17, Atlanta: The Eighth Annual Canadian Hockey Night in Atlanta (Montreal Canadiens vs. Atlanta Thrashers). Philips Arena, Atlanta. Contact: Heidi Allardyce at hgcanuck@mindspring.com.

January 23, Boston: Boston Reads: *Thérèse and Pierrette and the Little Hanging Angel* by Michel Tremblay. 7:00 pm. Location and information given upon RSVP. Contact: Boston Branch at boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.

January 25, Montreal: The Redpath Museum presents Freaky Friday Lectures: *The Science of Survival: How Huskies do it*, presented by NSERC Northern Research Chair and assistant professor of wildlife biology Murray Humphries, Learn about the amazing physiology of fasting and exercise in sled dogs, followed by the 2006 film, *Eight Below*. Redpath Museum Auditorium, 859 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, QC. 4 pm. Contact: Ingrid Birker at ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca or 514-398-4086 ext. 4094.

January 31, Washington: Hockey Night (Washington Capitals vs. Montreal Canadiens), Verizon Center, 601 F Street NW, \$29 U.S., 7 pm. There will be an optional McGill grads gathering at the RFD Washington, 810 7th St. NW, at 6 pm. Contact: Event Registrar at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

February 19 and 20, Montreal: Fourth Annual Montreal Volunteer Thankathon, join us for an evening of fun, food, prizes and phoning as we thank generous alumni for their support, Martlet House, 1430 Peel St., 6-9 pm. Contact: Kay Dass at 514-398-3505 or kavetia.dass@mcgill.ca, or Anna Galati at 514-398-4534 or anna.galati@mcgill.ca.

February 20, Montreal: McGill Reads Alumni Book Club, Stephen Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. West, Room 232. Registration fee of \$15 per person for the semester, 6 pm. Contact: Event Registrar at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

February 28, Atlanta: The Fourth Annual Pan Canadian Dinner Gala hosted by the Canadian Consulate with special guest, McGill psychology professor Daniel Levitin, author of *This Is Your Brain on Music*. Contact: Heidi Allardyce at hgcanuck@mindspring.com.

February 28, Boston: McGill Young Alumni Beer Tasting, Eight Belgian beers will be served, each paired with a different gourmet cheese, Wine Gallery, 375 Boylston St., Brookline, \$25 U.S., 7:00 pm. Contact: Boston Branch at boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.

March 3, North California: Hockey Game (Montreal Canadiens vs. San Jose Sharks). HP Pavillion, 525 W Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA. \$36 U.S., 7:30 pm. There will be an optional McGill grads gathering at the Tied House at 5:45 pm. Contact: Northern California Branch at events@mcgillnorcal.com.

March 8, New York: Symphony Orchestra and Dinner. More information will be available closer to the date. Contact: Lloyd Olsson at lloyd@optonline.net or visit www.mcgillnyc.com.

March 15, Montreal: McGill Young Alumni Curling. Contact: Event Registrar at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

March 19, Montreal: McGill Reads Alumni Book Club, Stephen Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. West, Room 232.. Registration fee of \$15 per person for the semester. 6 pm. Contact: Event Registrar at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

March 20, Boston: Hockey Night in Boston (Boston Bruins vs. Montreal Canadiens), TD BankNorth Garden, 100 Legends Way, Boston, \$34 U.S. (cheque), \$37 U.S. (PayPal), 7 pm. Contact: Boston Alumni Branch at boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.

April 30, Montreal: McGill Reads Alumni Book Club, Stephen Leacock Building, 855 Sherbrooke St. West, Room 232. Registration fee of \$15 per person for the semester. 6 pm. Contact: Event Registrar at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

SONDRA SHERMAN, BSc'76, BSc(FSc)'78, is a clinical dietitian and certified diabetes educator at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. Sondra, TINA KADER, MDCM'86, an endocrinologist and certified diabetes educator, and Joyce Arseneault have worked together in the Endocrinology Department/Diabetes Centre at the Jewish General for many years. In March 2007, the three of them joined Team Diabetes Canada, part of the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA), to participate in a 42.2 kilometre marathon in Rome, Italy, and raised over \$35,000 for the CDA.

ARCHITECTURE

JIANG ZHU, MArch'02, is an architect with Stantec Architecture Ltd. in Vancouver. Jiang was nominated by the Architectural Institute of British Columbia and appointed by the Vancouver City Council to the City of Vancouver's Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee until December 2008.

ARTS

DOREEN KIMURA, BA'56, MA'57, PhD'61, was awarded the 2006 Kistler Prize from the Foundation for the Future (futurefoundation.org). The prize, a 180-gram gold medalion and \$100,000 cash award, recognizes original contributions to the understanding of the connection between the human genome and human society. Doreen is an expert on sex differences in the brain and author of *Sex and Cognition* (MIT Press, 1999), which discusses known sex differences in cognitive and motor skills and the probable hormonal bases of some of these differences. She is currently Visiting Professor in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

MARY LOU DICKINSON, BA'58, published her first book, *One Day It Happens* (Inanna Publications, 2007), a collection of short stories. More information about Mary Lou and her book can be obtained on the publisher's website at www.yorku.ca/inanna.

GARTH STEVENSON, BA'63, MA'65, received the Donald Smiley prize for the best book on Canadian politics published in 2006. His book, *Parallel Paths: The Development of*



RAYMOND MORIYAMA, MArch'57, DSc'93, was awarded a Fellowship from Upper Canada College this past May, the highest distinction that UCC bestows on non-student members of its community. Raymond's many architectural projects include the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, the Ontario Science Centre and the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto, as well as the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo and the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Raymond has received many honours, including the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Gold Medal, the highest national honour bestowed on individual architects, an Honorary Fellowship of the American Institute of Architects, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts Foundation of Greater Toronto. Raymond, an Officer of the Order of Canada, has received the Order of Ontario and the Order of Rising Sun Gold Rays with Rosette in Japan.

Nationalism in Ireland and Quebec, was published by McGill-Queen's University Press. The prize is given annually by the Canadian Political Science Association.

SEYMOUR MAYNE, BA'65, was awarded the Louis L. Lockshin and Brenda Freedman Memorial Award in Poetry, a part of the Canadian Jewish Book Awards, for his latest book of poetry, *September Rain* (Mosaic Press, 2005). This is the fourth Canadian Jewish Book Award that Seymour has won. Over the past four decades Seymour has also authored, edited or translated more than 50 books and monographs. The Canadian Jewish Book Awards celebrate excellence in Canadian writing that reflects Jewish concerns and themes.

LOIS BARON, BA'70, is a Professor of Education at Concordia University. Lois has published a book entitled *Contemporary Issues in Youth Sports* (Nova Science, 2007). The book addresses five significant topics: parental involvement, fair play, child abuse, the commercial side of sports and mental training as life skills development for youth.

JANYNE HODDER, BA'70, MA'83, left her position at McGill as Vice-Principal (Inter-Institutional Relations) in May 2006 to become President of the College of The Bahamas in Nassau. Janyne was Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Bishop's University from 1995 to 2004 before taking office at McGill, and this spring was awarded an honorary degree from Bishop's.

DONNA NYILASI, BA'71, is Director of Foundation Studies at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul, where she heads a team of eight ESL teachers. Previously, Donna spent five years as an instructor with Gulf University for Science and Technology in Kuwait.

RICHARD S. LEVY, BA'72, joined the Montreal law firm of De Grandpré Chait as a partner in January 2007. Richard specializes in intellectual property law and Internet law. Previously, Richard served as general counsel for a group of companies in the hockey, fitness equipment and toy businesses. He and his wife have three children, and their son, DANIEL LEVY, BA'06, just graduated from McGill.

