

# McGill News

alumni magazine spring/summer 2008

## WAYS MCGILL MINDS MADE HISTORY

PLUS

**A World of Knowledge:**  
A half-century on, the  
Institute of Islamic Studies  
is the envy of North  
American universities

**Ground Control to Dr. Dave:**  
An astronaut lands  
in Oakville. So what  
happens next?

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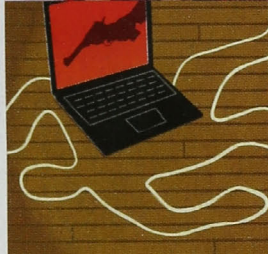


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### Simply the Best

The McGill Martlets came heartbreakingly close to a national hockey championship last season. This year, they wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

BY EARL ZUKERMAN, BA'80

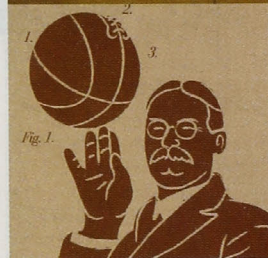


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### A Montreal Murder Mystery

More than a century ago, two members of one of Montreal's most prominent families died under strange circumstances. Can you crack this cold case?

BY MARK REYNOLDS



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### Ideas That Made History

Hospitals and homes, arenas and airports: Learn how McGill brainpower helped shape your world. You won't look at surgery — or fish sticks — the same way again.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89, MARK REYNOLDS, JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05, AND MAEVE HALDANE

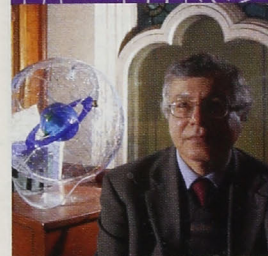


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### Des idées qui sont passées à l'Histoire

À l'hôpital et à la maison, dans les arénas et les aéroports : découvrez comment le pouvoir mental de McGill a contribué à modeler votre monde. Vous ne verrez plus la chirurgie — ou bâtonnets de poisson — de la même manière.

TRADUCTION DE LUCIE LEGAULT

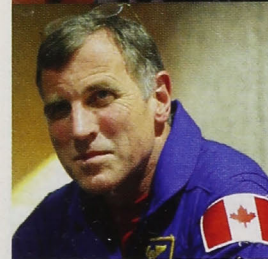


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### Understanding Islam

For over half a century, McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies has explored the intersections of language, religion, history, science and politics—and its work has never been more relevant than it is today.

BY MARK ABLEY



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### Dr. Spaceman

After boldly going where very few have gone before, astronaut Dave Williams is ready to begin a new chapter in his remarkable life.

BY JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

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OWEN EGAN

## A lifetime of learning and Leacock

Ask Leonard R. Picard, BA'36, LCdr (Ret'd), what he remembers best about his time at McGill and the answer is without a doubt the six classes he took with Professor Stephen Leacock, the legendary humorist and political scientist who taught at McGill from 1901 to 1936. "He inspired me to read," says Leonard. "He had a breadth of knowledge like nobody else."

Professor Leacock also possessed a famously irreverent sense of humour. Leonard recalls sitting in class one day, quietly chewing on his sandwich, when Leacock barked: "Picard! Tell us what you know about cuneiform!" Swallowing quickly, Leonard did his best to answer. "You couldn't fool that man. He knew everything."

This contact with a great teacher had a profound impact on Leonard, who became a teacher himself. During his career in the Royal Canadian Navy, he taught navigation, science, chemistry and physics, both at sea

and on shore. In civilian life, he taught high school French until his retirement in 1975.

Leacock inspired a lifetime of learning for Leonard, who was accepted into the University of London based on his marks from Leacock's classes, completing a BSc in economics in 1947. At the age of 60, Leonard began graduate studies at the Université de Montréal, acquiring an MA in linguistics. Leonard's love of reading remains intact to this day: he is now immersing himself in great poetry and has memorized the first seven verses of Longfellow's "The Day is Done."

In appreciation for his McGill education, Leonard has remembered his alma mater in his estate plans. "I want to keep supporting McGill," says Leonard, who is a loyal fan of McGill's annual Leacock Luncheons and keeps an album of what he whimsically calls his "Leacock-iana." Although he supports other worthy causes, Leonard says, "McGill is top of my list."

*Mr. Leonard Picard (R.) with Professor Derek Drummond, the moderator of McGill's popular Leacock Luncheons. Leonard remembers Stephen Leacock: "Never a lecture went by without a fascinating digression."*

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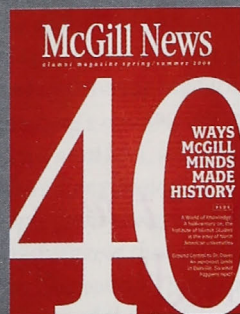
**ONLINE EDITION**  
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Tel.: 514-398-6043  
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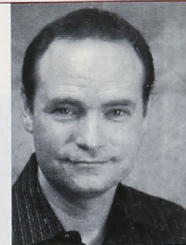
McGill News is published three times a year by McGill University  
Circulation: 170,000 copies.

Printed in Canada ISSN 0709 9223

Canadian Publications Mail Product  
Sales Agreement No. 40613661.



# In Praise of Inventiveness



**A**ll right, bring it on. Call me a nincompoop. Tell me where we went wrong and what we left out. I can take it.

In fact, I'd appreciate the input.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on 40 of the history-making inventions, discoveries and innovations that have been produced by McGill professors, students and graduates over the years.

Anytime anybody puts together this kind of list in a magazine, they're asking for trouble.

When *Entertainment Weekly* publishes its picks for "The 20 Scariest Movies of All Time" or when *PC World* announces its selections for "The 50 Most Important People on the Web," you know there will be howls of outrage from determined fans of the close-but-no-cigar contenders that didn't quite make the cut. And that's part of the fun.

In our case, we don't pretend to be in any sort of position to pronounce on the 40 most important discoveries made by McGill minds. Uh-uh. No way.

The list we present is intended only as a snapshot of what some of the University's talented individuals have achieved. We think it's an awfully impressive snapshot, but we fully acknowledge there are many worthy candidates not included in the article.

Originally, we had only intended to feature 25 innovations, but whittling the list down from the more than 100 possibilities we had assembled was just too darn hard. Heck, we could have come up with a long and impressive list that only dealt with important genes that have been identified by McGill researchers (it would include genes that play a large role in such illnesses as Lou Gehrig's disease, tuberculosis and leprosy).

So the article kept stretching, from 25 to 30 and, finally, to the 40 we present here (and the 60 we'll include in the online version of the piece).

Now it's time for you to have your say. Do you think we should have added TV visionary Moses Znaimer, BA'63, whose Citytv and MuchMusic stations introduced a more informal, youth-oriented vibe to Canadian

television? Or maybe W. Lincoln Hawkins, PhD'38, who helped make universal telephone service possible by co-inventing a chemical additive that prevented the plastic coating on telecommunications cables from deteriorating? Let us know your picks. After all, who says we have to stop at 40 (or 60)? We hope to keep expanding our list (if only online).

Another thing to keep in mind: We leaned heavily on time-tested innovations for this article, fully aware that new discoveries can take decades to make their trek from labs to Loblaws. In this issue's Insights section, for instance, there are at least two recent discoveries mentioned—a promising new method for diagnosing malaria and an exciting new approach that might one day make cells "virus-proof"—that could conceivably have a huge impact in the years to come. If we did this article in another five or 10 years, chances are you would be reading a very different list of achievements.

On the subject of inventive minds who've made us proud, *McGill News* associate editor James Martin, MLIS'05, has done just that. As we were putting the finishing touches on this issue, we were thrilled to learn that the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education has awarded James its Gold Medal for best writing in English. James earned the prize for his wonderfully engaging cover story on McGill astrophysicist Victoria Kaspi that appeared in our summer 2007 edition. Stories from university publications across Canada were eligible for the prize and James's piece prevailed over some 30 entrants.

CCAE judges described his story as "literate, thoughtful, with touches of whimsy" and "cleverly constructed... contrasting the almost unimaginably abstract thinking Victoria Kaspi does in her academic life against the domestic whirlwind of her household." If you haven't read the article yet, do yourself a favour and check it out on our website ([www.mcgill.ca/news](http://www.mcgill.ca/news)).

And once you've done that, tell me why I'm a nincompoop and what we ought to add to our list of McGill ideas that made history. 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE



MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

### NAMING NAMES

While reading the article on the McGill Alumni Association (“True to Their School,” Winter 2007/08), I was delighted to see the picture of the first female graduates in 1888, as my grandmother, Martha Murphy, is among that group. I have only seen this photo once before when I was in residence at Royal Victoria College and it was on display for some special event. At that time, my aunt, Martha Dinsmore, was able to identify her mother. Needless to say, I cannot remember! I wonder if you have the list of names to help me figure out which one she is!

MARTHA JO BREITHAUPT, BA'57  
Toronto, Ontario

*We do have the names of the women who appeared in that historic photo. They are, from left to right, seated in the front row, Alice Murray, Georgina Hunter and Donalda McFee. Sitting behind them are Grace Ritchie and Jane Palmer. Standing in the very back are Eliza Cross, Martha Murphy and Blanche Evans.*

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed reading this edition of the *McGill News*. Your article on the Alumni Association was fascinating since I was born and grew up in Montreal. Although I attended many football games in Molson Stadium, I really knew nothing about Percival Molson, including his untimely death in WWI.

I also found Dr. Richard Valerioté's story fascinating (“A Gift Rewarded”)

since my father also spent a year in a TB sanitarium in Ste-Agathe, yet went on to be a successful businessman. He was very proud to have two sons graduate from McGill and one from Western Ontario.

Thank you for the wonderful lesson about the history of McGill and the people who have helped make it a great university.

ROBERT DOWIE, BEng'61  
Los Altos, California

### MAC IN MIND

Thank you for sending the latest edition of the *McGill News*. I was particularly interested in the letter from Prosanta Chakrabarty, in which he

expresses his warm feelings about “Mac.” Those I would happily echo, for I was a student there, for one year taking the teachers' program (1948-49), and then during the month of July for six years ('50, '51, '52 and '57, '58 and '59), during which time I improved my credentials. During the latter three years, I attended the École française d'été, where I qualified for my French specialist's diploma.

I simply loved the place—a wonderful quiet campus where the buildings and grounds were diligently looked after, especially with the cutting of so many acres of grass all summer long.

The “oval” in front of the main building was sacrosanct—no one put a



## Celebrate your student's ACHIEVEMENTS!

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Additional information on this special initiative will be mailed to the parents of graduating students in the spring. To make your gift today, please contact Julie Frahar at (514) 398-8860 or [julie.frahar@mcgill.ca](mailto:julie.frahar@mcgill.ca).

## Embrace the future with the McGill Parents Fund!

foot on it except on graduation day. Sadly, since John Abbott College has taken over so much of the campus, this is no longer so!

I remember visiting the Mac powerhouse which supplied steam heat for so many buildings. The man in charge told us that on a cold winter day, the furnaces (I had never seen any so big) would burn 50 tons of coal!

ERIC RUMSBY, DipEd'49

Markham, Ontario

### FATHER: "NO" BEST

I am writing to commend Mark Abley on his very informative article on Mark Wainberg's "impolite war against AIDS" ("Pulling No Punches," Winter 2007/08), but at the same time to seek clarification on two references. The first is to Wainberg's comment on his meeting with a Roman Catholic priest in the airport at Kisumu, and the second to the last line of the article—"...just as the priest in the airport had feared." Both statements aroused my concern, first at the lack of detail in the writing, and because of that, what the reader is left to infer or conclude. On the first reference, is the reader left to infer that abstinence is not a way of preventing the spread of AIDS? On the second reference, is the reader left to infer that the priest was objecting to any campaign of public education about HIV and AIDS?

WENDELL LAWRENCE, BEng'59

Commonwealth of  
Dominica, West Indies

*As the article relates, the priest at the airport was under the false impression that Professor Wainberg was simply pressing young people to abstain from sex. This was the result of an erroneous report in a Kenyan newspaper which mischaracterized Wainberg's meeting with Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi, who, Wainberg believed, wasn't doing enough at the time to alert his people to the dangers of the AIDS crisis. As Wainberg told the McGill Reporter last year, "Responsible political leaders have to understand that people are not going to abstain just because you ask them to and*

*responsible political leaders have to be willing to discuss condom usage." Given the priest's enthusiasm for what he believed was Wainberg's emphasis on sexual abstinence ("You are the only person telling the truth about AIDS"), we suspect that Wainberg's more nuanced approach would be a disappointment to him. The final line of the article refers to the priest's objection to condom advocacy in particular, not HIV and AIDS education in general.*

### GOOD NEWS

I would like to congratulate the editor and staff of the *McGill News* on the winter 2007/08 edition. It is the best I have seen over the years in terms of the attractiveness of the presentation and interesting content. You have produced an excellent result and your efforts are commendable.

LANDON STEWART, BA'69

Ottawa, Ontario

I received the latest *McGill News* recently and thank you most sincerely. There are always important and interesting articles in it.

KATHY FABIAN, BA'82

Montreal, Quebec

### A HEROIC PHYSICIAN

I was quite shocked to read of Dr. Stanley Martin Banfill's demise in the *McGill News* ("In Memoriam," Winter 2007/08).

I was a student of his in 1968/69 in my not particularly successful medical career (I ended up in public health research instead, and have had some respectable success in it).

I always thought fondly of him, his whimsical sense of humour, and the somewhat dramatic stories he told of emergency field surgery methods.

I don't know if he himself actually did any emergency field surgery, but the stories certainly enlivened his lectures and made it easier to remember the practical applications of knowing human anatomy. You never knew when you might have to do an emergency tracheotomy on the street.

I always remembered his favourite dissection tool: a porcupine quill which

he hefted with great dexterity and skill as he dissected out a muscle from its fascia in less time than it takes to write about it. All of us students struggling with our scalpels and hacking away awkwardly were quite put to shame.

He was my idea of what a real physician should be like—knowledgeable, kindly and understanding. When I was a student, he seemed infinitely wise and full of the timeless knowledge of the ages. I was stunned to discover that he was only a dozen or so years older than I am.

MANUELLA ADRIAN, BA'68

Sunny Isles Beach, Florida

*Dr. Banfill's experiences during World War II were indeed dramatic. Serving as an officer in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, Banfill was stationed in Hong Kong when Japanese forces seized the island. He tended to the medical needs of fellow prisoners, many of them nursing serious wounds. During a diphtheria epidemic, Banfill risked beatings from his captors (and a potentially fatal infection) when he continued to attend to his patients at night though it was forbidden to do so. According to the Canada Gazette, "Working always with inadequate supplies of medicines, poor instruments and under extremely bad housing conditions, [Banfill] improvised in company with other medical officers to such good effect that even intricate and delicate operations were carried out successfully." Following the war, he was named a Member of the British Empire in recognition of his devotion to duty.*



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Dr. Stanley  
Martin Banfill

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## Only Connect

As my close friends and colleagues will tell you, I love my job. And one of the high points is that I get to meet graduates of McGill and to hear your wonderful stories—that “Eureka” moment when you discovered your *raison d’être*, the lasting friendships you developed, the time you were sitting in biology class and saw the future love of your life.

Starting this spring, I will be traveling across North America and around the world, from Calgary to Boston to Beijing, to continue these conversations. As I look forward to my trips, I have been struck afresh by how uniquely international McGill is.

Our nearly 200,000 alumni live in almost every country in the world. Approximately 60 per cent of the 800 faculty we welcomed in the last eight years were recruited from outside Canada. We have the largest percentage of international students in Canada, and one of North America’s highest, nearly 20 per cent. These students mingle with a large Quebec contingent (55 per cent) and pan-Canadian population (25 per cent). About 18 per cent have French as their first language.

The stats are impressive, but you need to step back to comprehend the full importance of McGill’s diversity. To prepare for careers in a global knowledge society, students need to be culturally, linguistically and internationally fluent. Here at McGill, they can trade ideas in the classroom and the coffee shop with people who have lived and worked in many different cultures—in dynamic international centres of trade and in villages surviving desperate hardship. That face-to-face engagement shakes up preconceived notions and provides profoundly eye-opening perspectives and experiences.



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

The stories I hear from alumni and students reinforce my growing belief that great universities are vital players in our new world, not just because they produce highly skilled people, but because they are consummate matchmakers. I’m not talking about romantic relationships here, though those of you who met your soulmate at McGill know the importance of those, too.

Universities create global research collaborations, business partnerships and international talent networks. And in a world that is hyperconnected, as Robyn Meredith describes in her important new book, *The Elephant and the Dragon*, these connections have become the lifeblood of the new economy and the foundation upon which we will create peace, health and prosperity, and solve the most urgent problems. A local team of researchers, no matter how great, cannot conquer HIV/AIDS or make headway on climate change alone—it will take our global community.

Regions look to universities to provide the talent and reputation needed to boost local economies, so I am often called upon to defend McGill’s large number of internationally dispersed alumni. Why should Quebec support a university that exports so many skilled people? Because in addition to the many professors and students we attract who make Quebec

home, even those students that leave Quebec benefit the province; each graduate who moves away becomes a node in a global network that is more and more a fundamental part of how we conduct business, research and life.

E.M. Forster opens his wonderful 1910 novel, *Howard’s End*, with an evocative epigraph: “*Only connect...*” Forster was talking about the need to reconcile the opposing forces he saw shaping his society—the seen and unseen, the intellectual life and the practical view, the inner life and the outer, the upper and lower classes. Nearly a century later, these words take on a new resonance. Our ability to reach out—whether across the street or around the world—affects our personal relationships, our professional success and the health and competitiveness of our society.

So I urge you to connect, with each other and with your alma mater. Get reacquainted with an old classmate at an alumni event. Share your favourite Montreal haunts with soon-to-be students at a Summer Send-Off. Explore a new business venture with a fellow grad. Mentor a student. And as for me, I can’t wait to get out there and get to know you a little better. 🐦

**HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM**

(Please visit [www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/campaign\\_mcgill](http://www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/campaign_mcgill) for a schedule of the Principal’s international tour.)





GARY RUSH

Martlets players Chantal Gauvin, Shauna Denis and Vanessa Davidson celebrate their national championship

# Simply the best

For many hockey teams, last year would have constituted a dream season. A Quebec championship. A second place finish at the nationals. A small smattering of losses against a hugely impressive collection of wins.

Not enough, though, for the McGill Martlets.

The Martlets left no room for doubt this season about which university women's hockey team is the best in the country. After going undefeated through both the regular season (18-0) and playoffs (7-0), the Martlets clinched the national title on March 10 in Ottawa, with a 2-0 victory over Wilfrid Laurier.

"It was a huge win for our program," says McGill head coach Peter Smith, BEd'79, MA'86. "We have been knocking at the door for a number of years and it's really nice to finally reach the top." Not only is this the Martlets' first national title, it's the first time a McGill women's team in any sport has captured a Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) championship.

The Martlets, who lost last year's hockey final to the University of Alberta Pandas, were taking part in their eighth CIS championship tourney in nine years, having previously earned two silvers and four bronze medals.

Martlets netminder Charline Labonté stopped all 55 shots she faced during the tournament, earning shutouts in all three games

the team played. After coming within one win of a national title last year, Labonté says the Martlets were determined to play their best at the CIS finals this time.

"There was a lot of pressure on us," says Labonté. "We have felt that pressure but were also up for the challenge."

Rookie rearguard Cathy Chartrand scored the winning goal in the final match and was named MVP of the tournament. "We did it as a family," says Chartrand. "We had one goal, and we followed it step by step." Chartrand was also named to the all-tournament team, along with defence partner Catherine Ward and McGill forward Vanessa Davidson.

The rooting section for the Martlets during the gold medal game included a few surprising faces. Several players from the University of Alberta, McGill's archrivals, donned Martlet jerseys and cheered McGill on. Martlets captain Shauna Denis, BCom'07, encountered some of the Alberta players after the game and was told they wanted McGill to win because the Martlets demonstrated skill and class throughout the tournament.

Several Martlets received special honours for their contributions to their team's dream season. Davidson earned the Gladys Bean trophy as McGill's female athlete of the year, while three others took top CIS prizes. Smith was named coach of the year, Denis won the Marion Hillard Award as the top student-athlete and forward Ann-Sophie Bettez was named rookie of the year.

Smith and Labonté travelled to China shortly after their CIS triumph, where they earned silver medals as members of Team Canada at the women's world hockey championships. Smith coaches the national team and Labonté is one of its netminders.

EARL ZUKERMAN, BA'80

# KICKASS CHEMIST

Tatiana Vassilieff ended 2007 with a bang. Not only did she manage to wrap up her McGill master's degree in chemistry (she'll graduate this spring), Vassilieff also found the time to add the words "World Champion" to her resumé.

On December 8, the 25-year-old Parisian won the savate world championship in the under 48 kilogram "combat" category, out-pointing her Tunisian opponent. Savate is a French martial art that resembles kickboxing, but has its roots in street fighting.

Winning the championship belt certainly packs an impressive punch, but the fact that Vassilieff balanced a backbreaking physical training regimen while finishing her graduate degree only adds to the lustre of her accomplishment.

"For the last few months [before the competition], my schedule was really busy. I was in the lab from 9 to 5 and after that I had to train five or six times a week at night," she says.

Her gruelling workout schedule involved cardio, weight training, technical training to rehearse the kicks and punches, and plenty of sparring. She credits her advisor, associate professor of chemistry Ashok Kakkar, for being good-humoured about her unusual extra-curricular pursuits.

"I'd sometimes go to the lab exhausted after training. Two or three times I had black eyes, but he was very understanding."

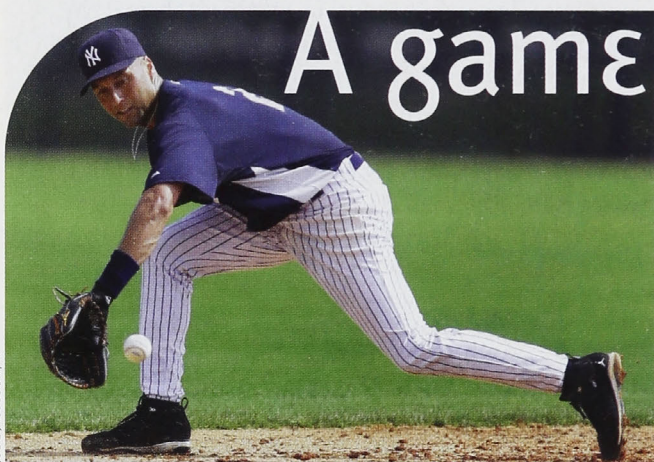
Remarkably, Vassilieff discovered savate a mere three years ago at McGill. A friend suggested she give it a try and Vassilieff was soon hooked. She explains her meteoric rise to the top in a matter-of-fact way: "I really love it, so when you love something you're really motivated to do well."

ALLISON FLYNN



COURTESY OF TATIANA VASSILIEFF

Savate champ Tatiana Vassilieff



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

## A game of numbers

It is a rare statistician whose work attracts hate mail. Shane Jensen, BSc'97, MSc'99, earned this dubious distinction after making a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held this year in Boston.

The subject? Baseball.

Jensen is part of a research group at the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia that devises statistical models to evaluate baseball fielders. It's a sideline for Jensen, whose main work deals with constructing statistical tools to analyze DNA.

At the AAAS meeting, Jensen outlined how his fielding evaluation system calculates the runs a player either saves or costs his team through his fielding prowess (or lack thereof). Things got interesting

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter in action

when Jensen declared that New York Yankees captain Derek Jeter was the worst fielding shortstop in the Major Leagues.

The Yankees, of course, are the hated archrivals of the Boston Red Sox, and the Beantown press gleefully reported Jensen's findings. The *New York Post* was quick to label Jensen's work "junk science," while Jeter himself ventured that his poor ranking must have been the result of a "computer glitch."

Jeter isn't the only Yankees icon that Jensen has set his sights on. When former Yankee pitching ace Roger Clemens was called before the U.S. Congress earlier this year to testify about his alleged steroid use, the pitcher's agent released a report that claimed to exonerate the athlete, on the basis of his pitching statistics. This caught the attention of Jensen and his colleagues.

Their analysis of the document found that Clemens had been compared only to other pitchers with similarly long careers. Compared to a larger group of pitchers, Clemens looks anomalous, improving at a point when most of his peers showed declining performance.

"It's all about choosing your sample—we don't say they did it deliberately, but by choosing these pitchers [for comparison], he looks normal," says Jensen. He and his colleagues published their analysis in the *New York Times*.

Yankee boosters have flooded Internet message boards, attacking the credibility of Jensen and his colleagues. "The model comment was 'Don't these guys have anything better to do with their time?'" says Jensen, laughing.

MARK REYNOLDS

# Another kind of history

In 1958, Andrew Gault bequeathed his estate on Mont St-Hilaire to McGill, to preserve his “most treasured possession... for all time to come.” But some had other ideas: turn the mountain into a ski hill or cut the forest for timber. Fortunately, a young botany professor named Paul Maycock argued that, with the only first-growth forest in the St. Lawrence Valley, the mountain was a priceless resource.

Time has proven him right. Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Gault Nature Reserve is “a vibrant living laboratory and museum,” says biology professor Martin Lechowicz, the director of the reserve.

It might also be one of McGill’s best-kept secrets. “I was stunned the University held this magnificent forest and no one had told me about it when I interviewed for my position here,” Lechowicz remembers. Located about 40 kilometres east of Montreal, the reserve protects 1,000 hectares of primeval forest, including 25 kilometres of trails open to the public all year.

Only a handful of eastern North American forests have the ancient trees and the “species-rich understory” that Lechowicz explains is so vital to our heritage. “People always think of history as wars and politicians,” he says. The reserve provides researchers with a living connection to the natural landscape of our ancestors.

Today’s inhabitants are making good use of it, too. The mountain is a hub of community activity, from volunteer clean-up drives, to a pre-dawn Easter ritual to draw water, to “Noël on the mountain,” complete with storytellers and bonfires on the lake.

“McGill is fortunate to have such a treasure,” Lechowicz says. “Harvard has Harvard Forest, Stanford has Jasper Ridge, and we have Mont St-Hilaire.”

Learn more at [www.mcgill.ca/gault](http://www.mcgill.ca/gault).

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77



MICHAEL BOURGUIGNON

A walking path on the Gault Nature Reserve

## A BLAST FOR THE PAST



MATT FORSYTHE

What makes a successful mutual fund manager decide to create a history book prize? “I think there’s an analogy between the disciplines of finance and history,” explains Peter Cundill, BCom’60. “Both study the past to understand the present and predict the future.”

The London-based money manager received a Career Achievement Award in 2001 from the Canadian Investment Awards, in recognition of his outstanding

accomplishments in the financial industry. With the creation of the Cundill International Prize and Lecture in History, he will now also be known for making the subject of history a lot more lucrative.

Over the next five years, beginning this November, McGill will award a prize of US\$75,000 (along with two runner-up prizes of \$10,000 each)

to an author of a book judged to have “a profound literary, social and academic impact in the area of history.” The jury will consider both academic and mainstream works, and the winning author will present a lecture at McGill.

Not only is this an unusually generous prize for a work of history (it even beats the Giller, Canada’s largest literary award, which doles out a mere \$40,000), the competition is unique in a couple of other ways: it is international and bilingual — both English and French works will be considered.

“There are lots of history prizes, but there’s usually little or no money involved,” says Professor Catherine LeGrand, chair of McGill’s Department of History. “This is very exciting.” The Cundill Foundation has also funded two graduate fellowships in history. Says LeGrand, “Perhaps this will help a fledgling historian who might write a book that wins the prize!”

