

McGill News

alumni magazine fall 2008

PLUS

Putting a Stop
to Cyberbullying

The Right-Hand Men
of Canadian Politics

Words for the Road:
Valedictorians
Have Their Say

THE HEART OF CHAMPION

Mike Babcock, BEd'86, is a winner, on and off the ice

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A Wedding to Remember

When Autumn Kelly, BA'02, tied the knot this spring, she made headlines around the world. That will happen when you marry into one of the most famous families on the planet.

BY ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77



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Close To the Throne

They've helped shape the political landscape and been the trusted *consiglieri* of prime ministers and premiers. Go behind the scenes with some of the most respected minds in Canadian politics.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

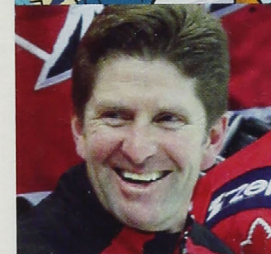


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Ruining Reputations with a Click of a Mouse

How are schools responding to insidious new forms of bullying in the era of Facebook and texting? Increasingly, by turning to McGill cyberbullying expert Shaheen Shariff for advice.

BY DONNA NEBENZAHL, BA'75



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Nobody Does It Better

In a few short years, Mike Babcock, BEd'86, has clearly established himself as one of the NHL's most successful coaches, earning two world championships and a Stanley Cup along the way.

BY NEALE MCDEVITT



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Percer le code du diabète

Une analyse révolutionnaire de l'ADN révèle que le diabète de type 2 est beaucoup plus complexe qu'on ne le croyait, pour le plus grand bonheur des chercheurs.

BY MARK REYNOLDS

TRADUCTION D'ISABELLE CHEVAL



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"I've Got One Last Thing to Say Before I Go..."

This spring's valedictorians shared their thought processes with the *News* as they prepared their parting words to the university they were about to leave behind.

BY SIMONA RABINOVITCH



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Look Out Below!

Jumping out of a plane at 2,000 feet requires guts. But the really scary part, according to an alumnus of the McGill Skydiving Club, occurs right before you land.

BY BRUCE GRAVEL, BEd'79

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OWEN EGAN

Great Scott! A Legendary Professor Gives Back to McGill

*Professor
Stephen Scott,
BA'61, BCL'66,
in the Stephen
Allan Scott
Seminar Room*

Professor Stephen A. Scott, BA'61, BCL'66, is a legend at the Faculty of Law. For scores of McGill students, he represented their first brush with Canadian Constitutional Law, a subject on which he is a passionate expert. For over three decades, he has actively participated in public issues, particularly constitutional questions. To McGill's lasting benefit, he chose to remain here during his entire career, teaching, conducting research, and having a profound impact on legions of young Law students.

"In my retirement from active teaching, I remain in residence as a Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Law, whose teaching staff and students have afforded me most of my professional friends and colleagues," he says. Well-known for his colourful and highly effective teaching style, he recalls with fondness the "zillions of fun exchanges" with his students.

Over the past 45 years, Professor Scott has supported the Faculty of Law and the Libraries with

annual gifts. In 2006, he donated funds for the Stephen Allan Scott Seminar Room, a beautifully renovated space in the Faculty of Law's Old Chancellor Day Hall. He has also established the Scott-Rappaport Family Scholarship, in memory of his mother, father and stepfather. "I commend to all the establishment of scholarships, as a means of commemorating family, friends and others, for whom they would wish to make lasting gestures," he says.

After a lifetime of giving back to McGill in many ways, Professor Scott has now remembered the University in his estate plans. "The Faculty is better than it has ever been, and I hope through my legacies to continue to help building it after my lifetime."

His extraordinary generosity has not gone unnoticed. Says Professor Nicholas Kasirer, BCL/LLB'85, and Dean of Law: "Professor Scott's long-standing support is hugely appreciated. The Faculty and the University are truly grateful."

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Cover photo of Detroit Red Wings coach Mike Babcock by Jeff Vinnick/Getty Images



Of pucks and politics



It is the most iconic sports trophy in all of North America. It's a prize that boys skating on neighbourhood rinks across Canada daydream about with starry-eyed wonder. It's an award that can make even the most battle-hardened hockey veteran choke up once he has earned the right to hoist it above his head.

It also makes for an absolutely smashing beer stein, according to Earl Zukerman, BA'80, McGill's longtime sports information officer.

This summer, Zukerman had the opportunity to sip some suds directly from the Stanley Cup. "I'm not even a big beer fan normally, but it tasted great. It tasted special," Zukerman told the *Montreal Gazette*.

Zukerman had his close encounter with the Cup courtesy of Mike Babcock, BEd'86, the subject of our cover story and the coach who led the Detroit Red Wings to a Stanley Cup triumph last spring. Every member of a Stanley Cup winning team gets to take possession of the trophy for 48 hours. Babcock decided to bring the Cup to his hometown of Saskatoon.

On his first day with the trophy, Babcock surprised the regulars at a local Tim Hortons by showing up to grab some breakfast with the Cup in tow. He spent mid-day with the Cup signing autographs for a fundraiser for the Children's Health and Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan. In the afternoon, Babcock and the Cup visited patients at the Royal University Hospital. And in the evening, the coach and the Cup were the star attractions at an old-fashioned barn dance featuring roasted pig and a live band.

Among the 240 party-goers in attendance were Zukerman and some of Babcock's former McGill Redmen teammates, including his old defense partner Dr. Jay McMullan, DDS'84. Babcock remembers McGill and the people he met through the University's hockey program fondly. "These guys looked after me," he told the *Gazette*. Babcock made a point of flying Zukerman to Saskatoon for the event. "I thought he might send someone to pick me

up at the airport, but he showed up himself in shorts, just like any ordinary Joe. The same old 'Babs,'" said Zukerman.

Babcock is known for his steely-eyed intensity behind the Red Wings bench, but, as you'll learn in Neale McDevitt's profile of the man in this issue, Babcock is a very different sort of fellow once a game is over and the crowds have gone home.

If the Stanley Cup is one of this country's icons, Parliament Hill is surely another.

Only two McGill graduates have led Canada as prime ministers thus far – Sir Wilfrid Laurier, BCL1864, considered by many historians to be among our greatest prime ministers, and Sir John Abbott, BCL1854, a man who didn't particularly want the job and who didn't hold on to it for very long.

While few McGill grads have held this country's top position, McGill alums do tend to populate the Prime Minister's Office with regularity, serving as senior advisers to the men and women who govern the land. As Pierre Trudeau's executive assistant, Timothy Porteous, BA'54, BCL'57, earned the ire of U.S. president Richard Nixon when he refused to allow Nixon's staff to take over the planning of a state visit to Ottawa. As Jean Chrétien's policy and research director, Chaviva Hošek, BA'67, authored the electoral platforms that helped garner majority governments for the Liberals in 1997 and 2000.

You'll find McGill graduates holding similar jobs in provincial capitals, too. Daniel Gagnier, MA'70, Quebec premier Jean Charest's chief of staff, has been receiving some of the credit for Charest's recent upsurge in popularity.

We didn't realize a federal election was in the offing when we planned this issue, but it turns out our timing is great. We surveyed six graduates who have been chief lieutenants to either prime ministers or premiers about their time in government — and their views on what our leaders should be focusing on today. Maybe you'll find some food for thought there as you prepare to mark your ballots on October 14. 🐷

DANIEL MCCABE

SELLING LEONARD SHORT?

In your Spring/Summer 2008 “Newsbites,” you write that Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” has been covered by musicians “as diverse as Bob Dylan, Alison Krauss... and Willie Nelson.” You do the man an injustice: That song, and many others, have been covered by a far more diverse array than the ones you list. I heard a very good version of “Hallelujah” in Arabic not long ago. But my favourite is probably the one by Steffen Brandt and Tina Dickow on the CD *På Danske Læber*, a top 10 album of 16 Leonard Cohen songs sung in Danish by 16 popular artists.

Speaking of Arabic, you quote Professor Robert Wisnovsky in your piece on the Institute of Islamic Studies (“Understanding Islam”) as saying “the institute is more central to the life of the University than the Near Eastern Languages Department was at Harvard... It competes academically at the highest level.” Years ago at Harvard, I made bold to ask a noted Islamic scholar whether I could join his tutorial on the Islamic concept of faith.

“How many years of Arabic do you have?” he asked. “Two,” I answered weakly. We both knew this was entirely inadequate for studying source texts. A fellow student nudged me to tell the professor *where* I had studied Arabic. “At the Islamic Institute of McGill,” I then added. “Why didn’t you say so?” said the professor — and I was in. It didn’t hurt, of course, that the professor in question was Wilfred Cantwell Smith, former director of the Institute. By the way, I did just fine in the tutorial, thanks to a lot of work on my part, and to the kind and erudite man giving the seminar.

Finally, a word or two of praise to Megan Williams, who in her essay, “The Primacy of Pleasure,” confirms me in my belief that I would have made a terrible parent. When I was about 10, I vowed to myself that if I ever became a parent, I would remember what it was like being a kid suffering the effects of parents’ unreasonable restrictions and prohibitions. And yet, even keeping that memory fresh would not have allowed me to let a child of mine choose hip hop

over science. I just wouldn’t be able to do it. And I admire Megan Williams for her decision — because I know she’s right, and that it’s important.

PETER CHRISTENSEN, BA’70
Ottawa, Ontario

ANOTHER TAKE ON PURSUING PLEASURE

If an historian of the future were to search the McGill archives for an example of the thinking which has led to the decline of Western civilization, he or she would have to look no further than the Epilogue by Megan Williams in the Spring/Summer ’08 issue of the *McGill News*. Nothing beats the pursuit of pleasure? Where does this leave deferred gratification in working toward a worthy goal? What about the value of extreme sacrifices by many who have suffered or died for our freedom? My thoughts go to the letter remembering Dr. Stanley Martin Banfill, a genuine hero, in the same issue. It is shameful that such a piece should be published in the pages of the alumni magazine of a great university, which exists largely due to the efforts of thousands who have put aside immediate pleasures in pursuit of the common good.

ALAN W. BOONE, MDCM’62
Bangor, Maine



40 IDEAS THAT MADE HISTORY

MEMORY MAKERS

What an interesting series on remarkable McGill graduates (“Ideas That Made History,” Spring/Summer 2008) in the *McGill News*! My late husband, Robert Graydon Weir Goodall, MDCM’53, would have especially enjoyed the short piece on his grandfather, Robert Stanley Weir. A few years ago, you had another article on Judge Weir when Canada Post put out a wonderful 17-cent stamp with the first few notes of “O Canada” printed on it.

The piece on Dr. Harold Randall Griffith has fond memories for us too, as my father-in-law, the late Dr. James Goodall, MDCM1901, often operated with Dr. Griffith working as the anesthetist. Thank you for remembering all those graduates who have given so much to us all, many years later!

HELEN AYER GOODALL,
BA’50, DipEd’51
Kingston, Ontario

OTHER IDEAS THAT MADE HISTORY

Of the “40 Ideas That Made History” that you included in your last issue, only two entries had to do with women and only another two had to do with the arts. I’m writing to ask for some balance.

RONA ALTROWS, BA’69, DipEd’71,
BCL’78, LLB’79
Calgary, Alberta

You could find only two women to write about in your list of “40 Ideas That Made History”? Shame on you.

If nothing else, you should at least have provided some context around why it was apparently so easy to identify the men. For starters, the system is not set up to see how women shine. It wasn’t in the past and it still isn’t today. Yet, McGill women have made major contributions, both locally and afar.

I won’t do your homework, but to get you started: What of Andrée Levesque, an emerita professor of history, who made major contributions to our understanding of the history of women in Quebec? Or even more obvious, perhaps: What of former chancellor Gretta Chambers, who played an important role in the development of English education in Quebec?

I really expect you to do better — and I know you can.

ABBY LIPPMAN, PhD’78
Chair, Senate Subcommittee
on Women, McGill University

In your interesting article “Ideas That Made History,” you left out the name of Andrew Schally, a McGill graduate who shared the Nobel Prize for his great and fundamental contributions in medicine

(and who is responsible for over 2,200 publications).

MORRIS GIVNER, BSc'54,
MSc'56, PhD'59
Professor of Pathology and Associate
Professor of Medicine (Ret.)
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia

We were upfront about the fact that our list of "40 Ideas That Made History" was by no means comprehensive. That said, we should have made a greater effort to include more women. We're certainly well aware of the fact that McGill women have made instrumental contributions in the past and continue to do so today (case in point — our feature article on cyberbullying expert Shaheen Shariff in this issue).