CHARLES "CHAD" GAFFIELD, BA'73, MA'74, was awarded an honorary Doctor of



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Letters degree from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C. Chad is a full professor in the History Department at the University of Ottawa and the author, editor or co-editor of 12 books. Among many other awards and citations, Chad was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society's Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, the highest honour attained by scholars, artists and scientists in Canada. Chad is president and chair of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

LOIS DUBIN, BA'74, was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Religion at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. In fall 2006, she began a three-year term as Department Chair. In 2008, Lois will return to Harvard University, where she received her PhD, as a Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies and a member of the research group "The Family in Jewish History." Lois also studies and does research on mercantile cultures as well as feminist religious rituals.

JOHN L. WITHERS II, MA'75, was nominated by U.S. President George W. Bush to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Republic of Albania. John is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and has served as Director of the Operations Center at the Department of State. John also served as Director of the Office of North Central European Affairs at the Department of State.

SHARON LONDON-LISS, BA'76, compiled and edited a fine arts book entitled *Jack Culiner Collected Works: Baycrest and Mount Sinai* (Boston Mills Press, 2007).

DAN ALPERT, BA'77, joined Corwin Press, a division of Sage Publishing, as Senior Acquisitions Editor. Dan and his partner live in the Outer Sunset district of San Francisco with their cockatiel, Shabbos.



PAULA BARBARY-SHANNON, BA'83, was recently named "Best Canadian Executive" by the prestigious Stevie Awards for Women in Business at a ceremony held in New York. The Stevie Awards honour accomplished women executives and entrepreneurs from around the world. Paula was presented with her award by CNN anchor Randi Kaye (pictured with Paula, who is on the right). Paula is Senior Vice President and Chief Sales Officer of Lionbridge Technologies, Inc. "Paula Shannon epitomizes the modern international sales executive," says Henri Broekmate, Lionbridge's Senior Vice President for Worldwide Operations. "She works as easily and effectively in Shanghai as she does in San Francisco." Paula is married to Patrick Shannon, BA'82.

AUDREY LAWRENCE, BA'77, was selected in August as the new Academic Chair, School of Health and Human Services, at the Kingstec Campus of Nova Scotia Community College, in Kentville, N.S. (www.nsc.ca).

SUSAN STROMBERG-STEIN, MA'77, has been invited to exhibit her artwork at the sixth edition of the Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea in Florence, Italy, which will take place at the historic Fortezza da Basso this coming December.

STEPHEN FALLON, MA'78, published *Milton's Peculiar Grace* (Cornell UP, 2007), about the 17th-century English poet John Milton and how his sense of self-representation developed throughout his work.

DANIELLE MURRAY, BA'86, won the 2007 Qantas Media Award for Magazine Feature Writing - Social Issues. The 34-year-old award program began by recognizing excellence in news photography and has developed to include recognition of the best in all disciplines in New Zealand journalism. Danielle lives in northern New Zealand with her husband and three children.

PHOEBE STRIMENOPOULOS, BA'87, has

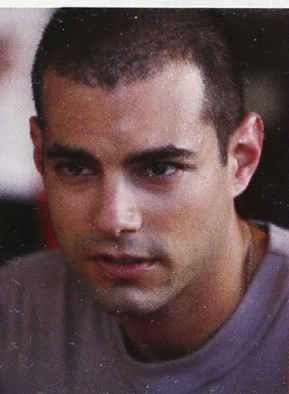
been living in the sunny country of Greece for the last 15 years, teaching English both in language schools and foreign universities. Phoebe presently works in the editing department of a publishing house and writes TESL books used in many countries around the world.

IAN SIROTA, BA'88, MA'91, recently argued and won a case before the highly influential United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, following an earlier victory at the trial-court level. The case, which is precedential in all United States Circuit Courts, involved a motor vehicle accident, and whether New Jersey's or Pennsylvania's wrongful death law would apply. Ian was successful in convincing the Court that New Jersey's law should prevail.

CAROL DEVINE, BA'89, coordinated Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) activities at the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto in August 2006 by helping to push for pediatric and new AIDS drug formulations. Carol is also on the board of Dignitas International, an AIDS non-government organization working in Malawi. She has published a novel, *Irma* (Vauve Press, 2004), about an Estonian-Canadian immigrant living with multiple sclerosis, which was translated into Estonian and launched at a Baltic MS conference in 2005.

JORGE PASSALACQUA, BA'90, MA'96, has been appointed Director of Communications and Planning at the Consumer Protection Agency of Quebec. Jorge lives in Montreal with his wife and two children.

BESSIE ASIMAKOPOULOS, BA'92, MA'95, has been appointed Chair and Program Coordinator of the Department of Modern Languages at Champlain Regional College in Saint Lambert, Quebec. Bessie is happily married and the mother of two.



JAMIE ELMAN, BA'99, co-stars with Armand Assante in the feature film *California Dreamin' (Endless)*, which recently screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and which earned the Prix un certain regard at the Cannes Film Festival. In the movie, set during the Kosovo War, Jamie plays a U.S. army sergeant who has a brief romance with a young Romanian woman when his transport train is delayed en route to delivering radar equipment to Kosovo. Jamie was featured frequently on the NBC drama *American Dreams*, and has appeared in episodes of such series as *CSI: NY*, *The Closer* and *Without a Trace*. In his next film, *When Nietzsche Wept*, Jamie portrays Sigmund Freud.

FRANCO IACONO, BA'92, was Justin Trudeau's campaign director for his Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec) nomination in Papineau. Franco's career in federal politics dates back to his teenage years and includes a decade of public service as policy, regional and legislative advisor to several cabinet ministers. Franco has also served as Director of Government Relations at the Business Development Bank of Canada and is President of Agora Government Relations and Senior Associate with Sussex Strategy Group, where he manages the company's Ottawa office. Franco would love to hear from old McGill friends at fiacono@sussex-strategy.com.

ERIC AVNER, BA'93, was named Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Cincinnati Development Fund (CDF), a non-profit lending institution established in 1988 to finance affordable housing development and community revitalization in the Greater Cincinnati Area. CDF currently manages a portfolio of \$103-million in urban residential real estate, and a \$52-million new markets tax credit allocation.

JONARNO LAWSON, BA'93, received the 2007 Lion and the Unicorn Award for Excellence in North American Poetry for his

book *Black Stars in a White Night Sky* (Pedlar Press, 2006).

TRISTAN JAMES MABRY, BA'93, received his PhD in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, which was a comparative study of language and Muslim minority separatist movements, and completed his fieldwork in Iraq, Pakistan, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Tristan works in the Department of Government at Georgetown University. He was married in 2001 and last year welcomed the birth of his daughter.

ROBERT ASTROFF, BA'94, is the president of Astroff Consultants Inc., an educational consulting firm specializing in offering strategic advice for applicants to professional and undergraduate university programs in Canada, the United States and overseas. Robert would love to hear from classmates at robert@astroffconsultants.com.

DEAN ROSENTHAL, BA'96, recorded *Underpinnings*, a work for chamber orchestra, which was released by the Parisian experimental record label Trace Label (www.trace-lab.com). The composition was written in 1998 and recorded in Valencia, Calif.

LAURA ACCURSO, BA'98, has joined Sidley Austin LLP and works from their

New York City office as an associate in the litigation department.

JENNIFER CLAIRE SHARPE, BA'98, had her essay, "Tove Jansson and the Divided Self," published in a scholarly collection entitled *Tove Jansson Rediscovered* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007). Jennifer presented this paper at the Tove Jansson Conference at Pembroke College, Oxford, in March.

LINDA GRAY, PhD'99, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach American History and History of the Borderlands at Dnipropetrovsk National University in the Ukraine from February to July 2007. Linda is part of the Adjunct Faculty in the Department of History at Norwich University, in Northfield, Vt.

JEFFREY CHANG, BA'01, graduated with his second graduate degree in Organizational Leadership Development in May from Columbia University, in New York City.