Sounds like an investment with great potential.

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77 (FILES FROM CARLY GROSSMAN, BA'02)

# First he took Manhattan...

Leonard Cohen, BA'55, DLitt'92, is many things. A wondrous wordsmith. A snappy dresser. An ordained Zen Buddhist monk. But a rock and roller?

Yet there he was in Manhattan on March 10, officially being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame alongside Madonna, John Mellencamp, the Dave Clark Five and the Ventures.

Even Cohen himself wasn't sure what to make of it. "This is a very unlikely occasion for me," he said, before putting a fresh spin on Jon Landau's famous quote about Bruce Springsteen. "I have seen the future of rock and roll and it is not Leonard Cohen."

Already an accomplished poet, Cohen turned to music in the late sixties for decidedly practical reasons. "I found it was very difficult to pay my grocery bill," he confessed in an interview. "I'm very well thought of in the tiny circles that know me, but... I'm really starving."

The music industry didn't warm up to Cohen right away, but when Judy Collins started performing his songs, doors began to open. She wouldn't be the only singer drawn to his work. His songs have been performed by hundreds of other artists. His haunting "Hallelujah" alone has been covered by musicians as diverse as Bob Dylan, Allison Krauss, Bon Jovi, k.d. lang, Simple Plan, Rufus Wainwright and Willie Nelson.

One of music's greatest lyricists, Cohen's time at McGill helped him perfect his mastery of language. A onetime president of the McGill Debating Union, Cohen met an important mentor at the University, English professor Louis Dudek. "He gave a sort of dignity, an importance, to the whole enterprise of writing that inflamed young people," Cohen said of his teacher.

The best news for Cohen fans came a day after the induction ceremony, when the newly minted hall of famer announced he would soon embark on his first major concert tour in 15 years.

Just don't expect any guitar solos.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



Leonard Cohen (right) with Irish singer Damien Rice

## NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S LIBRARY

In this digital age, libraries have to contend with an image problem—the notion that they're drab, dusty and dimly lit. The McGill Libraries' new Cyberthèque ought to puncture a few stereotypes.

Located on the ground floor of the Redpath Library Building, the Cyberthèque offers students a bright and cheerfully

designed study space with plenty of technological amenities—including 125 computer workstations. "You can sit down at a computer for a while here without someone waiting over your shoulder," says second-year arts undergraduate Ben Foldy.

"Students spend longer in the library than they do in their classes and we must provide appropriate spaces and assistance in information access and use," says Janine Schmidt, Trenholme Director of Libraries. The Cyberthèque includes plenty of colourful lounge chairs for casual study, individual tables for silent study, glassed-in study pods for group work and an e-classroom for information skills classes.

Schmidt says student feedback has been a key factor in the upgrades made to several of McGill's libraries in recent years, including the Macdonald Campus Library, the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering and the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre. "We have responded to student complaints about the facilities and made significant improvements."

Fourth-year arts undergraduate Chesley Walsh likes what she sees in the Cyberthèque. "The lighting is perfect and it makes me want to study."

NITHYA VIJAYAKUMAR

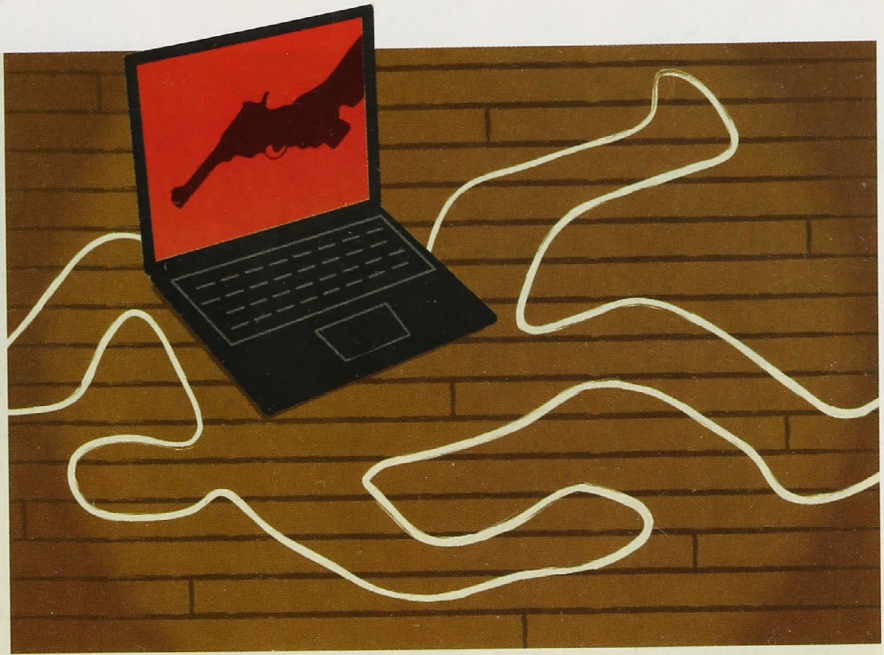


CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

On the morning of June 14 1901, Montrealers awoke to shocking news.

The night before, the sound of gunshots had disturbed the normal tranquility amongst the gracious mansions of the city's Square Mile. In the Redpath manor, servants rushed to the master bedroom to find their employer, Ada Redpath, the niece of powerful sugar baron Peter Redpath, shot dead. Her son was clinging to life on the floor beside her, with a gunshot wound to his head. He perished hours later.

Early newspaper accounts suggested that the troubled Ada had shot Clifford when he tried to stop her from



TEIGANE

# A Montreal murder mystery

committing suicide. The coroner, however, believed Clifford had killed his mother while in an epileptic fit. The newspapers reported two shots, yet three bullets were recovered from the bodies.

What really happened that night?

One hundred and six years later, architecture professor Annmarie Adams, BA'81, is turning that question over to the public.

"It's a real whodunit!" she declares. The cast of characters includes at least one fabled McGill professor. Thomas Roddick, MDCM1846, who introduced antiseptic practices to Montreal's hospitals, had been treating Ada for melancholia, prescribing her a bed rest that amounted to months of solitary confinement.

As part of a research team that prepared the case for the award-winning Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History website, Adams unearthed

some little-seen evidence for the benefit of history-minded sleuths, including diaries, photos, the coroner's report and condolence letters received by the Redpath family.

Users of the site can access these and other documents to explore the mystery.

Adams collaborated on the project with School of Architecture research associate David Theodore, BA'91, BSc(Arch)'94, BArch'96, MArch'01, McGill history student Brenton Nader and Concordia University adjunct history professor Mary Anne Poutanen, BA'83, MA'86.

"As a researcher I have always jumped at doing analysis and interpretation; this has been an eye-opener because in this project

we leave that for students and site users," Adams says. They'll have some help, though. A number of experts — including McGill forensic psychiatrist Renée Fugère — contribute their thoughts on what happened that fateful night.

The award-winning Great Unsolved Mysteries site — launched in 1997 by one-time McGill professor Ruth Sandwell (now at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) and her colleague John Lutz from the University of Victoria — presents students with primary source documents connected to real-life mysteries. The site probes such puzzles as who wiped out Ontario's notorious "Black" Donnellys in 1880 and who really started the Klondike Gold Rush.

These often-sanguinary tales reveal much about the societies in which they occurred. Adams explains that the secrecy of the Redpath killings had a lot to do with class and the architecture of the scene of the crime. The very design of the Redpaths' mansion (and similar abodes) discouraged prying, with "filters" of an imposing portico, a large front lawn and a long front hall — a far cry from the street-level rowhouses of the working class.

For more information, visit [www.canadianmysteries.ca](http://www.canadianmysteries.ca).

MARK REYNOLDS



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

# BEATING BACK VIRUSES

Viruses on the attack

McGill researchers have discovered a way to boost a mouse's natural anti-virus defences, effectively making its cells immune to influenza and other viruses.

The work was conducted by post-doctoral fellows Rodney Colina and Mauro Costa-Mattioli, in collaboration with biochemistry professor Nahum Sonenberg and researchers from the Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal and the Ottawa Health Research Institute. The study was recently published in *Nature*.

The scientists' strategy — which could lead to the development of new anti-viral therapies in humans — involved knocking

out two genes in mice that repress the production of interferon, a protein that represents the cell's first line of defence against viruses.

Without these repressor genes, the mouse cells produced much higher levels of interferon, which effectively blocked viruses from reproducing. The researchers tested the process on four different types of viruses, including influenza.

Viruses are sub-microscopic infectious agents which can reproduce only by hijacking a cell's reproductive machinery, a process that usually leads to disease.

Interferon, particularly the type 1 interferons (IFN- $\alpha$  and IFN- $\beta$ ), suppresses virus propagation.

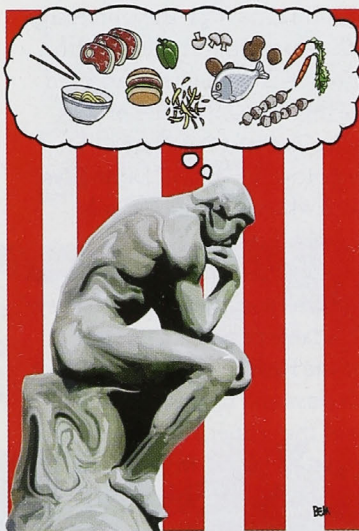
Production of type 1 interferon is controlled by the interferon regulatory protein 7 (Irf7), which researchers believe is the "master-regulator" of interferon production in the body. The McGill-led team found that protein synthesis of Irf7 is controlled by the repressor genes called 4E-BP1 and 4E-BP2.

"In a sense, it's quite a simple story," Costa-Mattioli explains. "When you get rid of the repressors, you have more of the key protein Irf7 present, which induces an anti-viral state in the cell. You're basically removing the brakes."

Costa-Mattioli says his team detected no negative side-effects resulting from enhanced interferon production in the mice. While the process of knocking out genes is not possible in humans, the researchers are optimistic that new pharmaceutical therapies will evolve from their research.

"If we are able to target 4E-BP1 and 4E-BP2 with drugs, we will have a molecule that can protect you from viral infection," Costa-Mattioli says. "That's a very exciting idea."

MARK SHAINBLUM, DipEd'92



BERNIE MIREAULT

## Food for thought

There is a growing appetite among Canadian academics for information on food — and not just about the best restaurants located near campus.

Anthropologists, sociologists, historians and others all have a keen interest in the things we've eaten over the years and what these meals — and how they've been prepared and consumed — have to say about us.

Associate professor of English Natalie Cooke, who examines how Canadian cookbooks reflect the culture of their times, is part of this scholarly movement.

She is also the executive editor of *Cuizine: The Journal of Canadian Food Cultures*, a digital-only publication launching this spring. The new publication's managing editor is Lara Rabinovitch, BA'02, a doctoral candidate at New York University and an expert on how Jewish immigrants from East Central Europe

affected food trends in North America — Montreal smoked meat is one tasty example.

"I think we're just at the moment where the floodgates will open," says Cooke of the burgeoning academic field of food culture. While scholarly publications like *Gastronomica* exist south of the border, there hasn't been a comparable forum for Canadians. "We're hopeful that this will be a hub for bringing together people from across the country and from a variety of backgrounds," says Cooke. The first issue includes an essay by celebrated Vancouver chef Vikram Vij on "What it Means to Cook in Canada," an article exploring the links between gastronomy and architecture, and cartoons from John Dolgin, BA'00 (a.k.a. cross-cultural hip-hop performer Socalled).

For more information, visit [cuizine.mcgill.ca](http://cuizine.mcgill.ca)

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

# WOMEN in CHARGE



BRIAN HARRIS/REX FEATURES

Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher

After winning the Quebec Writers' Federation's first book prize for *Shame and Humiliation: Presidential Decision Making in Vietnam*, Blema Steinberg, BA'55, PhD'61, wondered what to do for an encore. *Shame and Humiliation* dealt with U.S. presidents

Dwight Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

"I'd looked at three male presidents. So, I [should] look at some women now. You know, equal time."

The result is *Women In Power: The Personalities and Leadership Styles of Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir, and Margaret Thatcher*, published this spring by McGill-Queen's University Press.

An emeritus professor of political science at McGill, Steinberg applies both her poli-sci know-how and her psychoanalytic skills (she is also a practising therapist), in examining the behaviour of leaders.

The three women chronicled in her latest book have a lot in common. For one, all three were underestimated at the start.

"None of them were the first choice of their party," says Steinberg. All were considered compromise candidates, and Gandhi in particular was chosen because it was believed she could be easily manipulated.

Political king makers — or in these cases queen makers — who assumed they might yield more influence over women candidates were, however, sadly mistaken. Steinberg's research shows that these three women score much higher on dominance traits than is typical of male leaders. "They're all very controlling, domineering and assertive," says Steinberg.

Looking at the race for the Democratic presidential nomination south of the border, Steinberg says that it's Barack Obama, not Hillary Clinton, who seems to better typify the so-called "female" style of leadership, with its emphasis on consensus building. "One of the things said about Obama, when he was editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, was that he would listen to everyone's opinion and they just wished he would make up his mind. Whereas with Hillary, one worries that she'll make decisions too precipitously."

JULIET WATERS

## A prescription for paddling

What's the best long-term therapy for breast cancer survivors? A McGill researcher offers a surprising suggestion. Her prescription? Dragon boat racing.

Breast cancer survivors who participated in dragon boat racing reported significantly improved physical and mental health and coped better with post-recovery trauma, according to a study conducted by Catherine Sabiston, an assistant professor in McGill's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education. The results of her research — conducted while she was a PhD student at the University of British Columbia — were recently published in the *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*.

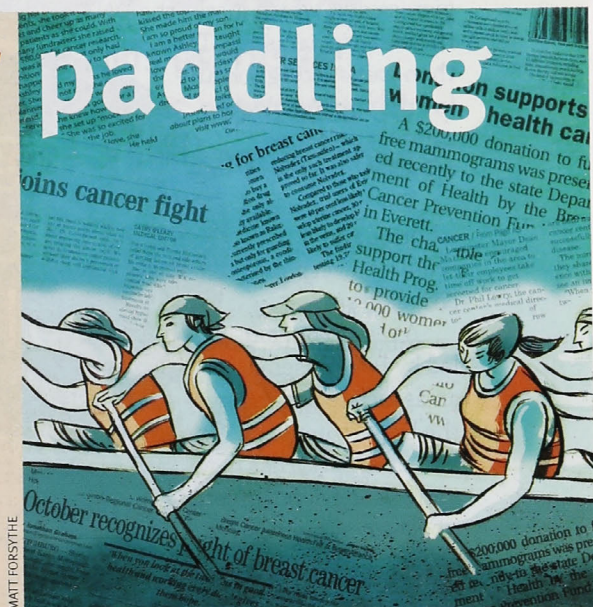
"For these women, the diagnosis and treatment of cancer were devas-

tating," Sabiston says. "There was a huge amount of stress, which continued with the treatment and the worry of recurrence. They live every day with the worry, 'Could this be the day my cancer comes back?'"

For her study, Sabiston focused on 20 cancer survivors who had taken up dragon boat racing, an ancient Chinese sport dating back to the 4th century BCE. The boats are long, canoe-like craft, crewed by teams of 10 to 20 paddlers, plus a drummer at the bow (whose rhythmic beating spurs on the paddlers) and a tiller (to steer) at the stern.

Sabiston interviewed the women to find out about their experiences in the sport and she was struck by what she heard.

"The physical activity itself and



MATT FORSYTHE

the women the participants met acted as a sort of buffer to the enduring stresses of cancer recovery. They started to live their lives like athletes. It was extremely empowering."

MARK SHAINBLUM, DipEd'92



# THE WAR INSIDE

The traditional wisdom on malaria: quick to contract, slow to detect. A new technique, however, promises to change at least part of the malaria rulebook by giving the disease a colourful makeover.

Technicians currently detect malaria in infected blood cells by staining slides of blood smears with giemsa dye, which marks the DNA of the malaria parasites. They then painstakingly examine the stained blood samples under an optical microscope.

The process is laborious and requires a very specific skill set.

A research team led by Paul Wiseman, an associate professor in the Departments of Physics and Chemistry, has developed a faster, more user-friendly technique.

The new method relies on an optical effect called third harmonic generation. THG causes hemozoin, a crystalline substance secreted by the malaria parasite, to glow blue when irradiated by an infrared laser (see image above).

Each year, upwards of 500 million people contract the malaria parasite, and one to three million die from the resulting disease. Most of the fatalities

are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, where diagnosis is stymied by a dearth of trained personnel and equipment.

In their study, published in *Biophysical Journal*, Wiseman's team argues that their new technique could eliminate the need for specialized training, slides, staining and microscopes — spelling the welcome end of a labour- and time-intensive process. The faster a person is diagnosed with malaria,

the faster they can get treatment. Early treatment not only prevents complications, it dramatically reduces the risk of death.

Wiseman and his colleagues now hope to adapt existing technologies, including fibre-optic communications lasers and cell sorting technology, to quickly move the technique from the laboratory to where it's needed most.

"We're imagining a self-contained unit that could be used in clinics in endemic countries," he says. "The operator could inject the cell sample directly into the device, and then it would come up with a count of the total number of existing infected cells without manual intervention."

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

Soldiering is a stressful occupation, but many members of the Canadian military are reluctant to seek out help when struggling with some form of mental disorder.

In a national study led by researchers from the McGill-affiliated Douglas Mental Health University Institute, 8,441 soldiers from across the country were surveyed about their mental health. More than 1,200 of these soldiers met the criteria for at least one mental disorder. The most commonly reported problems included depression, alcohol dependence and post-traumatic stress.

But soldiers tend to suffer in silence.

"Our findings show more than half of the military members with a mental disorder do not use any of the mental health services available to them," says lead author Deniz Fikretoglu, a McGill postdoctoral fellow based at the Douglas and an expert on post-traumatic stress disorder.

Many soldiers didn't believe they needed help, or were wary of the military's health and social services agencies.

It's in the military's own interests to make sure that its soldiers are well taken care of, stresses Fikretoglu. "Mental health disorders are associated with high rates of attrition in the military."

Alain Brunet, an assistant professor of psychiatry at McGill and the senior author of the study, says military personnel should be encouraged to seek out help when they need it — especially after serving in war-torn countries. He advises the armed forces to take a careful look at how it tends to the mental health needs of its soldiers with an eye toward "gaining the trust of military members." He also recommends "public education campaigns to de-stigmatize mental health problems."

Researchers from the Université de Montréal, Dalhousie University and the University of Prince Edward Island also worked on the study, which was recently published in the journal *Medical Care*.

SYLVAIN-JACQUES DESJARDINS

Changing the look of malaria



# 40

## IDEAS THAT MADE HISTORY

**How McGill minds and their  
“Eureka!” moments helped  
change the world**

Your idea of a quintessential McGill moment might be cramming for exams in the McLennan library. Or soaking up some spring sun on the steps of the Arts Building. Or indulging in an all-night bull session with your best buddies in res (when you should have been cramming for exams). But how about this one: Safe behind the hockey rink’s Plexiglas barrier, you rise for the national anthem, then snap a quick digital photo of the puck drop—all while munching on a fish stick.

Believe it or not, it might not get more “McGill” than that.

The McGill brain trust—a crackling network of professors and students, past and present—doesn’t just span the world, it changes it. In the following pages, you’ll learn about the 40 ways the University’s brightest minds have shaped your life, from sports to medicine to—yes—fish sticks, Plexiglas, “O Canada,” photo technology and hockey.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA’89, MARK REYNOLDS,  
JAMES MARTIN, MLIS’05, AND MAEVE HALDANE  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY TZIGANE  
TRADUCTION DE LUCIE LEGAULT

## 40

## IDÉES PASSÉES À L’HISTOIRE

**Comment les grands esprits de  
McGill ont, dans leurs moments de  
génie, contribué à changer le monde**

*Quand vous songez à des moments qui expriment la quintessence de votre vécu à McGill, vous vous revoyez peut-être en train de préparer vos examens à la bibliothèque McLennan. Ou de lancer un frisbee sur le campus inférieur. Ou encore de suivre vos premiers cours dans un amphithéâtre bondé du pavillon Leacock. Toutefois, les moments dont McGill est le pivot ne se limitent pas au temps que vous avez passé sur le campus. De fait, vous en vivez plusieurs fois par jour. C’est simplement que vous l’ignorez.*

*Jusqu’à maintenant.*

*Le fait est que non seulement le réseau des grands esprits de McGill—formé de brillants professeurs et étudiants, d’hier et d’aujourd’hui—étend ses ramifications partout dans le monde, mais qu’il contribue en outre à le changer. Dans les pages qui suivent, vous découvrirez les 40 innovations grâce auxquelles les plus brillants esprits de l’Université ont modelé votre vie, dans le domaine des sports comme de la médecine, du divertissement comme de l’alimentation.*



Fig. 1.

It's a sport regularly played by millions around the world, but **James Naismith's** aspirations were modest when he invented **basketball**. His principal goals in devising the sport in 1891 were simply to "make it fair for all players and free of rough play." Naismith, BA1887, LD'38, noted that athletes tended to get banged up and battered close to where the scoring took place—a goal line or a net. So he put the scoring area for his new sport high out of reach—a peach basket hanging 10 feet up.

**2** While director of McGill's Social Science Research Group throughout the thirties, **Leonard Marsh** studied the effects of the Depression on the lives of ordinary Canadians—and concluded that Canada needed a "social minimum" to buffer the disadvantaged from undue hardship. He carried this resolve with him when he left McGill, serving as the chief author of the 1943 Report on Social Security for Canada, which called for **old-age pensions, employment insurance, child benefits and income supplements**. Policymakers were slow to heed Marsh, but by 1966 most of his recommendations had become law. University of Toronto historian Michael Bliss described the report as "the most important single document in the history of the welfare state in Canada." Marsh himself viewed his report as the natural outgrowth of the decade of social studies he directed at McGill.

**3** **Robert Stanley Weir**, BCL1880, DCL1897, was an accomplished teacher, lawyer and judge, and his poetry was good enough to earn him membership in the Royal Society of Canada. But that's not what we

remember him for. We remember him for "**O Canada**." When the original French version of the song, composed in 1880, became hugely popular, scores of would-be songwriters took a stab at writing an English version. The one that won widespread public acceptance was penned by Weir in 1908. By the time the First World War erupted, his version of "O Canada" was the best-known patriotic song in the country—and it only took the federal government until 1980 to adopt it (with slight modification) as Canada's national anthem.

**4** *Au début des années quarante, à l'époque où **Harold Randall Griffith** (B.A. 1914, MDCM 1922) était anesthésiste en chef à l'Hôpital homéopathique de Montréal, anesthésier un patient nécessitait l'utilisation de l'éther ou d'autres gaz, ce qui donnait lieu, dans le meilleur des cas, à une convalescence des plus pénibles et qui, dans le pire, entraînait la mort. Le médecin constata par la suite que l'utilisation de petites quantités d'un extrait d'une plante toxique—un poison utilisé par les chasseurs indigènes d'Amérique du Sud qui en enduisaient l'extrémité des fléchettes projetées par leurs sarbacanes—permettait de limiter les convulsions. En 1942, il devint la première personne à utiliser le curare à titre d'agent anesthétique chirurgical. Griffith prouva que l'administration prudente du curare parvenait à détendre le corps d'une manière exceptionnelle et sécuritaire. L'emploi du curare a ouvert la voie au développement de dizaines de médicaments similaires encore largement utilisés dans les salles d'opération.*

**5** When it comes to DNA, Watson and Crick tend to get all the attention (not to mention the Nobel Prize) for determining its structure, but it was another team of scientists, one which included **Colin Munro MacLeod**, MDCM'32, that first identified **DNA as the building blocks of genetics** in the early forties. MacLeod would go on to serve as a senior science advisor to U.S. presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

**6** During the thirties, Columbia University psychology professor **Otto Klineberg**, BA'19, MDCM'25, DSc'69, examined the IQ scores of black and white children in the U.S. segregated South and the desegregated North. His key finding: **Southern black children's IQ averages**, the lowest of all the groups, rocketed when they began attending desegregated schools. Klineberg's work played a crucial role in the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case that led to the desegregation of Southern schools.

**7** What Canadian city is the birthplace of hockey? That's an argument best left for the nation's bar-rooms. But we do know that the **first game of organized indoor hockey** took place on March 3, 1875, at the Victoria Skating Rink in downtown Montreal. Civil engineer **James Creighton**, BCL1880, organized the game, and many of the players who took part were McGill students. Creighton thought the nascent sport would draw better crowds than lacrosse (he was right). The world's first official hockey team, the **McGill Hockey Club**, made its debut two years later and some of the players—**Richard F. Smith**, BSc1883, **W. F. Robertson**, BSc1880, and **W. L. Murray**—helped refine the rules, including the **introduction of a rubber puck**, carved out of a lacrosse ball. Two enterprising brothers who skated together on a championship-winning McGill hockey team two decades later shaped hockey into the sport we know today. **Frank Patrick**, BA1908, and **Lester Patrick** (he dropped out of McGill to play professionally) created the Pacific Coast Hockey Association in 1911. The PCHA rivaled the National Hockey Association (soon to be the National Hockey League), thanks in large part to the Patricks' innovations: Canada's first artificial ice hockey rinks, **penalty shots**, **numbered jerseys**, **"on-the-fly" line changes**, **assists** and the **blue line**. The brothers sold their league (and its rules) to the NHL in 1926, and both men were inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

**8** *Les pionniers de la médecine, dont Wilder Penfield de l'Institut neurologique de Montréal (INM), se passent de présentation. Pourtant, leurs réussites n'auraient pas été possibles sans la contribution d'ingénieurs de talent qui ont mis au point les instruments dont les chercheurs avaient besoin. Leon Katz (B. Ing. 1950) est l'un d'eux. Pendant deux ans, l'ingénieur a travaillé aux côtés du docteur Penfield à l'INM avant de se joindre à l'Hôpital général juif de Montréal, où il a créé le premier laboratoire de radioisotopes médicaux au Canada. Il a contribué à développer l'utilisation de l'iode radioactif dans la cartographie thyroïdienne, une technique diagnostique maintenant largement répandue. Officier de l'Ordre du Canada, Leon Katz a conçu et a fait fonctionner le cœur-poumon artificiel utilisé lors de la première chirurgie à cœur ouvert réussie au Canada en 1957. Après avoir inventé une vaste gamme d'appareils médicaux, Leon Katz est entré au service de Santé et Bien-être social Canada où il a contribué à l'établissement de règlements de sécurité applicables à l'équipement médical.*

**9** As the co-founder of Montreal's **Just For Laughs International Comedy Festival**, **Andy Nulman**, BCom'83, played a leading role in transforming a modest two-day event into an unparalleled showcase for comedic talent from around the world. The annual festival attracts battalions of Hollywood talent scouts, all eager to spot the next big thing. Rowan Atkinson first introduced "Mr. Bean" to audiences at the festival, while Tim Allen and Kevin James are among those who've parlayed breakthrough performances at the festival into sitcom deals with major U.S. networks.

## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION of HUMAN RIGHTS



Harry Potter may be read in over 60 languages but **John Humphrey's** words have been translated into 300 languages and dialects. In fact, Humphrey, BCom'25, BA'27, BCL'29, PhD'45, LLD'76, was the principal author of the world's most translated text—and one of its most important: the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. In 1946, the United Nations Secretary-General asked the McGill law professor to advise the committee drafting the declaration. Humphrey responded by writing a 400-page document which would form the foundation of the declaration. After the UN adopted the declaration in 1948, Humphrey became director of the Human Rights Division. He returned to McGill in 1966, where he remained an outspoken advocate for human rights until his death in 1995.