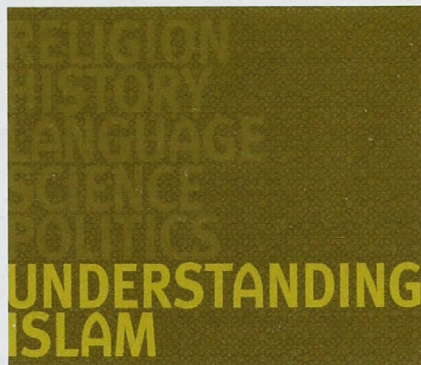
Dr. Givner is quite correct to steer us toward Dr. Schally, BSc'55, PhD'57, DSc'79, who shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1977 for his seminal work in outlining how the hypothalamus controls the pituitary gland. According to the Nobel organization, this discovery "laid the foundations to modern hypothalamic research." Schally, who began his research into brain hormones as a McGill doctoral student, is included in the extended listing of "Ideas That Made History" that is available on our website (www.mcgill.ca/news/2008/spring-summer/ideas/more), as are such remarkable McGill women as radioactivity pioneer Harriet Brooks, BA1898, MA1901, and legendary labour organizer Madeleine Parent, BA'40, LLD'02.

APPRECIATING ISLAM

I am writing to thank the *McGill News* for that excellent, informative and exciting article ("Understanding Islam," Spring/Summer 2008) by Mark Abley.

JOHN SERJEANTSON, BA'92
Bolton Est, Quebec

I was puzzled to read that McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies has invested so much in exploring the history of Islamic science. Yes, centuries ago, the Islamic world contained a number of renowned scientists and thinkers. But these individuals were in large part converts from other religions (and were



therefore less constrained by thought patterns shaped by Islamic orthodoxies), borrowed heavily from non-Islamic civilizations (e.g., Greek, Persian, Indian), and had no contributory role in the Scientific Revolution, which was entirely a product of Western rationalist thought.

Given the panoply of contemporary challenges that Islam raises for the West, there would seem to be far more important related issues to study. For example, the same *McGill News* issue mentions McGill alumnus John Humphrey and his seminal contributions to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which encapsulates Western values of human dignity and freedom for all mankind. Perhaps this Institute should first make it a priority to understand why this document, and all it enshrines, was rejected by the Organization of Islamic States for a charter that uses *sharia* law "as the only source of reference."

ALLON FRIEDMAN, MD'94
Indianapolis, Ind.

Professor F. Jamil Ragep, the new director of the Institute, responds: "Let me extend an invitation to Dr. Friedman to visit us here in Morrice Hall the next time he is in Montreal. I think he will be pleasantly surprised. My colleague Robert Wisnovsky and I can give him a tour of our Rational Sciences in Islam project, which is cataloguing tens of thousands of Islamic manuscripts in science and philosophy, the vast majority of which have not been studied in modern times. We can also show him a sampling of these manuscripts, which document major developments in the Islamic world over more than a

millennium and show how embedded within Islam rational studies of nature had become; and yes, many of these did indeed have a major impact on the Scientific Revolution, as is recognized by almost all contemporary historians of science.

Let me also assure Dr. Friedman that in addition to historical studies, some of our colleagues deal with the contemporary Islamic world. For well over half a century, following the vision of Wilfred Cantwell Smith, we have provided an environment where students, teachers and scholars from all ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds can pursue the scholarly study of Islam in all its manifestations and move beyond stereotypes and prejudice, whatever their origin."

NOT AN EASY READ

Your Spring/Summer 2008 edition was extremely hard to read. Put in a little extra black ink and it'll be better.

Most pages are grey-looking. Why is this?

NICHOLAS DE VRIES, BMus'70

Fredericton, New Brunswick

I would like to compliment you on your use of colour and the good overall design for the Spring/Summer 2008 edition of the *McGill News*. However, please change that awful grey ink you used for the text to full black. When you use a thin font with grey ink it is quite hard to read.

ROGER JONES, DipMan'79,

MBA'82

Don Mills, Ontario

According to our designer, Steven McClenaghan, the legibility of our text is chiefly related to two factors, the font thickness and the type of paper we are printed on. Are other readers finding the News hard on the eyes? If so, please let us know and we'll consider some changes.

Something on your mind?

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Going Greener

On September 18, McGill's new Life Sciences Complex, the largest construction project in the University's history, officially opens its doors. This is a landmark moment, one our research community has anticipated eagerly.

This magnificent new complex has been carefully and creatively designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and to promote the link of McGill's basic science to practical, high-impact applications. Thanks to the aspirations of our scientists and the generosity and vision of Dr. Francesco Bellini, Rosalind and Morris Goodman, other donors, the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec, our exceptional scientists will now have world-class, state-of-the-art facilities to support their work.

The moment is significant for other reasons. From its green roof right down to the grey water collection cistern under the building, the new Complex has been constructed to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, which encompass design, construction and ongoing operations. The building isn't just a high-tech wonder — it's very, very green.

Environmental stewardship is part of McGill and always has been. The very first act of the newly formed McGill University Society (now the McGill Alumni Association) in 1857 was to help Principal William Dawson plant trees to beautify the University's then somewhat bedraggled campus. McGill's grounds, along with the living laboratories of the Morgan Arboretum and Molson Reserve, still serve as the lungs of the city: cool, welcoming places that generate oxygen and provide respite from the urban landscape. Just outside the city, our Gault Nature Reserve preserves the cultural and scientific treasure of Mont Saint-Hilaire, which is celebrating 50 years of McGill steward-

ship. This year marks the 10th anniversary of both the McGill School of Environment and Macdonald Campus's innovative EcoResidence. Our researchers are known around the world for work on climate change, biofuels, extreme weather and many other environmental puzzles.

September will also welcome the opening of McGill's new Office of Sustainability. Students are working with two designated full-time staff members to ensure that this is a catalyst for sustainability progress at McGill. We have developed green building standards for all new construction and renovation, as well as a new sustainability policy. From 1996 to 2005, McGill added six new buildings, yet our total energy consumption *decreased* by six per cent over that period.

And as a university, we must do more. Shrinking our carbon footprint requires a systematic change in our individual behaviours and our institutional culture. McGill will become more sustainable only through a commitment that drives all of our actions and decisions — from how we construct new multimillion-dollar buildings, to each person's daily actions in relation to energy, paper and water consumption, and garbage disposal. We must become leaders in this arena, as individuals and as an institution. Nothing is of greater importance.

We must also be careful to progress via thoughtful and effective action, not knee-jerk reaction. Many institutions have committed to becoming carbon neutral — reducing greenhouse gas emissions where possible and even buying carbon offsets to achieve the balance. But money spent on offsets also reduces resources we might better use to make our infrastructure and practices eco-friendly over the longer term.

To quote a familiar philosopher, Kermit the Frog, "it's not easy being green." McGill faces a unique set of



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

challenges — the extreme Montreal climate and resulting energy consumption, constrained budgets, deteriorating infrastructure and inefficient, though beautiful, historical structures loom large among them.

But we also have a huge advantage: the enormous commitment and drive of our students, faculty, staff and alumni, who are pressing McGill to go further, faster in greening the University and offering an example of leadership in sustainable policies and practices for the community at large. McGill is also extremely fortunate to have a deeply committed environmental advocate at the helm of its sustainability initiatives. Professor Jim Nicell, the Associate Vice-Principal (University Services), a well-respected environmental engineering faculty member, is doing a magnificent job at focusing the energy and talents of the McGill community toward our drive to go greener.

I invite you to read more about what McGill has accomplished this year in advancing sustainability — and on many other fronts — in my recent *Principal's Report*, found at www.mcgill.ca/principals-report-08. Thanks to all of you, we are making progress, and together we will continue to make progress. 🐸

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM

It's been a busy year for **JACQUELINE AUBIE**, MA'04, with six weddings to attend. All were special in their own way, but one stood apart from the others. It isn't every day, after all, that you get to rub shoulders with the British royal family at Windsor Castle.

On May 17, Aubie was maid of honour as her lifelong friend, **AUTUMN KELLY**, BA'02, married Peter Phillips, the Queen's eldest grandchild.

You'd think Aubie's 15 minutes of fame would have been a tad nerve-racking, but this wedding was "the most fun by far," she says. "The Royals were so welcoming, and everyone was on the dance floor having the greatest time." One of Aubie's duties was to toast the bride to the new in-laws. "I told them they were lucky to have someone as great as Autumn joining their family," she says with a smile.

Although Phillips holds no official title, he is currently 11th in line to the U.K. throne. Kelly's marriage makes her the first Canadian to join the Firm, with access to the view from Buckingham Palace's balcony. Not bad for someone who worked her way through McGill as a bartender and model, and whose main claim to fame had been as a star ringette player in high school.

The couple met in 2003 when both were working at the Montreal Grand Prix. Kelly had no idea she was dating a royal until a few weeks later, when she, her mother and Aubie were watching a TV show about Princess Diana's funeral — and there was Phillips, first cousin to Princes William and Harry. "Oh, Autumn," said her mother. "What have you gotten yourself into?"

Five years later, Kelly got herself a starring role in the first wedding of the royal next generation. "We knew what was coming," says Aubie of the media maelstrom. The British press made much of Kelly's "working class" origins, describing her Pointe Claire home town as "a suburban backwater." Chalk it up to sour grapes, since only *Hello!* magazine got the coveted interview, as well as unprecedented access to the wedding.

According to Aubie, the tabloids created the proverbial tempest in an English teacup, speculating inaccurately on the amount that *Hello!* paid the couple, and reporting (also inaccurately, says Aubie) that the Queen was displeased with their arrangement with the magazine. And still more ink was spilled over Kelly's decision to relinquish her Catholicism, so Phillips would retain his right to succession.

The widespread press coverage had no impact on the big day itself, reports Aubie. "It was so wonderful to see Autumn looking so happy and beautiful. She had a smile on her face the whole wedding."

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77

A WEDDING to REMEMBER



REX FEATURES

Peter Phillips and Autumn Kelly on the steps of St. George's Chapel following their wedding. Behind them are royal family members (l to r) Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Harry, Prince Philip and Princess Beatrice.

REMEMBERING JIM

JIM WRIGHT was one of a kind. Prior to his tragic death last September, Wright, BA'65, was a beloved and long-standing volunteer at the University — a former McGill Alumni Association (MAA) president who never encountered a McGill-related cause he didn't embrace wholeheartedly.

In recognition of his dedication to his alma mater, the MAA's Honours and Awards Committee created the James G. Wright Award in his memory. Each year, the award will recognize a young alumnus who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to voluntary service.

"We wanted the award to be for a young person who had taken initiative in the community and showed leadership and extraordinary commitment, which is the sort of thing Jim Wright did all his life," says Morna Flood Consedine, MEd'77, DEd'85, who chaired the committee seeking suitable candidates for the award.

The first recipient of the new prize was **ANDREA CHARBONNEAU**, BA'06, who helped start a McGill club to aid the victims of civil war in northern Uganda and turned it into a successful NGO a few years later. Charbonneau picked up the award on May 21 at the MAA's annual Honours and Awards Banquet.

Charbonneau co-founded Project Shelter Wakadogo in

2006 and now serves as the NGO's director. The organization aims to help child victims of the war between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army, a guerrilla group accused of abducting thousands of children and then forcing them to take part in the fighting.

The project's ultimate goal is to build a community centre and school for children displaced by the war. An acre of land for the buildings was purchased this spring and construction is already underway.

"People often talked about how Jim had a special place in his heart for Africa, so we thought it would be especially fitting if we could choose an alumnus who is also contributing to development in the international community," says Flood Consedine.

For more information on Project Shelter Wakadogo, visit www.shelterwakadogo.org.

JIM HYNES



PAUL FOURNIER

Andrea Charbonneau (centre) with Jim Wright's sister, Mary Wemp, BA'68, and his brother, George Wright, BEng'66.

Starting points for success



OWEN EGAN

McGill law student **ALEXANDER HERMAN** had just completed his previous degree in English and history when he was struck by an uncomfortable question, one that gnaws at many a freshly minted grad: What now?

The Toronto native began chatting with long-time friends (and fellow recent grads) Paul Matthews and Andrew Feindel, who had studied filmmaking and finance, respectively, and the trio soon realized that this fretfulness cut across academic disciplines.

They began wondering just how common a feeling this 20-something trepidation might be. Specifically, did the people who are successful today ever have to go through this? And if so, what insights could they share with up-and-comers trying to figure out just which way up is?

Herman and his friends decided the best way to find out was simply to ask.

About 500 letters and scores of interviews later, the three co-authored *Kickstart: How Successful Canadians Got Started* (Dundurn Press). Released earlier this year, the result of their labour is a fascinating peek into how 60 Canadians — including Raffi, Angus Reid, Roberta Bondar,

Brian Mulroney and Karen Kain — converted their uncertain 20s into success stories.

Although the diverse group makes for a varied set of stories, some common recommendations emerge, not the least of which are the ubiquitous four words of advice: Do what you love. "The money isn't necessarily there at first if you do what you love, but things will line up, things will work out," says Herman. Celebrated designer Bruce Mau, for example, was "living like a student until five years ago, above a convenience store, eating off a hot plate."