DARYA SHAIKH, BA'03, is U.S. Executive Director for the PeaceWorks Foundation's OneVoice Movement, a grassroots movement pushing for a return to negotiations and a two-state solution that is based in both Israel and Palestine. Darya joined

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hon·our [on'ər] *transitive verb*

to distinguish, exalt or ennoble:

to show respect and recognition

mem·o·ry [mem'ə rē] *noun*

a retained impression:

the knowledge or reputation of someone retained by others



McGill



BILL CONROD, MEd'70, is a retired educator who taught and administered at schools in Montreal, California, British Columbia and, for 15 years, at Algonquin College in Ottawa, where he eventually served as Vice-President of Continuing Education and Development. Bill has published a new book, *Memories of Snowdon in the 50's*, a collection of reminiscences and photos from 90 contributors about the Montreal neighbourhood where Decarie Boulevard meets Queen Mary Road and where Sam Pollack, the late, legendary Montreal Canadiens general manager, once played for the Snowdon Major Fastball League. To order the book, contact Bill at 613-236-5472 or email him at jillbillc@sympatico.ca

OneVoice in January 2003 as the public education coordinator and program developer and has been involved in reconciliation efforts in the Middle East since she was nine years old. Over the course of three years, Darya worked as the facilitator and moderator for a delegation of Jewish-Israeli, Arab-Israeli and Bedouin youth.

VINCENT CHANDLER, BA'05, was one of 25 recipients of the 2006 J. Armand Bombardier Foundation Internationalist Fellowships. The Foundation was created in 1965 to honour Joseph Armand Bombardier and awards \$10,000 to each of the fellows. Vincent will pursue his interest in microcredit, an increasingly important element in the economies of developing countries whereby small loans are granted to individuals to create local businesses. His international fieldwork for the Bombardier award is being completed with the Ghana Microfinance Institutions Network. Vincent is also completing a master's degree in economics at the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms University in Bonn, Germany.

SALIMA VALLA, BA'05, was selected by Horizon Cosmopolite to participate in a

six-month internship sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Bangladesh non-governmental organization Young Power in Social Action. Salima lived in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and was assigned to the HIV/AIDS Prevention Program among street-based sex workers. Salima interviewed sex workers and compiled the interviews into case studies, which were published as *"They think I work in garments": HIV and Sex Work in Chittagong*.

NUSTA CARRANZA KO, BA'06, completed a master's degree in international relations at the University of Windsor in August 2006, and the following September she entered New York University to begin working on a second master's degree, in Political Science.

DENTISTRY

GEORGE FREEDMAN, BSc'75, DDS'78, was appointed the International Editor-in-Chief of *Dental Tribune International*. This publication, which reaches 700,000 dentists, is published in 25 editions in 20 languages and is distributed in 91 countries around the globe.

DAVID I. HIRSCH, BSc'88, DDS'93, became a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and is a fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada. For the last 10 years, David has been in practice with offices across Ontario and has been a lecturer and clinic demonstrator at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Undergraduate Orthodontics.

MITCHELL JOSEPHS, DDS'88, published a book and marketing kit entitled *Achieving the Million-Dollar Practice Without Working Hard*. Mitchell gives all-day seminars on marketing for doctors in two cities every month all over North America for the Madow Group, while maintaining a private

cosmetic and implant dental practice in Palm Beach, Florida. Mitchell also hosts a weekly radio show called *Tooth Talk* (WBZT, Radiotoothtalk.com), and every Wednesday in the Accent section of the *Palm Beach Post* you can read his "Ask the Dentist" column, which maintains a readership of over 500,000.

EDUCATION

OUIDA WRIGHT, DipEd'53, MA'56, and her husband, **LEEBERT AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, BSc(Agr)'55, MSc'57**, received joint Lifetime Achievement Awards from the 2007 Harry Jerome Awards, honouring outstanding and inspirational African-Canadians. Now retired, Ouida was superintendent of curriculum for the Toronto District School Board and Assistant Deputy Minister of Ontario's education ministry. Ouida spent more than 50 years in the education field in Jamaica, Quebec and Ontario, including 15 years as the superintendent of curriculum in the Toronto Board of Education, where she won the Colonel Watson Award for curriculum development and the Canadian Women in Science Award for outstanding contribution to mathematics and science. Leebert, a biochemist, standardized clinical chemistry tests across the country and was president of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists, which under his guidance founded a central laboratory in Ottawa where biological samples could be analyzed according to strict guidelines. Leebert's work led him to win an Ames Award in 1979, the highest Canadian honour bestowed in the field of chemistry.

DENIS BRAULT, MEd'80, teaches Latin, ancient Greek and Greco-Roman civilization courses to the Montreal community for La Fondation Humanitas, a non-profit organization that promotes classical studies in Quebec.



KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE, BEng'79, is the new Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science at Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario. Kimberly began her five-year term in July 2007. Kimberly was a professor of chemical engineering and applied chemistry at the University of Toronto and is the associate director of the Advanced Regenerative Tissue Engineering Centre (ARTEC) at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. She is an expert in the design of novel materials made from both synthetics and recombinant proteins and her research focuses on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. She has been awarded both the (Ontario) Premier's Research Excellence Award and the Professional Engineers of Ontario Engineering Excellence Medal.



PHOTO: PAUL CHIVERS / CANADIAN PRESS

MAHER ARAR, BEng'95 (pictured on the right), and his wife, **MONIA MAZIGH, PhD'01**, were awarded honorary doctorates by Nipissing University on June 9. Maher, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was deported by U.S. authorities to Syria in 2002, where he was tortured into false confessions of terrorist links before he was released and returned to his adopted home. During his incarceration in Syria, his wife worked tirelessly for his release. She also successfully lobbied the Canadian government to hold an inquiry into her husband's deportation and imprisonment. He has received formal apologies for his ordeal from both the RCMP and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, as well as a \$10.5-million settlement from the Canadian government. Maher and Monia recently created a \$20,000 scholarship at Thompson Rivers University to support the work of students committed to issues of social justice. The University of Ottawa has also created a scholarship to honour the couple. The Canadian Muslim Network Arar-Mazigh Scholarship will be awarded to a common law student specializing in human rights.

ANASTASIA KAMANOS GAMELIN, BEd'91, MEd'95, PhD'01, has been involved in establishing universities for women in the Middle East. Her first assignment was in Saudi Arabia, where she helped to establish the first private university for women. Anastasia works at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain, where she is Associate Professor in the Education Faculty and Program Director of the Faculty of Liberal Arts. She was instrumental in developing the Education and Liberal Arts programs at this new university. She is presently writing *The Sand Diaries*, which explores her experience of teaching, living and learning in Saudi Arabia.

GARETH REID, BEd'94, has been promoted from Senior School Principal to Principal of Turnbull School in Ottawa. **CRAIG DUNN, BEd'94**, has been appointed Senior School Vice Principal and **EDGAR (BUDDY) CLINCH, BEd'93**, has been appointed Junior School Vice Principal of Turnbull. All three have been working together for almost ten years, and several other McGill graduates also teach at Turnbull School.

ANN MARIE CAMPBELL, BEd'04, and her husband, **PIERRE-ÉTIENNE MORAND, BCL'04, LLB'04**, announce the birth of their first child, Joseph-Antoine, in July in Lévis, Que. Ann Marie is a teacher at A.S. Johnson High School in Thetford Mines, and Pierre-Étienne practises law at McCarthy Tétrault LLP in Quebec City.

JUSTIN SAKOFS, BEd'06, announces his engagement to **RACHEL ELANA MILLER, BSc'05**. Justin and Rachel met at McGill during their first week of courses.

ENGINEERING

GERALD KENNEY, BEng'54, worked for Bell Canada in the 1960s and 70s, where he

was responsible for the engineering aspects of the telephone system based on short-wave radio that served the eastern half of the Northwest Territories, Labrador and Nouveau Québec. Gerald has long been fascinated with the Arctic and in his new book, *Dangerous Passage*, he explores the accomplishments of Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer who successfully completed the first-ever transit of the Northwest Passage by sea.