# 40 IDEAS IDÉES



# 40 IDEAS IDÉES

**11** Avant **Hans Selye** (D. Sc. 1942), le **stress** avait trait à la pression exercée sur un objet, et non sur un individu. En 1934, le jeune endocrinologue mcgillois a constaté certaines similarités dans la façon dont le rat réagit aux injections, malgré une différence à l'égard des composés chimiques. Le chercheur en a conclu qu'il existe une réponse biologique au stress. En 1936, il a publié des données novatrices qui posent comme postulat que le corps humain réagit au stress en étapes. La première est une phase d'alarme, où le corps s'efforce de combattre la source du stress. Vient ensuite une phase où il cherche à s'y adapter. Finalement, le stress produit un effet d'usure qui endommage l'organisme. L'influence de Selye a dépassé les cercles médicaux puisque deux de ses ouvrages, *Le stress de la vie* et *Le stress sans détresse*, sont devenus des succès de librairie internationaux.

**13** When **Charles Drew**, MDCM'33, began his fateful research into the properties of blood, the subject of his work could only be safely stored for about a week before it began to spoil. Drew focused his efforts on blood plasma, which he determined could be used safely as a substitute for whole blood. After developing a safe and highly sterile **system for preserving large quantities of blood plasma**, Drew put his techniques to the test as the medical supervisor for the Blood for Britain campaign during the Second World War, overseeing a fleet of refrigerated "bloodmobiles" that delivered plasma to wounded soldiers and civilians as Nazi warplanes rained bombs throughout England. Following the war, the Red Cross tapped Drew to lead its budding blood bank program.

**14** While aspects of their revolutionary theory still spur debate between scientists, nobody disputes that **Ronald Melzack**, BSc'50, MSc'51, PhD'54, and Patrick Wall changed the way we all think about pain. In their seminal 1965 paper, the duo presented the **Gate Control Theory of Pain**: Rather than traveling straight to the brain, they argued, pain signals are modulated by other sensory inputs. Melzack, an emeritus professor of psychology at the University, also developed the **McGill Pain Questionnaire**, now used throughout the world. This stemmed from Melzack's realization that patients in pain often had a hard time putting what they were going through into words. So he made the process easier for them, offering over 100 descriptions such as "shooting," "stabbing" and "creeping" to choose from. The distinctions are important because they help physicians make more accurate diagnoses.

**15** In 1965, McGill professor **Samuel Freedman**, BSc'48, MDCM'53, DipIntMed'58, DSc'92, and doctoral candidate **Phil Gold**, BSc'57, MDCM'61, MSc'61, PhD'65, discovered a protein they called **carcinoembryonic antigen**. The body produces CEA in response to certain cancers (particularly those in the gastrointestinal tract, colon and rectum), making the protein's presence a useful tumour marker. The CEA blood test remains one of the most widely used methods for gauging the spread of cancer and detecting post-surgery recurrence.

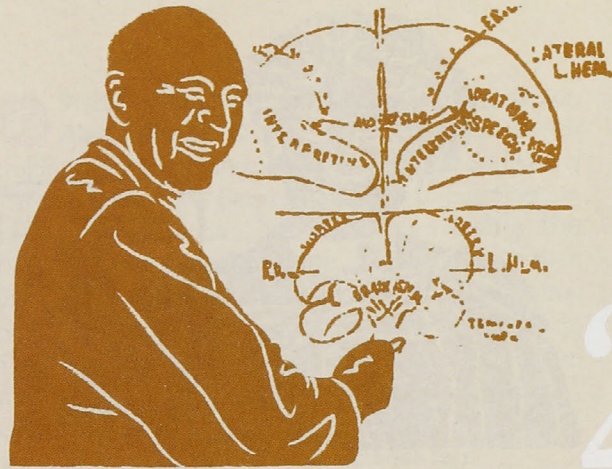
**16** It might be the most memorable research project of **Brenda Milner's** illustrious career, but the man she studied for three decades couldn't remember her from one visit to the next. The fellow, a severe epileptic known as H.M., underwent brain surgery which left him unable to transform short-term memories into long-term memory. But Milner, PhD'52, DSc'91, noticed that H.M. could still develop



# 12

Newfoundland doctor **Cluny MacPherson**, MDCM1901, was serving overseas in the First World War, as an advisor on withstanding poisonous gas attacks, when he modified a captured German helmet, fashioning a canvas hood outfitted with transparent eyepieces and treated with toxin-neutralizing chemicals. His invention, the **gas mask**, would be used by soldiers around the world to protect themselves from a particularly grisly form of death on the battlefield.

new skills through practice—even though he couldn't remember practising. Through her work with H.M. in the fifties, Milner revolutionized cognitive neuroscience by proving the human brain has **more than one system for governing memory**. The octogenarian H.M. still participates in memory studies and Milner, now in her 90s, is McGill's Dorothy J. Killam Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery and an active researcher at the Montreal Neurological Institute.



**17** David Hubel, BSc'47, MDCM'51, DSc'78, earned the 1981 Nobel Prize in Medicine for providing invaluable insights into the **workings of sight**. Working with Torsten Wiesel in the sixties, Hubel demonstrated how the visual cortex functioned, noting that a network of nerve cells play crucial and different roles in interpreting the information we receive through vision—some are specifically geared to detect movement, others are designed to focus on colours, form or depth.

**18** *C'est l'ennui qui a amené Roger Daley (M. Sc. 1966, Ph. D. 1968) à marquer l'Histoire. En 1966, il était employé par les Services météorologiques canadiens à la base de l'Armée de l'air des États-Unis à Goose Bay, au Labrador. Pour passer le temps, il demanda aux pilotes de noter certains éléments météorologiques dont la température et la direction éolienne lors de passages turbulents. À partir des données ainsi recueillies, Daley tenta de prédire la turbulence et c'est alors que prit naissance la quête de sa vie : les systèmes de prévision météorologique numérique. Selon Barry Shell, auteur de Scientifiques sensationnels, les techniques de Daley « forment la base de presque tous les systèmes de prévision et de simulation climatique à long terme utilisés dans le monde ».*

**19** In 1956, Thomas Chang, BSc'57, MD'61, PhD'65, a McGill undergraduate studying physiology, transformed his Douglas Hall residence room into a makeshift laboratory and went about constructing the world's **first artificial blood cells**. Blessed with good-natured roommates and equipped with a cheap perfume atomizer, the young scientist managed to construct tiny plastic membranes that could contain hemoglobin, the compound in red blood cells that transports oxygen and whisks away carbon dioxide. His success (he was the rare undergrad to publish a paper in *Science*, one of the world's most prestigious journals) helped spawn the realm of biotechnology.

A daring and gifted surgeon (and the driving force behind the creation of the Montreal Neurological Institute), **Wilder Penfield** developed the **Montreal Procedure** in the thirties to treat severe cases of epilepsy. This was a new kind of brain surgery: Patients remained fully conscious (though anesthetized) while Penfield used mild electric shocks to pinpoint which parts of the brain caused the seizures. Using this method, he noticed how different areas of the brain, when stimulated, resulted in his patients re-experiencing old memories. Or colours. Or sounds. Penfield began mapping brain functions, a pioneering effort that blazed a trail for generations of scientists since.

**21** Parents of finicky little eaters the world over owe **William Forsey Hampton**, PhD'33, a thank you. After his doctoral studies in chemistry at McGill, Hampton returned home to Newfoundland, where he became the director of research development for the General Seafoods fisheries laboratory. In the fifties, the spread of TV led to a demand for quick and easy meals, and Hampton saw a way to boost the fish business. Voila: the **precooked fish stick**. Pop in the oven, and it was ready by the next set of commercials.

**22** *Leslie Geddes (B. Ing. 1945, M. Ing. 1953, D. Sc. 1971) a fait de grandes choses, en toutes petites dimensions. Professeur de génie biomédical à l'Université Purdue, il a créé avec son équipe de minuscules appareils biomédicaux dont un moniteur miniature de signes vitaux pour les nourrissons prématurés ainsi qu'un défibrillateur automatisé miniature suffisamment petit pour être implanté chez les patients atteints d'une cardiopathie. Ce dernier envoie vers le cœur des décharges électriques qui neutralisent la crise cardiaque. M. Geddes a également inventé un électrocardiographe portable que les patients peuvent utiliser pour surveiller le schéma électrique cardiaque. En juillet 2007, Geddes a reçu des mains du président George W. Bush la Médaille nationale de technologie des États-Unis.*

23



When **Maude Abbott** first joined McGill's Department of Pathology as the assistant curator of McGill's medical museum, little was known about how to surgically repair damaged hearts. Through her work at the museum, Abbott collected and studied the hearts of people who had died of cardiac problems. She also scoured historical records for accounts of heart disease, meticulously cataloguing and identifying cardiac anomalies identified during autopsies. The result was the 1936 *Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease*, which laid the foundation for modern heart surgery by giving physicians a detailed understanding of the anatomy of heart disease.

**24** The next time you plot your vacation route on the web, stop to thank the elephants. And the monkeys. In the sixties, **Roger Tomlinson**, MSc'61, DSc'06, was plotting out locations to plant trees for a paper mill in Kenya. He needed to factor in monkey populations and elephant migration routes, topography, soil types and rainfall. To do this work manually would be prohibitively expensive—but computers, he mused, might speed things up. A few years later, Tomlinson convinced the Canadian government to use his new method to digitally map the country, creating overlays to show population, forests and potential farmland. The resulting technology, **Geographic Information System (GIS)**, now drives Google Maps, MapQuest and countless other applications.

**25** *En 1969, alors à l'emploi des célèbres Laboratoires Bell, au New Jersey, Willard Boyle (B. Sc. 1947, M. Sc. 1948, Ph. D. 1950) a inventé, avec un autre chercheur, le dispositif à couplage de charge, une puce photosensible qui est désormais un composant essentiel d'une multitude d'outils dont les caméras numériques, les lecteurs optiques et le télescope spatial Hubble. Boyle a également inventé le laser à rubis, qui est largement utilisé pour faire disparaître les tatouages. C'est donc lui que l'on doit remercier lorsqu'on veut immortaliser de précieux souvenirs... et en effacer de mauvais.*

**26** Airports around the world use the **explosives vapour detector (EVD-1)** invented by **Lorne Elias**, PhD'56, to guard against terrorist attacks. Elias originally developed the technology to seek out pesticide vapours, but in the wake of terrorist bomb threats and hijackings during the seventies, Canadian aviation security officials approached his National Research Council team to see if the technology could also sniff out chemical particles in hidden bombs. The use of the EVD-1 became standard in Canadian airports following the 1985 Air India bombing. Elias and his team also created **ion mobility spectrometry**, which can detect electrically charged particles associated with explosives.

**27** **Bernard Belleau**, PhD'50, saved millions of lives and never knew it. In the eighties, AZT was the only option for suppressing HIV, but the drug had a dark side: patients not only suffered debilitating side effects, they quickly grew immune to its anti-HIV properties. So the McGill chemistry professor went hunting for an alternative. Belleau led the charge to synthesize **3TC**, a compound which stunts HIV's tenacious rate of replication—without the drawbacks of AZT. Belleau died in 1989, six years before the last stage of 3TC clinical trials ended. The drug proved a turning point in developing the HIV-fighting “cocktail” that helped curb the AIDS mortality rate. “There’s no question that this drug is the most important medical achievement in Canada since the discovery of insulin in 1921,” Mark Wainberg, BSc'66, director of the McGill University AIDS Centre, told the *Globe and Mail*. “Bernard Belleau is a true Canadian genius, who never received the credit he was due.”

**28** In 1911, German scientist Otto Röhm invented a resilient, flexible and transparent substance. Trouble was, it was hard to find one key ingredient: methyl methacrylate. Enter **William Chalmers**, PhD'30, a McGill graduate student working in chemistry professor George Whitby's lab. Chalmers devised a new method for producing methyl methacrylate using acetone and hydrogen cyanide, both readily available. Knowing that Imperial Chemical Industries in Britain was doing similar work, Chalmers sold them his patent. One of the first commercial uses for ICI's Perspex—now known as **Plexiglas**—was to make see-through machine gun turrets for B-19 bombers. Today, Plexiglas is used in hockey rinks (the transparent barriers protecting onlookers from misdirected pucks), aquariums, contact lenses and motorcycle helmets.



# 40 IDEAS IDÉES

**29** In a 1901 lecture, McGill physics professor **Ernest Rutherford** presented a startling theory—namely, that radioactivity was the product of fracturing atoms—and was duly heckled by a young researcher from the Department of Chemistry. It wasn't a promising start, but within months that skeptic, **Frederick Soddy**, became Rutherford's chief collaborator in a research effort that led to both men winning the Nobel Prize (Rutherford in 1908, Soddy in 1921). Flying in the face of the widespread belief that atoms were indivisible and unchangeable, the duo demonstrated that atoms could spontaneously decay, forming new kinds of matter as a consequence. Though many scientific contemporaries initially scorned the notion as alchemy, Rutherford's theories quickly gained wide acceptance and he is universally recognized today as the father of **nuclear physics**.

**30** *S'il est vrai que l'ADN a ouvert la voie à la biologie et à la médecine modernes, il est également juste d'affirmer que **Kelvin Ogilvie** est le Henry Ford de notre ère. En 1980, alors professeur de chimie à McGill, il a accéléré le processus d'épissage de l'ADN en inventant une « **machine génétique** », transformant la durée de cette démarche de plusieurs jours en quelques heures et ouvrant ainsi la voie à une multitude de possibilités, notamment à l'égard de cultures génétiquement modifiées et de la recherche médicale. En 1986, Ogilvie fut le premier à mettre au point une méthode de synthèse chimique de molécules d'ARN, un procédé qui fut par la suite utilisé pour développer le **Ganciclovir**, un médicament désormais utilisé dans le traitement d'une forme d'herpès qui s'attaque aux sujets dont le système immunitaire est affaibli, comme les personnes atteintes du sida ou du cancer.*

**31** Canadian literature wasn't exactly the sexiest thing going until **Jack Rabinovitch**, BA'52, DLitt'05, came along. In 1994, Rabinovitch paid tribute to his late wife, literary journalist Doris Giller, by creating a new book prize for works of fiction. With a plump prize purse (\$40,000 for first place) distributed during a glitzy black tie ceremony, the **Scotiabank Giller Prize** has become, in the estimation of veteran critic Robert Fulford, "the most celebrated arts prize in the country." A powerful rivalry has developed between the Giller and the Governor General's Literary Award—many an argument has been sparked each year about which award had the more deserving winner. The real winners, thanks to the considerable attention the Giller garners, are Canadian writers.

**32** While working as a McGill system administrator, **Alan Emtage**, BSc'87, MSc'91, was tasked with trolling the nascent Internet for free software. So, like any self-respecting geek, he wrote an open-source program to do the work for him. And so was born **Archie, the first Internet search engine**. Archie did more than just lighten Emtage's load; until the mid-nineties, the non-proprietary system attracted half the web traffic in Canada. But Emtage makes no claim for setting the precedent for goofy search engine monikers (see also: Yahoo!, Google), insisting Archie is a diminutive of "archive," not an homage to the red-headed comic book teen.



The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Scientific and Technical Achievement Awards may command less attention (and feature less cleavage) than their glittery sibling, but the achievements they honour are no less impressive. The National Film Board's **Frederick Gasoi**, BEng'67, won his Oscar in 1998 for creating, with collaborators from the National Film Board (NFB) and Research in Motion, the **DigiSync Film KeyCode reader**. The reader decodes data stored on the edge of film stock, allowing editors to more efficiently navigate reams of footage. Without **Demetri Terzopoulos**, BEng'78, MEng'80, animated cinematic emperors would have no clothes—or at least, not very realistic ones. Terzopoulos won an Oscar in 2006 for his work on a computer **animation technique** that makes fake fabric billow and blow convincingly. His technology has appeared in the recent *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings* films. Another Oscar-winning McGill grad whose technical wizardry dazzled the masses is **Marceli Wein**, BEng'58, MEng'61, PhD'64. Working with NFB colleague Nestor Burtnyk, Wein helped develop **computer-assisted key framing** software, which allows artists to draw only the "key frames," letting a computer fill in the laborious gaps. "Hunger," a 1974 short, became the first computer-animated film to be nominated for an Oscar, and bears the fruit of this technique—recognized as the cornerstone of Canada's multi-million-dollar computer animation industry.



36

**John Andrew Macphail** (MDCM 1891) a été le premier professeur d'histoire de la médecine de McGill. Il a d'ailleurs lui-même écrit une page de cette histoire en devenant, en 1911, le rédacteur en chef et fondateur du **Journal de l'Association médicale canadienne**, l'une des publications médicales les plus anciennes et les plus réputées au monde. Le JAMC a été le premier à publier les résultats des travaux de Frederick Banting et de son équipe, lesquels ont mené à la découverte de l'insuline et ont été couronnés du prix Nobel. Le Journal se classe parmi les dix principaux journaux médicaux généraux, groupe prestigieux qui inclut le British Medical Journal et le Journal of the American Medical Association.

37

It's rude, crude and full of attitude. It's been called the "hipster's Bible" and, along with the likes of *South Park*, it's had a profound effect on youth culture, challenging Baby Boomer conventions with irreverence and a marked lack of respect. Philosophy graduate **Suroosh Alvi**, BA'91, co-created **Vice** magazine in 1994 and the magazine has since grown into a multimedia "empire of hedonism," spawning a record label, a clothing line, a TV station and films and books (not to mention a bunch of copycat publications). "Vice was a *Playboy* for the turn of the millennium," raves McGill communications professor Will Straw, "ostensibly about music and other stuff, but really about being a man."



**40 IDEAS  
IDÉES**

**38** En 1937, alors que la guerre menaçait d'éclater, **Lloyd Pidgeon**, un scientifique de renom du Conseil national de recherches, a entrepris l'ambitieuse tâche de réinventer la **production de magnésium**. Difficile à fabriquer, ce métal léger et durable était essentiel à la construction d'avions. Lloyd Pidgeon (M. Sc. 1927, Ph. D. 1929) a imaginé un procédé à la fois plus simple, plus rapide et moins coûteux, à la suite de quoi six usines de production furent rapidement construites dans le but de tabler sur cette innovation. En 1942, la découverte du chercheur a été officiellement saluée comme « un procédé de la plus grande importance dans le cadre de l'effort de guerre industriel mené par les Forces Alliées », ce qui lui valu d'être fait membre de l'Ordre de l'Empire britannique. Le procédé élaboré par Lloyd Pidgeon repose sur l'alliage de l'aluminium et du magnésium, lequel demeure largement utilisé de nos jours—notamment dans la fabrication de canettes.

**39** **Eric Callen** got used to being the butt of jokes. In 1955, the McGill plant pathologist developed a technique for reconstituting hardened fossilized feces by soaking it in trisodium phosphate. Callen was looking for maize pathogens, but instead found rich information on what ancient peoples ate, their state of health and their environment. Inspired, he switched fields to archaeology. Initially considered frivolous by his colleagues, **human coprolite analysis** is now widely used to uncover information about the past. The previously obscure scientist was recently immortalized in the children's book *Jurassic Poop: What Dinosaurs (And Others) Left Behind*.

**40** Pour les adeptes de cuisine, ce fut une chance inouïe que **George Beall** (B. Sc. 1956, M. Sc. 1958) ait de la difficulté à obtenir un poste de professeur à la suite de ses études de doctorat au MIT. Entré au service de la société Corning en 1962 grâce aux relations de sa future épouse au sein de l'entreprise, le géologue de formation était promu à la direction de la recherche en vitrocéramique quatre années plus tard. Il a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la création de certains des produits les plus connus et les plus rentables de la société, dont la **batterie de casseroles transparentes de marque Visions** et les **surfaces de cuisson en vitrocéramique**. Son inventivité ne se limitait toutefois pas aux articles de cuisine. On lui doit également le verre usinable **Macor**, un produit de vitrocéramique facile à fabriquer doté d'exceptionnelles propriétés isolantes et utilisé dans les navettes spatiales.

Want to find out about more ideas from McGill researchers and graduates that made history? Visit us online at [www.mcgill.ca/news](http://www.mcgill.ca/news). 🐦



RELIGION  
HISTORY  
LANGUAGE  
SCIENCE  
POLITICS

# UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

In its 56 years of existence, McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies has grown from a gesture of interfaith camaraderie to a vital site of wide-ranging study.

BY MARK ABLEY

**O**n a high shelf in Robert Wisnovsky's spacious office stands a bust of a bearded man in a turban. It gazes down on a hive of intellectual activity—apart from directing McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies, Wisnovsky is the recent recipient of a Canada Foundation for Innovation grant to develop a searchable database for Islamic philosophy and theology.

"I inherited the sculpture from my predecessor," Wisnovsky says, "and I like to think it's Avicenna"—the great Persian scientist and philosopher. "But I've been told it could also be the medieval poet Sa'di. Or perhaps Ayatollah Khomeini."



PHOTO: RACHEL GRANOVSKY

*“McGill has long recognized that this institute is one of its most renowned academic units.”*

—ROBERT WISNOVSKY

That implicit range of disciplines— science, philosophy, literature, theology, politics— suggests a lot about the work of the institute.

Founded in 1952, it's the oldest of its kind in Canada. For several decades it functioned as a small research centre, blessed by a remarkable library and housed in the ornate Victorian surroundings of Morrice Hall. But since 2004, the year before Wisnovsky took over as director, the institute has been transformed. It expanded from five to 15 academic staff; it added about 30 courses; and it made a determined new foray into undergraduate teaching. Last fall it began to offer an official minor in Islamic Studies.

The response from undergraduates has been enthusiastic. Three hundred signed up for courses in Islamic studies this year. The institute hopes to expand its offerings and accommodate as many as 1,000 undergraduates by 2012.

Wisnovsky arrived at McGill with an impressive resumé. Having studied at Yale, he did his doctoral work at Princeton and spent two postdoctoral years at King's College in London, before taking an academic post at Harvard.

Since moving to Montreal, he has gratefully learned that “the institute is more central to the life of the University than the Near Eastern Languages Department was at Harvard, where it's quite marginal. McGill has long recognized that this institute is one of its most renowned academic units. It competes academically at the highest level.”

Of course, even a staff of 15 is inadequate to encompass the riches of cultures that stretch from Senegal to Indonesia, that include about 1.3 billion people, and that span 1,400 years of history. The institute's faculty teach everything from the Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu languages to the history of women in the Middle East, and they research such up-to-the-minute topics as Iranian urban culture and religious fundamentalism in Sudan. The logical question, it appears, is not why McGill houses such an institute, but why so few

universities in North America have anything similar.

“It has to do with academic history,” Wisnovsky explains. In Europe, Islamic scholarship was traditionally an adjunct to either classics or Biblical studies, refracted after the Victorian era through the sometimes distorting lens of Orientalism. “And in North America, Islamic studies was seen through a paradigm of ‘area studies’ set up during the Cold War. Various imperial projects—be they French or British in the 19th century, or American in the Cold War period—still taint the study of Islam.”

#### IGNORANCE ISN'T AN OPTION

“There need to be more programs like [McGill's] at other universities,” says Azim Nanji, MA'70, PhD'72, director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies in England. Nanji, who will join the faculty of Stanford University this summer, is one of many graduates of the institute now teaching and pursuing research at leading institutions throughout the world. Other alumni include senior professors at Harvard, Princeton and Yale.

“The Muslim heritage is part of global history, and an understanding of the world today cannot be based on ignorance about the history, heritage and current challenges faced by a fifth of the world's population, which is Muslim,” Nanji declares.

The McGill institute's founder, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, took Islam seriously as a religion long before most Canadians did. Having taught for several years in Lahore (then still part of British India), he wanted to create a haven where North American scholars of Islam would interact productively with their peers from the Muslim world.

After leaving McGill in 1964, Smith took charge of Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religions. *The Meaning and End of Religion* is but the most famous of his many books.

“His kind of interfaith focus is not really central to our mission any more,” Wisnovsky says. “But we all benefit

academically and personally from a kind of cosmopolitan interaction, and it remains central for us to strive for a balance of backgrounds.” The institute aims to be a place where Muslim and non-Muslim students and faculty, both Canadian and non-Canadian, can all feel at home.

Apart from balancing backgrounds, the institute also strives to balance fields of expertise. Khalid Mustafa Medani is one of several professors who recently joined the institute. Medani, who is also a member of the Department of Political Science, has studied the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the allure of Islamic fundamentalism, and the political turmoil in his native country, Sudan. At McGill he enjoys “the very strong exchange of faculty, students and research interests related to topics on the Muslim world. The institute plays an important role in a variety of disciplines.”

Part of its challenge, perhaps, is to speak the intellectual truth in an increasingly politicized atmosphere. Wael Hallaq, an eminent scholar of Islamic law who has taught at the institute since 1985, expresses regret about the angry debates in Ontario, Britain and elsewhere that have hauled *sharia* law onto the front pages.

To Hallaq, “the controversies are based on an almost complete ignorance of what the *sharia* is and how it worked for over 13 centuries. It is being cast as a political manifesto, a political marker of identity, but not as a cultural or a legal system, which it certainly was. The irony is that even Muslims today, both in the West and in the Muslim world, have a highly distorted, in fact mutilated, vision of what Islamic law meant, and how it operated in communal and social contexts.”

In the 21st century, of course, the “Muslim world” includes tens of millions of people living in Western Europe and North America. According to Statistics Canada, the size of this country’s Muslim population is expected to almost double within the decade—from 783,700 in 2006 to 1.42 million in 2017. Large cities like Montreal contain thriving mosques that offer sharply contrasting visions of Islam.

As Medani notes, “the fact that Montreal has a substantial Muslim community is extremely important in two ways. First, there is greater interest in Islam in politics and public life since this is very much viewed as a ‘Canadian’ and not just a foreign policy issue. Second, there is a clear advantage in that Muslims from various parts of the globe provide immediate and visible evidence that Islam represents a range of different modes of social practice, intellectual traditions and views about local and international issues. This pluralistic notion of Islam is more evident here than in some parts of the United States.”

The winner of a prestigious Carnegie Corporation scholarship in 2007, Medani is looking into the various factors—including poverty, unemployment and ethnic loyalties—that entice some young Muslims into joining militant Islamist groups in Egypt, Sudan and Somalia. His conviction is “that research should not merely be motivated by intellectual stimulation in the abstract, but rather by an effort to come to terms with some important political, social and economic challenges that impact the lives of communities.”

### A LIBRARY LIKE NO OTHER

Adam Gacek, the head of the Islamic Studies Library, stands on the ground floor of its Octagon Room and gazes up at the books that pack its top level. With its eight symmetrical stained-glass windows, the room was the original library of McGill’s Presbyterian College. The Islamic Studies Library, which holds well over 100,000 volumes, lies at the heart of Morrice Hall. In most fields it covers, the library’s holdings, both printed and manuscript, are unparalleled in Canada. “The singular nature of the collection is reflected not only in the fact that it is housed in one location,” explains Gacek, “but also in its special emphasis on the coverage of traditional Islamic disciplines in addition to the social sciences.”