Herman also notes that many successful Canadians have had to engage in behaviour distinctly uncharacteristic of the national stereotype. "They were kind of pushy, and that's something that we as Canadians are a little averse to," he says. "Sometimes you need to really bug someone into helping you out — reading your script or investing in your business. You have to have a bit of nerve."

PASCAL ZAMPRELLI, BCL/LLB'05

HALL STANDS TALL

Earlier this year, **THOMAS HALL** wasn't even sure he'd be competing in the Beijing Olympics, never mind ascending the podium.

The 26-year-old canoeist and McGill physical education and kinesiology student was an Olympic long shot, until he managed breakthrough wins at the Pan American Championships and on the World Cup circuit. Now he can add Olympic medalist to his list of achievements.

Hall finished third in the 1,000-metre single men's canoe race. He had a slow start in the race and was fifth in the nine-man field at the halfway point, but poured it on during the final 250 metres to capture the bronze medal.

"I was obviously ecstatic for about 30 seconds and then close to [knocked] out cold," Hall told CBC Television. "That's one of the first races where I've had literally almost nothing left. I almost didn't think I was going to make it to the dock, which was about 50 metres away."

Two other athletes with McGill ties came close to winning medals in Beijing. Management student **MARIE-PIERRE GAGNÉ** was part of the Canadian synchronized swimming team that finished fourth. **MARTINE DUGRENIER**, BEd'08, came within six seconds of winning a bronze in women's freestyle (under 63 kg) wrestling, before settling for fourth place (the match was officially a draw, but ties in the event are settled by who scored last).

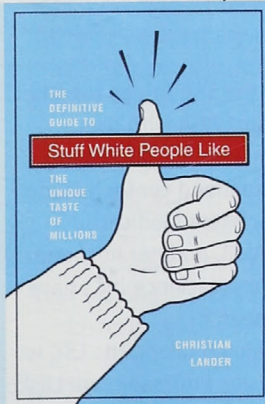
Hall put his McGill studies on hold to train for a possible berth at the Olympics, and plans to take a break—and fully absorb his career-changing win—before returning to school. He doesn't rule out a return to the Olympics.

"This is a great thing, but it's a bronze medal and I'd love for it to be gold. I plan to go the Games in 2012... if I'm fortunate enough."

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05



THE WHITE STUFF



CHRISTIAN LANDER, BA'01, is one of hundreds, maybe thousands, of people who quietly started a blog this past January. But his received a little more traffic than usual.

Within a month, his website of satirical cultural observation was averaging 300,000 hits daily. By Valentine's Day, literary agents were wooing the 29-year-old former sports editor of the *McGill Tribune*. By March, he'd quit his day job to expand the blog into a book.

Stuff White People Like: The Definitive Guide to the Unique Taste of Millions (Random House) hit bookstores on Canada Day. Nobody is more surprised by this whirlwind than Lander himself.

"It just started out as a joke I thought my friends would like," says the Toronto native, who now lives in Los Angeles. "Every day I'm beyond astonished at what's happening."

From hardwood floors to "having children in their late thirties," film festivals to farmer's markets, *Stuff White People Like* is a tongue-in-cheek field guide to young(ish) middle-class liberals. "Immediately following graduation but prior to renovating a house," Lander writes in a typical passage, "white people take their first step from childhood to maturity by hosting a successful dinner party." He cites his McGill years as an eye-opening introduction to this strange sub-species.

"Believe it or not, there are a few people at McGill who fit the profile," he quips.

"This generation still has the same need to compete with their neighbours [as previous generations did], but they don't do it in financial terms," says Lander of his peers. "Instead of who has the biggest car, it's who has the most travel experience, or who has the most vintage T-shirt, or who has lower carbon emissions."

The book has earned a flurry of attention worldwide (Australian and Dutch editions are in the works), and while Lander would love to parlay his sudden success into a job writing for *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report*, he insists there's no master plan at work.

"If someone gave me a ton of money and said, 'Recreate what you did,'" he cheerily admits, "I couldn't do it."

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

Life Sciences Complex Opens a New World of Research



PHOTOS: OWEN EGAN

The Francesco Bellini Life Sciences Building

With the September 18, 2008 opening of the McGill University Life Sciences Complex, McGill turned the page on a new chapter of innovative interdisciplinary research.

The 193,000-square-foot complex—which, with a \$73.2-million price tag, is the biggest construction project in McGill history—comprises two new buildings: the McGill Cancer Research Building and the Francesco Bellini Life Sciences Building.

FRANCESCO BELLINI, DSc'04, is the co-founder of BioChem Pharma, the Montreal company that helped bring 3TC, the first anti-HIV compound drug, to the public.

The new buildings are connected to the extensively renovated McIntyre Medical and Stewart Biology buildings. Physically joining the buildings—collectively home to over 2,000 researchers, technical personnel, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows—is important to the LSC philosophy, which holds that working in close quarters is crucial for nurturing the free flow of information across diverse fields and speeding the rate of life-saving discovery.

“We’re entering into an exciting venture that amplifies our strengths in biological and medical research,” says Dr. Richard I. Levin, Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and dean of the Faculty of Medicine. “The Life Sciences Complex lays the foundation for medical and scientific researchers to uncover the biological basis of disease, translate research into better health and patient care and train tomorrow’s leaders in the health sciences.”

“This is an enterprise which brings the best of McGill under one roof,” adds Martin Grant, dean of the Faculty of Science. “It unites Science and Medicine and brings pure research together with the quest for practical applications.” The Bellini Building, for example, is shared by biologists, biochemists and physiologists, as well as scientists in the Centre for the Study

*The McGill Cancer Research Building*

of Host Resistance. On the same note, the LSC brings together the McGill Cancer Centre (established in 1989) with the Molecular Oncology Group to create the new Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Centre; this expanded centre includes facilities in the Cancer Research and McIntyre Medical buildings. **ROSALIND GOODMAN**, BA'63, and her husband, a co-founder of the Montreal-based Pharmascience Inc., have also endowed a new chair in cancer research.

In addition to consolidating existing McGill talent, the LSC is attracting new brainpower to the University. Professor Paul Lasko says the LSC is already luring international top-drawer talent, citing the arrival of professors Nam-Sung Moon and Gary J. Brouhard, formerly of Harvard University and the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, respectively. “We didn’t even interview people like that before we got this new facility,” says Lasko, leader of the Developmental Biology Research Initiative and chair of McGill’s Department of Biology. “We didn’t feel that we were competitive.”

The Life Sciences Complex isn’t just dedicated to improving human health, either. McGill’s Senate Sub-Committee on the Environment helped shape the design of the new buildings, giving careful consideration to “green” issues of sustainability, water efficiency, energy use and construction.

MICHAEL WOLOSCHUK (FILES FROM JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05)

As a well-connected veteran of the music industry—his contributions as a sound engineer and record producer can be heard on albums by Santana, the Grateful Dead and Blue Öyster Cult—**DANIEL LEVITIN** believes there is truth to a truism often heard in music circles. “In almost no case is a band’s second album better than its first.”

There are groups that buck this trend, Levitin warrants, listing Led Zeppelin and the Eagles among them. But it stands to reason that a band’s first effort will outclass its second. “You’ve got your whole life to write the songs for that first album, and only eight months or so to write the songs for your second one.”

Evolving to the

Levitin, now an associate professor of psychology at McGill specializing in the relationship between the mind and music, hopes the same doesn’t hold true for books.

His first book, *This is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*, was an unqualified hit, spending six months on the *New York Times* best-sellers list and earning a nomination for a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize.

Levitin wrote that book “to communicate some of the newest findings in the neuroscience of music to the average person. I wanted to reach people who don’t normally read about science and get them as excited about the process of scientific discovery as I am.”

When his publisher asked Levitin to write a second book, it would have been easy enough to churn out *This is Your Brain on Music: The Sequel*. But Levitin had other ambitions.

“I didn’t want to just cash in on my ‘brand.’” Realizing that his first book’s success and the readership it attracted

offered “a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Levitin decided to tackle riskier terrain—evolution. “The idea is to use music as a window for examining evolutionary biology.”

Levitin says his newest book, *The World in Six Songs*, “doesn’t bully people into giving up their religious beliefs, but it does attempt to persuade them of the elegance and explanatory power of Darwinian theory.”

It’s a controversial topic, and not just for the millions of North Americans who refuse to accept the scientific evidence behind evolution. There are prominent scientists who don’t see eye to eye with Levitin when it comes to his views on music. Harvard neuroscientist Steven Pinker, BA’76, DSc’99, for one. “Pinker sees music as an evolutionary byproduct,” says Levitin. In Pinker’s view, while language has played a pivotal role in humanity’s development over the centuries, “music just kind of went along for the ride.”

In his new book, Levitin begs to differ. “There is no known culture now

or any time that lacks [music], and some of the oldest human-made artifacts found at archaeological sites are musical instruments.”

In putting *The World in Six Songs* together, Levitin canvassed an array of top musicians for their thoughts on why music matters so much, including Sting, Joni Mitchell and Pete Seeger. One musician who turned down Levitin’s request for an interview, even though he reportedly enjoyed the psychologist’s first book, was Paul McCartney.

“Some musicians approach their work very systematically and others approach it in a much more intuitive way,” says Levitin. “McCartney worries that if he analyzes what he does too much, he won’t be able to do it anymore, whereas someone like Paul Simon is very methodical, very aware of the process. Joni Mitchell too. She’ll fuss with a lyric for months.”

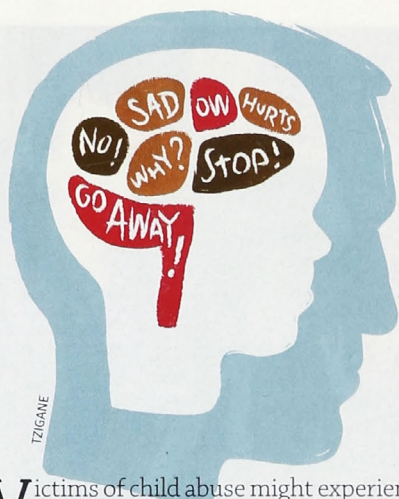
And Levitin himself?

“I’m a systematic person. I want to know how things work.”

DANIEL MCCABE, BA’89



Rock musician Sting (left) with Daniel Levitin.



Victims of child abuse might experience biochemical changes to their brains that leave them more vulnerable to suicidal urges as adults.

A McGill research team—including psychiatry professor **MICHAEL MEANEY**, pharmacology and therapeutics professor **MOSHE SZYF**, postdoctoral fellow **PATRICK MCGOWAN** and Dr. **GUSTAVO TURECKI**, PhD'99, director of the McGill Group for Suicide Studies—compared the brains of men who had taken their own

SEEKING THE ROOTS TO SUICIDE

lives (and who had all experienced abuse as children) with those of accident victims who had grown up under normal circumstances. The researchers, who published their findings in the journal *Public Library of Science One*, noted differences between the two groups in their epigenetic marking. While DNA is inherited and remains fixed throughout life, the functioning of its genes is influenced by a chemical coating. These epigenetic marks, which appear to be sensitive to environmental factors early in life, program the DNA to express certain genes at the appropriate time and place.

In examining the brains of the suicide victims, the McGill team found evidence

of epigenetic differences in the genes that produce rRNA, which is a basic structure in the protein-producing machinery. Protein synthesis is essential for learning, memory and the building of new connections in the brain. It is also linked to decision-making.

“It’s possible the changes in epigenetic markers were caused by the exposure to childhood abuse,” says Szyf. “The big remaining questions are whether scientists could detect similar changes in blood DNA—which could lead to diagnostic tests—and whether we could design interventions to erase these differences in epigenetic markings.”

CYNTHIA LEE

SMART DINING

Want your baby to be bright? Then it might be a good idea to breastfeed instead of using formula.

According to the largest randomized study of its kind ever put together, prolonged breastfeeding seems to offer a boost to kids’ IQ scores and to their classroom performance as they get older.

“Our study provides the strongest evidence to date that prolonged and exclusive breastfeeding makes kids smarter,” says McGill pediatrics and epidemiology and biostatistics professor **MICHAEL KRAMER**, who headed the research project.

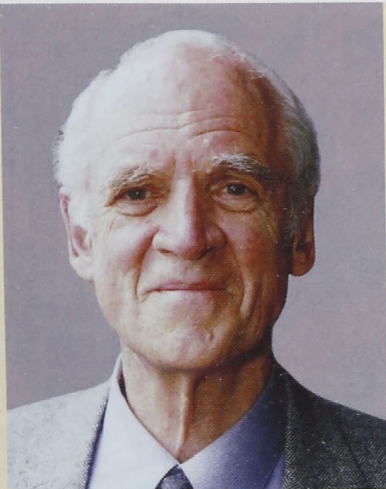
More than 17,000 infants were monitored in Belarusian hospitals and clinics for the study, and close to 14,000 of them were followed up when they were six and a half years old. Half the mothers participating in the study were encouraged to breastfeed their little ones exclusively for a prolonged period.