BRUCE BRADY, BEng'72, has been appointed Manager, Mine Development with



DAVID LEVY, MDCM'79, MSc'83, was named as a Principal with PricewaterhouseCoopers. David joined the firm in June 2005 as a managing director for the Healthcare Advisory Practice, leading his team in analyzing Louisiana's health system following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and drafting a report to the Louisiana Recovery Authority for rebuilding a stronger health system for the state. A resident of Rockland County, New York, David founded the not-for-profit foundation Health Insurance for All in 2005 and was appointed as a commissioner of the National Health Council's Patient-Centered Care Initiative in 2004.

Western Prospector Group Ltd. (WNP). WNP is evaluating a uranium deposit in northeast Mongolia and is undertaking a feasibility study with a view to establishing an underground mining operation.

RAMI HOUBBY, BEng'94, was promoted to Vice President of Strategic Accounts and Alliances for Allied Telesis for the European, Middle East and African regions. Rami is based out of Reading in the United Kingdom.

KIMBERLY RAFUSE, BEng'95, is currently completing her Master's in Environmental Security and Peace in San José, Costa Rica, at the United Nations Mandated University for Peace. Kimberly can be reached at kimrafuse@yahoo.ca.

HEALTH SCIENCES

GORDON DICKIE, MDCM'58, has retired from his medical practice in Hawaii to become an author. Gordon's recent book, *Fracture*, takes place in the skiing mecca of Aspen, Colorado. Gordon's previous books have dealt with themes such as scuba diving, biological warfare, sociobiology and fetal intelligence.

ANN TOFFEL, Dip(PTh)'63, completed a Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Des Moines University in Iowa in

May, and an MBA at the University of New Haven in Connecticut in 1998. Ann works in an acute care hospital in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., as Assistant Administrative Director of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, overseeing a department of 40 staff members. Ann is also a Clinical Faculty Associate at New York Medical College in Valhalla, N.Y.

GAIL CAWKWELL, MDCM'88, lives in Bedford, N.Y., and works at Pfizer Inc. in New York City. Gail volunteers in the pediatric rheumatology clinic at Columbia University Hospital, teaching and seeing patients. Gail is married and has four children: Philip, a high school senior, Rachel, a



PIERRE-ETIENNE SIMARD, BCL'02, LLB'02, was elected President of the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal, the largest business network of young managers, professionals, entrepreneurs and self-employed workers under the age of 40 in North America. Pierre-Etienne practices corporate law at Fasken Martineau, where he specializes in mergers, acquisitions and securities.

ment companies, with offices in Montreal, Toronto and Dallas.

KIRSTEN HILLMAN, LLB'93, BCL'93, is a Foreign Service Officer and international trade litigator with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and has recently taken up the position of Counsellor and Senior Legal Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

JONATHAN LEVINSON, BCL'95, LLB'95, was appointed Chief of Staff for Claude Lajeunesse, the President of Concordia University, having been in the position on an interim basis since February 2007. Jonathan joined the Concordia community as Assistant General Counsel in April 2006 and was a part-time professor in Concordia's communication studies program last fall and in Spring 2005, teaching communications, corporate and contract law. Jonathan is also a

high school freshman, Samuel, a 5th grader, and Rebecca, a 3rd grader.

DIANE E. LOWDEN, MSc(A)'88, works as a clinical nurse specialist in the Multiple Sclerosis Program of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). She is the current President of the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses and was recently awarded the MUHC Eureka Fellowship in Nursing Research. Diane lives with her husband, **PAUL JENSEN, BSc(Agr)'82, MSc(Agr)'85**, in Rosemere, Quebec.

LISA ANDERMANN, BA'89, MDCM'96, and Michael Prokaziuk happily announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Julia Stephanie, born in April 2007 at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

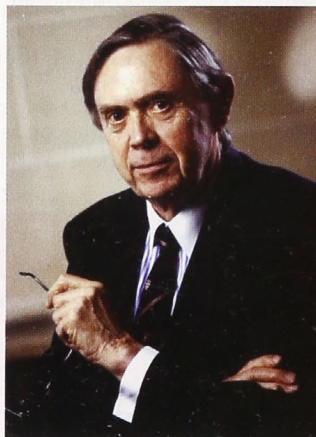
LAW

MICHAEL CYTRYNBAUM, BA'62, BCL'65, was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hostopia.com Inc. in June after serving as a director of the company since 2003. Michael is also President of First Fiscal Management Ltd., a private consulting company, and Executive Chairman of Look Communications Inc., a communications service provider, and Ignition Point Technologies Corp., a broadband communication provider, both publicly traded companies. In addition, he is a director of two junior resource companies and a director of Peer 1 Network Enterprises, Inc., a provider of high-performance Internet bandwidth.

FRANK H. BUCKLEY, BA'69, LLB'74, is Foundation Professor of Law at George Mason School of Law in Arlington, Virginia, and Director of its Law & Economics Program. Frank's most recent books are *The Morality of Laughter* (University of Michigan Press, 2003) and *Just Exchange* (Routledge, 2004). His daughter, Sarah, graduated from MIT last spring and is studying medicine.

FRANK VAN DE CRAEN, DCL'78, previously Belgium's Envoy to Bolivia (2003-2006), was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Belgium to Malaysia and began his assignment in Kuala Lumpur in November 2006.

HAIG OGHIGIAN, BA'76, LLB'79, has been named a Partner in the Japanese law firm of



DONALD J. JOHNSTON, BCL'58, BA'60, LLD'03, received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun of Japan, the second most prestigious Japanese decoration and the highest one that can be bestowed on a non-Japanese citizen. Donald received the decoration from Emperor Akihito of Japan at a ceremony in November 2006 at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. The Order was awarded to Donald in consideration of his accomplishments as Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development from 1996 to 2006. Donald is counsel and founding partner of Heenan Blaikie. He was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Montreal Economic Institute.

Baker & McKenzie GJB Tokyo Aoyama Aoki Koma (Gaikokuho Joint Enterprise), specializing in dispute resolution. Haig has many years of experience representing Japanese and international clients in the fields of international commercial arbitration, particularly with cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and licensing and distribution agreements. Previously, he served as a Foreign Service Officer at the Canadian Embassy in Japan. Fluent in English, French and Japanese, Haig is a contributing writer for the Simon & Schuster book *The Law of Commerce in Japan*, and lectures on international arbitration at the University of Tokyo.

ALAN MARCOVITZ, BCom'77, BCL'81, LLB'81, was appointed President of the Westcliff Group of Companies, one of Canada's largest privately held real estate development, management and invest-

ment and member of the Quebec, New York and Massachusetts bar associations.

GARY D. TICOLL, BSc'72, MSc'80, BCL'99, LLB'99, is a special counsel in the Financial Restructuring Department at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. Gary works from the firm's New York office representing debtors, individual creditors and other parties in all aspects of Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and out-of-court financial restructurings.

MANAGEMENT

GORDON PIMM, BCom'50, lives in Ottawa with his wife, June, and his trusty West Highland White Terrier, Duncan. Gordon served during World War II as a Signalman in the Royal Canadian Navy, primarily in the North Atlantic Convoys. Following wartime service, he earned his management degree

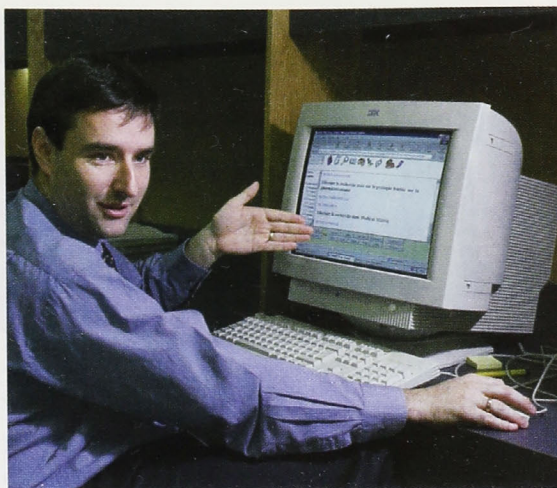
from McGill. Gordon's new book, *Leo's War: From Gaspé to Vimy*, chronicles the experiences of his uncle Leo, who served in the Montreal Victoria Rifles during World War I. More information about the book can be found at www.leoswar.com.