You wouldn’t know it from his modest demeanour, but Gacek—a Pole who came to McGill in 1987 from

PHOTO: RACHEL GRANOFISKY



*“Scholars tend to be pretty conventional unless someone points you in a certain direction. The picture has been skewed up till now—a big chunk of the story has been left out.”* —F. JAMIL RAGEP

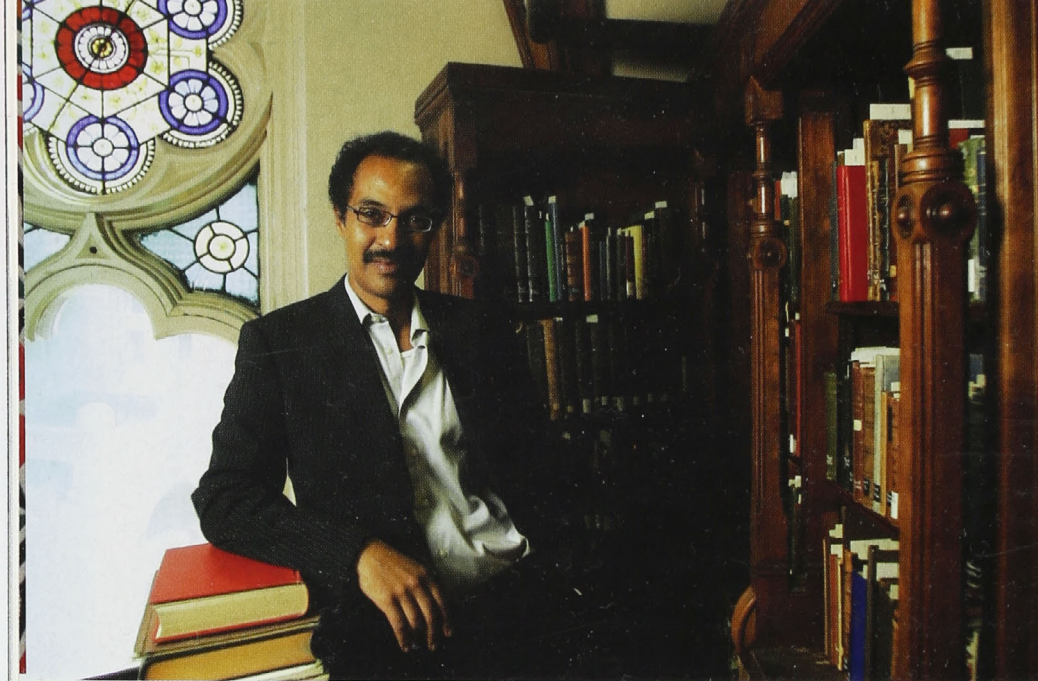


PHOTO: ALLEN MCINNIS

*“Research should not merely be motivated by intellectual stimulation in the abstract, but by an effort to come to terms with political, social and economic challenges.”*

—KHALID MUSTAFA MEDANI

London—ranks among the world’s foremost authorities on Arabic and Persian manuscripts. He has published several books and articles about the manuscripts at McGill, hundreds of which were collected in the early 20th century—and they include some extraordinary treasures. Gacek mentions a manuscript from Yemen that is about 300 years old: a beautifully decorated commentary on the Koran and other texts, it was owned by a vizier and is filled with notes in his handwriting.

“I teach a course in the Arabic manuscript tradition,” Gacek says, “which has become more and more important because of the new ventures at the institute.” He’s referring mainly to the CFI grants, totalling more than \$2.4-million when combined with matching funds that were earned by Wisnovsky and by F. Jamil Ragep, the institute’s Canada Research Chair in the History of Science in Islamic Societies.

Their two projects have now been combined under the title “Rational Sciences in Islam.” The aim is nothing less than to provide a new infrastructure for the analysis of a vast corpus of Islamic manuscripts, one that will be made freely available online to scholars and non-professionals alike. Ragep’s work focuses on topics as diverse as astronomy, mathematics and music theory.

An American by birth, he came to McGill from the University of Oklahoma, where he ran a centre for peace studies. Since September 2001, scholars from the Middle East have found it increasingly difficult to visit such centres in the United States. “It’s not the main reason I moved,” Ragep says, “but the opportunities that Canada provides, in terms of dealing with a wider range of people and countries, make life a lot easier here.”

With his wife, Sally, who doubles as his research associate, Ragep is the managing editor of the bilingual *Journal for the History of Arabic Science*, produced at the University of Aleppo in Syria. “I don’t even know if it

would be legal for me to do this in the U.S.,” Ragep says ruefully. “I also do a lot of work in Iran. And it has become difficult for an American to establish any connections for scholarly work in those countries.”

Since 9/11, many Islamic studies scholars working in the U.S. have had to contend with an uncomfortably charged political environment. “You had to be on the defensive every time you critiqued the government,” associate professor Rula Abisaab, an expert on Shia and pre-modern Islamic societies, told the *McGill Tribune*. “It became quite suffocating.” Both Abisaab and associate professor Michelle Hartman, an authority on Arabic literature, left American universities to join the institute, citing the political atmosphere in the U.S. as part of the reason for their moves.

### **A BROADER VIEW OF SCIENCE**

Genial and mild-mannered in person, Ragep is unafraid to engage in heated intellectual debate. Last year he confronted the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Weinberg on the letters page of the *Times Literary Supplement*. Weinberg had claimed that after the early 12th century, “there was no more science worth mentioning in Islamic countries.”

Ragep coolly pointed out that between the 12th and 18th centuries, Islamic scientists “proposed the pulmonary circulation, built the first large-scale astronomical observatories, conceived trigonometry as a separate discipline, constructed new calculating devices and maps of astonishing accuracy and sophistication, allowed for the possibility of a moving Earth, [and] developed the mathematical and conceptual tools that were essential for the Copernican revolution.”

This is a far cry from the history of science as most people understand it, and Ragep seems almost boyishly excited about the implications. Sitting at his office computer, he shows off a digital image of a diagram by Nasir al-Tusi, a 13th-century thinker from Khorasan (a region of Central Asia now divided among Iran,

Afghanistan and several other nations). "It's almost identical to one by Copernicus!" Ragep says. A few clicks later, he produces an image of a text by a hitherto obscure scholar in 15th-century Samarkand, who set out a mathematical proposition of how to move from an earth-centred model of the solar system to a sun-centred model. Half a century later, the same idea emerged in Europe.

"It has taken an enormous amount of time to piece all this together," says Ragep, who will take over from Wisnovsky as the institute's director in June. "Scholars are like everyone else — they tend to be pretty conventional unless someone points you in a certain direction." The CFI grants, he emphasizes, "are not just for making accessible what's already been discovered, but for finding new material." Scholars have not examined some manuscripts for hundreds of years. "So it's a pretty good assumption that we'll discover a lot of things and end up with a much better picture of how modern thought came into being. The picture has been so skewed up till now—a big chunk of the story has been left out." The Rational Sciences in Islam project will make some of this information, including biographies of scientists and essays about their work, accessible online.

Many people, Ragep notes, are shocked to learn that Islamic science, philosophy and theology were intimately linked. Great thinkers like Avicenna and al-Tusi saw no contradiction in being at the same time theologians, scientists and philosophers.

"Islamic theology is often seen as very backward, very anti-science," Ragep says, "but for the people Professor Wisnovsky and I are studying, it's just the opposite. Islamic theology is freeing them from the constraints of earlier thought. It shouldn't be surprising that what happened in Europe was influenced by what happened in Samarkand. What we call globalization began a long, long time ago."

Hallaq, the *sharia* specialist, believes that "Islam and its law are severely misunderstood in Canada, as well as

in the Western world at large. I find that ignorance of Islam, even among the learned, is both staggering and shocking. Not only is there so much misunderstanding and stereotyping, but people are able to say things about Islam that they cannot say about any religious or ethnic group."

Similarly, Medani deplors the persistent view expressed in the North American media "that Islam is a monolithic entity. This is related to a popular bias that is evident in some policy circles which assumes that political Islam is rooted in an organic hostility to Western values and interests."

A task of the institute, in short, remains what it was in the days of Smith: public enlightenment. Yet to do everything its professors hope, it would need to expand further. At present, it does not accept graduate students in the fields of Koranic Studies and Sufism because it lacks the specialists needed to supervise them. The institute also has ambitions for new programs that would explore the history of Islamic art and architecture and the development of medicine in the Arabic-Islamic world.

The institute's international reputation has attracted support.

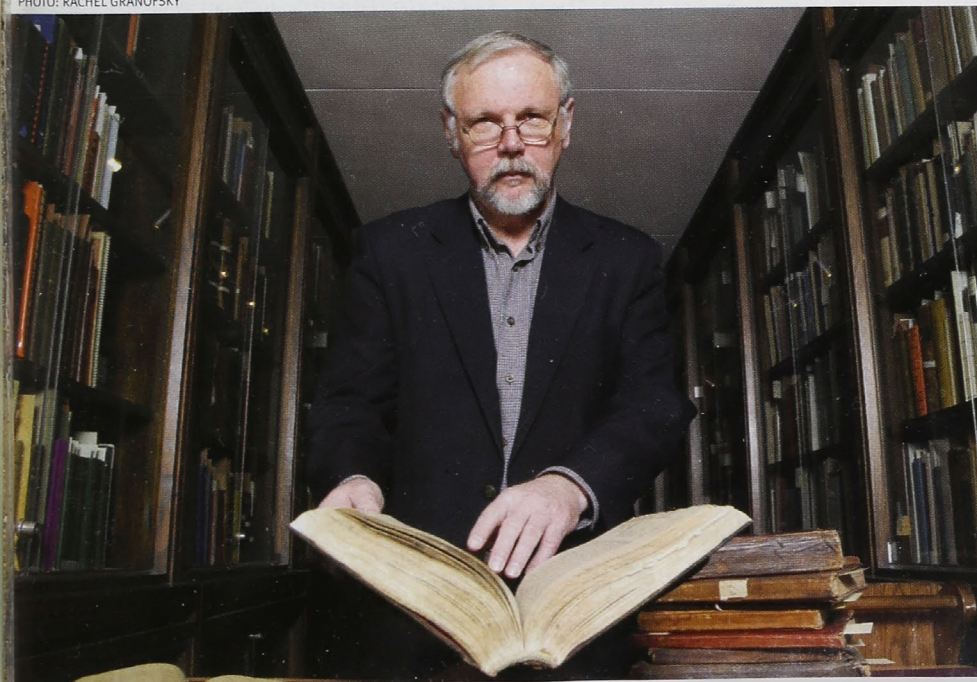
Hopeful of encouraging the study of Islam in North America, the government of Kuwait presented the institute with a \$350,000 gift last year. The money will fund four undergraduate scholarships and two graduate prizes, all of them earmarked for Canadian students. Wisnovsky says the gift is indicative of the respect his institute receives internationally.

"It's amazing that McGill has this institute," marvels Wisnovsky. "It's a Canadian treasure." 🐦

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*Mark Abley is a Montreal-based author, poet and journalist. A columnist for the Montreal Gazette and the Toronto Star, his profile of McGill AIDS Centre director Mark Wainberg appeared in the Winter 2007/08 edition of the McGill News.*

PHOTO: RACHEL GRANOVSKY



*"The singular nature of the [Islamic Library] collection is reflected in its special emphasis on the coverage of traditional Islamic disciplines in addition to the social sciences."*

—ADAM GACEK



# Discover the world 2008

Educational Travel programs for the alumni and friends of McGill University

## Alumni Campus Abroad: Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium

April 20 - 28, 2008

From approximately \$2,295 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Explore the spectacular waterways of Belgium and the Netherlands! In Belgium, experience Antwerp as well as Bruges. Then, travel along the Zeeland coast from Veere, Netherlands, and learn about the Delta Works' complex Storm Surge Barriers on Neeltje Jans Island. Cruise past iconic windmills at Kinderdijk, and see Willemstad. Journey to Delft, The Hague, Deventer and Kampen. Cruise the scenic ring of canals in Amsterdam, and visit the renowned Keukenhof Gardens.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## Treasures of Southern Africa

April 25 - May 8, 2008

Approximately \$6,195 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Experience the diversity of South Africa. Tour cosmopolitan Cape Town and admire the natural beauty of Cape Point, where you will visit the African penguin colony at Boulders Beach. Transfer to Livingstone, Zambia, and walk to Victoria Falls. In Johannesburg, explore Soweto and the Apartheid Museum. Finally, enjoy a game-viewing safari at Thornybush Game Reserve in Kruger National Park, replete with zebras, giraffes, kudu and more.

Meals included in the cities: Breakfast daily; one lunch

Meals included on the Game Reserve: All

Active

AHI

## ACA: Ukraine on the Dnieper River

April 29 - May 12, 2008

From approximately \$2,145 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Explore the stunning architecture and romantic squares of Bucharest, Romania. Then, in Tulcea, enjoy the beautiful Danube Delta before cruising the Dnieper River through the heart of Ukraine. Sail to elegant Odessa, Ukraine. Travel to Kherson at the Dnieper's delta. In the charming Crimea, visit Sevastopol and Bakhchisarai. Experience Yalta and Livadia Palace, former summer residence of the Romanovs and site of the famous WWII conference. After stopping in Zaporizhia, the cultural home of the Cossacks, admire the historic Caves Monastery. Finally, stop in Kiev, where glittering domes await.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## ACA: Saxony Cruise

May 9 - 17, 2008

From approximately \$2,845 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Discover one of Europe's most majestic and historic regions as you cruise the waters of the Elbe River. Begin your adventure in Prague, then admire the artistic and architectural treasures of Dresden, Meissen, Torgau and Wittenburg. Travel to Potsdam to visit Cecilienhof Palace, site of the Potsdam Conference. Conclude in Berlin.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## Hiking the Greek Isles

May 14 - 27, 2008

\$3,245 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare

This once in a lifetime tour includes Athens and Santorini, as well as the remote and rarely visited Naxos, Tinos and Amorgos islands. A typical day includes some of the most fabulous hikes in the Cyclades, where we discover unique landscapes, stunning flora, and around every corner stupendous views of sheer cliffs, picturesque villages and the brilliant, turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. Daily hikes typically end at breathtaking, secluded beaches, where travellers have a chance to relax, unwind and enjoy a peaceful swim in the sparkling water.

Meals included: Breakfast daily; Dinner daily

Active

ADVENTURES ABROAD

## Village Life along the Seine River

May 23 - 31, 2008

From approximately \$3,485 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare

Discover the tranquil beauty, fascinating history and rich artistic heritage of the French province of Normandy while cruising on the Seine River aboard the intimate, five-star M.V. CÉZANNE from Paris to the historic port of Rouen. Stroll through the Montmartre Quarter. View France's legacy of Impressionist painting in Auvers-sur-Oise, where Vincent van Gogh spent his final days, and in the house, gardens and studio of Claude Monet in Giverny. Step back into the Middle Ages in Rouen, the city of Joan

of Arc, and visit the Normandy Beaches where Allied Forces landed on D-Day in June 1944.

Meals included: 8 breakfasts; 7 lunches; 7 dinners

Moderate

GOHAGAN

## ACA: The Romance of the Blue Danube

May 30 - June 12, 2008

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

From Passau, Germany, embark for Melk, Austria. Cruise through the charming Wachau Valley to medieval Dürnstein. Visit Vienna, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, and sail to Budapest, Hungary, to see Kalocsa and Mohács. Then, enjoy Belgrade, Serbia, and Kovacica. Cross the Carpathian Mountains through the Iron Gate Gorge to Roman ruins in Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Romania. Experience historic Vidin, Bulgaria, and the harbour town of Rousse. Finally, admire the stunning architecture and romantic squares of Bucharest.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## ACA: Normandy and Brittany

June 2 - 13, 2008

Approximately \$3,245 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T.

Discover the stunning seascapes, riveting histories and glorious countryside of the Normandy and Brittany regions. From Cabourg, travel to Bayeux to see its famous tapestry. Learn about the Allied invasion with visits to Caen and its Memorial and Museum for Peace, Juno Beach, and the British landing zone at Arromanches, then pay tribute to the bravery of the soldiers who rest in the World War II Canadian Cemetery. Enjoy a stop at a Calvados distillery and sample the renowned brandy, then explore the harbour town of Honfleur. Your home base in Brittany is Rennes, the capital of the region. Immerse yourself in local history in Josselin, Vannes and Carnac, then cruise along the Rance River from medieval Dinan to St-Malo. Your adventure concludes with two nights in Paris.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## ACA: Chianti in a Tuscan Villa

June 22 - 30, 2008

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

From the idyllic village of Tavarnelle Val di Pesa in the heart of Chianti Country, travel to Castello di Monsanto, and sip the region's distinctive and renowned Chianti wine. Travel through the beautiful Tuscan hill country, stopping in the market town of Greve; the medieval village of Radda; charming Castellina; and the fortified town of San Gimignano. Witness the history in ancient Lucca, and experience the brilliant artistic and architectural heritage of Florence and Siena.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI



## ACA: Swiss Alps

July 2 - 10, 2008

Approximately \$2,495 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T. Explore the beauty, history and culture of the majestic Bernese Oberland on this spectacular program that showcases the charming village of Kandersteg; the quaint town of Interlaken, where a cruise on Lake Thunersee takes you to historic Thun; and the capital city of Berne. Admire the splendour of the Alpine scenery during your journey to Zermatt for a glimpse of the famous Matterhorn peak. Enjoy a thrilling ride on the Glacier Express, one of the most beautiful railway journeys in Europe, and visit the lovely town of Lucerne.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## Cruise the Baltic Sea

August 3 - 11, 2008

From approximately \$3,195 USD PP/DO, plus airfare and taxes

Begin in beautiful Stockholm, Sweden, situated on 14 islands in Lake Mälaren. Sail aboard the CRYSTAL SYMPHONY to Helsinki, Finland. Then, discover cultural St. Petersburg, Russia, the former imperial capital under Peter the Great. Next, visit Tallinn, Estonia, and conclude in Copenhagen, Denmark, a medieval fishing village that evolved into one of Europe's most sophisticated cities.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great

August 31 - September 12, 2008

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

Journey through the heart of Russia, beginning in Moscow. Explore the Tretyakov Gallery, the Kremlin's Armory Museum, Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral and Star City. Embark on a cruise of the Volga River, and admire the scenic countryside as you sail to Uglich. Continue to beautiful Yaroslavl, Goritsy and the amazing architecture of Kizhi Island. Finally, experience St. Petersburg.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## ACA: Provence and the French Riviera

September 12 - 21, 2008

Approximately \$2,995 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T. Delight in verdant Provence before exploring seaside vistas in the French Riviera. At Avignon, see the Palais des Papes, and cruise the Rhône River past ancient city walls. Visit the medieval towns Les Baux and St. Rémy. Admire stunning ruins in Arles, view the Roman Amphitheatre in Orange, sample wine in the village of Châteauneuf du Pape and marvel at the iconic Pont du Gard aqueduct. Tour Aix-en-Provence and Cannes en route to the Côte d'Azur and Nice. Stop at St-Paul-de-Vence, and learn the art of perfume making in Grasse. Finally, experience the famous city-state of Monaco.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## ACA: Sicily - Taormina and Mondello

September 19 - 29, 2008

Approximately \$2,895 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T. Sicily abounds with enchanting natural beauty, fascinating folklore and incomparable cuisine. Begin your discovery of this fascinating island in Taormina, and see its many Greek, Roman and medieval monuments. Marvel at the volcanic crater of Mt. Etna, and explore archaeological ruins in Syracuse. En route to Mondello, view the Roman Villa del Casale in Piazza Armerina and the remains of the Greek colony at Agrigento. In Palermo, admire stunning architecture, and marvel at the mosaics of the cathedral in Monreale. Then, discover the impressive Doric temple at Segesta, the mountaintop town of Erice and the picturesque fishing village of Cefalù.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## Prague, Vienna and Budapest Discovery

September 23 - October 3, 2008

Approximately \$2,645 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T. Explore three charming European capitals on this flexible program that combines expertly guided city tours with the opportunity for independent activity. Begin in Prague, Czech Republic. Discover the enchantment of cultural Vienna, Austria, where the Ringstrasse, Burgtheater and Hofburg Palace await. Visit Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic, before arriving in Budapest, Hungary. Marvel at its gothic Parliament Building, Opera House and Heroes' Square.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## China Splendour

October 11 - November 1, 2008

\$7,990 PP/DO, airfare included

The famous landmarks and world heritage sites that we visit on this 22-day trip will provide unforgettable sights and sounds. In Beijing, explore the Forbidden City and walk on the Great Wall of China. In Xian you will see the terracotta warriors discovered in 1974. Chongqing, a sister city to Toronto, is the largest inland port of western China and home to the Dazu Rock Carvings, which date back as far as the 7th century AD. Guilin is situated on the west bank of the Lijiang River. Suzhou is famed for its classical gardens and traditional waterside architecture. We bring our program to a close in Shanghai.

Meals included: 16 breakfasts; 9 lunches; 15 dinners

Active

BARAKA TOURS

## ACA: Italy - Sorrento and Orvieto

October 14 - 25, 2008

Approximately \$3,245 CDN PP/DO, plus airfare and V.A.T. Discover two of Italy's most remarkable regions as you journey through coastal Campania and bucolic Umbria. Begin with a stroll through cliff-top Sorrento. Then, travel along the sunny Amalfi Coast to the town of Positano. In Pompeii, explore ruins once buried in the volcanic ash of Vesuvius. Enjoy the terraced hillsides of the Isle of Capri before journeying to Orvieto. Experience the stunning Renaissance art and architecture of Florence. Finally, explore two walled cities—Perugia and Assisi.

Meals included: All

Moderate

AHI

## South India

November 16 - December 4, 2008

\$7,990 PP/DO, airfare included

Our tour begins in Madras, before we visit the temple cities of Mahabalipuram, Tanjore, Trichy and Madurai. Next we travel to the province of Kerala, via the bird preserves of Periyar and Kumarakom. While in Kerala, we will travel to the port city of Cochin. We then fly to Colombo, the gateway to Sri Lanka.

Meals included: 17 breakfasts; 13 lunches; 17 dinners

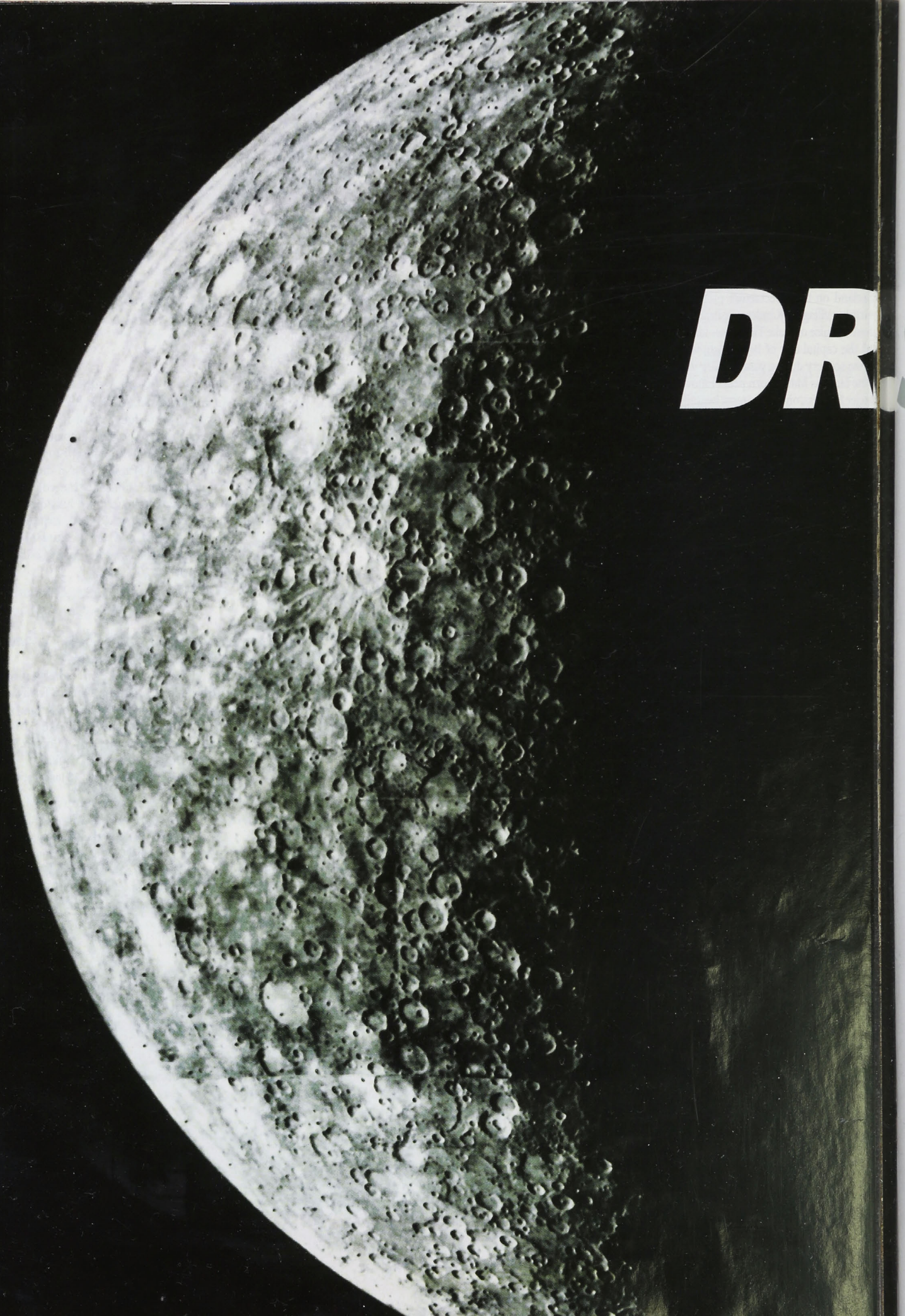
Active

BARAKA TOURS



# McGill

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







OWEN EGAN

# SPACEMAN

**Astronaut Dave Williams has hung up his flight suit, but he's not done with space just yet.**

BY JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

**D**ave Williams's new house in Oakville, Ontario, reminds him of the space shuttle cargo hold. There are boxes everywhere ("total chaos") but instead of freeze-dried food and hi-tech electronics destined for the International Space Station, these boxes contain the usual trappings of family life. And, thanks to an annoyance called gravity, these boxes don't float. "It makes me wish I was back in space," he quips, "where I could just push them around."

Williams had been living near Houston, home to NASA's Johnson Space Center, since 1995; the return home to Canada follows his February 2008 retirement from active astronaut status. After two missions and three space walks (with 17 hours and 47 minutes under his belt, he holds the Canadian record for extravehicular activity), he now wants to spend more time with his wife, Cathy, and their children, Evan, 13, and Olivia, 10. "The hardest part of being an astronaut is the time being away from your family," he says. "You can be training for up to five years for a mission, in multiple countries, for two or three months at a time. Then there is the time actually away in space."

This spring, Williams joins McMaster University as a professor of surgery and director of the Centre for Medical Robotics at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, where he'll explore how to adapt space robotics, such as the Canadarm, for earthly use. He's also a member of the newly struck Advisory Committee on the Canadian Space Agency, which will audit the CSA's strengths and challenges. Space will still be very much on his mind. Then again, it always has been.

## BEACONSFIELD AND BEYOND

Summer 1961: Seven-year-old Dafydd "Dave" Williams was obsessed with Project Mercury. He watched TV broadcasts of the first Americans to make suborbital flights into space. He made regular bicycle pilgrimages from his Beaconsfield, Quebec, home to Roy's Drugstore in nearby Beaufort, spending his *Montreal Star* paper route money on astronaut bubblegum cards. He absorbed photos and statistics about the Mercury Seven, but they were Americans, and Canada didn't have a human space program. So he dreamt a new dream: to live, not in space, but under water.

Inspired by Dr. Joe MacInnis, the pioneering Canadian aquanaut, 13-year-old Williams began studying how the body adapts to extreme environments. Medical school was an obvious choice. After finishing his studies at McGill—BSc'76, MSc'83, MDCM'83—Williams completed residencies in family practice and emergency medicine. Then, in 1992, Williams's astronaut dreams were revived: While director of the emergency room at Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, he was plucked by the Canadian Space Agency from a field of 5,330 applicants. Six years later, he blasted off on space shuttle Columbia as an international mission specialist for STS-90. The 16-day mission, dubbed NeuroLab, was dedicated to researching how microgravity affects the brain and nervous system.