As the children got older, their cognitive ability was assessed by IQ tests administered by pediatricians and by their teachers’ ratings of their academic performance in reading, writing, mathematics and other subjects. Both sets of measures were significantly higher in the group that was exclusively breastfed. They scored, on average, 7.5 points higher in verbal intelligence, and 5.9 points higher in overall intelligence.

“This is not the difference between mental retardation and a genius,” Kramer told the CBC. “But if you consider for the whole population shifting the mean [IQ score] up three or four points, that means fewer difficulties for kids at the lower end and more Einsteins and Mozarts at the high end.” The study was published in *Archives of General Psychiatry*.

CYNTHIA LEE





KYOTO CALLING

His is a storied career by any measure, but the past year has been particularly heady for **CHARLES TAYLOR**, BA'52. In May 2007, the emeritus professor of philosophy at McGill received the £800,000 Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities, the world's largest annual monetary award for an individual. Then the scholar joined forces with sociol-

ogist Gérard Bouchard to chair the Quebec government's high-profile "reasonable accommodation" commission. This past June came the latest feather in his cap: Taylor became the first Canadian to win Japan's Kyoto Prize for arts and philosophy.

Nicknamed "Japan's Nobel," the 50 million yen (approximately \$480,000) Kyoto Prize is considered among the world's leading awards for lifetime contributions to the scientific, cultural and spiritual development and betterment of humankind. The prize recognizes Taylor's career-long philosophical investigation into how people of different backgrounds can retain their multiple identities while living together peacefully — and the global importance of including spiritual dimensions in public discourse. He will receive his award on November 10 during a ceremony in Kyoto, Japan.

The Kyoto Prize is an initiative of the Inamori Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting "peace and prosperity among all people on earth through the promotion of mutual understanding." Previous prize recipients include filmmaker Akira Kurosawa (1994), primatologist-conservationist Jane Goodall (1990) and linguist-activist Noam Chomsky (1988).

"I am very, very honoured," says Taylor. "I feel a great sense of agreement with, and affinity for, the basic standpoint of the Inamori Foundation."

Taylor isn't using his latest prize as an excuse to rest on his laurels. Even though it's only been a year since he published his mammoth *A Secular Age* — hailed by the *New York Times* as "a work of stupendous breadth and erudition" — he's got plenty of academic irons in the fire. "The commission put me so far behind," he chuckles, "that I have a whole lot of papers that I have to get going."

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

Where cancer grows

Gardeners know that a plant can flourish in one microclimate, yet flounder a few feet away. Now scientists from the McGill Cancer Centre and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre have learned that similar microenvironments not only exist within the human body, but play a crucial role in determining whether cancer cells prosper or fade.

The MUHC team analyzed tissue from 53 breast cancer patients. Using laser capture microdissection (LCM), they separated tumour cells from their surrounding microenviron-

ment (known as the stroma) and then analyzed the gene expression patterns exhibited in the stroma samples.

From the thousands of genes they examined, the McGill researchers identified 163 that correlated with patient outcomes, either good (no tumour metastasis or migration) or bad (non-responsiveness to therapy). The

team further identified a panel of 26 genes that could be used to accurately predict clinical outcome. This 26-gene profile, called the stromal-derived prognostic predictor (SDPP), was used to correctly forecast the outcomes in a second set of breast cancer patients.

"A tumour cannot exist on its own. It has to be supported and nourished by the cell types around it, the microenvironment," says senior author **MORAG PARK**, director of the Molecular Oncology Group at the Research Institute and also the newly appointed scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Cancer Research.

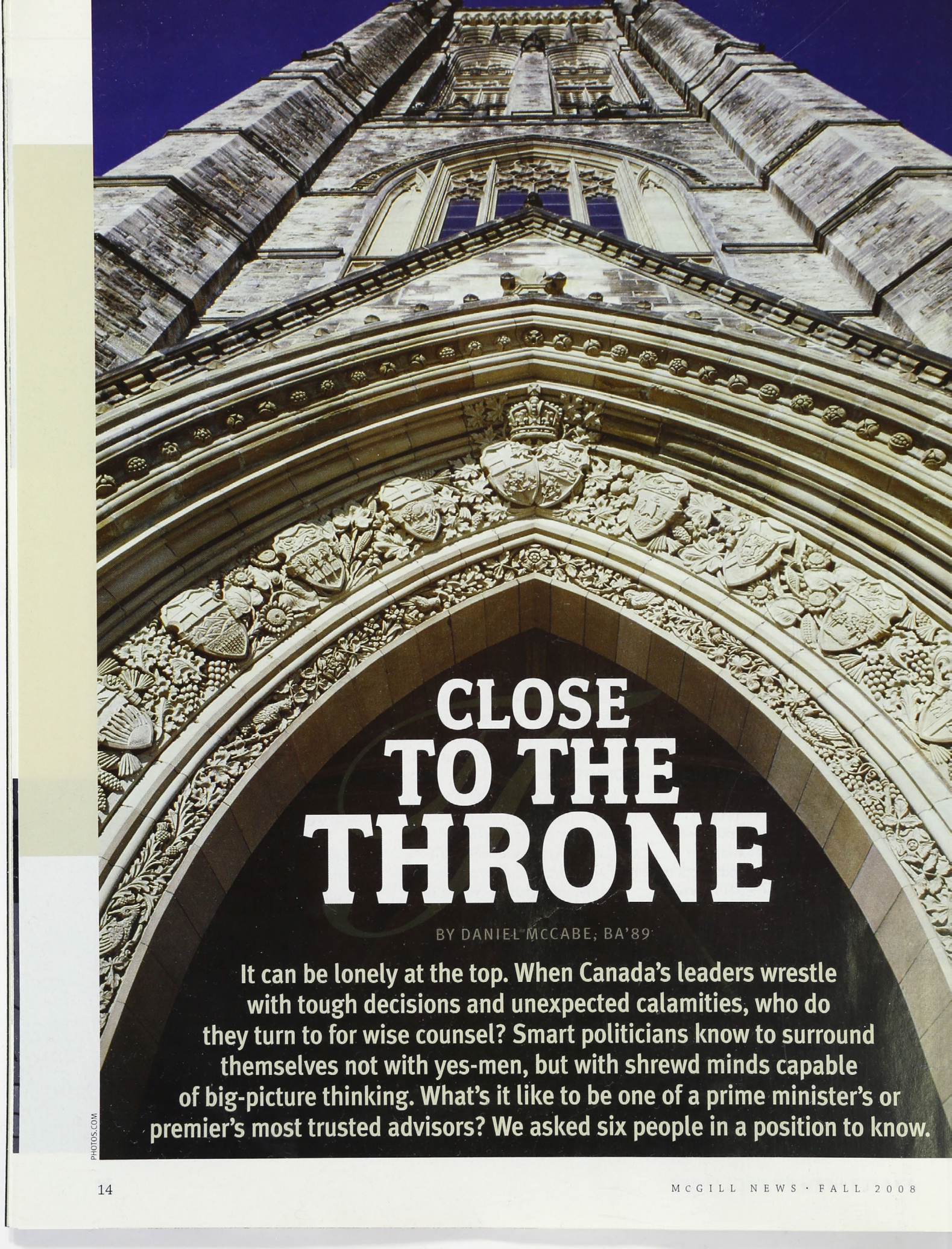
"Different patients have distinct tumour microenvironments at a gene level. Our findings show that the gene profile of these distinct microenvironments can be used to determine clinical outcome — who will fare well and who will not."

The team, which published its findings in *Nature Medicine*, is now developing SDPP into a functional diagnostic test, which they anticipate will be ready for clinical trials within a year.

ISABELLE KLING
(FILES FROM JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05)



MATTHEW FORSYTHE



CLOSE TO THE THRONE

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA '89

It can be lonely at the top. When Canada's leaders wrestle with tough decisions and unexpected calamities, who do they turn to for wise counsel? Smart politicians know to surround themselves not with yes-men, but with shrewd minds capable of big-picture thinking. What's it like to be one of a prime minister's or premier's most trusted advisors? We asked six people in a position to know.



IAN BRODIE, BA'90

Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Stephen Harper
(2006 to 2008)

I had spent less time in the office and more time with my family, I would have been a better chief of staff.

What do you say to people who are cynical about politicians and their motivations?

Everyone should be skeptical about politicians and their motivations — I certainly am! But cynicism is the lazy person's way out. Democratic politics can be crude, but it's the least-bad way to run a country.

What is your favourite movie/TV show about politics? What's the worst?

CBC once had a show called *Snakes and Ladders* about a young staffer on Parliament Hill. Each week, she spent almost the entire show trying to figure out what was really going on behind all the posturing on the Hill. I found that very realistic. I didn't enjoy *Dave*, the Kevin Kline movie. It pretended that if only you could put an honest man in the White House then everything else would be fine.

What current issue do you think politicians should spend more time focusing on?

Reforming the Senate, one way or the other. The Prime Minister has some interesting legislation before Parliament to elect senators, but none of the opposition parties are even willing to consider the possibility. That's a shame, because Canadians should have an effective Senate, and it will never be effective until it's elected.

Ian Brodie recently left the Prime Minister's Office and looks forward to "enjoying politics from the bleachers." He is an associate professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario (currently on leave) and the author of Friends of the Court: The Privileging of Interest Group Litigants in Canada.

Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty with his former principal secretary Gerald Butts.



What surprised you the most about your time in government?

I was surprised by the tremendous power of the federal government, even in a minority Parliament. In my career as a political scientist, I heard a lot of arguments about how globalization is weakening governments around the world. That is a lot of nonsense.

What are you most proud of in terms of your contributions there?

One of the first issues we faced in government was filling a vacancy on the Supreme Court. The Prime Minister wanted to have a committee of MPs question the prospective judge in public before the appointment was made. The Canadian Bar Association was very critical of the Prime Minister's proposal, but I had been thinking through this issue since I was an undergrad at McGill and knew it was an important reform. In the end, the Prime Minister took advice from the public service and his political staff and decided how to proceed. The reform was a great success.

What issue/situation do you wish you could have had another crack at?

I wish I had spent less time sweating the small stuff. If

GERALD BUTTS, BA'93, MA'96

Principal Secretary to Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty
(2003 to 2008)

What surprised you the most about your time in government?

We inherited a much more difficult financial situation than we had anticipated. It made everything more difficult in the first term.

What are you most proud of in terms of your contributions there?

I was able to contribute to a series of landmark education reforms and environmental initiatives.

What issue/situation do you wish you could have had another crack at?

You can drive yourself crazy looking backward. The universe is unfolding as it should.

What do you say to people who are cynical about politicians?

Cynicism is easy and cowardly. Hope is difficult and brave. Politicians, of all political stripes, are just people. They make mistakes. But public service is a noble calling and

most politicians I know are in it for the right reasons.

What is your favourite movie/TV show about politics?

The first few seasons of *The West Wing*. It did an excellent job of capturing the pace and emotion of politics.

What current issue do you think politicians should spend more time focusing on?

The environment. It's the most important issue on the face of the Earth.

Gerald Butts recently left the Ontario government to take up a new role as the president and CEO of World Wildlife Fund Canada.



EDDIE GOLDENBERG, BA'69, MA'71, BCL'74, LLD'04

Senior Policy Adviser (1993 to 2003) and Chief of Staff (2003) to former prime minister Jean Chrétien

What surprised you the most about your time in government?

My biggest surprise in the Prime Minister's Office was the amount of time a prime minister spends in meetings or telephone calls with foreign heads of government.

What are you most proud of in terms of your contributions there?

I am most proud of my contribution to the post-secondary education agenda of the Chrétien government, and most particularly the creation of the Canada Research Chairs, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Canada Graduate Scholarships and the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. These

achievements will have a major impact on the country for years to come.

What issue/situation do you wish you could have had another crack at?

I wish we could have had the opportunity to do far more than we did to address the problems of aboriginal Canadians.

What do you say to people who are cynical about politicians and their motivations?

For those who question whether politics really matters and whether all politicians are the same, I hold up the example of Canada's decision not to participate in the

war in Iraq as a convincing argument that it matters very much who is in office, and that young people should take an interest in participating in politics and public service because they can make a difference. People who are cynical about politicians and their motivations haven't had the experience I was fortunate enough to have over many years of watching politicians of all parties up close. I observed that whether we agree or disagree with their policies, by and large, they are extraordinarily dedicated, work long hours, sacrifice family time, and do what they think will make this a better country.

What is your favourite movie/TV show about politics?

My two favourite TV shows about politics are *Yes Minister* and *The West Wing*.

What current issue do you think politicians should spend more time focusing on?

I believe the great domestic challenge of public policy and politicians today in Canada is to face up to the fact that for Canada to be competitive in the 21st century requires large public investments, particularly in physical infrastructure and human capital, in the environment and climate change, in reducing child poverty and in addressing aboriginal issues. This will require the courage to stop promising never to increase taxes, and to remind Canadians of what Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said about taxes being the price we pay to live in a civilized society.