IAN COOK, BCom'70, earned the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association (NSA) and the International Federation of Professional Speakers. Fewer than 10 per cent of member speakers worldwide hold this designation. Ian received his award at the 2007 NSA Convention in San Diego. His leadership development company, Fulcrum Associates Inc., is based in Vienna, Va., with an office in Toronto.

LINE RACETTE, BCom'82, DPA'83, is a Partner in Advisory Services at KPMG, a global network of professional firms providing audit, tax and advisory services, in Montreal. Line was awarded membership into the Fellowship of Chartered Business Valuators with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Business Valuators.

JOHANNE BERNARD, BCom'86, is Deputy Commissioner of Competition at the Competition Bureau of Canada. The Bureau is an independent law enforcement agency that investigates anti-competitive practices and promotes fair competition in the Canadian marketplace.

ASIF MUSTAFA, BCom'87, DPA'91, has accepted a position as a director in the UBS Wealth Management Group, one of the world's largest investment bank and asset management firms. Prior to this, Asif was with Bloomberg LP, and has also held various finance and advisory positions with Fortune 500 companies in the New York City area. Asif has also been travelling the world for work and leisure, but having four young children has slowed him down some-



JEAN-FRANÇOIS BUSSIÈRES, MBA'93, was named Canadian Pharmacist of the Year for 2007 by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. Jean-François is the Director of the Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine's pharmacy department, where he spearheaded a departmental reorganization that led to the creation of a new pharmaceutical practice research unit. He is also an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Université de Montréal and the winner of five teaching awards.

what. He is active in various civic and non-profit boards and is an amateur photographer.

TIMOTHY MATTIMOE, MBA'92, married Christine Jacobsen in August 2006 in Kleinburg, Ontario. Tim is a product solutions manager with Filogix Inc., Canada's leading technology provider to the mortgage and real estate industries.

MARTIN KON, BCom'93, has been named head of the New York office of Oliver Wyman and remains head of the firm's Global Media & Entertainment practice. Martin's previous firm, Mercer Management Consulting, recently joined forces with Mercer Oliver Wyman and Mercer Delta Organizational Consulting under the name Oliver Wyman. The Oliver Wyman Group has sales of \$1.3-billion and 3,300 staff in 16 countries.

RIÉ SHIGEMATSU-COLLETT, MBA'96, has opened Embody Wellness Spa (www.embodyspa.com) in Mountain View, Calif. Together with her business partner, **RICHARD KARASIK**, MEng'69, they offer health and wellness services to stressed-out Silicon Valley-ites. Rié has worked for ABC

TV in New York, the Walt Disney Company in Los Angeles and, most recently, at a number of high tech companies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Rié, who is married and has one daughter, has served as President of the McGill Alumni Association of Northern California since 2002.

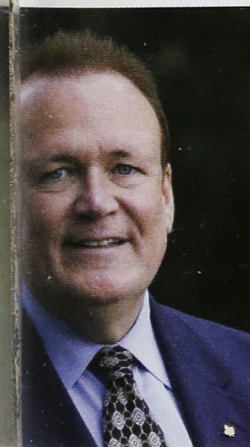
DAVID CHAN-JUNG KUO, BCom'97, was appointed Vice President of the Board of the Canadian Society in Taiwan.

DEEPAK DAVE, BCom'98, recently set up his own corporate financial advisory firm. Deepak is also working on separate mandates, which include raising a \$400-million African private equity fund, a \$200-million property investment trust and a \$100-million structured debt fund. He splits his time between London, Toronto and Nairobi.

SALIM SAMAHA, BCom'98, joined Global Infrastructure Partners, a private equity joint venture between Crédit Suisse and General Electric, as a principal in October 2006 and works in New York. Salim was previously a vice president in Crédit Suisse's Investment Banking Division, also in New York.

BROOKE FISHBACK, MBA'02, is International Sales Manager for Health Enterprises, Inc. (www.healthenterprises.com), which was recently awarded an international trade achievement award from the Massachusetts Alliance for International Business for demonstrated best practices in international business and expansive presence in markets around the world. Brooke also earned the NASBITE Certified Global Business Professional designation, and received their Centurian Award for Leadership in International Business.

DAVID ARMOUR, MMgmt'03, is the new President of the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), an organization with five million members across Canada. The CAA provides its members with a wide range of services, including roadside assistance, and leads national advocacy efforts on traffic safety and other public policy issues that affect Canadian motorists. David is the former president of the United Way of Canada — Centraide Canada, a position he held for nine years. David is also a member of the trust funds advisory committee of the Canadian Red Cross and a member of the board of directors of the Pembina Institute, which promotes the development of sustainable energy sources.





SOLON MCDADE, BMUS'02, (second from right), and his brother, **JEREMIAH MCDADE, BMUS'02** (second from left), make up part of the McDades, who won the award for Best Roots and Traditional Album of the Year (Group) at the 2007 Juno Awards, for their CD *Bloom*. Last fall, the McDades received two Canadian Folk Music Awards, one for Best World Album and the other for Best World Group. Both brothers compose music for the band. Solon is the McDades' bass player, while Jeremiah provides vocals in addition to playing a variety of instruments, including tin whistle, saxophone, fiddle and flute.

MUSIC

KELLY WILLIAMSON, BMus'92, and her husband, Mike Lamothe, relocated to London, Ont., in June 2006. In May 2006, Kelly was appointed a teacher trainer in flute with the Suzuki Association of the Americas, one of nine in North America, and is one of the youngest people to have achieved this position. As a teacher trainer, she travelled to Peru in January 2007 to teach at the 22nd Festival Internacional de Musica Suzuki in Lima. Kelly can be reached at kelly@amaryllis.ca.

NATALIE BONIN, BMus'93, a violinist, recorded as a guest soloist with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz

Orchestra on September 6. The band recorded a new piece called "Portrait in Seven Shades," composed by saxophonist Ted Nash. The piece is divided into seven movements, each one inspired by a different modern painter, including Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso. Natalie is a member of the jazz quintet, Ted Nash and Odeon, and has toured with the Cirque du Soleil, Gino Vannelli, Bruno Pelletier, Bran Van 3000, Moist and other pop music artists. She is also a member of the Ensemble contemporain de Montréal and plays regularly in the Orchestre Métropolitain.

EVAN JONES, BMus'93, has served on the faculty at the Florida State University (FSU) College of Music since 2001. He was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Music Theory in August 2007, receiving a University Teaching Award in April 2007 as well. Evan serves on the national Society for Music Theory Professional Development Committee and was a fellow at the 2006 Mannes Institute for Advanced Studies in Music Theory, held at Yale University. Evan is an active cellist and has performed with **MAY PHANG, BMus'92, MMus'94**, at the University of Cincinnati, DePauw University and FSU. Evan also gave a recital of solo repertoire at UCLA and premiered Clifton Callender's *Metamorphoses* at the 16th Annual Florida Electroacoustic Music Festival.

MARIA DIAMANTIS, BMus'95, a soprano, performs with another Montrealer of Greek descent, tenor Dimitris Ilias, on the recently released CD *Refraction*, a Chroma Musika (Montreal) and Music Mirror (Athens) co-production. The CD pairs the music of Greek composer Hrysanthos Mouzakis and the poetry of Vasos Vogiatzoglou. Greek Consul General Maria Karnoutsou was the guest of honour at the official launch of the CD, held in Montreal at the Hellenic Community Centre in February.

SHAWN MATIVETSKY, BMus'98, MMus'00, teaches tabla and percussion, both privately

and at McGill, where he directs the McGill Tabla Ensemble at the Schulich School of Music. He recently released a new CD of music for tabla, *Payton MacDonald: Works for Tabla and Percussion*, a collaboration with composer Payton Macdonald, which combines Shawn's interest in both Indian classical and Western classical music.