(Williams did finally become an aquanaut, too. In 2001, he made history as Canada's first astronaut-aquanaut, spending seven days working in Aquarius, a research laboratory located 60 feet beneath the Florida Keys.)

In August 2007, he flew again, this time on the Endeavour, to deliver supplies—and a 2,200 kilogram truss—to the International Space Station. This mission, however, was particularly special for Williams: He was going outside.

Families of astronauts cannot relax until the crew step back onto terra firma; history has proven take-off and re-entry to be perilous propositions, and what happens in between isn't without danger, either. Williams's family knew what he was getting into. They knew he would be going on his first spacewalk to install the S5 truss on the ISS. He didn't keep this a secret. In fact, he brought it home. Williams is a big believer in what he calls "mental imagery" so, in the weeks leading up to STS-118, he would lie on the living room sofa in suburban Texas, eyes closed, and visualize his every movement along the ISS handrail. He'd heard the stories of astronauts freezing during spacewalks, paralyzed by fear, unable to move forward or back. They get disoriented when the Earth appears above them instead of below, forgetting that, in space, "up" is simply where your head is. Williams wasn't going to freeze. "If there's something I want to do," he says, "I can't do it successfully if I can't do it in my head." So, night after night, he spacewalked. (Olivia insisted dad was just napping.)

But there was one little detail that Williams kept from his family until shortly before Endeavour launched.

Flight Day Four: Dave Williams and Rick Mastracchio have successfully used Canadarm2 to install the S5 truss. Now, in order to allow S5 to function, all Williams needs to do is move the Canadarm grapple fixture. But moving the grapple means also moving his foot restraints... far away from the handrails. Feet anchored, body floating perpendicular to the starboard side of the ISS, Williams now kicks. He trained for this in a pool, but water offers much more resistance than space; the trick here will be to kick with enough force to free himself from his foot restraints, without shooting backwards into the endless blackness. Feet freed, he hangs in space by his thin waist tether. Hand over hand, just like he practised in his mind, he pulls himself through the cold vacuum of space.

Back in the airlock, six hours and 17 minutes after they left, the astronauts exchange silent looks. Then:

"Man," says Mastracchio, "it's *crazy* out there."

### SUCCESS, FAILURE AND INSPIRATION

For connoisseurs of space collectibles, "flown" is unbeatable. A strip of wire, a coin, the flight patch from a uniform: If some scrap of human civilization has left the planet, however briefly, people want it. Williams isn't interested in peddling used toothbrushes on eBay (NASA frowns on such entrepreneurship anyway), yet he deeply understands this allure of holding something which has transcended the terrestrial.

Astronauts fly under tight luggage restrictions, but they're allowed to pack a few special things in their personal preferences kit (PPK). When Williams flew on STS-90, so too did Cathy's pilot wings (she flies Airbus

A320s for a living, "the *real* pilot in the family") and his Wood gold medal, received for outstanding clinical performance during med school. He also took a little piece of McGill's Osler medical library in his STS-118 PPK: A framed flown postcard of the Osler Niche, which holds Sir William Osler's writings and favourite books, will soon be displayed in the library.

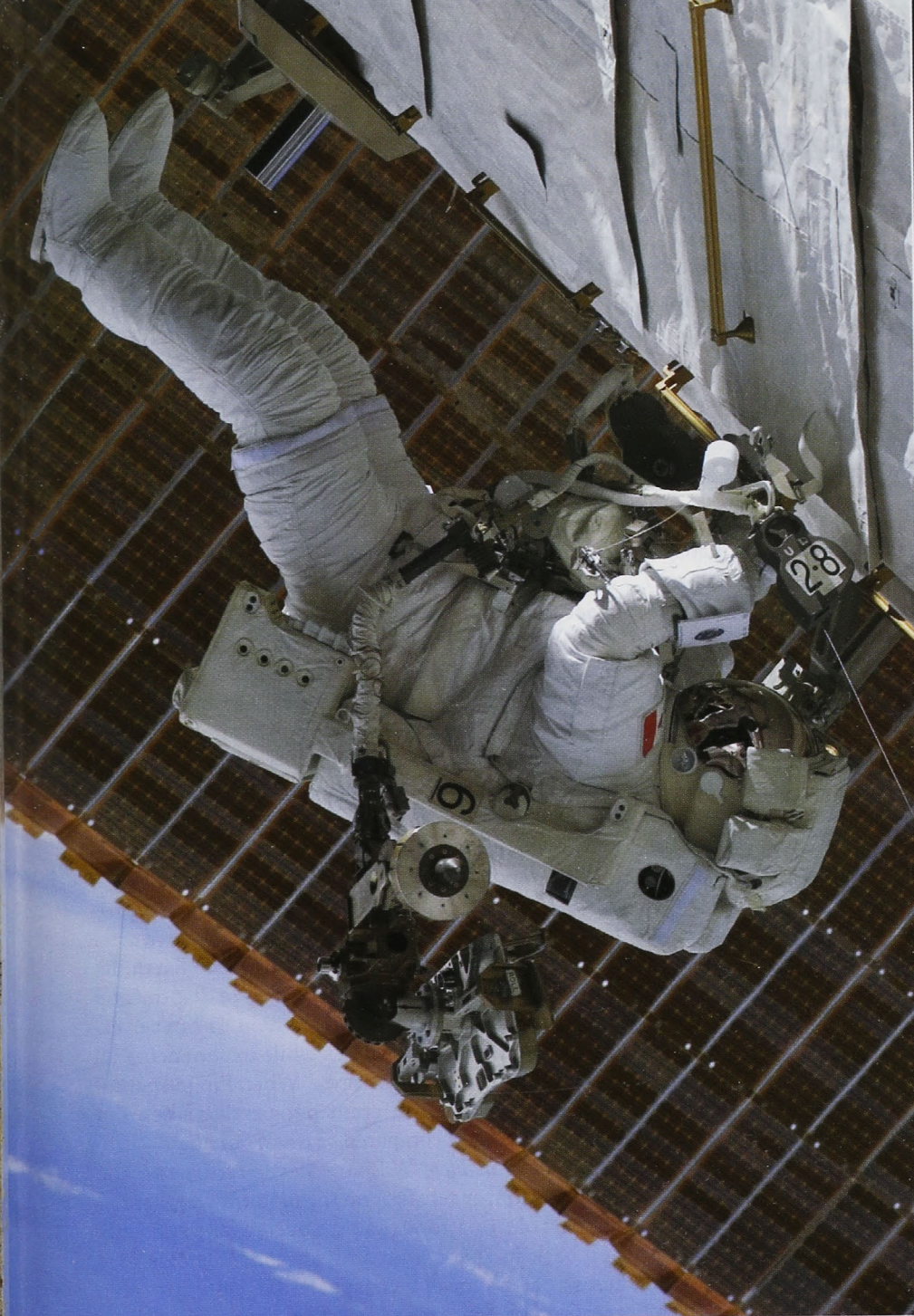
The Osler library was a special place for Williams during his time at McGill. "Sitting there with the light difusing through the stained glass windows, surrounded by books," he recalls, "I really got a sense of the history of medicine. And if I got bored with whatever I was studying, I could literally grab a book off any shelf and get immersed in something really, really exciting. In the future, some undergraduate student sitting in the Osler library, dreaming of becoming a practitioner or a scientific researcher, will look at that postcard and hopefully get stimulated."

NASA has declared its intention to return to the moon by 2020 and, eventually, send manned flights to Mars. Never say never—as director of life sciences at NASA, he gave the go-ahead for John Glenn to return to space at age 77—but Williams probably won't be setting foot on either world. "My biggest dream is now not to fly another space flight, but to enable the next generation to become part of the program," he says. "Will someone out there in Canada right now participate in the next international missions to the moon? It's exciting to think that person is in university right now. And the person who will represent Canada when we go to Mars is probably seven or eight years of age right now."

It's not exactly a golden period for the Canadian Space Agency. Retirement has dramatically shrunk its astronaut corps, and leadership has been shaky (the agency has had three leaders in as many years)—as well as weathering general criticisms that Earth's myriad problems should take precedence over costly space explorations. But, with the CSA's announcement that it will hire two new astronauts by May 2009, the time is particularly ripe for Williams's vocal optimism.

"If you look back over the last 40 years," he argues, "space exploration has been the driver of so many technological innovations that are now part of everyday life." Hubble telescope technology has been repurposed as a non-surgical breast biopsy technique. Underprivileged communities in Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations use an affordable, non-chlorine water purification system spun off from space shuttle technology. Neurosurgeons are exploring how a miniaturized version of Dextre, Canadarm2's robotic "hand," will radically improve surgical precision and safety. NASA aerodynamics even made a better golf ball. (It's all in the dimples.)

"If you were to look at everything that was derivative of the space program, there'd be a little logo on everything. Now, in order to get further into space, and to stay there longer, we'll need different technologies that are smaller, that have different power supplies, that last longer, that don't generate large amounts of trash. If we're going to live



*Above: During a visit to his alma mater, Beaconsfield High School, Dave Williams signs an autograph for student Caitlin Griffin. PHOTO: OWEN EGAN*

*Left: Williams's first spacewalk, to install a truss on the International Space Station, lasted six hours, 17 minutes. PHOTO: NASA*

*"My biggest dream is now not to fly another space flight, but to enable the next generation to become part of the program." —DAVE WILLIAMS*



*Left: In October 2007, Williams received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from McGill. He was joined at convocation by (from left) his wife, Cathy Fraser, his mother, Isobel Williams, and sister-in-law, Joan Fraser. PHOTO: OWEN EGAN*

*Right: Dave Williams trains for his spacewalk in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory near Johnson Space Center. PHOTO: NASA*





## MORE SPACE ACES

NASA will retire its space shuttle fleet in 2010, but not before flying another McGill alum—and a member of the extended family—into the stars. In April 2009, Julie Payette, BEng'86, will serve as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Endeavour, which will deliver the final pieces of Japan's Kibo laboratory to the International Space Station; it will be her second space mission, having previously flown on the Discovery in 1999. This August, astronaut Andrew Feustel, the husband of Indra Feustel, BSc'88, is scheduled to fly aboard the Atlantis on a mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

Julie Payette is not the only McGill grad returning to space next year, either. In May 2009, Robert Thirsk, MDCM'82, will begin a several month stay aboard the ISS—a Canadian first. He will travel to the station on a Soviet Soyuz craft launching from Kazakhstan. Dr. Thirsk last went into space in 1996, serving as payload specialist on the Columbia.

on the surface of the moon, for example, trash management will be a huge issue; if we drive the technologies to manage trash on the moon, we can take those technologies and spin them off for use on Earth."

Williams believes in the boundless potential for human achievement, whether on a personal or grand scale. "Dave works very hard," says astronaut Steven MacLean, who became close friends with Williams when the two trained together. "There are more switch positions in the space shuttle cockpit than there are parts in an American car—you can't learn that in just a couple of days, you need a methodical approach to learning so you're able to keep that data for a long period of time. You can't just be talented, you also need that good work ethic." Williams himself likes to joke that he's been doggedly trying to learn how to play Mason Williams's tricky "Classical Gas" since he was 13 years old. (The song, incidentally, was the theme music for NASA's official Apollo 4 mission film.) Recently, while reading a book entitled *How to Play Rock Guitar*, he stumbled on a maxim: "Successful people are willing to do things that others won't." It could be Dave Williams's mantra.

When Williams talks to students, as he did on a recent return to his alma mater, Beaconsfield High School, he stresses that "if you fail, not to conclude that you are a failure." His career path may appear smooth to the outside eye, but he insists otherwise. (Yes, even astronauts fail algebra exams. Williams did.)

"Whether you're memorizing all the carbon elements and amino acids in the Krebs cycle, or memorizing every note on the fret board of a guitar," he says, "it's easy to give up. But the most rewarding thing is to keep going, to experience the frustrations and the challenges. The bolder you dream, the harder it is to achieve. I've experienced many challenges in my career. It's not been a straightforward slam-dunk—I think about all the Saturday nights spent studying until the Osler library closed at midnight, when I could've been out playing hockey or going to a party or going to a movie. Sometimes things don't work out as you'd planned, so you have to figure out a different way to attack it from a different angle—and that's what's really important. Through that adversity comes the greatest reward."

### THE SOUNDS OF SPACE

Over the years, Williams has had the good fortune to meet several of his guitar heroes. He once gave B.B. King a commemorative medallion stamped from melted bits of a decommissioned space laboratory. King, it turns out, is a space enthusiast; he peppered the astronaut with questions for 40 minutes. When Williams met Eric Clapton after a Houston concert, he boldly suggested that "music can do something the space program can't."

Slowhand was stumped: "What's that?"

"Transport you through time."

For Williams, there's an inextricable, and profound, connection between memory and music. Some 400 kilometres above, or below, the Earth, he liked to gaze homeward while listening to Clapton and King, Lennon and Vivaldi on his iPod. "I can't overstate the influence music has while experiencing all these amazing things," he says. "When I'm in space, I take away a totally different perspective when I'm listening to music compared to when I'm not."

So even if Dave Williams never returns to the space station, or sets foot on the moon, all it takes is a few bars of Armstrong (Louis, not Neil) and suddenly he's back in space, watching jet contrails dissipate across Earth's lower atmosphere, bilge dumps creep across oceans, storms swirling Saharan sands. When these memories come flooding back, they bring with them a renewed sense of pride, purpose and hope.

"When I tour around and talk to people, pretty much everyone has the same goals," he says. "They want a nice, safe place where they can grow up, and watch their kids grow up, have educational opportunities, and simply enjoy being here on Earth. Being in space, and looking at the planet from a distance—at this amazingly beautiful place in the cold, dark infinite void of space—you certainly get the sense of 'Why can't we do that together?'"

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*James Martin is the editor of Headway, McGill University's research magazine. He profiled astrophysicist Vicky Kaspi in the Summer 2007 News, and has written for Saturday Night, enRoute and Sassy.*



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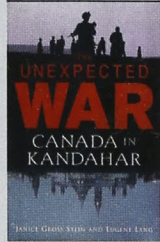
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**THE UNEXPECTED WAR:  
CANADA IN KANDAHAR**

by Janice Gross Stein, BA'64, PhD'69, and Eugene Lang, published by Viking Canada



Canada's road to war in Afghanistan was more of a creeping descent than a charge into battle, and coloured more by our fear of snubbing

Washington than our terror of the Taliban.

That's the central conclusion of *The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar*, an in-depth exposé by University of Toronto political scientist Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang, who served as chief of staff to former defence ministers Bill Graham and John McCallum, PhD'77. The book, which has already won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing from the Writers' Trust of Canada, was recently shortlisted for the \$35,000 Donner Prize for the best book on Canadian public policy.

Stein and Lang portray Paul Martin's Liberal government, in the weeks before sending Canadian troops to Afghanistan, as generally uninformed, sometimes uninterested and altogether unprepared for a resurgent Taliban. The book confirms what many suspected: After a long string of "No" responses to American requests—on Iraq, Haiti, ballistic missile defence and other issues—Ottawa felt compelled to finally say "Yes."

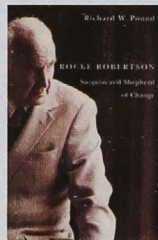
The authors paint a picture of an inept, ineffectual government, desperate for approval from its big brother to the south and wrestling with a bureaucratic morass and near-constant infighting. Its leaders grossly underestimated the awaiting fight, seeing Afghanistan as a reconstruction mission, not a counterinsurgency. With its generals, diplomats and international development staff at loggerheads, Canada was woefully unprepared for a change in plans.

As bleak—and damning—as the book sometimes is, its authors emphasize that a war is not made unjust by the confusion and short-sightedness that give rise to it, and that Canadian troops are indeed doing great things for the millions of Afghans who want them there. Stein and Lang praise Canada's successes in planting the seeds of governance, security and social services in the volatile south. They note too that while Canada's failures so far have been tragic and largely avoidable, the future of Afghanistan remains very much in the balance—and very much in Canadian hands.

MARK ORDONSELLI

**ROCKE ROBERTSON: SURGEON  
AND SHEPHERD OF CHANGE**

by Richard W. Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, published by McGill-Queen's University Press



There are leaders whose training, character and life experience prepare them to slip into a job as though it waited only for their arrival. According to

Richard Pound's biography of Rocke Robertson, who presided over McGill at a time of enormous political and social turbulence, the demanding role of principal "fitted him like a glove."

Robertson, BSc'32, MDCM'36, was the first McGill graduate and the first Canadian to lead the University. When he succeeded Cyril James in 1962, Quebec was on the verge of political chaos, the first wave of baby boomers was about to flood out of high schools, and McGill students and faculty began to demand a greater voice in University governance.

Over the next eight years, it would require all of Robertson's considerable organizational skills, ability to accommodate change and patience to keep McGill afloat. He reformed the University Senate, and oversaw a 70 per cent increase in enrolment and an 85 per cent

jump in staff. McGill's expenditures rose by 187 per cent, campus gained 10 new buildings, and the Faculty of Management was established despite furious protests that McGill would degenerate into a trade school.

Managing all that, Pound says, "would have tested any institution and exhausted any leader even without the vitriolic nature of student demands and the overt discrimination of the Quebec government's funding." (The province awarded half as much per student to McGill as it did to francophone universities.)

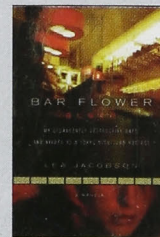
Robertson confessed in his journal that the job had indeed left him feeling "exhausted and ancient." The toll was even greater on his wife Roslyn ("much of the stuffing has been knocked out of her"), who feared that Robertson would become the target of separatist extremists (his tenure coincided with the FLQ crisis).

Pound's painstakingly thorough study, aided by Robertson's journals and personal papers, shows the maturing of a gifted and decent man who somehow both transformed McGill and preserved it.

DIANA GRIER AYTON

**BAR FLOWER: MY DECADENTLY  
DESTRUCTIVE DAYS  
AND NIGHTS AS A TOKYO  
NIGHTCLUB HOSTESS**

by Lea Jacobson, BA'02, published by St. Martin's Press



Lea Jacobson has always felt a kinship with Tokyo and its history of devastating natural disasters. Because of her own tumultuous

past, she draws inspiration from "the city's resilience, her refusal to be crushed, and even her reckless pride."

Jacobson's captivating memoir *Bar Flower* confirms the strong-willed author has a lot in common with her adopted hometown. Ironically, these

same characteristics set her on a collision course with a culture that values order above all else. Within months of arriving in Japan, the clash of personalities boils over. Jacobson is fired from her teaching job when a local psychiatrist discloses her history of depression and bulimia to her employer. Armed with a still-valid visa, she soon finds work as a nightclub hostess in Tokyo's infamous Ginza strip.

Although they exist on the sex industry periphery, hostesses are not prostitutes. Instead they entertain weary businessmen with a constant flow of flirting, whisky and karaoke. "The customer is the perpetual hunter," she explains, "and the hostess his perpetual prey."

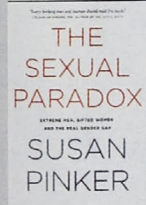
*Bar Flower* shines because of its deeply human portrayal of the people who inhabit this nocturnal world. Jacobson skillfully chronicles the foibles of these diverse personalities—from the ruthless "Mamas" who manage the clubs to the sometimes abusive clients. Her own brutally honest confessions (she wrestles with alcohol and self-abuse) and insights into Japanese culture make for a compulsively readable narrative.

The journey can be gut-wrenching, but readers will finish the story with a sense of having contributed to Jacobson's recovery. Her epilogue describes how the writing process ultimately provided the perspective she needed to finally seek help. "I never want to have to write a book like this again," she declares. It's a powerful statement that rings with the hard-won understanding of a survivor.

BRETT HOOTON, BA'02, MA'05

### THE SEXUAL PARADOX: EXTREME MEN, GIFTED WOMEN AND THE REAL GENDER GAP

by Susan Pinker, BA'79, published by  
Random House Canada



According to *Globe and Mail* columnist and developmental psychologist Susan Pinker, she had already started writing *The*

*Sexual Paradox* when former Harvard

University president Lawrence Summers issued his controversial remarks about the gender gap in university science departments in 2005. Men are more variable than women in terms of intelligence, Summers mused, with more men at both the high end of the spectrum (physicists and mathematicians, presumably) and the lower end.

Though Summers was forced out amid the ensuing outcry, Pinker argues that current neuroscience research into gender asymmetry is generating many interesting and vital questions that pose a challenge to the notion that "female is just a slightly different shade of male." Are women really the fragile sex, when more men are diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorders? Why do boys with learning disabilities often become men with impressive careers, while girls who lead their classes become women who opt out of promotions and the upper echelons of their specialties? And, most importantly, will this situation ever change?

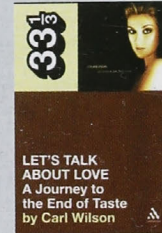
It's prickly terrain, but Pinker writes with the same abundance of self-assurance as her famous brother, neuropsychologist Steven Pinker, BA'76, PhD'99, making *The Sexual Paradox* a popular science page-turner. Largely it argues the case for biological determinism (while not discounting the role played by discrimination) and Pinker does a more balanced job than many "difference" feminists on this important subject.

People who agree with her will find plenty of interesting new research to support their theories. People who don't will find her research selective, sometimes outdated, and occasionally sloppy. One wishes, often, that Pinker wasn't so quick to jump in with conclusions, and more willing to step back and give these questions more time to remain open. Still, if nothing else, *The Sexual Paradox* is a valuable primer for arguments we will all no doubt be having for some time.

JULIET WATERS

### LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE: A JOURNEY TO THE END OF TASTE

by Carl Wilson, BA'89, published by  
Continuum Press



For the last few years, Continuum Press has released a series of books by noted rock critics, each dissecting the merits of such seminal albums as the Beach Boys'

*Pet Sounds* and Radiohead's *OK Computer*.

*The Globe and Mail's* Carl Wilson takes a different tack. A very different tack.

He selects Céline Dion's critically reviled *Let's Talk About Love* and not because he's a closet Dion fanatic. At one point, as he listens to the album again and again in his thin-walled apartment, he admits he's far less troubled by the fact that his neighbours probably hear him when he has sex than he is by the notion that they might now think he's bewitched by "My Heart Will Go On."

While the book is peppered with interesting observations about Céline, her career and how she got to be who she is, Wilson is actually tackling a much bigger subject: What makes something good? Or, more to the point, how do critics determine what is good and what is bad? And why are their tastes so frequently at odds with the millions of people who like to buy Céline Dion albums?

As Wilson points out, novelist Milan Kundera thundered against the sort of sentimental material that Dion regularly produces as being the worst sort of kitsch, the kind that closes its eyes to what is "essentially unacceptable in human existence." What then about music that insists on immersing itself in bleak themes (the music that critics tend to like), music that largely ignores some of the world's happier aspects? Is it really any more representative of what people experience?

Wilson references everyone from French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu to German philosopher Immanuel Kant as he ponders these questions. The resulting book is incisive and hugely entertaining.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



### Western Chic

Last fall, the MAA of Southern Alberta hosted a sophisticated soiree at the stylish Axis Contemporary Gallery. Surrounded by the paintings of Calgary artist Chris Bowman, alumni like Vanessa D'Souza, BSc(PT)'98 (left) and Natalya Nicholson, BSc'99, learned how to pair wine and cheese like master sommeliers.



### Intrepid Alumni

Adventurous McGill grads followed in the footsteps of Scott and Shackleton on an exciting trip to Antarctica in February. Trip host Tina Hobday, BA'88, BCL'93, LLB'93, and her husband Robert Campbell led the group ashore, where they enjoyed spectacular views of the White Continent's rugged coastline.



### Leading Ladies

On February 4, the Women's Alumnae Association held its annual scholarship reception at Martlet House. Established in 1932, the group's Scholarship Fund now awards more than \$70,000 per year to deserving female students from all disciplines.



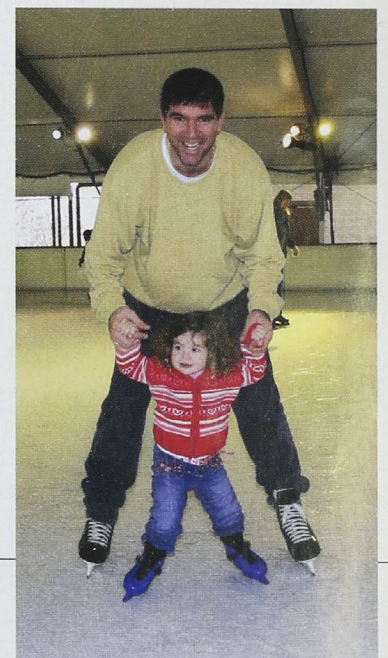
Principal Munroe-Blum (right) chats with recent grads Ciara Louise McKeown, BA'03 (left) and Sarah Jane Kennedy, BA'04.

### A New York State of Mind

McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum wowed more than 200 graduates and friends at a special New York branch reception on November 1. Over the next 18 months, the principal will be visiting branches around the world as part of the "Making History" Tour in support of Campaign McGill.



Anne Hughes, BA'45 (left) and Therese Schireson catch up on all things McGill.



### Atlantans on Ice

Eric Issa, MBA'98, introduces daughter Leandra to a great Canadian tradition—the skating party. The MAA of Georgia event drew alumni and their families to Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park on December 8 in distinctly un-Canadian temperatures of 65 degrees Fahrenheit.





## Giving it a Whirl

Andres Friedman, BCom'03, and Stephanie Otou, BCL/LLB'07, channelled their inner Shakira at a Montreal Young Alumni Salsa Night. More than a dozen MYA members gathered at a local restaurant for some spicy Mexican food, before heading to a club for even spicier dancing.



## Big Hearts in Beantown

Boston-area alumni kicked off 2008 by giving back to their community. On January 12, grads and their families dedicated an afternoon to volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank. The annual event has become a highlight of the branch's activities calendar.

Left to right: Scott Callas, Jeff Callas, BA'83, Debbie Levy, BA'89, Joshua Lakin, BCom'94, Tariq Ghayur, PhD'87, Virga Mohsini, MEd'81, BSW'86, MSW'88, Lindsay Cook, BA'75, Christine Zanella, BSc'89, Marie-Pasquale Morissette and David Roberge.

## Tackling Toronto

Proud supporters of McGill football huddled in Toronto on February 29 to meet the University's new director of athletics Drew Love and Redmen head coach Sonny Wolfe, BEd'76.



Left to right: Don Charter, BA'78, LLB'81; Lou Ampas, BScArch'85, BArch'86, Sonny Wolfe, Victor Pywowarczuk, BSc'79, MBA'81 and Paul Bernard, BEng'87

## Southern Hospitality

Dr. Richard I. Levin, Dean of Medicine and Vice-Principal, Health Affairs, (centre, with glasses) visited Emory University in Atlanta in November, where he offered Georgia grads his personal diagnosis of the state of medical education at McGill (very healthy).



EDDIE CHOW, BSc(Arch)'91, BArch'93

## Hurry! Hurry Hard!

Ottawa Young Alumni Spyridoula Tsoukalas, BA'91, (left) and Melanie Vanstone, BA'98, got an introduction to curling then swept away the afternoon at a local club. They learned the basics of the game—how to throw stones and holler like a pro.