Eddie Goldenberg is a partner in the law firm of Bennett Jones, LLP and the author of The Way It Works: Inside Ottawa.

JOHN PARISELLA, MA'71

Chief of Staff to former Quebec premiers Robert Bourassa and Daniel Johnson (1989 to 1994)

What surprised you the most about your time in government?

My biggest surprise was the complexity of handling issues in government. The things that you try to accomplish in one area have repercussions in other areas and there are always competing interests to deal with. It's a little like trying to land a 747 on a very small runway.

What are you most proud of in terms of your contributions there?

I was responsible for the in-house management of the legislation that brought back the use of English on Quebec commercial signs. I also played an important role with the family patrimony legislation that dealt with family assets in the wake of a divorce or separation. We helped protect women who had previously been left in a vulnerable state and it might be the most progressive law of its kind in North America.

What issue/situation do you wish you could have had another crack at?

The Oka Crisis comes to mind. The government of Quebec perhaps didn't do all its homework on that one. Our antenna could have been sharper. Of course, this is 18 years later and I'm looking back with 20/20 hindsight. The crisis didn't end up solving much, but we did do our best to protect lives.

What do you say to people who are cynical about politicians and their motivations?

Get involved. Rather than just sit back and be critical, see if you can make a difference. Barack Obama comes



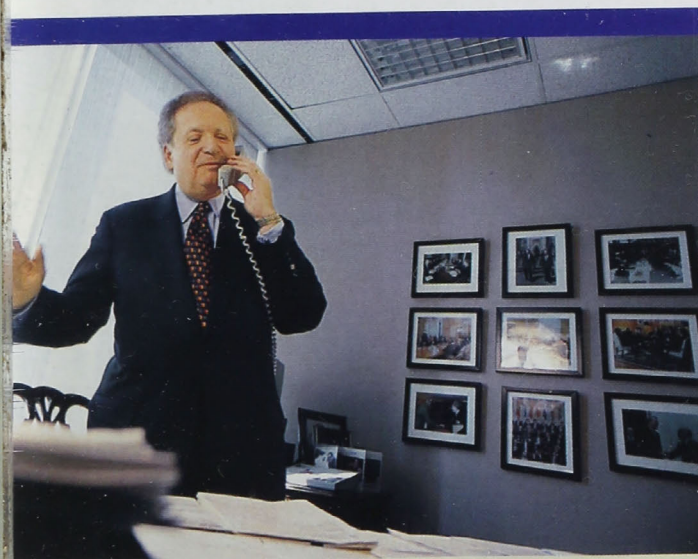
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

from a generation that could be expected to be very cynical about politics. After being the president of the *Harvard Law Review* he could have just graduated from Harvard and made a pile of money. Instead, he got involved in community work and politics.

What current issue do you think politicians should spend more time focusing on?

Politicians should spend more time trying to unify people. Whether you are a small "c" conservative or a liberal, whether you are a federalist or a sovereigntist, we all have much more in common than what separates us from one another. We need politicians who can remind us of that. The result would be better public policy and less cynicism about politics.

John Parisella is the president of BCP and BCP Consultants, firms that specialize in communications, strategic planning and public relations. He is also the special communications advisor to the president of Concordia University and an author whose next book will offer a primer in French on the upcoming U.S. presidential election.



CRAIG CHIVERS/MACLEAN'S

STANLEY HARTT, BA'58, MA'61, BCL'63

Chief of Staff to former prime minister Brian Mulroney (1989 to 1990)

What surprised you the most about your time in government?

How different the bureaucracy was from the political side. When I was deputy minister of finance, I had 700 professionals all trying to make me look good. In the Prime Minister's Office, the small "p" politics mirrors the larger elbowing for window space that one sees in political parties or in contested elections.

What are you most proud of in terms of your contributions there?

We dealt with huge issues — free trade, national unity, major tax reform initiatives, international relationships — all with indelible success that still benefits the country today.

What issue/situation do you wish you could have had another crack at?

Meech Lake, of course. I still believe that if we could have ensured a snapshot in history with Robert Bourassa proudly and honourably signing on to the constitutionalization of Quebec's modest requests for changes to the Constitution Act, repatriated in 1982 without Quebec's agreement, we would never have had the second Quebec Referendum and come within 50,000 votes of a major crisis threatening to split the country.

What do you say to people who are cynical about politicians and their motivations?

They are right, some of the time. There are politicians in office and seeking office right now who would rather be elected and leave their city, province or country worse off, particularly if they thought they could get

away with it because the consequences wouldn't be apparent for a long time. On the other hand, not all politicians are like that, and Brian Mulroney is Exhibit "A" in my case that some, the best and most admirable, do actually work for the benefit of their electors even at the risk of unpopularity.

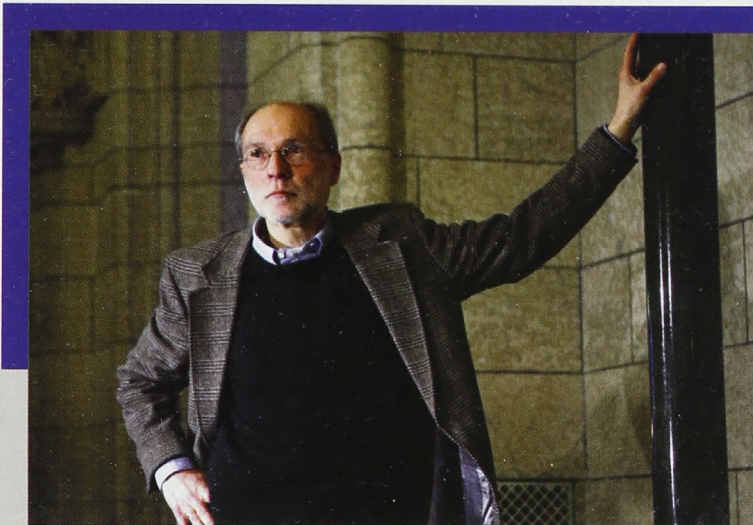
What is your favourite movie/TV show about politics? What's the worst?

Primary Colors was the best movie because it was entirely realistic. *JFK* and *Sicko* are among the worst because they are populist balderdash with a left-wing point of view that can't stand up to critical scrutiny.

What current issue do you think politicians should spend more time focusing on?

Global security. No one likes wars, but peaceniks do not in fact ensure peace. They make it more likely that people with evil intentions see us as pushovers. We need to be intelligent about how we conduct counter-terrorism, but we cannot pretend the need does not exist.

Stanley Hartt is the chairman of Citigroup Global Markets Canada.



CHRIS WATIE/REUTERS

NORMAN SPECTOR, BA'70

Deputy Minister in the Office of the Premier of British Columbia (1982 to 1986) and Chief of Staff to former prime minister Brian Mulroney (1990 to 1992)

What do you say to people who are cynical about politicians and their motivations?

The best politicians are those consistently scrutinized by intelligent journalists and intelligent opposition members.

What current issue do you think politicians should spend more time focusing on?

The decline of the U.S. in the international system and its implications for Canada.

Norman Spector is a political columnist whose work appears regularly in both the Globe and Mail and Le Devoir and is the author of Chronicle of a War Foretold: How Mideast Peace Became America's Fight. His daily press review is available at www.members.shaw.ca/nspector4.

For a longer version of this story, go to www.mcgill.ca/news.



MATTHEW FORSYTHE

Fear, depression, suicide: When cyberbullying creeps into today's schools, there's a lot more at stake than just lunch money.

BY DONNA NEBENZAHL, BA'75

Eight years ago, while Shaheen Shariff and her family were still living in B.C., her 15-year-old daughter received a terrifying email from an unknown source identifying himself only as "Raveger." "You don't know who I am," read the message, "but I know who you are. I've been watching you at school... And if you don't want to die... I'd sleep with one eye open."

Raveger turned out to be a classmate of Shariff's daughter. He was angry that she had refused to date him. After persistent questioning by school authorities, he admitted to sending the email.

It was an unsettling ordeal for the whole family, says Shariff, now a McGill-based authority on the issues surrounding cyberbullying. She found it particularly frustrating that the boy's web provider refused to cut off his email privileges once Shariff's family alerted the company to what was going on.

"That got me thinking about the legal issues, not as a parent who was upset, but looking in a more scholarly way," Shariff says. "Where are the boundaries between cyber and physical space? That's been my direction ever since."

RUINING REPUTATIONS WITH A CLICK OF A MOUSE



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Cyberbullying expert Shaheen Shariff is working toward new policies — and creative preventions — to address this high-tech scourge.

As it turns out, those boundaries are often hazy and indistinct. A decade ago, cyberbullying was a fringe phenomenon that few educators or legal experts paid much attention to. Now, with governments and school authorities under increasing pressure to come up with policies for dealing with cyberbullying, it has become a growing concern.

Shariff has emerged as one of the country's top experts on cyberbullying. An associate professor in McGill's Department of Integrated Studies in Education, she is frequently interviewed by the media on the topic and has advised school boards and governments on how to deal with it.

"It's virgin territory," says Professor Steven Jordan, PhD '96, the chair of Shariff's department. "Shaheen is at the forefront in terms of defining the particular problems that schools and school boards and departments of education have to deal with."

Jordan says Shariff understands the legal questions surrounding cyberbullying and has a solid grasp of how it all relates to the realm of education. The law has always been a passion for Shariff, who studied criminology at Simon Fraser University, then worked for 20 years as a legal assistant at Vancouver law firms.

"I always wanted to go to law school," she says. When she applied to study law at the University of British Columbia and was accepted at age 40, Shariff came to a difficult conclusion. She realized her children were still too young for her to commit to the grind of law school.

A partner at the law firm where she worked suggested that Shariff consider graduate studies at Simon Fraser's Centre for Education, Law and Society instead. A few years later, while working on her PhD, Shariff's

daughter was targeted by "Raveger." Bullying then became the focus of her doctoral studies.

Shariff was in the throes of her dissertation on bullying and the law when she visited McGill with her daughter, who was starting university. She liked what she saw of McGill and noticed that the Faculty of Education was in the market for some new professors. Five years later, she is a tenured McGill professor and the lead investigator on two research projects focused on cyberbullying and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This summer, Shariff and her research team collaborated with Netsafe in New Zealand in organizing that group's fifth international forum for discussing issues related to cybersafety. Shariff gave a keynote address.

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF BULLYING

In terms of its potential impact on victims, bullying — the old-fashioned, face-to-face kind — is now eclipsed by the online variety. While all forms of bullying do damage, cyberbullying's unique characteristics put it in a class all its own, Shariff says. "It's anonymous, it's permanent, perpetrators can invite an Internet audience, not just those who are physically present. It can resurface because people save the information and pass it on.

"It's one thing to have your reputation tarnished within a school. It would be even scarier to find yourself attacked online with the whole world able to witness it." The impact on victims can be devastating. Many suffer from profound depression. Some drop out of school.

For some Canadian teens — more than a half-dozen since 2000 — the suffering experienced as a result of cyberbullying has been too much to bear. One of them was 14-year-old Hamed Nastoh of Surrey, B.C., who leapt to his death eight years ago after incessant bullying by classmates. In the opening pages of her new book, *Cyber-bullying: Issues and Solutions for the School, the Classroom and the Home*, Shariff wrote a dedication to the boy and printed his poignant suicide note.

Shariff says her daughter's experience is hardly uncommon. Research done by Shariff and other educators indicates that between 35 and 50 per cent of young people have been, or know someone who has been, cyberbullied through email, instant messaging or social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook.

Students aren't the only victims. A whopping 84 per cent of teachers claim to have been victims of cyberbullying. For their part, Canada's teachers are fed up with being targeted online. The abuse ranges from snide posts about their wardrobe to anonymous accusations of criminal misconduct. The Canadian Teachers Federation, which represents 220,000 teachers across the country, voted unanimously in July to pressure the federal government into making cyberbullying a criminal offence. The CTU argues that cyberbullying has become an occupational health and safety issue.

If there is to be legislation, Shariff believes it should exist only for very extreme cases, where the identity of the perpetrator is perfectly clear. Still, Shariff thinks the teachers' position is a little too self-serving. "Why didn't they do anything to address it when it was happening among the kids?"

Shariff doesn't think school administrators have exactly covered themselves in glory in their handling of these issues either. Too often, they have been more concerned about the potential damage that cyberbullying incidents might have on their schools' reputations than about the impact of the cyberbullying on its victims, says Shariff.

SHOULD SCHOOLS RESPOND?

"One of the questions I get asked the most is, what are the responsibilities of schools in these cases?" It's tricky terrain. If a student targets a classmate for abuse outside of school hours and outside of school property, does the school still have an obligation to intercede? Shariff believes the answer is yes.