STEVEN SHERWOOD, BMus'00, has been a tenor with the Canadian Opera Company chorus since 2003. Steven recently made his mainstage debut with the COC this past January in the role of the Drunken Guest in Dmitry Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*.

JULIA MACLAINE, BMus'03, a cellist, is a fellow at the Academy—a Program of Carnegie Hall, Juilliard School and the Weill Music Institute. Established in January 2007, this two-year fellowship serves post-graduate musicians embarking on their careers by helping bridge the gap between their academic and professional lives. Julia is a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City.

JESSICA MUIRHEAD, BMus'03, MMus'05, was part of the cast for the Canadian Opera Company's recent production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Since receiving her degrees at McGill, Jessica has performed for the San Francisco Lyric Opera and was selected to participate in the prestigious Belvedere Competition in Vienna, Austria, where she was a finalist.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EDWARD SEARL, BTh'73, completed a five-book series of quote collections for Skinner House Books. Four of the books—*Bless this Child*, *Coming of Age*, *We Pledge our Hearts* and *Beyond Absence*—belong to the *Rites of Passage* anthology, while the fifth, *In Praise of Animals*, belongs to the *Animal Kingdom* anthology. The *Rites* series anthologizes quotes from the four great passages

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of life: birth, coming-of-age, marriage and death, and contains Edward's vision of the evolution and transformation of human life from birth to death. The fifth book places humankind within nature. See <http://members.authorsguild.net/edwardsearl>.

JAMES SIEMENS, BTh'96, is completing his PhD at the University of Wales, Lampeter, the oldest degree-awarding institution in Wales and the third oldest in England and Wales after Oxford and Cambridge. James is examining the thought of Theodore of Tarsus in a text called *Laterculus Malalianus*. James left the Anglican priesthood to be received into the Catholic Church in September 2005 and is now lecturing in religion at a college in Cardiff, Wales. He is married to Kim and together they have four children: Nicholas, Ambrose, Chloé and Dominic.

SCIENCE

VIVIANE WEINBERGER KLUSKA, BSc'69, MSc'72, has retired and paints as art therapy. Viviane is interested in hearing from classmates in order to catch up and can be emailed at viviane.weinberger@gmail.com.

PHYLLIS FERGUSON, MSc(A)'75, and her husband, **LINDSAY BOTTOMER**, MSc(A)'75, live in Vancouver, B.C., after having lived in Australia for eight years. Lindsay, a mineral exploration geologist, has worked in 28 countries in the last three decades, and Phyllis, a speech language pathologist, recently combined her professional knowledge of autistic spectrum disorders with her personal interest in the novels of Jane Austen to write a cross-disciplinary book entitled *So Odd A Mixture: Along the Autistic Spectrum in "Pride and Prejudice"* (Jessica Kingsley, 2007). Their two children study at McGill: Jan is in her second year of a master's program in

Counselling Psychology and Tim is in his first year of Law.

SHELDON H. JACOBSON, BSc'81, MSc'83, is a Professor and Director of the Simulation and Optimization Laboratory in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sheldon co-authored the paper "The Economic Impact of Obesity on Automobile Fuel Consumption," in *The Engineering Economist* (Volume 51, Number 4, 2006), which received international attention in newspapers and on radio and TV.

MICHAEL LYONS, BSc'83, returned to academia after a decade working as a senior research scientist at the Advanced Telecommunications Research Labs in Kyoto, Japan. Michael is a professor in the College of Image Arts and Sciences at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

JOHN DAICOPOULOS, BSc'88, runs RenegadeScience.tv, where he produces satirical and edgy video podcasts promoting and defending science. John invites alumni to visit his site and have a look at renegadescience.blogspot.com.

STEPHANIE WRAGG, BSc'88, MSc'91, lives in Delray Beach, Florida, with **CHRISTOPHER M. BURNS**, BSc'89. Stephanie is Research Assistant Professor and Director of Medical Education and Faculty Development at the Regional Campus of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, while Christopher is Assistant Professor in the College of Biomedical Sciences at Florida Atlantic University.

VIC NANDA, MSc'96, was awarded the Feigenbaum Medal by the American Society for Quality during its World Conference on Quality and Improvement in April. Vic was recognized for her innovative contributions

in the area of quality methodology as Quality Manager at Motorola in Marlton, New Jersey. Vic was also recognized for her leadership in the quality profession, evidenced by enhancement of organizational maturity, international institutionalization of quality management systems, authorship of scholarly books and articles on quality, and her volunteerism.

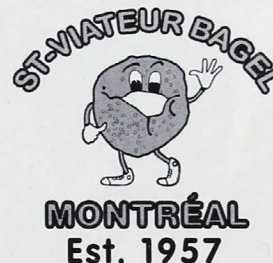
SOCIAL WORK

CAMERON RUSSELL, MSW'04, won a South London and Maudsley National Health Service Clinical Governance Award for his involvement in bringing caregivers' perspectives into the services that their loved ones receive. Cameron works at Lambeth Hospital in London, England, as a forensic mental health social worker.

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WILBERT KEON, MSc'64, an internationally renowned cardiac surgeon and cardiologist, was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame on October 2. The hall, located in London, Ontario, recognizes the accomplishments of Canada's health care heroes. Wilbert was also recently presented with the Canadian Medical Association's F.N.G. Starr Award, the highest honour that the CMA can bestow upon one of its members in recognition of outstanding achievement, and a prize that has been described as the "Victoria Cross of Canadian Medicine." Wilbert was the founding director general of the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute and performed both the first heart transplant and the first artificial heart transplant in Canada. A member of the Canadian Senate, he is the deputy chair of a Senate special committee on aging, and chairs a Senate subcommittee on population health.

THE 1920s

RAYMOND KELLAM, BSc'28, at Etobicoke, Ont., on October 16, 2006.

MAX COBLENTZ, BA'29, BCL'32, at Montreal, on June 20, 2007.

THE 1930s

MARGUERITE (LEPAGE) FIDLER, DipSocWork'30, MA'32, at Toronto, Ont., on May 10, 2007.

LAURA B. MCKERGOW, BHS'31, at Waterloo, Que., on April 1, 2007.

SAMUEL SHUSTER, BSc'31, MDCM'36, at Montreal, on March 31, 2007.

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

PHILIP B. FRENCH, BEng'34, at Brockville, Ont., on April 12, 2007.

GERALD KAINE, MDCM'35, at Ottawa, on April 8, 2007.

SAMUEL GREENBLATT, BA'36, at Westmount, Que., on July 1, 2007.

CHARLES DURANCEAU, BEng'37, at Montreal, on April 8, 2007.

OSWALD HALL, MA'37, at Ottawa, on August 31, 2007.

DELLA ALLEN, BSc'38, MSc'42, at Vancouver, on March 10, 2007.

DOUGLAS T. RATTRAY, BSc'38, at Toronto, on December 28, 2006.

GILMAN R. GORING, BEng'39, at Ottawa, on October 5, 2006.

AUDRIE O. MACLEAN, BSc'39, at Calgary, on May 21, 2007.

JACK F. ROSS, BEng'39, at Calgary, on April 26, 2007.

JOHN STEWART, BCom'39, at Dartmouth, N.S., on May 21, 2007.

THE 1940s

MRS. W.S. (PRISCILLA ANNIS) KOSACZ, BHS'40, on May 23, 2006.

GORDON L. MARROTTE, BEng'40, at Vancouver, on June 4, 2007.

DUNCAN S. MCNAB, BArch'41, at Vancouver, on April 18, 2007.

MARY PECK, BA'41, at Ottawa, on June 21, 2007.

MARJORIE (BATY) LITTLEHALES, BA'42, at Reading, Pa., on November 5, 2005.

HOWARD C. PIERPONT, MDCM'43, at Arlington, Va., on February 14, 2006.