# Coming Events

**May 5, Vancouver:** McGill on the Move featuring "Fear and the Mind: How Memories are Acquired, Stored and Recalled," a presentation by Karim Nader, associate professor of psychology. Players' Lounge, Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club, 1630 West 15th Avenue. Registration fee of \$15. 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Contact: Katie Price at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

**May 7, Ottawa:** Wicked Wednesday Pub Night (Ottawa Young Alumni). The Standard Luxury Tavern, 360 Elgin Street. Cost: Whatever you order in food/drink. 6 pm - 9 pm. No RSVP necessary. Contact: ottawayoung.alumni@mcgill.ca.

**May 8, Toronto:** Annual General Meeting with Chancellor Richard Pound. Toronto Lawn and Tennis Club, 44 Price Street. Registration fee of \$20. 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Contact: Toronto Alumni Branch at 416-703-9795 ext. 221 or toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca.

**May 14, Vienna:** Canadian Stammtisch. Come join fellow Canadians and Canadianophiles in a congenial atmosphere. Heurigen 10er Marie, Ottakringer Str. 222-224, 1160 Vienna. Cost: Whatever you order in food/drink. 6:30 pm - 10 pm. Contact: Event Registrar at canadians.in.vienna@gmail.com.

**May 18, San Francisco:** San Francisco Walking Tour: Presidio and the 1906 Earthquake. Presidio Officers Club, 50 Moraga Avenue. 1 pm - 2:30 pm. \$14 U.S. or \$15.50 U.S. (Paypal).

Contact Rié Shigematsu Collett at rie@mcgillnorcal.com.

**May 21, Montreal:** McGill Alumni Association Annual General Meeting and Honours & Awards Banquet. Join us as we review the year that was and honour graduates and friends for their exceptional service to the University. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel Street. 5:30 pm - Annual General Meeting. 6 pm - Cocktails. 7 pm - Banquet and Awards Presentations. \$55 (\$35 for students). Contact Jackie Fee at 514-398-3553 or jackie.fee@mcgill.ca.

**May 31, Ottawa:** Diefenbunker Tour. Come tour one of Canada's National Historic Sites, an underground nuclear bunker built in secrecy during the height of the Cold War! 3911 Carp Road. Registration fee of \$15. 1 pm - 5 pm. Contact: Melanie Vanstone at melanievanstone@yahoo.ca.

**June 4, Ottawa:** Wicked Wednesday Pub Night (Ottawa Young Alumni). The Standard Luxury Tavern, 360 Elgin Street. Cost: Whatever you order in food/drink. 6 pm - 9 pm. No RSVP necessary. Contact: ottawayoung.alumni@mcgill.ca.

**June 6, Toronto:** Leacock Luncheon featuring George Bowser from the musical comedy duo Bowser and Blue, and moderator Derek Drummond. Concert Hall, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West. \$50 per person, \$500 for a table of 10. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Contact: Toronto Alumni Branch at 416-703-9795 ext. 211 or toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca.

**June 10, Boston:** Making History Tour. Meet Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and learn how McGill continues to make history in virtually every field of human endeavour. McGill neuroscientist Daniel Levitin will discuss his best-seller, *This is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*. Institute for

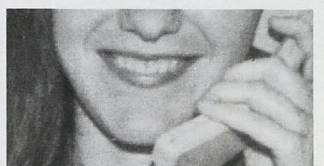
Contemporary Art, 100 Northern Avenue. 6:30 pm - 9 pm. Limit of three tickets per registration. Contact Katie Price at 1-800-567-5175 (extension 7684) or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

**June 11, Vienna:** Canadian Stammtisch. Come join fellow Canadians and Canadianophiles in a congenial atmosphere. Heurigen 10er Marie, Ottakringer Str. 222-224, 1160 Vienna. Cost: Whatever you order in food/drink. 6:30 pm - 10 pm. Contact: Event Registrar at canadians.in.vienna@gmail.com.

**June 13, Calgary:** McGill on the Move featuring "The Ageless Office: Bridging the Generation Gap in Business" presented by Suzanne Gagnon, faculty lecturer with the Desautels Faculty of Management. Bennett Jones, 4500 Bankers Hall East, 45th floor, 855-2nd Street SW. Registration fee of \$10. 11:45 am - 1:30 pm. Contact: Katie Price at 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

**June 13, Boston:** Night at the Boston Pops. Join McGill alumni and friends as the Boston Pops perform Steven Sondheim's Tony Award-winning masterpiece, "A Little Night Music." Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue. Prices vary. 8 pm - 10 pm. Contact: Boston Alumni Branch at boston.alumni@mcgill.ca.

**June 16, Toronto:** Making History Tour. Join Principal Heather Munroe-Blum at a special reception and learn how McGill continues to make history in virtually every field of human endeavour. Canadian Broadcasting Centre, main floor, 250 Front Street West. 6 pm - 8 pm. Contact: Katie Price at 1-800-567-5175 (extension 7684) or event.registration@mcgill.ca.



This spring over 200 alumni and student volunteers gave of their time to help make the fourth Regional Thankathon in Montreal and Toronto a success. Just over 6,000 McGill graduates received a personal thank you from a McGill volunteer — and the response was extremely positive. We applaud their generosity and the encouragement of our sponsors:

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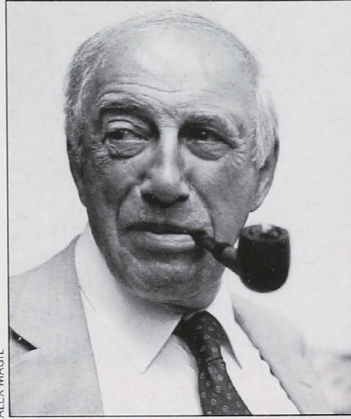
## AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

JAMIL MUSTAFA, BSc(Agr)'73, MSc'78, is the Head of the Science Department at A'Takamul International School in Kuwait.

## ARCHITECTURE

BLANCHE LEMCO VAN GINKEL, BArch'45, is an architect, planner and educator who served as dean of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Architecture from 1977 to 1982—the first woman to be dean of a Canadian architectural school. Together with her husband, Sandy van Ginkel, she co-founded van Ginkel Associates in 1957, an architectural and planning firm that, among other things, helped with the initial planning of Expo '67. To honour the career contributions of the van Ginkels, Diamante Development Corporation recently created a fellowship to support the work of graduate students at the University of Toronto in their honour—the Blanche and Sandy Van Ginkel Graduate Fellowship in Municipal Finance and Governance.

RON PROULX, BSc(Arch)'85, BArch'86, DipMgt'99, was appointed as McGill's Executive Director of Facilities Operation and Development. He will play a key role in maintaining and enhancing McGill's extensive physical infrastructure and real estate. More specifically, Ron will be responsible for planning, designing and directing McGill's construction and renovation projects, repairs and general maintenance, and mechanical and electrical services. Ron has more than 21 years experience in project management, real estate and facilities management, and has held positions



**LOUIS B. MAGIL, BArch'36**, is the founder of Magil Construction Ltd, a Montreal construction company whose projects have included the Bell Centre, Place Montréal Trust and Tour McGill College. Louis, who turned 100 on February 21, established the Louis B. Magil Scholarship in Affordable Homes, awarded annually by McGill's School of Architecture to outstanding graduate students, with preference given to students interested in issues related to housing. When Louis began his company in 1953, Magil Construction specialized in residential construction. It has since expanded into major commercial, industrial and institutional construction projects.

at the Montreal General Hospital, the Montreal Children's Hospital, Concordia University and the Business Development Bank of Canada.

## ARTS

**DOUGLAS G. LOCHHEAD, BA'43, BLS'51**, published a new book of poetry in spring 2008. *Love on the Marsh* is a companion to his previous book, *High Marsh Road*, which was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry in 1996 and received the Carlo Betocchi Poetry Prize. A video clip of Douglas reading from *Love on the Marsh* is available on the publisher's website at [www.sybertooth.ca](http://www.sybertooth.ca).

**CONSTANCE R. (LEPOFSKY) GLUBE, BA'52**, was appointed to the Advisory Board for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The board will advise the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the planning for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the content of the museum and the suitability of the building design. Constance is a retired Chief Justice of Nova Scotia (Court of Appeal).

**DAVID GRIER, BA'53**, retired from the Royal Bank of Canada and the Royal Bank of Canada Charitable Foundation in 1995, and now lives in Toronto with his second wife, **ANNETTE HEBB, MSW'66**. David's first wife, **DEENA STERN, BA'54**, died in Montreal in 2003. He has three grown children. David was recently awarded the Philip A. Novikoff Award by the Canadian Public Relations Society, of which he is a Life Member.

**CORINNE COPNICK, BA'56, MA'75**, is celebrating the launch of her new book, *Cryo Kid: Drawing a New Map*. *Cryo Kid* discusses the future possibilities in assisted reproductive technologies while exploring some of the transformations in families that have occurred during Corinne's lifetime. Based in part on her own family's experiences, *Cryo Kid* is intended to be educational, positive and eye-opening. An author and performer, Corinne's career has spanned radio, television, film and stage. In 1992, she was awarded the Canadian Commemorative Medal. She now lives in Los Angeles near her children and grandchildren.

**LEONARD ROSMARIN, BA'59, MA'60**, is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of



**MANON ASSELIN, BSc(Arch)'90, BArch'92, MArch'01**, and **KATSUHIRO YAMAZAKI, BSc(Arch)'94, BArch'96**, have won the Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture from the Canada Council for the Arts. The prize, valued at \$50,000, is awarded annually to architects or firms that have demonstrated exceptional artistic potential after the completion of their first buildings. Founded in Montreal in 1997 by Manon and Katsuhiko, atelier TAG has received five prestigious awards for its projects in recent years, including two Governor General's Medals in Architecture. The firm has won accolades for the subtle integration of avant-garde architectural concepts, historical heritage and the natural environment in its projects.



**JUDITH WOODSWORTH, BA'68, PHD'77**, was appointed as the new President of Concordia University in Montreal. Judith will be leaving the presidency of Ontario's Laurentian University, a position she has held since 2002. Previously, she served for five years as the vice-president (academic) at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. No stranger to Concordia, Judith spent 17 years at the university in the Département d'Études françaises, including two terms as vice-dean in the Faculty of Arts and Science. She was the founding president of the Canadian Association of Translation Studies, and received the Ordre de la Pléiade, established by the Francophonie, to acknowledge service to the French language and culture.

Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. Since retiring, Leonard has published two books: *Liliane Atlan, ou la quête de la forme divine* (Toronto and Paris: Les Éditions du GREF and L'Harmattan) and *The Red Seas* (Toronto: Les Éditions du GREF). The latter book is his translation of Liliane Atlan's greatest play, *Les Mers Rouges*. It was mounted at Toronto's Fringe Festival two summers ago and will be turned into a film for television in the near future. Leonard also organized an opera excursion to Northern Italy this year under the auspices of the EduTravel Department of Brock University, and will lead a similar trip to Paris in 2009.

**MARTIN RUDNER, BA'63, MA'65**, has retired from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. During his most recent years at Carleton, he served as founding Director of the Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies. Upon his retirement, Carleton awarded him the status of Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Research Professor.

**ELAINE KALMAN NAVES, BA'67**, is an award-winning author. Her latest book, *Robert Weaver: Godfather of Canadian Literature*, pays tribute to radio producer, editor, talent scout and anthologist Robert Weaver, who helped nurture three generations of writers over the course of half a century. Among the writers in Weaver's debt were Alice Munro, Mordecai Richler, Timothy Findley and Leonard Cohen.

**BARBARA SCHIPS MILLER, BA'68, PhD'73**, recently retired after 35 years of serving the Concord and Concord-Carlisle school systems as a psychologist. Widely respected for her dedication and talent, Barbara was named the Massachusetts

School Psychologist of the Year in 2003. To honour Barbara for her many years of devotion to the students she worked with and their families, her husband Murray, her daughters Bridget and Amy, and her son-in-law Jimmy created the Barbara Schips Miller Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will be awarded each year to a graduating Concord-Carlisle High School senior who has demonstrated academic ability and who has a strong interest in pursuing studies in psychology or in a related area of science.

**ROBERT LANTOS, BA'70, DLitt'00**, has created two companies to promote and distribute feature films. Maximum Films International will acquire, promote and sell independent films from around the world. Its roster so far includes Jeremy Podeswa's *Fugitive Pieces*, which was the opening night film at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival. Maximum Film Distribution will acquire Canadian rights to films and distribute them in both English and French. It has already signed up *Fugitive Pieces*, as well as the Cannes Festival favourite *Jelly Fish* and Kenneth Branagh's *The Magic Flute*.

**LINDA LEITH, BA'70**, has published her third novel, *The Desert Lake* (Signature

Editions, 2007), which follows a delegation of Canadians to the oasis of Dunhuang in northwestern China. Her earlier novels are *Birds of Passage* and *The Tragedy Queen*. The latter was translated into French by Agnès Guitard as *Un Amour de Salomé*, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Translation in 2003. Founder of the Blue Metropolis Foundation and artistic director of the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival, Linda is an adjunct professor of English at Concordia University.

**ROBERT G. LOWE, BA'71**, is currently a morning show host and programming consultant to Rawlco Radio in Edmonton. Robert anchors the morning show on Magic FM. Robert is also a voice imaging artist, offering his services through his company, Rob Christie Productions, Ltd. Robert has come a long way since his days at Radio McGill, a time he remembers fondly.

**SHARIA. STEIN, BA'72**, was reappointed to a four-year term and named Assistant Deputy Chairperson of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB). Prior to her appointment to the IRB, Shari worked as a legal counsel in the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario, as a lawyer with the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped and as a human rights consultant. The IRB is an independent administration tribunal that reports to Parliament through the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The IRB determines refugee protection claims made in Canada, hears immigration appeals, and conducts admissibility hearings and detention reviews.

**LIDIA A. WOLANSKYJ, BA'74**, founded and ran Ukraine's first business and investment weekly, *Eastern Economist*. Her company also published a daily newswire, *EE Daily*, and three editions of *Dining Out in Kyiv*, a bilingual guide to Kyiv restaurants. Since



**STEPHANIE MORGENSTERN, BA'88**, has worked extensively as an actress on stage, film and television in both English and French. She has appeared in such films as *The Sweet Hereafter*, *Maelstrom* and the National Film Board's *Forbidden Love*. Stephanie also directed two Genie Award-nominated short films, *Curtains* and *Remembrance*. She is the co-creator of a new television series, *Flashpoint*, which will air this fall on CTV. The series, a drama about an elite police force known as the Strategic Response Unit (SRU), stars Enrico Colantoni (*Veronica Mars*) and Hugh Dillon (*Durham County*). *Flashpoint* has been picked up by CBS for broadcast in the U.S.

Ingrid,

selling her business, she has been working as a publishing consultant, designing and producing books for the United Nations and other organizations. She is currently the English editor at the International Centre for Policy Studies, one of Ukraine's top policy think-tanks. She lives in a small village in the Carpathian Mountains with two cats. Her latest project involves bringing together a group of local women with whom she makes and sells hand-made dolls in authentic Hutsul costumes.



UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

**SOREL FRIEDMAN, MA'82, PHD'86**, a Language Instructor at the Université de Montréal, has received one of Canada's most prestigious teaching awards, a 3M National Teaching Fellowship. Sorel, who teaches English as a second language and American culture, has coordinated English language courses at the U de M's Faculty of Arts and Sciences since 1991. In recent years, she has actively experimented with online teaching tools such as blogs and podcasts.

**BETH KEMPLER PFANNL, BA'76**, has been the Head of School for the American Overseas School of Rome since 2006. Prior to joining AOSR as PreK-12 Principal in 2003, Beth was a teacher and administrator for 13 years at the American School of Asunción in Paraguay, and a professor of American Literature and Social Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de Asunción. She earned her doctorate from the Université de Paris-Sorbonne Nouvelle and holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Administration from Rhode Island College. In 2003, she received a National Distinguished Principal Award from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

**ROSEMARY SULLIVAN, MA'80**, continues to live and work in the village of Pigeon Hill in Quebec, overlooking the foothills of Vermont, where she keeps chickens, grows food and does creative work with photographs and fabric. Rosemary published a photography/oral history book, *Nevis as We See Her: Going to come back*, in 2006 about her winter home on Nevis in the Caribbean, which keeps her healthy and happy. Rosemary is completing her second book, *Nevis as We See Her: We goin' good*, and is already preparing for the third book. Rosemary is collecting digital cameras for the children she works with to teach them how to collect stories and create books.

**DAVID WINCH, BA'80**, a human rights editor at UN Geneva, led a recent mission to Ethiopia for *UN Special* magazine ([www.unspecial.org](http://www.unspecial.org)) to cover the country's millennium. His son Nicholas, 17, entered McGill (Management) in September, made the Redbirds baseball team and got a hit in his first at-bat. Proud dad can be reached at [dwinch2001@yahoo.fr](mailto:dwinch2001@yahoo.fr).

**EUGÈNE ABARRATEGUI, B.A. 1981**, membre du Barreau du Québec (1993), vient de publier *Règlement sur certaines conditions de travail applicables aux cadres des agences et des établissements de santé et de services sociaux annoté*. Cet ouvrage de droit du travail est

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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





DAVE SIDAWAY / MONTREAL GAZETTE

**MURIEL GOLD, MA'72**, is a theatre educator, producer/director, author and the former artistic director of the Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre. Her new book, *A Gift for Their Mother: The Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre. A History*, was recently published by MIRI Productions. Muriel was a pioneer in introducing French-Canadian plays to anglophone audiences. During her time at the Saidye, Muriel welcomed Dora Wasserman's Yiddish theatre as a resident company. She has given workshops and lectures in Canada and the U.S. on Fictional Family technique, a role-play method she developed that fosters both acting skills and personal development. In recognition of her achievements in theatre and drama, she was recently appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.

une revue complète de la jurisprudence applicable aux cadres du réseau de la santé.

**ANNETTE HAYWARD, PhD'81**, teaches in the French Studies department at Queen's University, focusing on Quebec and French-Canadian literature. Annette was awarded the 2007 Governor General's Literary Award for French Non-Fiction for her book *La querelle du régionalisme au Québec (1904-1931): Vers l'autonomisation de la littérature québécoise*. The book stems from the doctoral thesis she wrote for her PhD in French language and literature from McGill. She is currently doing research on

the Anglo-Canadian critical reception of Quebec literature.

**VALERIE LYNN HANNA, BA'83**, has joined the Hernandez Law Group in Pasadena, California. Valerie is a licensed attorney in Ontario and California, as well as a professional actor. Valerie appeared in an episode of the fifth season of *Nip/Tuck*.

**ELANA NANCY ROSE, BA'83**, was appointed to a three-year term to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Prior to her appointment, she was working at the East Toronto Community Legal Services Inc, first as a general practitioner and then as an immigration and disability appeal lawyer.

**NICK RUMIN, BA'84**, is the Founder and Principal of Rumin Search Consulting - Attorney Placements Worldwide, with offices in New York City and Princeton, N.J. Nick lives in Princeton with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Katie.

**MARTEN BERKMAN, BA'86**, moved from the Plateau to the Yukon in 1990, where he raises his family and works as a cinematographer, photographer and visual artist. Among his works are *Chasms of Silence*, a limited edition book featuring a portfolio of High Arctic black and white photographs, with a foreword by Anne Michaels, and *Three Rivers*, a documentary chronicling the journeys, and interpretations, of eight artists in the Yukon's Peel River watershed. One of his current projects is *Remote Sensibility*. Endorsed by the International Polar Year, *Remote Sensibility* explores various media, including stereoscopy, to provide a qualitative window on the Earth's remote arctic environments. The relationship between urban and industrial culture and the Earth's remote environments are the themes of Marten's work.

**JEFFREY LENKOV, BA'87**, is a Los Angeles-

based lawyer and a partner in the law firm Manning & Marder, Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez LLP. He recently received an Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Law at Northern Illinois University, where he earned his Juris Doctorate in 1991. In 2005, Jeffrey founded a program with the Southern California Big Brothers and Big Sisters, called "Littles in Law," in which minority disadvantaged teenagers are paired with lawyer-mentors who introduce them to the practice of law. The teens visit law firms, courthouses and legal departments, before participating in a mock trial. Jeffrey often handles cases in both state and federal courts and his clients have included several professional sports franchises, including the Los Angeles Lakers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

**JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRUNET, PhD'87**, is now a Professor of Linguistics at Kuwait University.

**JANICE DENONCOURT, BA'88**, is now a Senior Lecturer in Law and the Acting Director of the LLM Programme at Buckingham University. She recently published *Q&A Intellectual Property Law 2007/2008* with Routledge Cavendish. Before relocating to the U.K. in 2002 to take up a British Council Chevening Scholarship, she was practising law in Western Australia for several years. Janice currently lives in the village of Edmondthorpe, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, with her eight-year-old son, Alex.

**STEPHEN F. DEXTER, BA'88**, was selected as the Assistant Principal of the Year by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association for 2008. The program annually recognizes secondary school leaders who demonstrate exemplary skills in educational leadership. Stephen has been an educator for more than 12 years



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and has been the assistant principal of Westwood High since 2005. Stephen is also a candidate for national honours from the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

**RON BODKIN**, BSc'91, was named Chief Software Architect of the Quantcast Corporation. Ron is now responsible for optimizing Quantcast's advanced data processing and real-time software operations. Ron led the initial implementation projects and training for the AspectJ group at Xerox PARC. He was also a founder and the CTO of C-bridge, an enterprise application consultancy that grew to 900 people and held a successful IPO.

**BENJAMIN DOLIN**, BA'91, was appointed to a three-year term to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB). Before joining the IRB, Benjamin served as legal counsel with the Department of Justice. He has also worked as an analyst for the Parliament of Canada and as a legal advisor with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

**ADRIANA KUGLER**, BA'91, was the 2007 recipient of the John T. Dunlop Outstanding Scholar Award from the Labour and Employment Relations Association (LERA), a prize that recognizes outstanding academic contributions to research in the labour field. Adriana is now a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Houston. Adriana's teaching and research has been focused on labour markets, economic development and immigration. Adriana is married to **IGNACIO DONOSO**, BCL'93, LLB'93, and they have two children, Daniel and Mireille.

**NADIR AHMAD**, BA'93, is currently doing his head and neck oncologic and microvascular reconstructive surgery fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Nadir completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, in June 2007. Nadir is married to Sophia Seher Khan and their first child, Mustafa, was born on June 20, 2007.

**COLLEEN GRAY**, MA'93, PhD'04, is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Colleen recently published *The Congrégation de Notre-Dame, Superiors, and the Paradox of Power, 1693-1796* with McGill-Queen's University Press. The book offers a nuanced view of religious life through a formative study of a religious

community of uncloistered women that was established in Montreal in 1657.

**TRISTAN JAMES MABRY**, BA'93, is now a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Tristan specializes in the comparative politics of Asia, focusing on questions of identity: religious, ethnic and linguistic. Academia represents Tristan's second career. As a journalist, Tristan was a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal* and a producer for CNN.

**PATRICIA FOXEN**, MA'94, PhD'02, has written a book, *In Search of Providence: Transnational Mayan Identities*, published by Vanderbilt University Press. Traveling back and forth between the Guatemalan highlands and Providence, Rhode Island, Patricia followed the migration paths of a community of K'iche' Indians and her book describes the continuous movement of people, money, symbols and ideas between the two locations. Patricia is a Research Associate at the Toronto General Hospital's Women's Health Program, and is cross-appointed at the University of Toronto's Anthropology Department.

**GUY BOUCHER**, BA'95, BSc(AgrEng)'96, was named to the coaching staff of the

Canadian national hockey team that competed at the Under-18 Ivan Hlinka memorial hockey tournament in the Czech Republic and Slovakia in August 2007. Guy is also the head coach of the Drummondville Voltigeurs in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Guy played for the McGill Redmen from 1991 to 1995, serving as team captain and earning conference all-star honours in his final season.

**HEATHER SANSOM**, BA'96, MA'99, had two stories published in books that were printed in the fall: *Horse Tales for the Soul, Volume 6* and *Volume 7*. These books provide heartwarming stories for horse-lovers, closely resembling the "Chicken Soup" series.

**JACQUES KHALIP**, BA'97, MA'98, accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Brown University. Jacques was previously an assistant professor in the Department of English at McMaster University.

**RENÉE LEURY**, BA'99, lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband, Matt, her three-year-old son, Max, and her newborn daughter, Anne-Sophie. Renée received an MA in teaching and teaches elementary school. The family enjoys exploring the Great Northwest and welcomes you anytime!



TODD KRANIN

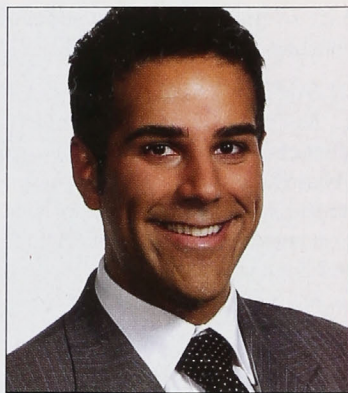
**TODD KRANIN**, BA'95, was invited to exhibit his series of 33 photographs of the Nepalese Civil War at the Angkor Photography Festival last November in Siam Reap, Cambodia. Select photographs from this series had previously won the 2007 Prix de la Photographie Paris. Todd was a photojournalist for *The Kathmandu Post* prior to his current job as Chief Photographer for *The Imperial Valley Press* in El Centro, California. His photographs can be seen at [www.toddkrainin.com](http://www.toddkrainin.com). "The Peacemaker" (seen above) was one of the photos by Todd that appeared at the Angkor Festival.

**JERONIMO DE MIGUEL, BA'00**, is leaving Investor Relations and getting ready for his next move at Manulife Financial / John Hancock. As a member of the Accelerated Career Track Program, Jeronimo is considering options in Product Development and Marketing in Asia, Canada and the U.S. He recently returned from Mendoza, Argentina—his homeland—and encourages everyone to stop by his family's restaurant and wine business in Toronto's Little Italy district for a taste of organic Cabernets and Malbecs from the region. For more information visit [www.olivi-asat53.com](http://www.olivi-asat53.com).

**KENT GLOWINSKI, BA'00**, a lawyer based in Ottawa, has published a new book of poetry, *Narcissistic Personality Disorder*, which presents "the story of a relationship gone horribly wrong" and examines "the wreckage we leave behind when love implodes." For more information, visit [www.narcissism.ca](http://www.narcissism.ca).

**MELISSA MARTIN, BA'01**, is doing a PhD in psychology at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Melissa launched a new website on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD): [www.trauma-ptsd.com](http://www.trauma-ptsd.com). The website promotes research in traumatic stress by providing a forum where young and more advanced professionals from around the world can work together and share knowledge about trauma issues. Students, researchers and clinicians interested in PTSD can become registered members of the website and have access to restricted and secured sections. Melissa invites people to take part in this new international network.

**STÉPHANE-D PERREAULT, PhD'03**, has landed a permanent position as History



**OMAR SACHEDINA, BA'04**, is the Western News Anchor for *Canada AM*, a national morning show that airs on CTV. Previously, Omar was a reporter and anchor for Citytv in Toronto. He has also worked for CTV News in Northern Ontario and for CNN International in London, England. Born and raised in an Ismaili Muslim household in Vancouver, Omar speaks Kutchi, Gujarati and French. Omar recently traveled to Uganda on a PBS Frontline/World fellowship to produce a web documentary about the return of Indian Ugandans to the country following Uganda's 1972 Asian Expulsion.

Instructor at Red Deer College in Alberta. Stéphane spent three years working as a sessional lecturer at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. Stéphane enjoys the challenge of using his PhD in history and his training in group leadership to inspire young undergraduates in the college's university transfer program.