At a recent Faculty of Education launch for Shariff's new book, she pointed to a Supreme Court of Canada ruling from 1998 to support her point of view. In that case, the court indicated that schools "must provide an atmosphere that encourages learning" and that "during the school day, they must protect and teach our children." Shariff suggests that in an era where classmates are interacting 24/7 via text messaging and online chat

groups, the definition of what exactly constitutes a "school day" isn't as clear-cut as it used to be.

Alan Lombard, director of the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT), says modern teacher training must include an understanding of cyberbullying. "A lot of what affects the school takes place elsewhere," he says. Cyberbullying poses a novel challenge to schools. "It's new and needs a lot of study and work. Very few people are doing that and making recommendations, which is what Dr. Shariff is doing."

If Shariff is critical of schools that try to sweep cases of cyberbullying under the carpet, she doesn't think much of "zero tolerance" approaches either. That's the message that Shariff delivered to educators this summer, when she was the featured speaker at a QPAT conference.

"I have been working on bullying for many years, and we're already seeing popular anti-bullying programs haven't been effective," she told the assembly. "Zero tolerance has minimal effects, resulting in more time and cost because of legal challenges and student protest."

In some cases, attempts by authorities to impose their control have been downright comical. Shariff points to an \$89-million filtering system set up in Australia to carefully monitor web use. "It was hacked by a student in a half-hour."

Educators need to be more creative, Shariff argues, and move away from this focus on punishment. "I'm not against discipline, but zero tolerance has a boot-camp

"It's anonymous, it's permanent, you can invite an Internet audience, not just those who are physically present. It can resurface because people save the information and pass it on."



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

mentality. [Schools] think it's a deterrent and it's not." Zero tolerance withholds the opportunity for a dialogue, which is the only way students will understand the effect of their behaviour on the people they have picked on, she says.

Rather than being suspended or expelled, students need to be made aware of the impact their behaviours have had on the lives of others, says Shariff. That means standing in front of teachers, their families and other students. In the case of peer-to-peer bullying, it means facing the victim's parents, their siblings and friends. "We need more face to face, more understanding of what the other person is going through," she says. "We've got to give young people responsibility, put our trust in their ability to make the right choices. That's how you develop empathy."

What happens in the schools, she believes, is symptomatic of society. "These issues of discrimination, hostility and violence and lack of understanding others already exist outside the school." Instances of cyberbullying often reflect a poisoned atmosphere that was already present in a school, Shariff says.

Young people who bully lack empathy for others, but their behaviours are patterned on how we treat each other. "Generally in society there's a lack of caring about other people's needs; no one is accountable, no one is held responsible," Shariff says. "This is where children are growing up, in a superficial society with very little dialogue."

REACHING OUT TO STUDENTS

Shariff argues that to the young, cyberspace looks like their own private, unsupervised world, where they can say whatever they want without adults butting in. That was true for five Ontario high school students, who

were suspended for setting up a Facebook site to vent about their school's vice-principal. A rally in support of the students swelled in size and turned violent, as the students argued that because they were only exchanging views among themselves, they were being punished over what they called "private online comments," thus violating their freedom of speech.

Another Ontario student, Bram Koch, was suspended and missed a class trip to Montreal when he jokingly wrote

on a friend's Facebook site that he had seen one of his teachers masturbating at the back of the class. Like the students in Ontario, he didn't see his behaviour as cyberbullying and felt the school had no right to intervene.

Such incidents can provide opportunities for learning, insists Shariff. She credits a high school in Winnipeg for showing imagination in the days leading up to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent official apology to former students of native residential schools. "The school asked its students to write the speech that the prime minister should give. That got them thinking about the residential schools and about who was affected and how they were affected."

That kind of approach can be applied to the issues that surround cyberbullying. "If I were the teacher about whom Bram wrote on Facebook, I would have students research the etymology of bullying, the history of bullying and school censorship controversies involving freedom of expression and supervision — and ask them to come to decisions about where the lines crossed over to become cyber-libel and criminal expression. Moreover, I would attempt to find out what fuelled the anger that resulted in the comments made online."

Shariff doesn't believe that cyberbullying is a full-blown crisis. When teens see overheated newspaper headlines about cyberbullying, they worry — sometimes with good cause — about parental overreactions. Technology, in and of itself, is not the enemy.

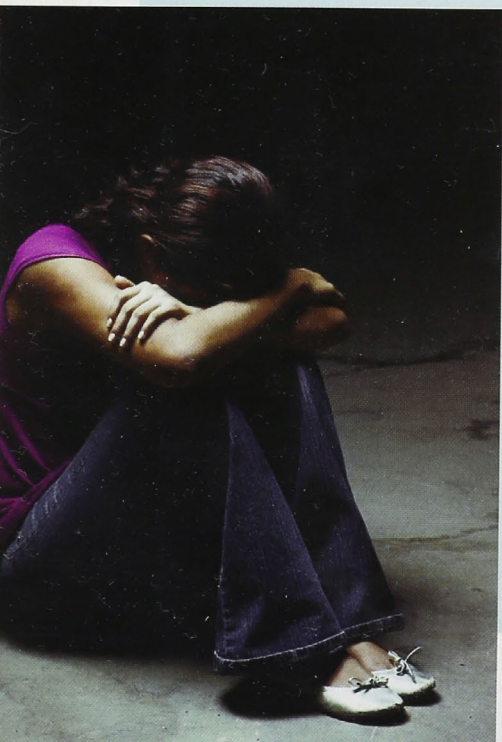
Earlier this year, Shariff served as a member of a task force led by former Concordia University president Claude Lajeunesse that examined the impact of the Internet and related technologies for the Quebec English School Boards Association. The Internet, she argues, can be used to solve problems as well as create them. Most students use these technologies responsibly — even creatively — to support their learning and socializing. "There needs to be more focus on the positive aspects."

It isn't enough to just hand down edicts from on high about how students should behave, Shariff suggests. Invite them to be part of the process when you create the rules in the first place. "Give them a voice," says Shariff. In some ways, students are the experts when it comes to these issues. "They know how their peers are using these technologies."

In one of its key recommendations, the Lajeunesse-led task force suggested that students should be invited "to contribute to the development of codes of conduct and policies to address online abuse."

"The strongest card we have," says Shariff, "is getting kids involved." ❦

Donna Nebenzahl is a freelance magazine and newspaper writer, and a columnist at the Montreal Gazette. She teaches journalism at Concordia University and is the author of Womankind: Faces of Change Around the World.



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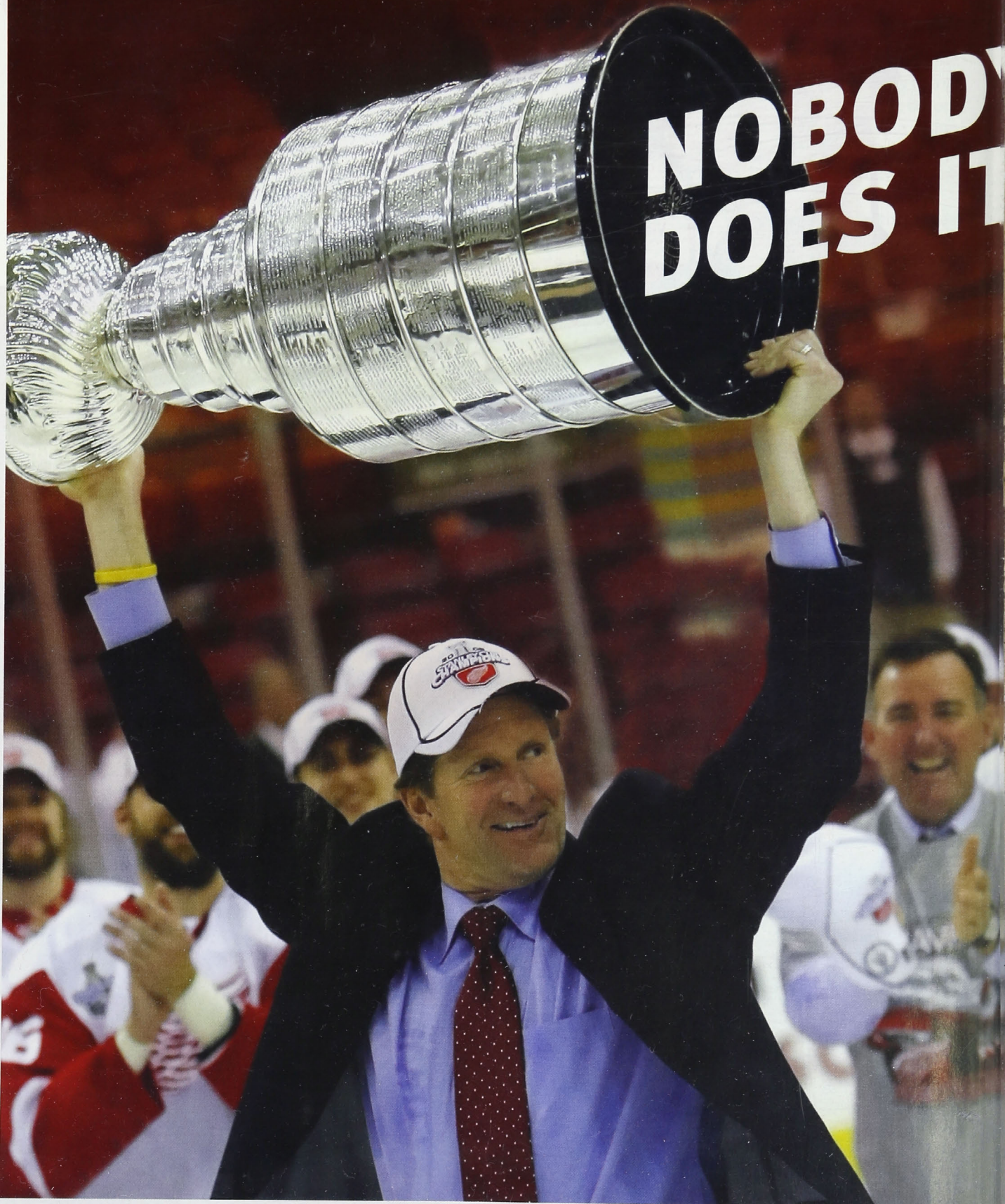
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DAVE REGINEK/DRW/NHL 1

BETTER

Mike Babcock is one of the most respected coaches in the world of hockey. Some of his best work, though, takes place away from the rink. BY NEALE MCDEVITT

Mike Babcock, BEd'86, is the very picture of success. The Detroit Red Wings coach led his charges to a Stanley Cup championship last spring, picking up a nomination for the Jack Adams Trophy as the National Hockey League's coach of the year in the process. Under his leadership, the Red Wings have won at least 50 games in each of the last three seasons. Only five other coaches in NHL history have steered their teams to back-to-back 50-win campaigns, and they include Hockey Hall of Famers Scotty Bowman and Glen Sather.

Babcock will be the first to admit, though, that he took a rather circuitous path to the top of the mountain.

In the late 1980s, he was living what he calls "a beer commercial lifestyle." Having completed his McGill degree in physical education, he had no great desire to get a job or settle down. "Growing up in Saskatoon, a lot of people I knew went down the same road; they got their degree, married a girl from their class, found a job and had three kids before they were 25. That wasn't for me. I wanted to get out and experience the world a bit. But I really didn't have a plan."

For a hard-scrabble defenceman (albeit an all-star at the university level) and former captain of the McGill Redmen, that meant signing on with the Whitley Warriors, a semi-pro hockey team in Northeastern England. Just a few years removed from a tryout with the Vancouver Canucks, Babcock found himself in hockey's remotest backwater—and he loved it. "It was a year of playing, training and having fun," he recalls.

When he wasn't schooling his British teammates on the finer points of a good "face wash" (in hockey terms this involves making your gloves as repulsively stinky as possible, then introducing them to your opponents' mugs) or buying cheap cars at auctions to resell them at a profit, Babcock taught special ed at Northumberland Community College even though, in his own words, "I knew nothing about special education." It wouldn't be the last time Babcock talked himself into a job he knew little about.

A year later, Babcock found himself back in Saskatchewan living at his father's lake home "not doing much of anything." When his brother-in-law showed him an article about a vacant hockey coach job at Calgary's Red Deer College, Babcock finally hatched a plan—a modest one, but a plan nonetheless. "I figured I'd apply for the job just to get a free trip to the Calgary Stampede," he says.

But a funny thing happened on his way to the rodeo; Babcock became a hockey coach. Changing out of his cowboy duds at a high school across the street into more conventional wear, he aced the interview—much to his own surprise, and chagrin. "I remember leaving and thinking to myself, Oh my God, I'm going to get the job. Now what?" he laughs.

COACHING 101

Babcock went straight to an under-17 hockey camp in Calgary. Armed with a pen and a large notebook he sat in the stands every day, diligently writing down every single drill, a harbinger of the work ethos and attention to detail he is renowned for today. "I didn't know what I was doing," he admits. "But I *did* know if you played hard and had fun, you always had a chance of winning."

And win he did. In 1989, Red Deer won the provincial collegiate championships and Babcock was named coach of the year.