KATHLEEN MARGARET (FRICKER) VAUGHAN, BA'43, MA'50, at Oakville, Ont., on September 12, 2006.

JESSIE RANKIN (GUNN) COX, BA'44, BLS'45, at Toronto, on September 8, 2006.

STEPHEN RABATICH, BSc'44, MDCM'45, at Plaster Rock, N.B., on June 1, 2007.

FRANK GURD, BSc'45, MSc'46, at Albuquerque, N.M., on June 17, 2007.

KLAS ERIC HELLSTROM, BEng'45, at Lac Marois, Que., on July 23, 2007.

ESTELLE RUTH (TRITT) ASPLER, CertNurs'47, at Montreal, on April 14, 2007.

RALPH LOGAN, BSc'47, at Manahawkin, N.J., on December 1, 2006.

J. GUY BLANCHETTE, BCL'48, at Sherbrooke, Que., on June 7, 2005.

RICHARD R. CHERRY, BSc'48, MDCM'50, at Edmonton, on June 5, 2007.

PIERRE DE GRANDPRE, BCL'48, at Montreal, on June 14, 2007.

PAUL MONTREUIL, BSc'48, MSc'55, at Quebec City, on April 11, 2007.

RUTH (ORDOWER) STILMAN, BA'48, BLS'63, MLS'70, at Toronto, on February 2, 2007.

CLAUDIA TENNANT, BN'48, at Calgary, on August 4, 2006.

DONALD F. WOLVIN, BCom'48, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on May 26, 2007.

PETER ALLAN DOGEN, DDS'49, at Montreal, on September 1, 2006.

JEAN LOIS (PATTERSON) DOREY, BCom'49, on May 9, 2007.

JOHN SAUNDERS GILMOUR, BA'49, at Montreal, on December 16, 2005.

IAN GORDON GRAFTON, BSc'49, MDCM'53, at Harriston, Ont., on October 14, 2006.

LOUIS RAKITA, MDCM'49, at Seattle, Wash., on April 2, 2007.

THE 1950s

JOSEPH FISHMAN, BSc'50, MDCM'54, MSc'60, at MahWah, N.J., on October 3, 2006.

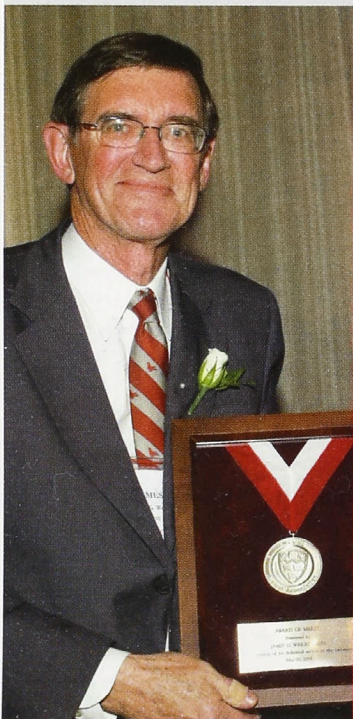
DOUGLAS LYONS, BEng'50, MEng'51, at Ottawa, on April 19, 2007.

ANDRE TOWNER, BEng'50, at Verdun, Que., on May 10, 2007.

JOSEPH G. DUBROSKY, BEng'51, at Pompano Beach, Fla., on April 29, 2007.

WILLIAM FOYLE, BEng'51, at Alma, Que., on December 1, 2003.

MARY ELIZABETH (MCKENZIE) MACLEAN, BA'51, at Mississauga, Ont., on April 6, 2007.



JAMES WRIGHT, BA'65, a very familiar figure at McGill, who served his alma mater in a wide range of capacities, was killed in a propane explosion at his family's Laurentian cottage on September 1. A prominent Montreal lawyer and a former Westmount city councillor, Wright was the director of the Sauvé Scholars Foundation, a unique initiative that brings promising young scholars and professionals to Montreal from around the globe. They learn from each other and from McGill — Sauvé Scholars enjoy wide access to McGill's courses and resources. Wright was a McGill governor emeritus and a former president of the McGill Alumni Association. Meriam Maza, a former Sauvé Scholar, also died in the blast that took Wright's life. Nancy Wright, his wife, was injured, but survived the explosion. "Jim will be remembered by all of us who knew him with enormous respect and genuine affection," says Principal Heather Munroe-Blum. Wright is pictured here receiving the MAA's highest honour, the Award of Merit, in 2004.

NICOLAS MORIN

GEORGE MAROULIS, BCom'51, at Montreal, on May 3, 2006.

ROBERT D. RUSSELL, BSc(PE)'51, at Rothesay, N.B., on December 17, 2006.

MOSES "MOE" LAUFER, BSW'52, at London, England, on July 21, 2006.

ARTHUR FLAMER, BArch'53, at Toronto, on April 7, 2007.

ELOHIM "ELY" RAMAN, BA'53, at Victoria, B.C., on July 7, 2007.

RALPH F. SORTOR, Jr., MDCM'53, at Milwaukee, Wis., on July 4, 2006.

HAROLD F. BIEWALD, DDS'55, at Ottawa, on November 11, 2006.

CYNTHIA (BALCH) MOORE, MSW'55, at Montreal, on August 23, 2006.

PETER ABBOTT, BCom'56, at Burlington, Ont., on February 21, 2006.

JOHN D. B. KENT, BEng'56, at Ottawa, on August 18, 2007.

RAYMOND D. LEMOYNE, BA'56, in Italy, on October 13, 2006.

HAZEN BOYD, BSc(Agr)'57, at St. Stephen, N.B., on May 9, 2007.

JOHN CADMAN BINNEY, BSc'59, MDCM'64, DipPsych'69, at Toronto, on September 21, 2006.

ROLAND HOK, MDCM'59, at Concord, NH, on February 22, 2007.

THE 1960s

ANDREW QUINN MCCORMICK, MDCM'60, at Vancouver, on December 30, 2006.

ISTVAN MEZES, BArch'60, at Toronto, on May 13, 2007.

MARY MORSE CHASE, MSW'61, at Oakville, Ont., on May 1, 2007.

JOHN CHILAKOS, BSc(Agr)'61, at Moorpark, Calif., on December 17, 2006.

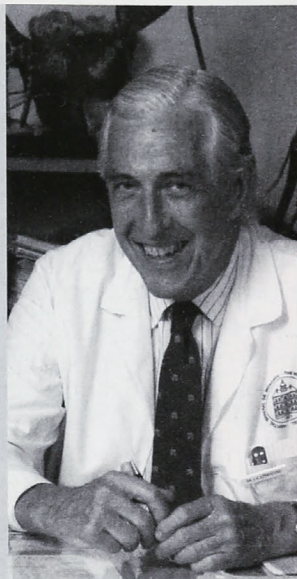
RONALD G. FLETCHER, DDS'61, at Montreal West, Que., on April 27, 2007.

ROBERT A. WASHINGTON, PhD'61, at Elliot Lake, Ont., on October 12, 2006.

STEWART WILLIAM BAIN, BEng'62, at Toronto, on August 14, 2006.

LINE ROBILLARD, BA'62, at Montreal, on October 27, 2006.

KENNETH A. MCMORINE, BSc(Agr)'63, at Newmarket, Ont., on March 29, 2007.



JOSEPH GRAHAM STRATFORD, BSc'45, MDCM'47, MSc'51, DIPMED'54, an eminent neurosurgeon, passed away on July 22 while vacationing in France. After having trained with legendary Montreal Neurological Institute founder Wilder Penfield, Stratford taught at the University of Saskatchewan before returning to McGill. As the head of the Montreal General Hospital's neurosurgery division in 1966, Stratford helped create a 30-bed neurological and neurosurgical ward with a dedicated intensive care unit — a first in Canada. In 1985, he played a leading role in the creation of the McGill-MGH Pain Centre, taking on the position of medical director. He received the MGH Award of Merit in 2000 in recognition of the important role he had played at McGill and the Montreal General for many years. Following his death, his friends and relatives created the Dr. Joe Stratford Memorial Fund in his honour. All funds benefit the MUHC Pain Centre, and those wishing to donate may do so through McGill's Faculty of Medicine (contact: 514-398-5000 or info.alumni@mcgill.ca).