**IAN WARD, BA'03**, is completing his PhD in political theory at Princeton University. In 2008, he will be joining the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland as an Assistant Professor. He is currently working on a book manuscript based on his doctoral dissertation, entitled *Democracy After Secularism*.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

**RHONDA MULLINS, CertTranslatn'05**, a freelance writer and translator working in Montreal, was nominated for a 2007 Governor General's Literary Award for Translation (French to English) for her work on *The Decline of the Hollywood Empire* published by Talonbooks.

### DENTISTRY

**ROBERT B. J. DORION, DDS'72**, was appointed a Fellow of the American College of Dentists on September 27, 2007, at the College's annual convention, held last year in San Francisco. The American College of Dentists is the oldest national honorary organization for dentists whose members have exemplified excellence through outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to dentistry and society. Robert is best known for his innovations and development in the field of forensic dentistry. He created the first online forensic dentistry course at McGill and published the first textbook on bitemark evidence.

**DAVID HIRSCH, BSc'88, DDS'93**, recently became a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. Founded in 1929, the ABO is the only orthodontic specialty board recognized by the American Dental Association and sponsored by the American Association of Orthodontists. David is a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada as well as a past examiner. He has been in practice for the last 10 years, with offices in Forest Hill, East York and Aurora, Ontario. For the last decade, David has been a Lecturer and Clinic Demonstrator at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry in the Department of Undergraduate Orthodontics. David is a published author and nature photographer, with his photos appearing in both local and international publications. He is married to RACQUEL SPIVAK, BSc(PT)'93, and they have three daughters.

### EDUCATION

**NORMA PATON GIBSON, BEd'77**, was selected as the Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008 by the



UNICEF QUÉBEC

**LILI-ANNA PERESA, DipMgmt'97**, is the new Executive Director of UNICEF Québec. After graduating from the École Polytechnique with an engineering degree in 1987, she worked for several years at Bell Canada before beginning a new career in international humanitarian work. She taught science to pre-university students in Malawi, helped run an ambulance service in Burkina Faso and established a mobile gynecological-pediatric clinic in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she served as CARE International's chef de mission. The former executive director of the YWCA in Montreal, Lili-Anna has received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for Canadians who have made exemplary contributions to their communities, as well as Engineers Canada's Meritorious Service Award for Community Service.



Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

**ANNE JEANNET**, BEd'85, a proud member of the Canadian national dragon boat racing team, recently won three gold medals in the senior division at the World Dragon Boat Racing Championships held in Sydney, Australia. Team Canada performed extremely well in all racing divisions and brought home more gold and overall medals than any of the 16 other participating countries. Anne is continuing to enjoy her teaching career at Marianopolis College, which has been incredibly supportive of her endeavours.

**ALYS GEIGER**, BEd'86, recently accepted a position as Executive Director of the Congregation Dorshei Emet, Montreal's Reconstructionist Synagogue. Alys was formerly the assistant director of the Women's Campaign and Women's Federation of the Combined Jewish Appeal, and is looking forward to this new challenge. Alys has worked in the Jewish Community since 2002.

**PETER LEESINSKY**, PhD'92, was appointed as the Principal of Korean International School in Hong Kong in May 2007.

**JANET ELIZABETH SCOTT**, BEd'96, is teaching history and English in an alternative high school in Georgetown, Ontario. Janet married Sean O'Neal in 2003 and has two beautiful daughters, Ryanne (2004) and Paige (2006).

## ENGINEERING

**LEON KATZ**, BEng'50, was recently inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada. The Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement and service in various fields of human endeavour. It is Canada's highest civilian honour for lifetime achievement. Leon was recognized for his contributions in biomedical engineering. His achievements include a range of innovative life-saving inventions and adaptations—among them, the first Canadian heart-lung pump developed out of two strawberry jam pumps, the first fetal monitor, the cardiac pacemaker, and the original servo-controlled automatic scanner and printer (that produced printouts of every cancerous spot on the body).

**GERRY (SAM) MCGEE**, BEng'53, Dip M&BA'59, was a recipient of an Inspiration Award from the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health. Inspiration Awards pay

tribute to individuals who have been motivated by their own personal or professional experiences with mental illness to educate and inspire others while contributing to the de-stigmatization of the disease.

**GERARD KENNEY**, BEng'54, is releasing a new book, *Lake of the Old Uncles*, which will be published by the Dundurn Group in May 2008. The book recounts the events that led the author to build the lone log cabin on the small and inaccessible Lake of the Old Uncles in the Laurentian hills.

**JOSIANE LORANGE**, BEng'93, MEng'96, and Denis Mercier are proud to announce the birth of their son, Julien Mercier-Lorange, who was born on January 5, 2008, in Montreal.

**LAURENCE VIGEANT-LANGLOIS**, BEng'97, recently relocated from Boston to New York, where she joined CIT Group, a Fortune 500 commercial finance company with a strong aerospace group. Laurence previously managed a global product line of aircraft software, avionics and satellite services at WSI Corporation after completing her PhD at MIT. As a Vice President in the Commercial Airlines group, Laurence helps CIT Aerospace acquire new aircraft that are leased to airlines across the globe. Laurence is also involved in commercial development with a variety of transportation companies that need merger and acquisition advising and/or debt financing. Laurence would be pleased to discuss her company's offerings with any interested McGill alumni, and would love to reconnect with old friends. Laurence can be reached at [lvlanglois@gmail.com](mailto:lvlanglois@gmail.com).

**KARINE SAINT-CYR**, MEng'99, and husband, Bernard, are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter, Charlotte, born in Montreal in May 2006. Karine can be reached at [karine.saintcyr@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:karine.saintcyr@mail.mcgill.ca).

**ALEXANDER M. WYGLINSKI**, BEng'99, PhD'05, was welcomed as a tenure-track faculty member at Worcester Polytechnic Institute this fall. Alexander is an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. His research expertise focuses on wireless communications, cognitive radio and software-defined radio. He is an associate technical editor of *IEEE Communications Magazine* and editor of *IEEE Communications Surveys and Tutorials*, as well as a reviewer for numerous other scholarly journals.

**DAVID DROUIN**, B.Eng. 2006, a été récompensé par l'Institut canadien de la construc-

tion en acier lors du Gala des Prix d'excellence 2007 qui s'est déroulé le jeudi 1er novembre. Le Prix lui a été attribué pour son projet concernant le Pavillon Ferdinand-Vandry de l'Université Laval. Grand gagnant dans la catégorie Jeunes architectes/ingénieurs, David a été choisi par le jury pour son souci de la coordination, ses responsabilités techniques et administratives ainsi que la mise en valeur de ses collaborateurs dans le cadre d'un projet institutionnel de grande envergure.



**DAVID BRODEUR**, Cert. langue seconde 1998, vient de publier son 4e roman : *Meurtre au salon du livre*, chez Soulières éditeur. Ce roman, qui s'adresse aux 9-12 ans, est pour les jeunes une initiation au monde de l'écriture et de l'édition. Le récit, plein de rebondissements, de suspense et d'humour, constitue une bonne préparation à une visite du Salon du livre.

## HEALTH SCIENCES

**JAMES H. DAY**, MDCM'59, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Allergy Asthma and Immunology Society of Ontario. This prize is awarded annually in recognition of distinguished work in the specialty of allergy, asthma and immunology in Ontario. James has authored over 150 peer-reviewed publications and has served as the principal author of seven book chapters on the subject of allergies, asthma, indoor air quality and building-related illnesses. His other honours include the Jerry Dolovch Annual Award and the Ontario Medical Association Life Membership Award. In July 2002, an endowed chair in allergic diseases and allergy research was created in his name at Queen's University.

**SEYMOUR BROWNSTEIN**, BSc'61, MDCM'65, was presented with the J. David Grimes Research Career Achievement Award from the Ottawa Health Research Institute in conjunction with the Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa. Seymour also received the Award of Excellence in Ophthalmology from the Canadian Society of Cataract and Refractive

Surgery (CSCRS) at their 14th Annual Meeting in Ottawa, where he delivered the 2007 Stein Lecture on "A Half Century of Advances in Ophthalmic Pathology." Seymour is a Professor of Ophthalmology and Laboratory Medicine (Pathology) and the Les Amis Chair in Vision Research at the University of Ottawa Eye Institute.

**THERESA C. M.CLOUD, MDCM'68**, was named President of the Radiological Society of North America's Board of Directors. Theresa is a pioneer in thoracic radiology and has led the way for innovations in improving radiologic education worldwide. Theresa is currently the associate radiologist-in-chief and director of education for the department of radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Theresa is also a professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School.

**LAURIE GOTTLIEB, BN'69, MSc(A)'74, PhD'85**, is the Flora Madeline Shaw Chair in Nursing at the McGill School of Nursing. She has been selected to receive the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Centennial Award, honouring exceptional Canadian nurses to mark the organization's 100th anniversary in 2008. As part of the celebrations, CNA will present these one-



**STEVE NELSON, MDCM'78**, was chosen to become Dean of Louisiana State University's School of Medicine. Previously he was the director of LSU's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center of Excellence. His major clinical interests include lung immunology, pneumonia, adult cystic fibrosis and sepsis. His research has been continuously funded since 1981 and he has been awarded more than \$30-million in research funding during his career. He has authored or co-authored nearly 200 journal papers, seven books/monographs, 30 book chapters, 15 audio-visual scientific presentations and 199 abstracts.

time CNA Centennial Awards to 100 Canadian nurses to recognize their contributions to nursing in Canada. Recipients of the CNA Centennial Award will receive a medal minted specifically for this occasion and will be honoured at a special reception in Ottawa in November 2008.

**ANNE WIELER, BN'69**, has been made a Member of the Order of Canada. According to a release from the Office of the Governor General, the honour recognizes Wieler's "contributions as a nurse, educator and administrator who worked tirelessly to improve health care in Canada's North and throughout the world."

**ELY GARFINKLE, BSc'71, MDCM'73, DipPsych'81**, has been elected Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst at the Canadian Institute of Psychoanalysis. Ely lives in Ottawa with his wife, Linda Dansky. The eldest two of his four children are currently studying at McGill.

**NICOLE LAUDIGNON, PhD'90**, was appointed Vice President, Clinical Science, at Takeda Global Research & Development Center, Inc., and will lead the organization's gastrointestinal/urology/muscular skeletal portfolio.

**CHANTALE LECLERC, BScN'92**, recently graduated from the Johnson & Johnson-Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Chantale joins 964 other nurse executives from around the world who have received this distinction over the past 25 years. Chantale is currently the Chief Nursing Officer at SCO Health Service, a large academic continuing care centre in Ottawa, Ontario.

**RANA ZEINE, PhD'93**, has been recruited to the University of Chicago, where she continues her research on neuroblastoma. The June 15 issue of *Clinical Cancer Research* featured Rana's most recent paper on the front cover.

## LAW

**JEAN-PAUL HUBERT, BCL'66**, has been appointed by the Government of Canada as Interim President of Rights & Democracy (the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development). Rights & Democracy is a Montreal-based non-partisan organization with an international mandate, created by Canada's Parliament in 1988 to encourage and support the universal values of human rights and the promotion of democratic institutions and practices around the world. Jean-Paul is a retired ambassador and remains President of the Organization of American States' Inter-American Juridical Committee and an Associate Professor at the École de politique appliquée at the Université de Sherbrooke.

**HUBERT DE MESTIER DU BOURG, LLM'70, DCL'74**, retired in April 2008 as the Chief Representative for North East Asia for the Total Group. He was also chairman of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan. Hubert remains in Tokyo, teaching energy economics at both Chuo University and Meijigakuin University.

**MONIQUE CHARLEBOIS, BCL'80, LLB'80**, has served as legal counsel for the Public Guardian and Trustee of Ontario in Toronto since 1994. Before that, Monique spent several years managing legal policy teams and projects for the governments of Canada and Ontario. Monique has two teenagers, one of whom hopes to attend McGill next year.

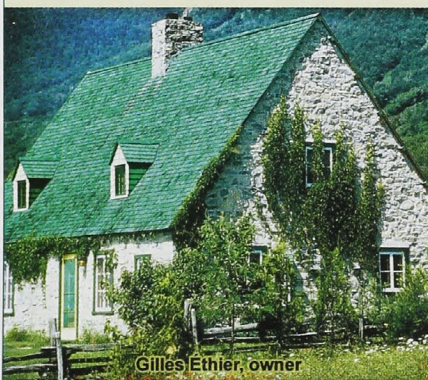
**SEAN MICHAEL KENNEDY, LLB'81**, continues to manage Canada Post's law department in Central and Western Canada as Senior Regional Counsel. Sean graduated in June 2007 with his LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School, with a specialty in business law. He and his wife of 20 years, Kathleen, a senior solicitor with the City of Toronto, live in Oakville with their two girls, Tara and Sina. They sojourn annually in the Caribbean.

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**BERNARD AMYOT**, BCL'82, LLB'83, will assume the presidency of the Canadian Bar Association for 2007-2008. The mission of the CBA is to improve the law and the administration of justice, and to promote access to justice. The CBA represents over 37,000 lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers and law students from across Canada. Bernard has over 20 years of legal experience and is a partner in Heenan Blaikie's litigation group and a member of the firm's executive committee.

**DEMETRIOS (DEMETRI) XISTRIS**, BCL'84, LLB'85, is currently a Managing Director at Soci t  Generale in New York, leading their Equities & Equity Derivatives Legal Team for the Americas. Demetri is the firm's representative on the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's derivatives products committee and he co-chaired the International Swaps and Derivatives Association's fund derivatives definitions project. Demetri has been living in New York for 26 years (with one year in Tokyo) and has two daughters, Sylvia and Effie. He still enjoys skating on Sundays in Pelham with a group of Canadians (including **BRIAN FETHERSTONAGH**, BCom'79) and looks forward to playing more golf with his daughters this summer.

**MARKO PAVLIHA**, DCL'92, is a Professor of Commercial, Transport and Insurance Law at the University of Ljubljana and a Visiting Fellow at the International Maritime Organization's International Maritime Law Institute in Malta. He has served as Minister of Transportation for the Government of Slovenia (2004) and as Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia (2004-2007). Presently, he is President of the Parliamentary Groups of Friendship with Canada and Malta, as well as Head of Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean

Parliamentary Assembly. He was chosen four times by the IUS Software Poll as one of the 10 Most Influential Slovenian Lawyers and won the 2001 Lawyer of the Year Award granted by the Slovenian Federation of Lawyers' Associations. He is author and co-author of 17 books and numerous articles and scientific papers. He is married and has two children.

**MELANIE RAYMOND**, BCL'96, was appointed to a three-year term to the Montreal office of the Immigration and

where he worked across Europe, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. Craig and his family can be reached at [mcshep@post.harvard.edu](mailto:mcshep@post.harvard.edu).

**M LANIE DE SOUZA**, BCL'97, LLB'97, MBA'03, who works as a business lawyer at the Montreal office of Heenan Blaikie, LLP, **BENOIT MOREL**, BCom'90, BCL'94, LLB'94, MBA'99, who works as a business lawyer and partner at the Montreal office of Lavery de Billy, LLP, and Sarah Jade Morel, born in 2005, are all proud to announce the



CLAUDIO CALIGARIS

**PATRICK HEALY**, BCL'81, was recently appointed as a Judge to the Court of Quebec, Criminal and Penal Division, in Montreal. Patrick, a former editor-in-chief of the *McGill Law Journal* during his student days, joined the Faculty of Law's professoriate in 1990. He taught many different subjects, but was best known for his courses on criminal law. Patrick's teaching was also well received by the lay public, as evidenced by his very popular Mini-Law lectures on criminal law. His research work in the area of sentencing is highly regarded by colleagues across the country.

Refugee Board of Canada. Melanie previously worked as the senior editor for the Canadian Bar Association in Ottawa. She has also been a freelance journalist and a lawyer with Nicholl Paskell-Mede and the Department of Justice.

**CRAIG SHEPHERD**, LLB'96, was appointed Executive Director & Associate General Counsel at Amgen Inc. at the company's global headquarters in California, where he has legal responsibility for Amgen's kidney disease business unit, Amgen Canada and Amgen Japan. Craig was previously senior counsel for Amgen based in Switzerland,

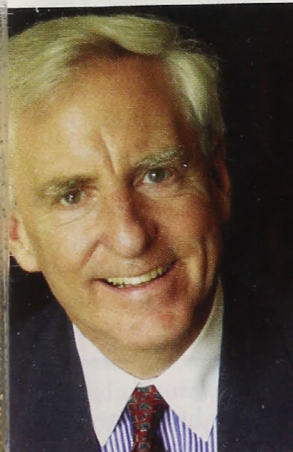
arrival of their newest family member, Emma Rose Morel, born in February 2007.

**DAMION STODOLA**, BA'97, BCL'01, LLB'01, was married to Amanda Christine Hanks on September 29, 2007. Amanda is a dancer with the New York City Ballet. They were married in the Eastern Townships in the town of Hatley, Quebec. The fall foliage was a perfect backdrop to a sunny Saturday afternoon wedding. The reception was held at the Auberge Ripplecove on the southern shores of Lake Massawippi. Some of the guests spent time in Montreal before the wedding and Damion was happy to introduce his American visitors to the city's cuisine, culture and hospitality. Damion also took the opportunity to visit McGill and the Faculty of Law (of course!).

**KERWIN CLARKE**, BA'98, BCL'06, LLB'06, a former captain with the McGill Redmen football team, has been appointed Manager of Results Management at the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency.

## MANAGEMENT

**MORRIS SHORE**, BCom'57, has participated in seven triathlons in the 70-74 age category and has come in first in all seven. The



OWEN EGAN

**STUART (KIP) COBBETT**, BA'69, BCL'72, has been appointed to the position of Vice-Chair of McGill's Board of Governors, for a three-year term. In this role, Stuart will assume the duties of the Chair of the Board in the absence of current Chair **ROBERT RABINOVITCH**, BCom'64. The managing partner (Montreal) and chief operating officer of the Canadian law firm Stikeman Elliott LLP, Stuart has been an active member of the McGill Alumni Association for many years, and served as its president in 2002-2003. His diverse contributions to the University include: Chair of the Board of Visitors for the Faculty of Arts (1994-96); member of the Audit Committee of the Board of Governors; and lecturer in the Faculty of Law (1976-1985).

triathlons were at Mont-Tremblant, Mont Habitant, St-Agathe, Drummondville, Magog, Sherbrook and the Montreal Sprint Triathlon. Most of the triathlons Morris participated in are Olympic distance (1.5km swim, 40km bike and 10km run). Morris completed a qualifying race at Drummondville to become the Quebec representative on the Canadian team that will go to the World Championships to be held next summer in Vancouver, B.C. He works part time as a financial advisor and is divorced with two children, Setana and Michel.

JOHN E. CLEGHORN, BCom'62, received the 2007 Honorary Associate Award from the Conference Board of Canada on November 5, 2007. The prize is the Conference Board's highest honour, awarded annually to a person who has served Canada and his/her organization with distinction over an outstanding career. John is Chairman of the Board of Canadian Pacific Railway and is best known for his long tenure with the Royal Bank of Canada, where he was chairman and chief executive officer when he retired in 2001.

LÉO-PAUL DANA, BA'80, MBA'83, is an Associate Professor of Management at the

University of Canterbury in New Zealand. He is also a Senior Advisor for the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises and the Founding Editor of the *Journal of International Entrepreneurship* and the *Journal of Enterprising Communities*. He recently co-edited the *International Handbook of Research on Indigenous Entrepreneurship*. The book draws together research from leading authorities on entrepreneurship, and provides a comprehensive range of case studies of indigenous peoples from across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the South Pacific.

HOWARD KAMINSKY, BCom'85, recently co-authored a book with his father, Ben Kaminsky, titled *Beyond Botox: Seven Strategies for Sexy, Ageless Skin without Needles or Surgery*. Howard is also the co-founder of B. Kamins, Chemist, a Montreal-based company that offers a range of skin-care products which are available at Sephora.com, Willow Stream Spas at the Fairmont Hotels and at select spas and specialty stores. To visit their website, go to [www.bkamins.com](http://www.bkamins.com).

CHARLES BODWELL, MBA'90, and his wife, Ivanka Mamic, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Petar, weighing in at an impressive 4.4 kgs. Petar joins his three-year-old brother, Tomi, and one-year-old twin brothers, Mat and Nik.

DORA KOOP, MBA'90, was appointed to the board of directors of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA). Dora is currently the Director of Business Solutions at the McGill International Executive Institute in Montreal, as well as a facilitator and coach for companies. CATSA is a federal Crown corporation that operates on a not-for-profit basis. It is responsible for the provision of key air security services such as pre-board screening of passengers; acquisition, deployment and maintenance of explosives detection equipment at airports; and management of federal contributions for airport policing.

ALINE BÉLANGER-LYTZKI, BCom'91, DPA'94, DipTax'97, has been appointed CFO of EnGlobe Corp. (TSX: EG). EnGlobe Corp. is an integrated environmental services company based in Burlington, Ontario, with worldwide operations.

TIMOTHY MATTIMOE, MBA'92, is managing international relief projects in Niger, West Africa, as Deputy Country Director for Samaritan's Purse. He is married to CHRISTINE JACOBSEN, BSc'00.

PATRICK HOUNSELL, BCom'93, has been promoted to the newly created position of Vice President and General Manager of Digital Media and Marketing for Avenue A | Razorfish, one of the largest interactive services firms in the world, based in Chicago. Patrick joined Avenue A | Razorfish eight years ago. His accomplishments include working with some of the office's largest accounts, including Victoria's Secret, JP Morgan Chase and Starwood Hotels.

MAYA PATRIE, BCom'95, is working in Edmonton as a Financial Planner for TD Waterhouse. Maya has two children, ages four and six, and a dog.

ABDELILAH BOUASRIA, BCom'96, published a political science book in English, *Master and Disciple*, about authoritarianism in Morocco, and a second book in Arabic, *mamlakat al Qaht*, which is a collection of short stories à la Bukowski.

LEE COHEN, MBA'98, had the honour of meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, at the British Embassy reception in honour of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness's State visit to the United States last May. Lee is a Member of the Republican Professional Staff of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, for which he handles Western European policy.

ANTHONY PENNIMPEDE, BCom'99, completed a book titled *Finding Your S.M.I.L.E.*, which deals with performance management for people of all ages. *Finding Your S.M.I.L.E.* is intended to be a practical guide for any reader who wishes to identify their objective(s), develop a plan, execute and ultimately reap the rewards of their success. Anthony discusses the sorts of hurdles that might impede progress and offers strategies for dealing with these obstacles. For more information, visit [www.ap3media.com](http://www.ap3media.com).

LANA GHANEM, BCom'06, is now a Financial Analyst in the global banking division at Dresdner Kleinwort Investment Bank in London, England. Lana previously worked at Amwal Invest in Jordan as an analyst in corporate finance.

## MUSIC

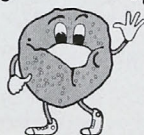
OWEN CLARK, BMus'71, has written *Musical Ghosts, Manitoba's Jazz and Dance*

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**JODI PROZNICK**, BMus'98, earned three prizes at the National Jazz Awards on April 8. Jodi was named bassist of the year and her ensemble, the Jodi Proznick Quartet, won Album of the Year for *Foundations*. The group, whose members include pianist **TILDEN WEBB**, BMus'92, MMus'97, tenor saxophonist **STEVE KALDESTAD**, BMus'94, MMus'00, and drummer **JESSE CAHILL**, BMus'99, was also named Acoustic Band of the Year. *Foundations* was also a recent nominee for a Juno Award in the category of Traditional Jazz Album of the Year. The group will be performing at the Montreal International Jazz Festival on June 30.

*Bands, 1914-1966*, which was published in March. The book presents a history of Manitoba music, accompanied by more than 400 pictures of the province's musicians, nightclubs, theatres, music stores and dancehalls. Owen is a founding member of the McGill Percussion Ensemble and the McGill Jazz Ensemble. He currently performs with the Owen Clark Band, the Owen Clark Big Band, the Ragtime Strutters and the Owen Clark Jazz Group. He also has a radio show called "Musical Ghosts" that is broadcast on CJNU 104.7 FM.

**RICK BLECHTA**, BMus'73, recently published his sixth crime novel, *A Case of You*. Rick features a musician as a protagonist in each book and *A Case of You* is no different, with a jazz drummer serving as the main character. Rick's 2005 novel, *Cemetery of the Nameless*, was a finalist for the 2006 Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel. Learn more at [www.rickblechta.com](http://www.rickblechta.com).

**JOAN RUSSELL**, BMus'76, LMus'84, MEd'91, PhD'96, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill. Joan received a grant from the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) of Brazil to serve as a visiting researcher in music education in Brazil from September to December 2007. This was the first grant awarded in the field of arts in the 20-year history of CNPq. Joan's scholarly activities in Brazil included individual advising sessions with graduate students in music education and graduate lectures in music education and in society and culture at universities in Curitiba, Florianópolis, Salvador and Campo Grande. Her sponsor and host was **BEATRIZ**

**ILLARI**, PhD'02. Their research collaboration included an investigation of an NGO project that provides shelter and sustenance to children at risk due to extreme poverty.

**MICHAEL CAPON**, MMus'88, is the new Director of Music at Toronto's Glenview Presbyterian Church. Michael is an accomplished organist, composer and choir director, having over 20 years of experience at various churches throughout eastern Canada. One of Michael's first projects at Glenview is the creation of a new children's choir. Glenview is one of the largest Presbyterian churches in Toronto and has a renowned music program and choir.

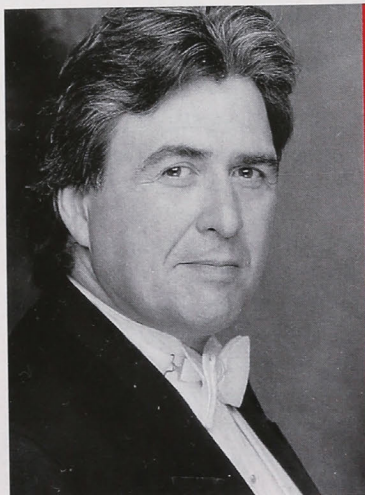
**JUSTIN P. BARTLEY**, LMus'96, is currently teaching music to grades 1-8 in London Ontario. He and his wife, **TRISHA BARTLEY**, LMus'92, live in London with their two bright and energetic daughters.

**ALEXANDER CANN**, BMus'01, MMus'03, is the new music director for Maple Grove

United Church in Oakville, Ontario. He studied choral conducting at McGill and has conducted with Tapestry New Opera Works, Opera McGill and the Montreal West Operatic Society. While studying at McGill, he was the founding director of McGill's Simply Sweetly women's choir. Simply Sweetly performed on the song "Infernal Chords," part of the soundtrack to the National Film Board's *Madame Tutli-Putli*, a recent Academy Award nominee for Best Short Film (Animated). Alexander contributed the choral arrangement for the song.

**MICHAEL MURRAY**, BMus'03, is the new Popular and World Music Officer at the Ontario Arts Council. Previously, Michael helped design S.T.E.P. U.P., a dub poetry program for young Toronto artists. Michael has been a writer, producer, singer and trumpet player in the musical genres of nu soul, house and reggae, both for his own projects (Atomic Brothers) and for others (Equalizer, Soulijazz Orchestra and Whiteroom). This past July, he was a member of the delegation that accompanied the Governor General on her state visit to Brazil. He is an inaugural member of the Canadian chapter of the National Black MBA Association.