It's been an oft-repeated pattern over the course of his two decades of coaching—success has followed him at every level. In 1993, Babcock took the helm of the University of Lethbridge hockey program, leading the Pronghorns to their first ever Canadian national university title. His six years as head coach of the Western Hockey League's Spokane Chiefs saw him earn West Division Coach of the Year honours twice. And Babcock is the only Canadian coach to win both the world junior championships (in 1997) and the world senior title (in 2004).

In the NHL, his rise as a coach has been nothing short of meteoric—beginning in 2002-03 when the



DAVE REGINEK DRW/NHL 1

“McGill taught me, if you work hard, you prepare hard and you do good things, then good things will happen to you.”

rookie bench boss led the Anaheim Mighty Ducks to the Stanley Cup finals only to lose in game seven to Martin Brodeur’s New Jersey Devils. Babcock has compiled 162 regular season victories in his first three years in Detroit—an amazing run that hasn’t gone unnoticed by Detroit general manager Ken Holland. “We’ve done a lot of winning under Mike’s watch,” said Holland after rewarding Babcock earlier this summer with a new three-year contract worth some \$4.5-million. “He’s been a great fit for us.”

ROBBING AND DOING

When asked about his success, Babcock deflects praise as deftly as he used to block shots in front of the Redmen net. “I’m a big R&D guy—I Rob and Do. I steal from the best coaches in whatever league I’m in,” he laughs. “When I first started in Anaheim we played an exhibition game against the Minnesota Wild and Jacques Lemaire. In the pre-game skate I noticed they were skating 700 miles an hour faster than us. The next time our teams played I snuck into the building so I could watch him run practice and I got some great ideas.”

However, he is quick to credit his alma mater with helping lay the foundation of his success. “At McGill, the guys I ended up being tight with were way more academically oriented than I was,” says Babcock. “I had to get a 3.5 [GPA] in my first term and I really learned how to apply myself academically like never before. But I learned just as much from the people I met there and the conversations we had. I believe in lifelong learning. We get better every day or, next thing you know, some other guy has your job.”

Babcock wears his love of McGill on his sleeve—well, at least around his neck. Few McGill alumni are as openly proud of their alma mater as Babcock, who often wears his McGill tie behind the Red Wing bench for important games.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do with my life, but going to McGill helped me understand that whatever I chose to pursue, no matter how big, it was there for me if I was just ready to reach out and grab it,” he continues. “If you don’t dream, you cap your potential and the best thing about the dreams I’m living now is that I’m in

control of them. McGill taught me, if you work hard, you prepare hard and you do good things, then good things will happen to you.”

Of course school pride only goes so far. When asked why he wasn’t wearing his lucky McGill tie for Game Six when the Wings clinched the Cup, Babcock laughs. “I wore it the game before when we lost so I put it in mothballs. I don’t fool around with that stuff.” His record with the tie previous to that loss was 4-0.

TURNING TRAGEDY INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Talking to Babcock’s colleagues, players and former teammates, it is clear that his coaching strength goes beyond a lucky tie and a few nifty drills he’s piked from rivals.

“He’s got tremendous passion and intensity,” says Holland. “Mike and I share the same outlook; the only thing that matters is team success.”

“Babs is a hard-ass,” says Jarrod Daniel, BSc’99, who played goal for Babcock in both Moose Jaw and Spokane during the coach’s time in the Western Hockey League (WHL). “Guys weren’t scared of him, but we respected his honesty and work ethic so much that we were afraid of letting him down. He’s a great guy to play for, not just hockey-wise, [but] for the fundamentals of life. As great a coach as he is, he’s a far greater man.”

As Daniel approached his 20th birthday, at which point he would be too old to continue in the WHL, he had to make a choice: play in the minor leagues or go to university. Babcock remembers Daniel standing out from the other players because he was “a real brainiac.” He convinced the young netminder to go to McGill, where he earned his undergraduate degree in anatomy and cell biology in 1999.

Today Daniel is a surgical resident at the Mayo Clinic. “My mother used to talk to me and my sisters about being difference-makers, about making an impact in the world. People like Jarrod are real difference-makers,” says Babcock, pride evident in his voice. “I just coach hockey, for crying out loud.”

Not surprisingly, Babcock undersells his own impact on people’s lives.



MCGILL ATHLETICS



CHUCK STOODY / CP PHOTO

From left to right: Mike Babcock sporting his McGill tie behind the Detroit Red Wings bench.

Babcock during his playing days with the McGill Redmen.

Babcock coached Team Canada to a world championship in 2004. He is seen here with two of the players from that squad, Ryan Smyth (left) and Scott Niedermayer.

This past March, Daniel was working with a nine-year-old girl with metastatic osteosarcoma, a malignant bone cancer, on both of her lungs. As he was wheeling her to the operating room where doctors would remove a series of tumours from her lungs, Daniel noticed she was wrapped in a Detroit Red Wings blanket. "When I told her that Babs was a good friend of mine, her eyes lit up and we really hit it off," says Daniel. "She basically lived, ate and breathed the Detroit Red Wings."

Daniel asked her if she could give the team one message, what would it be? "When they make it to the finals," she said, "you tell them to fight like it was their last game." Daniel emailed the message to Babcock, who, in turn, hung it on the dressing room wall as inspiration for his players.

Just prior to game three of the Stanley Cup Finals, Babcock called the girl from his Pittsburgh hotel and the two talked hockey at great length. A few days later, she received a Red Wings jersey signed by the entire team. "It was a great gesture on Babs' part," says Daniel. "The family said she was ecstatic and that it gave her a huge pick-up. She's fighting a cancer that will probably be terminal and this gave her a little boost, a little bit of confidence, a little bit of happiness."

Babcock has a special affinity for cancer patients. His mother died of cancer when he was 28 and two close friends of his lost young sons to the disease. "Those things don't keep happening unless you're supposed to do something about it," says Babcock. "At some point, you have to say 'wakey-wakey.'"

While coaching in Anaheim, he met Dr. Leonard Sender, medical director of the Children's Hospital of Orange County's cancer program. The two hit it off and soon Babcock was a fixture on the pediatric ward. "In his off-time, he would sneak in to visit with the kids and bring them caps and jerseys," says Sender. "Often celebrities and sports figures do this with cameras in tow because they see it as some sort of photo-op. But not Mike. He would always sneak in with zero fanfare."

"He knows what life is about. Obviously, he has that killer instinct during the game, but he walks away knowing that, ultimately, it is just a game. In my eyes, Mike is a real man."

Babcock makes it clear that, as important as hockey is in his life, it will not be what defines him. "The measure of me as a man isn't going to be how many games I win or how many Cups I bring home," says Babcock. "It will be in the family I raise and the integrity I have in my daily life."

BRINGING THE CUP TO THE KIDS

As in Anaheim, Babcock spends much of his free time in Detroit visiting the kids at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. So much so that hospital officials issued him his own employee ID that says "Coach" to help get him past security guards in case they are among "the one or two people in Detroit who don't know who Mike is," laughs Dr. Herman B. Gray, president of the hospital.

"Mike has been an extraordinary gift to the Children's Hospital and to the community at large," says Gray. "He took a close personal tragedy and made something beautiful out of it."

Babcock donates tickets to every Wings home game for sick kids and their families, meets with them in his office just prior to face-off and makes sure they get the full red-carpet VIP treatment. When the Wings came back home with Stanley Cup in tow, the first place Babcock took it was to the Children's Hospital. "Someone from the Red Wing organization told me that Mike started planning this as soon as they got on the plane in Pittsburgh [after winning]," says Gray. "Needless to say, this was the thrill of a lifetime for many of these kids."

"When he visits the children, he is saying, 'You are important. You are special. I care about you.' That's very powerful, not just for the kids but for all of us. For a mother and father sitting bedside day and night, to see their child smile when smiles are hard to come by, it really is a tremendous gift. Mike is not a warm and fuzzy guy, not a back-slapper. But he is a remarkably caring man."

Some would say a difference-maker. 🐼

Neale McDevitt is the editor of the McGill Reporter, McGill's staff/faculty newspaper. A former member of the Canadian Weightlifting Team, Neale is also a fiction writer and the author of One Day Even Trevi Will Crumble, a short story collection that earned the Quebec Writers' Federation's First Book Award in 2003.



PERCER LE CODE DU diabète

Une analyse révolutionnaire de l'ADN révèle que le diabète de type 2 est beaucoup plus complexe qu'on ne le croyait, pour le plus grand bonheur des chercheurs. PAR MARK REYNOLDS / TRADUCTION D'ISABELLE CHEVAL

D'ici 2010, près de 3 millions de Canadiens recevront un diagnostic de diabète de type 2. Contrairement au diabète de type 1, une maladie auto-immune incurable, le diabète de type 2 (parfois appelé diabète non insulino-dépendant ou diabète de l'adulte) est un trouble métabolique qu'il est souvent possible de contrôler ou de prévenir en surveillant son alimentation et en pratiquant une activité physique. Mais lorsqu'il n'est pas convenablement traité, le diabète de type 2 peut coûter très cher et faire peser sur les personnes qui en sont atteintes un risque élevé de cécité, d'insuffisance cardiaque et hépatique et de différentes maladies.

Compte tenu des enjeux, le Dr Rob Sladek et ses collègues peuvent être fiers d'avoir identifié l'an dernier quatre nouveaux gènes associés à cette maladie. Que leur article publié dans *Nature* soit le cinquième article scientifique le plus cité de 2007, selon le site de classe-

ment et d'analyse des publications scientifiques ScienceWatch.com, n'est en fait que la cerise sur le gâteau (sans sucre, bien sûr). Mais sans le facteur chance ni la souplesse, cette découverte aurait très bien pu ne jamais se matérialiser.

Dr Sladek, professeur adjoint au Département de génétique humaine et d'endocrinologie, explique que le projet initial de son équipe était d'identifier les gènes candidats à l'aide de modèles animaux. Ce plan prévoyait d'induire le diabète chez les rongeurs, puis d'identifier les gènes qui semblaient activés ou altérés par la présence de la maladie.

« Si nous avons suivi cette piste, nous aurions probablement trouvé un ou deux gènes, et sans doute des gènes déjà connus », souligne-t-il.

Affairés à la planification de ces expériences, la technologie les a devancés, avec la disponibilité des

microréseaux. Il devenait ainsi est devenu possible de balayer rapidement l'intégralité du code génétique humain, si bien que l'équipe s'est empressée de modifier ses plans au profit d'études d'association à l'échelle du génome entier. Les études d'association pangénomique font appel au balayage du génome de plusieurs centaines de sujets et permettent d'utiliser les statistiques pour identifier les gènes associés à certaines caractéristiques.

Le temps pressait. L'équipe, dirigée par McGill et composée de collaborateurs de l'Institut Louis-Pasteur en France, du Collège impérial de Londres et de l'Université de Montréal, savait qu'elle rivalisait avec un certain nombre de poids lourds dans la course à la publication, au nombre desquels figuraient l'Institut Broad de Harvard, le Wellcome Trust d'Angleterre et les Instituts nationaux de santé, situés à Washington.

Fort heureusement, le Pr Sladek et son équipe ont eu accès aux techniques de pointe et à l'expertise du Centre d'innovation Génome Québec et Université McGill (CIGQUM), sans parler des quelque 3000 échantillons d'ADN de diabétiques, laborieusement recueillis et catalogués par l'équipe de recherche française de l'étude DESIR (Données épidémiologiques sur le syndrome d'insulino-résistance) et des chercheurs de l'Institut Pasteur de Lille. Johan Rung, un bioinformaticien rattaché au CIGQUM, Alexandre Montpetit, directeur scientifique adjoint du Centre, et le candidat postdoctoral Ghislain Rocheleau ont mené l'analyse statistique de la vaste quantité de donnée.

Le Dr Constantin Polychronakos, professeur de pédiatrie et de génétique humaine, explique que la rapidité et la fiabilité des résultats obtenus sont attribuables à la quantité d'échantillons et de données que l'équipe avait en sa possession sur les donneurs (telles que le poids de chaque sujet, l'âge d'apparition du diabète et les antécédents médicaux).

« Nous savions que l'obésité était un facteur, mais nous souhaitions savoir quels étaient les autres facteurs en jeu, si bien que nous avons axé nos recherches sur les diabétiques minces », précise-t-il. L'équipe mcgilloise a ainsi pu obtenir une meilleure corrélation, ou « ordre d'amplitude » pour reprendre les termes du Dr Polychronakos, que celle trouvée ultérieurement dans les études menées par leurs concurrents.

Les milliers d'échantillons ont été envoyés à Montréal, où ils ont été passés dans les microréseaux d'ADN du CIGQUM, situé sur le campus du centre-ville de McGill. L'équipe a ensuite pu localiser les quatre gènes et au moins « une adresse ou un numéro d'appartement pour chacun d'eux », souligne le Dr Sladek.