JERRY SHATTNER, BEng'68, at Montreal, on December 5, 2006.

THE 1970s

W. HUNTLEY CAMERON, MEd'70, at Montreal, on June 1, 2007.

JOHN "SKIP" YALE, MEd'70, at London, Ont., on June 1, 2007.

GARRY BERNACSEK, BSc'71, at Bangkok, Thailand, on July 1, 2006.

MARGITA ZAKARIJA, MSc'71, at Key Biscayne, Fla., on December 28, 2006.

BRENT C. BUTLER, BCom'72, MBA'77, at Montreal, on October 8, 2006.

NICHOLAS B. KNOPPERS, STM'75, at Sherwood Park, Alta., on October 28, 2006.

JOHN SZUBER, MEd'76, GradCertEdLeadership'05, at Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., on May 29, 2007.

WAYNE S. THIBAudeau, BA'76, at Iqaluit, Nunavut, on August 13, 2006.

HARRY L. HOPMEYER, BCom'77, at Montreal, on November 14, 2006.

EDWARD "TED" JOSEPH COLLINSON, MEd'78, at St-Bruno, Que., on August 14, 2006.

THE 1980s

YVON DUFORT, BEd'82, at Saint-Lin, Que., on September 7, 2005.

DAVID JOEL PERLEY, BSc'82, MDCM'86, at Toronto, on May 22, 2007.

SHARON MARY BAILLIE-MALO, BA'83, BSc'87, at Gloucester, Ont., on March 31, 2007.

CATHERINE ANDERSON, BA'86, BCL'90, LLB'90, at Calgary, on December 6, 2006.

BENOIT VAN WINDEN, BSc(Agr)'86, at Napierville, Que., on February 7, 2007.

THE 1990s

IRENE GLOOR, MBA'90, at Montreal, on December 12, 2006.

THE 2000s

STRACHAN HARTLEY, MSc'02, MDCM'06, at Montreal, on July 5, 2007.

J. BARRY BELL, PhD'07, at Toronto, on May 8, 2007.

FACULTY AND STAFF

STANLEY MARTIN BANFILL, MDCM'33, Professor of Anatomy and Associate Dean of Medicine, at Montreal, on April 30, 2007.

JULIUS GORDON, PhD'59, Professor of Surgery and Microbiology and Immunology, at Montreal, on February 10, 2007.

EFFAT MACRAMALLA, Associate Professor of Urology, at Malone, N.Y., on April 17, 2007.

LAUGHLIN B. TAYLOR, Professor of Neuropsychology, at Montreal, on April 4, 2007.

JAMES TEEL, Macdonald Campus Building Services, at Dorval, Que., on November 6, 2006.

Looking for Lulu

BY JOEL YANOFSKY, BA'77, MA'81

On the final day of class last spring, students in my magazine writing course at Concordia University asked if they could take me out for a beer. They'd liked the class, they said, and would be in touch. I won't say I rushed home to check my email, but I did keep replaying the final scene in *To Sir with Love*: the one where the teacher — Sidney Poitier — is rewarded for his dedication with the overdue affection of his previously delinquent students. I could practically hear Lulu singing, "Those schoolgirl days..."

When no one got in touch, my wife pointed out what should have been obvious to me after some 15 years, off and on, of teaching: my students had ulterior motives. "Their final grades aren't in yet, are they?" my wife asked.

"So what are you saying? They're just buttering me up?"

"Yes," she said, shrugging. I love my wife, but she's no Lulu.

The poet Robert Burns wished for the gift of "seeing ourselves as others see us," but that was before the Internet. Go online and you can find out what everyone thinks about everything, including you.

As a teacher you survive the semester by telling yourself your students aren't paying attention those mornings when your socks don't match, or you can't put two coherent sentences together. However, that was before MySpace. Now students are zeroing in on all our quirks and, quite possibly, videotaping them. I looked myself up on RateMyProfessors.com the other day and discovered a remark that stung and stuck: "Ummm, Joel, personal anecdotes do not a great course make."

As a teacher you also survive the semester by forgetting what it was like to be a student. I'd forgotten, for instance, how quick I was to judge my teachers, and how harsh I could be.

I took a poetry course in my final undergraduate year at McGill. It was held in a lecture hall which comfortably seated 80. Someone had clearly misjudged the interest of undergraduates in verse. There were just two of us registered. Despite that, the professor, punctual and well-prepared, took attendance every class; though, after a while, he did it silently.

My classmate and I sat next to each other in the centre of the room, but Professor H., let's call him, lectured as if the class was full. He would look to our left, our right, behind us,

and then, finally, at us. It was like waiting for a rotating fan to get to the spot where you really needed it and then, once it arrived, watching it move quickly, inexplicably on.

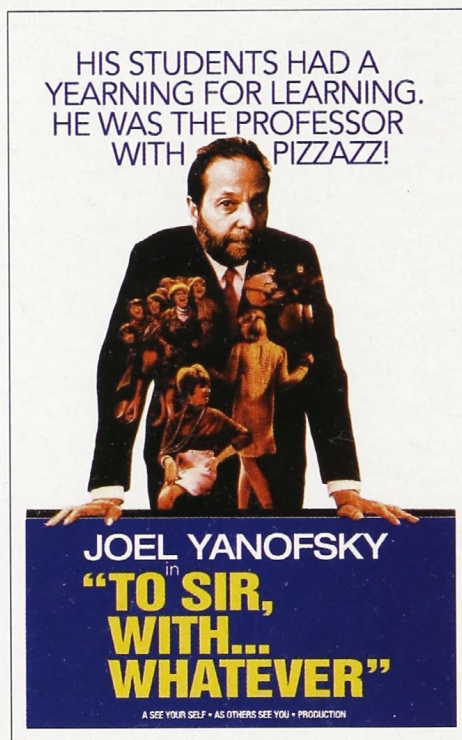
Occasionally, either my classmate or I would ask a question about Emily Dickinson's reclusive nature or W.H. Auden's thoughts on suffering, but we never asked the question we really wanted answered: "What's the matter with you?"

Now I can offer an educated guess. Professor H. had probably been teaching for more than 20 years by then and was probably embarrassed by the unexpectedly low attendance. Last spring, in my class, sometimes only two or three students showed up and my method for coping with the awkwardness was to revert to personal anecdotes — like the one about Professor H.'s behaviour. It's always been my failing as a teacher: I try too hard to be liked. Professor H., to his credit, kept doing what he'd always done, no matter how odd it appeared.

As a result, I learned about some interesting poets and poems that semester, courtesy of Professor H.'s eclectic reading list and wide-ranging lectures. He also allowed me to do my final paper on Allen Ginsberg's *Kaddish*, a long poem about a mother's death, an experience I'd just been through myself. That assignment taught me that writing about literature didn't have to be a stuffy, detached reiteration of abstract terms. It could be subjective, intimate: a lesson that has, for better or worse, informed my work as a literary journalist. Even back then, I knew Ginsberg and my own personal

ramblings couldn't have been in tune with Professor H.'s tastes, but he gave me an A-. In his written comments on my paper, he offered a prescient critique. He pointed out that my writing style was, perhaps, better suited to an audience outside the university.

I wish now I had talked to him about that, maybe offered to buy him a beer after class, but I didn't; I guess I'm no Lulu either. ✨



TZIGANE (WITH APOLOGIES TO SIDNEY POITIER ET AL.)

Joel Yanofsky is an award-winning Montreal writer and the author of Jacob's Ladder and Mordecai & Me: An Appreciation of a Kind. His reviews and articles have appeared in the Walrus, the Village Voice, Canadian Geographic and the Globe and Mail.



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