**GABRIEL REBICK**, BMus'04, was one of 16 of Canada's top medical students who were awarded the CFPC Medical Student Scholarship from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). The CFPC Scholarship recognizes students who have career intentions in family medicine. A McGill medical student, Gabriel founded the Community Health Alliance Project (CHAP)—a project integrating medical training with the surrounding community



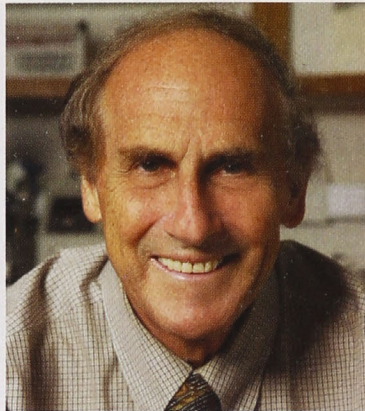
**KERRY STRATTON**, BMus'74, was honoured by the Czech Republic with the 2007 Gratias Agit Award, given to exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion of the Czech Republic abroad. Among the previous recipients are former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright and Czech film director Milos Forman (*Amadeus*). A devotee of Eastern European music and orchestras, Kerry has a particular fondness for Czech music. He guest-conducted the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra during a tour in Austria and has served as principal guest conductor with the Czech Republic's Karlsbad Symphony. He recently began his 20th season as Music Director and Conductor of the Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra.

in order to enhance students' understanding of the unmet healthcare needs of people in tertiary care institutions. Gabriel plays clarinet and saxophone with the *I Medici di McGill Orchestra*.

## SCIENCE

**HAROLD KALTER**, MSc'51, PhD'53, wrote a book entitled *Mortality and Maldevelopment, Part 1: Congenital Cardiovascular Malformations*, which was recently published by Springer in the Netherlands. Harold is currently working on Part 2, which will concern the congenital malformations of the neural tube. This is the third book Harold has published during his active retirement.

**HOWARD BLANCHETTE**, BSc'65, MDCM'71, was appointed to the Board of Trustees at New York Medical College. Howard is the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and has also been named Director of Ob/Gyn at Westchester Medical Center. He has served on the medical faculty at USC, Yale and Tufts and, until recently, was chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecol-



**RALPH STEINMAN, BSc'63**, received the 2007 Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research. Ralph is credited with the discovery of dendritic cells—the preeminent component of the immune system that initiates and regulates the body's response to foreign antigens. Ralph is a Professor and Senior Physician at Rockefeller University. Since 1962, 75 Lasker Award recipients have gone on to win a Nobel Prize, most within two years of receiving the Lasker Award.

ogy at Danbury Hospital. Students awarded Howard with an excellence in teaching award in 2006 for his teaching skills and dedication.

**BRENT WILLOCK**, BSc'67, published *Comparative-Integrative Psychoanalysis* (The Analytic Press, 2007), which provides approaches to understanding the contemporary discipline of psychoanalysis while exploring the emerging field of comparative-integrative psychoanalysis. Brent also co-edited *On Deaths and Endings: Psychoanalysts' Reflections on Finality, Transformations, and New Beginnings* (Routledge, 2007). He is President of the Toronto Institute & Society for Contemporary Psychoanalysis.

**PETER M. DOUBILET**, BSc'69, co-authored *Your Developing Baby, Conception to Birth* (McGraw-Hill), which will be released in May 2008. Using 3-D and conventional ultrasound images, the book offers a unique look into how babies develop from conception to birth. Peter is the Senior Vice Chair of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. He co-wrote the book with his wife, Carol Benson, the co-director of high risk obstetrical ultrasound at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, and with **ROANNE WEISMAN**, BSW'74 a professional writer specializing in health.

**SYED M. SAIFULLAH**, PhD'69, was awarded the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, along with more than 1,360 experts from 95 different countries who all contributed to the international project "Millennium Ecosystem Assessment," sponsored by the UN. According to the international jury members who awarded the prize, "the assessment is a landmark study on the condition of the world's ecosystem services from fisheries and freshwaters up to the carbon capture of the world's forests."

**JOE SCHWARCZ**, BSc'69, PhD'74, is the Director of McGill University's Office for Science and Society which is dedicated to demystifying science for the public, the media and students. He teaches a variety of courses with emphasis on health issues and on the application of chemistry to everyday life. He is the only non-American who has been presented with the American Chemical Society's prestigious Grady-Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public, a prize whose previous winners include science fiction writer Isaac Asimov and Don Herbert (TV's *Mr. Wizard*). Joe's latest book, *An Apple a Day*, was recently published by Harper Collins Canada.

**ESTHER H. STEINHAUER**, BSc'69, recently joined the intellectual property group of Hunton & Williams LLP in the firm's New York office. Esther's practice focuses on patent prosecution and patent litigation.

**DAVID FRIENDLY**, BSc'71, will be working in semi-retirement in emergency response management and safety management systems auditing in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, as a consultant. David retired from Petro-Canada after 34 years of working across Canada and in support of the company's international operations.

**NORM STEINBERG**, BSc'71, BCL'75, is Co-Chair of the Canadian law firm Ogilvy Renault and practises mergers and acquisition law. Norm recently completed the 2007 Centraide Montreal Campaign with his co-chair, Thierry Vandal, the CEO of Hydro-Québec, who is also a member of McGill's Board of Governors. The campaign was a success, raising more than \$54-million.

**IVAN STEINER**, BSc'72, was awarded a 2007 3M National Teaching Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching. Ivan is a professor of emergency medicine in the Faculty of

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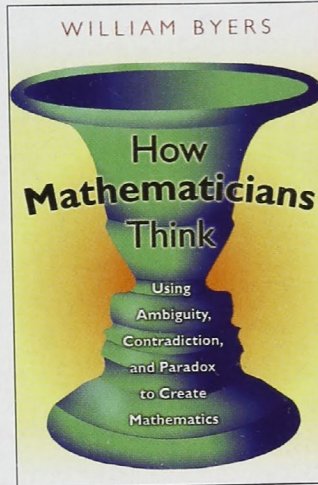
Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta. The 3M fellowships are presented by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 3M Canada to reward outstanding contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities.

DAVID WEINER, BSc'74, is a Senior Partner at National Public Relations in Toronto, and occasionally serves as a visiting professor in MBA programs at Tsinghua University and the National Accounting Institute in Beijing.

DANIEL TESSIER, BSc'83, MSc'86, is the current Senior Director, Operations and Business Development, for the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre.

SHARON LANGSHUR, BSc'86, wrote *We Carry Each Other: Getting Through Life's Toughest Times* with Eric Langshur. Sharon is the co-founder of CarePages Inc., a Chicago-based health-care services company that provides a nationwide web service for patients, their families and healthcare providers. Royalties from the sale of *We Carry Each Other* are earmarked for the CarePages Foundation, which is dedicated to enhancing the emotional and spiritual support that patients and their families receive during and after medical treatment.

JENNIFER COATES, BSc'92, has recently published *Dictionary of Veterinary Terms: Vet-Speak Deciphered for the Non-Veterinarian*. It includes just about every term the vet uses in easy-to-understand language so that non-veterinarians can comprehend the language of the vet.



**WILLIAM BYERS, BSc'64, MSc'65,** is a Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Concordia University. In his recent book, *How Mathematicians Think: Using Ambiguity, Contradiction, and Paradox to Create Mathematics*, William argues that math cannot be ruled by logical and rational thought alone. According to him, many mathematicians describe their most important breakthroughs as creative and intuitive leaps in response to ambiguous situations that are not logical at all. *How Mathematicians Think* was recently chosen by *Choice* magazine as one of the outstanding academic books for 2007.

MARIE CHANTAL MESSIER, BSc'94, was appointed Senior Officer to the Infant and Young Child Nutrition Programme for the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition in Geneva, Switzerland ([www.gainhealth.org](http://www.gainhealth.org)). After working as a nutritionist and program manager in Canada, Mali, Guinea and Sierra Leone, Marie Chantal obtained an MBA from Université Laval in 2004. She was a consultant for the United Nations World Food Programme in Haiti for the past three years.

HEATHER HODGINS-CHAN, BSc'99, and KEVIN CHAN, BSc'91, are married and live in Ottawa with their two sons, Kyle (4) and Nathan (13 months). Kevin is practising pediatric medicine and Heather works as an occupational therapist with school-aged children. Heather would like to know if

anyone from her graduating class would like to plan a reunion with her.

DANIEL SULLIVAN, BSc'02, recently started his residency in anesthesiology at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles after completing an internship in internal medicine at the Veterans Hospital in West Los Angeles.

## SOCIAL WORK

GOLAM M. MATHBOR, MSW'95, received the Global Leadership Award from the Global Understanding Project at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J., where he was also recently appointed as Chair of the newly created Department of Religion, Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies. Golam is Associate Dean in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Monmouth, as well as Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work.

DENIS LEBLANC, MSW'03, a PhD candidate at the University of New Brunswick, has been awarded a doctoral fellowship by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), which totals \$165,000 over three years. Denis has also received a doctoral fellowship from the Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Foundation for \$20,500 per year for two years. Denis is in his second year of full-time studies at UNB.

**MOHAN MUNASINGHE, PHD'73,** shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, as Vice Chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Mohan is the first Sri Lankan to receive this coveted award. He is also the Chairman of the Munasinghe Institute of Development (MIND), Visiting Professor at the United Nations University in Tokyo and Honorary Senior Advisor to the Sri Lankan government. In the past, he has also served as senior energy advisor to the President of Sri Lanka, advisor to the United States Presidents Council on Environmental Quality, and senior advisor/director at the World Bank. He has won many international prizes for his research and has authored 90 books and over 300 technical papers on economics, sustainable development, climate change, power, energy, water resources, transport, environment, disasters and information technology.



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**THE 1920s**

ABRAHAM EDEL, BA'27, at New York City, on June 22, 2007.

SAMUEL GODINSKY, BA'27, BCL'30, at Montreal, on October 15, 2007.

**THE 1930s**

FRED MOREHOUSE, MSc'31, PhD'32, at Montreal, on November 13, 2007.

MARGARET E. FOUNTAIN, BA'32, at Seattle, Wash., on July 6, 2007.

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

A. BRAM APPEL, BCom'35, at Toronto, on October 8, 2007.

ALICE SIMONS SIEDNER, BA'36, in California, on October 18, 2007.

JUDITH (ORTENBERG) KING, BSc'36, MSc'41, MEd'69, at Montreal, on December 16, 2007.

ARTHUR KNITTLE, DDS'37, at Philadelphia, Pa., on June 11, 2007.

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

PETER MALCOLM MACCALLUM, BEng'39, at Perth, Ont., on January 11, 2008.

SOLOMON NATHANSON, BEng'39, at Montreal, on September 5, 2007.

HENRY C. THACHER, MDCM'39, at Augusta, Maine, on May 22, 2007.

**THE 1940s**

AARON J. BERMAN, BSc'40, MDCM'43, at Great Neck, N.Y., on November 28, 2007.

BARBARA (GIBSONE) HERMIONE, BA'40, at White Rock, B.C., on October 14, 2007.

MURRAY LAPIN, BA'40, MA'41, BCL'44, at Montreal, on July 18, 2007.

DAVID R. MURPHY, BSc'40, MDCM'42, MSc'48, DipSurgery'50, at Montreal, on October 17, 2007.

KIN SETO, MEng'40, at Montreal, on August 15, 2007.

JOHN A. BELFORD, BCom'41, at Oakville, Ont., on October 26, 2007.

THOMAS A. HARVIE, BEng'41, at Oakville, Ont., on September 7, 2007.

KATHLEEN (MACAULY) KILLAM, BA'41, at Yarmouth, N.S., on December 27, 2007.

PATRICIA A. THOMAS, BA'42, at Toronto, Ont., on July 22, 2007.

JOHN WALLACE BEATON, BCom'43, at La Malbaie, Que., on July 30, 2007.

RICHARD R. GALPIN, MDCM'43, at Orchard Lake, Mich., on August 3, 2007.

ROBERT "BOB" BRADBURY KILLAM, BEng'43, at Yarmouth, N.S., on September 30, 2007.

PETER T. LAMPESIS, MDCM'43, on September 5, 2007.

JOHN L. PYE, BA'43, BCL'46, at Chelmsford, Mass., on June 28, 2007.

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

JOAN E. SPINDLER, BA'44, at Toronto, Ont., on August 10, 2007.

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

JOHN A. LOCKHART, MDCM'45, at Bath, N.B., on April 3, 2007.

JACK VERMEEREN, MDCM'45, at Sandusky, Ohio, on July 28, 2007.

WILLIAM "BILL" DEWITT CLINTON, BSc'46, BD'56, at Brome, Que., on August 25, 2007.

SYLVIA (VAN STRATEN) KAUFMAN, BSc'46, PhD'50, at Ottawa, on November 13, 2006.

BARBARA TUNIS, BN'46, at Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Que., on December 27, 2007.

ROBERT H. BOURNE, BSc'47, DipIntMed'55, MDCM'49, at Montreal, on October 25, 2006.

ROBERT M. BROWN, BSc'47, PhD'51, at Deep River, Ont., on July 7, 2007.

WILLIAM "BILL" PANTON, MDCM'47, at New Westminster, B.C., on December 20, 2007.

LESLIE H. ROSE, BSc'47, in Maine, on August 31, 2007.

BRUCE E. WALKER, BSc'47, MSc'52, PhD'54, at Okemos, Mich., on July 12, 2007.

GEORGE D. ATHANS, MDCM'48, at Vancouver, on February 27, 2007.

CLARKE F. MERRITT, DDS'48, at Montreal, on September 8, 2007.

ROBERT F. SCHARF, MDCM'48, at Bridgewater, N.S., on July 13, 2007.

DONALD B. TOWER, MSc'48, PhD'51, DSc'84, at Gaithersburg, Md., on September 29, 2007.

DEREK WYSE, MDCM'48, DipIntMed'53, at Kitchener, Ont., on June 14, 2007.

JOHN ROBERT (BOB) BERRY, BSc(PE)'49, at Toronto, on December 18, 2007.

HOWARD R. HOGAN, BSc'49, MSc'50, PhD'53, at Montreal, on August 29, 2007.

WALTER KOWAL, BA'49, DDS'55, at Toronto, on August 9, 2007.

LORNE A. MCFADDEN, BSc(Agr)'49, at Truro, N.S., on October 17, 2006.

JOHN L. MCVITTIE, BEng'49, at Ventura, Calif., on April 6, 2007.

**THE 1950s**

ROBERT B. FULLERTON, BEng'50, at Montreal, on August 31, 2007.



**ALFRED POWIS, BCOM'51**, one of Canada's most respected business leaders, died on October 10, 2007, in Toronto. As the longtime president of Noranda, he oversaw a remarkable increase in the value of his company's assets — from \$700-million in 1968 to \$11-billion in 1995. He was keenly interested in public policy and was a founding member of both the C.D. Howe Institute and the Business Council on National Issues. In recognition of his career accomplishments, Alfred was inducted into both the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame and the Canadian Business Hall of Fame.



ASHTON W. MULLAN, BSc'50, at Hornby Island, B.C., on October 15, 2007.

HAROLD L. SNYDER, BEng'50, at Kingston, Ont., on September 17, 2007.

SYDNEY H. (BUD) WARD, BCom'50, at New London, N.H., on December 17, 2007.

SAMUEL BOOTH, BEng'51, Dip M&BA'60, at Highland Beach, Fla., on December 26, 2007.

G. ERIC BRADFORD, BScAgr'51, at Sacramento, Calif., on July 29, 2007.

MARGARET L. (WRIGHT) CHRISTIE, Dip(PTh)'51, at Calgary, on September 29, 2007.

HAVELOCK S. "FLIP" LUNAN, BEng'51, DipMgmt'70, at Montreal, on September 2, 2007.

MICHAEL V. MACINNIS, MDCM'52, at Akron, Ohio, on August 17, 2007.

LAWRENCE D. RHEA, BA'52, MDCM'56, at Tucson, Ariz., on December 27, 2007.

HERBERT O. SPINDLER, BCom'52, at Toronto, on September 9, 2007.

IRWIN ADELSON, BCom'53, at Montreal, on August 15, 2007.

ANN HYDE, BSc(HEc)'53, at Brockville, Ont., on November 26, 2007.

WILLIAM J. TWEED, MEng'53, at New Castle, Wash., on October 21, 2006.

MARTIN D. COLLIER, BEng'54, DipM&BA'61, at Cobourg, Ont., on December 24, 2007.

JOHN S. MACKEEEN, BA'54, at Kentville, N.S., on April 6, 2007.

KENNETH G. MARSHALL, BA'54, MDCM'58, at Stratford, Ont., on August 22, 2007.

LETTY TRANT (WATSON) STENASON, DipNursePH'54, at Victoria, B.C., on October 30, 2007.

STANLEY C. MCROBERT, BEng'55, at Mont Tremblant, Que., on December 24, 2007.

ANNE D. (JOHNSON) FISH, BA'56, MSW'59, at Montreal, on September 13, 2007.

BERNARD A. HABER, BSc'56, MSc'57, PhD'63, at Galveston, Texas, on July 23, 2007.



**GAIL G. VALASKAKIS, PHD'79**, one of Canada's foremost authorities on aboriginal media, passed away on July 19, 2007 in Ottawa. Gail was a former dean of Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science and the co-founder of Manitou College, the first post-secondary institution in eastern Canada created specifically to serve aboriginal students. Gail was also the research director for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, which manages the \$350-million healing fund established by the federal government to help natives cope with the legacy of residential schools.

DOROTHY (SEDLZKY) LEFCORT, Dip(PTh)'57, at Vancouver, B.C., on July 14, 2007.

RUSSELL O'BRIERE, MDCM'57, at Richmond, Va., on September 16, 2007.

MAYER FRANK, BCom'58, at Montreal, on October 3, 2007.

FREDERICK F. ANGUS, BEng'59, BSc'62, at Montreal, on August 10, 2007.

PHILIP A. COLLYNS, BEng'59, at Surrey, England, on July 29, 2007.

### THE 1960s

HERMAN SOLTENDIECK, BEng'60, at Sudbury, Ont., on August 6, 2005.

CARLA A. CAMPBELL, BSc'61, at Kelowna, B.C., on November 4, 2007.

RUTH E. HILL, BSc(HEc)'61, at Scarborough, Ont., on October 4, 2007.

ASTON L. SYMES, BSc(Agr)'61, MSc'63, PhD'72, at Mississauga, Ont., on November 4, 2007.

DOUGLAS J. WURTELE, MA'63, PhD'68, at Ottawa, on April 7, 2007.

IRENE LIEBICH, MSW'64, at Montreal, on September 10, 2007.

STUART E. HUMPHREY, BScAgr'68, at London, Ont., on September 16, 2007.

HARRY LAWSON, BScAgr'68, at Kingston, Ont., on January 9, 2008.

### THE 1970s

KENNETH J. STEVENSON, BEng'71, at Sarnia, Ont., on June 19, 2007.

MICHEL G. SYLVESTRE, BSc'71, at Montreal, on October 7, 2007.

WILLIAM H. HAUGHTON, BA'73, at Vankleek Hill, Ont., on September 16, 2007.

CECILIA MEAGHER, BN'73, at Moose Jaw, Sask., on August 24, 2007.

ERNEST BUTLER, BEd'74, at Montreal, on August 29, 2007.

GAIL RAY EL BAROUDI, BA'74, MBA'76, at Toronto, on August 3, 2007.

LEA A. HODIENER, MEEd'74, at L'Orignal, Ont., on October 9, 2007.

SANDRA FROSST, BSW'76, MSW'77, at Montreal, on July 4, 2007.

ROMAN V. KOBYLANSKY, BA'78, at Montreal, on August 20, 2002.

### THE 1980s

IAN MICHAEL RUBINS, BSc'83, MDCM'87, MSc'92, at Connecticut, on January 23, 2008.

GHITA SCHNEIDERMAN, BA'83, at Montreal, on April 21, 2007.

RICHARD FLINT, BA'84, in England, on April 18, 2007.

SUZETTE (SOUTH) BANGOURA, Cert SpEd'88, at Montreal, on October 11, 2007.

DENISE (DOUMMAR) DERMARAR, BA'89, DipColTeach'90, at Montreal, on August 15, 2007.

### FACULTY/STAFF

WILLIAM T. BOOTH, BA'50, Professor of English, at Montreal, on October 10, 2007.

JOAN E. GILDAY, Faculty of Management, at Knowlton, Que., on August 11, 2007.

# The Primacy of Pleasure

BY MEGAN WILLIAMS, BA'88

The other day, my 13-year-old daughter was lurching about the house like a bull in the ring, emitting heavy sighs and trapped glances. "I've got a science test tomorrow," she finally moaned, "and I'll fail if I don't skip hip hop to study."

I'm not a particularly strict parent. I don't care what shape my kids' rooms are in; if they want to wear mini-skirts the width of hair bands, go for it while you can; and if unprintable words pepper our family dialogue heavily at times, I'm doing my best to clean up my act.

Still, there are a few basic principles I insist upon and one of them is the pursuit of pleasure.

My daughter likes school well enough. She goes most every day, passes from one year to the next, and so far no one's phoned home to complain. However, she's riveted by hip hop. She dances like a sleep-walker on speed, both crazily entranced and perfectly at ease.

Will she make a career of it? I don't know and don't care. What matters to me is that she's experiencing the intense pleasure of something that captivates her imagination and—lucky her!—her body, too.

I had a taste of this kind of pleasure studying French at McGill. A whiz kid in French I was not: After years of sitting in high school classrooms parroting dialogues that made French teenagers seem as with it as Richie and Potsie from *Happy Days*, two phrases had stuck: "Zut, alors!" because it sounded so deliciously dumb, and "C'est fromage," which a friend and I would say instead of "C'est dommage," to our juvenile amusement. Oh, and the French word for seal.

Then in Grade 12 I lucked into an exchange program with France that changed my life. What it did in specific was turn me on: to a new culture, a different way of being, French guys (recovered from that) and, against all odds, French itself. When I started McGill a few years later, I wanted to keep the feeling alive. Along with political science, which seemed a sensible counterpoint, I chose French literature as my major.

And I loved it. We were a small, mainly female class with a professor who was a Gallic, past-her-prime version of Miss Jean Brodie. She paced the class with a bad limp, sputtered in hilarity through Gargantua and Pantagruel and in her high-pitched trill passed on her passion for writers from Molière to

Colette. Like the fictional Brodie, she was also politically dubious. She didn't have portraits of Mussolini or Generalissimo Franco up on the wall, but she did launch into the occasional rant against progressive student causes.

Still, she was a great teacher. I suspected it then and I know it now. While my own phone number can be as cerebrally elusive to me these days as the names of past prime ministers, I can remember lines from her lectures. More tellingly, I still savour the books she taught.

But in second year at McGill, uncertainty got the better of me. I thought I should know more about the world. Not the fictional world of Manon Lescaut that kept me up late reading, but the concrete world of political manifestos and electoral systems. These subjects were taught by men with international reputations. Their classes were crowded and charged with hard-edged competitiveness. They clearly appealed to a lot of students. I just didn't happen to be one of them. Still, they had a real-world smack... so, *au revoir* French.

I graduated and floundered. I volunteered as a teacher abroad, worked on environmental campaigns and wrote my first tentative articles and stories. Only looking back do I see the meandering was taking me somewhere. Toward my goals? No, not really; I didn't have any clear ones. Simply back toward what I'd wandered away from at McGill: doing what gave me pleasure. And toward understanding that if I were to lead a fulfilling life, it was essential that I stay loyal to and work hard for whatever brought on that pleasure.

So that's why, when my daughter contemplates skipping hip hop for homework, I insist she go to hip hop. Even if it means flunking a test. It's why, parent-of-few-rules that I am, I'm unwavering on this one: If something turns you on, you have an obligation to pursue it.

And if it doesn't?

Well, pardon my French, but *phoque* it. Do what does. 🐟

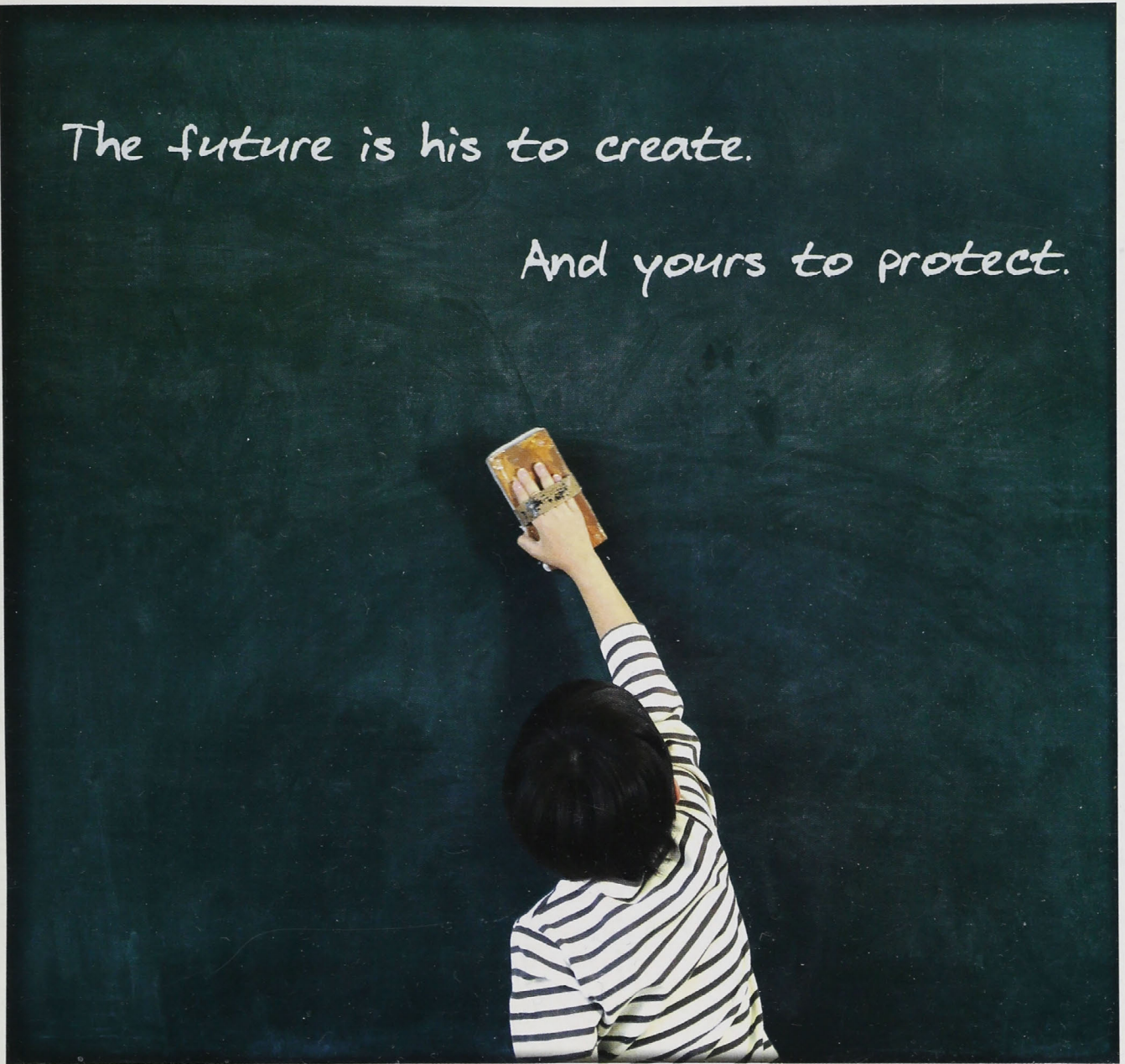


TZIGANE

Megan Williams is a foreign correspondent based in Rome, Italy. Her documentaries and essays are heard regularly on CBC Radio and NPR and her articles have appeared in publications around the world, including *The Walrus* and *Salon.com*. Her latest book is the short story collection *Saving Rome*.

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