Deux des quatre gènes identifiés par l'équipe mcgilloise ont été confirmés par les données issues d'études menées par les équipes concurrentes, et sont les plus prometteurs pour les futures recherches. Les deux autres partagent le même « numéro d'appartement » génomique, ce qui complique la caractérisation de leur fonction. Le Dr Polychronakos admet que leur corrélation pourrait tout simplement être une aberration statistique.

Les deux gènes corroborés par des études ultérieures jouent un rôle important dans les cellules bêta pancréatiques. L'un d'eux, HHEX, est en fait un commutateur qui régule l'expression des protéines. La caractérisation précise de sa fonction devrait intervenir d'ici un ou deux ans, selon le Dr Sladek, qui pense toutefois que le gène est lié au développement des tissus pancréatiques. L'autre gène, SLC30A8 (également connu sous le nom de Znt8), n'est exprimé que par les cellules bêta pancréatiques et il est utilisé dans le métabolisme du zinc, qui est à son tour utilisé dans la synthèse de l'insuline.

Bien qu'il soit possible que ces découvertes débouchent, à long terme, sur des traitements cliniques du diabète (en stimulant le transport du zinc, par exemple), cette découverte illustre surtout l'extrême complexité de la maladie. Il y a tout juste deux ans, les chercheurs savaient que trois gènes seulement, voire un quatrième, étaient mis en cause dans le diabète. Aujourd'hui, ils pensent qu'il pourrait y en avoir cinquante. « Peu à peu, nous allons découvrir que les bases génétiques de la maladie diffèrent d'une personne à l'autre », explique Rob Sladek. « Même si nous pouvons expliquer beaucoup de choses, concevoir un test génétique fondé sur nos connaissances relève quand même du défi. Nous ne connaissons pas toutes les variantes possibles. L'intérêt de la recherche génétique tient à ce qu'elle pourrait nous donner pour la première fois les moyens de subdiviser le diabète de type 2 en différents groupes. Au cours des prochaines années, nous devrions commencer à percevoir les différences entre ces sous-groupes en termes d'évolution de la maladie, de la difficulté à la traiter et de l'effet de certains médicaments sur, par exemple, le diabète de type 2A ou 2B ou 2C. »

« Dans trente ans, il est possible que nous ne parlions plus de diabète de type 2, mais d'un large spectre de troubles différents. La porte que nous venons d'ouvrir débouche sur une multitude de pistes. »

Par conséquent, les recherches se poursuivent. Le Dr Sladek explique que son équipe fait déjà le suivi des résultats annoncés dans l'article paru dans *Nature* au moyen de cultures cellulaires et de modèles murins, dans l'espoir de mieux caractériser la nature des gènes HHEX et SLC30A8, et peut-être de trouver les moyens d'en corriger les fonctions.

Le Dr Polychronakos se réjouit de l'immense complexité que ces recherches ont permis de dévoiler. Les techniques utilisées pour identifier les gènes HHEX et SLC30A8 sont des techniques à très large spectre, conçues pour trouver des variations communes. Selon lui, de nombreux cas de diabète se révéleront le résultat de mutations rares dans le code génétique des patients.

Même si les Drs Sladek et Polychronakos ne pensaient pas figurer au tableau d'honneur de la science, ils sont à juste titre fiers de leur découverte.

« Nos travaux ont été récompensés – les citations sont un indice de l'impact que les recherches peuvent avoir. Elles sont la raison d'être de tout scientifique », souligne Constantin Polychronakos. 🐦

Dans leur quête d'identification de nouveaux gènes associés au diabète de type 2, les Drs Rob Sladek (à gauche) et Constantin Polychronakos (à droite) ont supervisé les travaux menés par une équipe notamment formée de Johan Rung (deuxième, à partir de la droite), un bioinformaticien qui a géré la majeure partie de l'analyse statistique des données génomiques, et d'Alexandre Montpetit, directeur scientifique adjoint du Centre d'innovation Génome Québec et Université McGill.



“I’ve got one last thing to say before I go...”



McGill's valedictorians hit the stage this spring with a common goal: Don't be lame

BY SIMONA RABINOVITCH

PHOTOS BY RACHEL GRANOVSKY

Michelle Kissenkoetter, BA'08 (pictured at left) had a surprise in store for her family when they attended her McGill convocation on May 30.

Her entire clan, grandmother included, had flown in from Guatemala to see Kissenkoetter graduate. They expected to catch a few brief glimpses of Michelle on stage as she was handed her diploma. Instead, Kissenkoetter was one of the star attractions, joining an illustrious group whose ranks have included the likes of medical pioneer William Osler, MDCM1846, and Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier, BCL1864.

She was the valedictorian for her graduating class.

"Being there on stage, looking out at everyone, was a unique perspective from which to graduate," says Kissenkoetter, who majored in political science and international development studies and minored in economics. "I had a different vision of the experience, and that was pretty neat." Valedictorians took part in six of McGill's spring convocation ceremonies: Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Health Sciences, the Desautels Faculty of Management, Law and two Arts convocations. McGill's valedictorians are selected in different ways, depending on their faculty.

VETTING THE VALEDICTORIANS

In the Faculty of Arts, for instance, a committee made up of the dean, the president of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) and four other students is responsible for picking the valedictorians. Of the dozen or so students who apply for the position each year, about six are invited for interviews.

Grades are important, says AUS vice-president (academic) Patrick Boily, who chairs the selection committee. So is evidence of leadership and community involvement. "We're also looking for that extra little thing that might set somebody apart. Is this someone who will be memorable [to fellow graduates]?"

At the same time, says Boily, you don't want a valedictorian who is a little *too* special. "We want someone that people can relate to, someone who has shared many of the same experiences at McGill."

Picking the final two is no easy chore. The committee spent more than three hours debating the merits of

each candidate. "It was the toughest thing I had to do all year," Boily says.

A similar process plays out in the Desautels Faculty of Management, says Glenn Zabowski, BCom'90, MBA'92, the director of the bachelor of commerce program. In his faculty, students are also invited to apply for the honour and the different candidates are vetted by a committee that includes Zabowski, students from the Management Undergraduate Society and professors from the faculty. While arts students vying to be valedictorians have to be rock-solid classroom performers (at least a 3.5 GPA is best), the pressure to produce academically is even higher for valedictory aspirants in Zabowski's faculty, where students need to be in the top 5 per cent of their graduating class to even be considered. While community involvement and leadership skills are important considerations, "we really want this to be an academic award," stresses Zabowski.

YEARNING TO BE ORIGINAL

No matter how each arrived at the podium, this year's McGill valedictorians shared certain qualities: enthusiasm, ambition and a well-rounded philosophy of life. They also all knew that their peers were a fairly sophisticated bunch, so they strived to deliver words of wisdom that would be both relevant and original — who wants to hear yet another aria about following your dream? "I based my speech on a Buddhist proverb: 'Perfect isn't better, better is perfect,'" says Kissenkoetter. "It's difficult in your last year when you're focused not only on graduating, but also on everything that's supposed to come after graduating, like finding a job. So, instead of aspiring for perfection, try to improve yourself, and the world around you, step by step." As for Kissenkoetter's own future, first up is a fellowship with Insight

Collaborative, a Boston-based NGO that specializes in conflict resolution. She'll be travelling to Lebanon and Sri Lanka and will work with the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

It won't be her first international experience. After high school, Kissenkoetter took a break from school to work with a development agency in southern Africa. At McGill, Kissenkoetter landed a Faculty of Arts internship with the United Nations Development Programme, doing work in support of national elections in Guatemala, her country of origin.

Kissenkoetter was talked into applying to be a valedictorian by a close friend. In the case of Jeremy Delman, BA'08, he tossed his name into the valedictorian ring pretty much on a whim. "I get a kick out of public speaking, and after attending commencements at other schools where valedictorians delivered addresses that went on forever, were boring, or didn't speak to what the class wants to hear, I wanted to make sure my speaker wasn't crappy."

Communication has been a theme of Delman's five years at McGill. Much of the 23-year-old's time was consumed by the *McGill Daily* newspaper, where he worked as an editor. "It's such an intense job, it takes up your whole life," says Delman. He is in New York these days, attending law school at Columbia University. But Delman isn't necessarily done with journalism just yet — he expresses interest in examining "public policy-making from a journalistic point of view."

Delman recalls toiling on his valedictory speech for several weeks. Then, a few days before commencement, he tore the thing up.

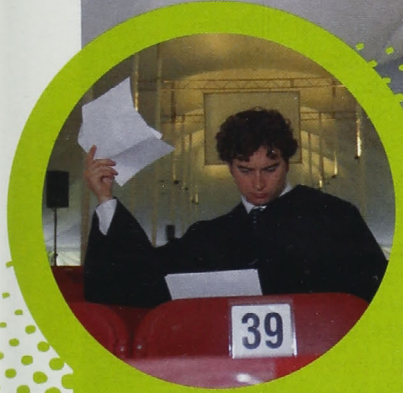
"I thought, 'This doesn't sound like me, it's so formal and boring.'" The new one, he says, wrote itself. "I did it in the form of a love letter to the University. I tried to tap into the shared experiences we all had, both good and bad, to keep it short and sweet, and to avoid clichés like 'believe in yourself.'" His four roommates heartily approved.

Striking an original chord is a challenge, agrees Erica Pimentel, BCom'08, who served as the valedictorian at the convocation for graduates of the Desautels Faculty of Management. "Just Google 'valedictorian speech' and there's tons of stuff out there," says the 21-year-old Montrealer. "I touched on subjects the students felt [connected to] and was happy to hear that people were moved." During her time at McGill, Pimentel was a vice-president of the McGill Accounting Society and represented the University in case competitions against other schools. In her valedictory address, she talked about the apprehension students feel upon entering the "real world" and how risks and opportunities can often be one and the same, all depending on how you approach the challenges facing you.

Pimentel, who began work as a chartered accountant shortly after graduation, says she is grateful for her management education. She started off studying science, but it wasn't a good fit for her. She views her management degree as "a second chance" that paid off.

Valedictorian Michelle Kissenkoetter addresses fellow graduates at one of the Faculty of Arts convocations on May 30.





“I was speaking to some of the most educated, intelligent people I’ve ever encountered.”

Caolan Moore, BCL/LLB’08, applied for his faculty’s valedictory gig while he was in Tanzania, completing an internship with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. “I felt I had something to say,” says the 27-year-old, who headed to Ottawa after graduating to study for his Ontario Bar exams. “I tried to convey a reflection on maintaining focus and on staying centred. Law can be such a demanding profession that it’s easy to get caught up. Sometimes, you have to remember the principles that brought you there.” Moore, the former executive managing editor of the student-run *McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law & Policy*, hopes to build a career for himself in international law.

Like his fellow valedictorians, Moore tried to steer clear of clichés in his address. “I was speaking to some of the most educated, intelligent people I’ve ever encountered, so I tried to reflect who we are as a class. Over the years you spend in school, you don’t just remember the law, but the people around you — [who help] shape your view of the law.”

Several of the valedictorians dealt with one common concern.

Addressing her classmates, Pimentel said, “I’m sure many of you are sitting here today thinking, ‘Wow, this is it. This is the real world. This is what we’ve been working for. Am I ready?’”

Kissenkoetter expressed similar sentiments in her valedictory remarks. “Do we know enough, have we learned enough, to be able to accomplish those great things that are expected of us?” The answer was clear, at least for Kissenkoetter.

“We are intelligent, and resilient, et déterminés, et capables, and we can churn out a 10-page paper the night before it’s due on only three hours of sleep and five cups of coffee. Now that’s talent!”

Faculty of Law valedictorian Caolan Moore makes his way to the convocation tent on McGill’s lower campus before giving his valedictory address on May 26.

(Inset) Moore consults his speaking notes before taking the stage.

Simona Rabinovitch is a Montreal-based writer specializing in music, travel and pop culture. She is the senior editor of Zink Canada and her work has also appeared in the Globe and Mail, Nylon, Paper, SPIN.com and Interview.



Coming Events

September 25, San Francisco: The Making History Tour: San Francisco Stop. Principal Heather Munroe-Blum will outline McGill's plans for the future while McGill associate professor of psychology Karim Nader will discuss "Taming Trauma." Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop, free, 6 pm to 9 pm. Contact 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

September 27, Ottawa: Fall Hike (Ottawa Young Alumni), Wolf Trail, Gatineau Park, free, 10 am to 4 pm. Contact Mark Searl at mksear@hotmail.com.

September 27, Los Angeles: The Making History Tour: Los Angeles Stop. Principal Heather Munroe-Blum will outline McGill's plans for the future while McGill associate professor of psychology Karim Nader will discuss "Taming Trauma." Consul General of Canada's Residence, 165 South Muirfield Road, free, 2 pm to 5 pm. Contact 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

October 1, Ottawa: Wicked Wednesday Pub Nights (Ottawa Young Alumni), The Standard Luxury Tavern, 360 Elgin Street, free, 6 pm to 9 pm. Contact ottawayoung.alumni@mcgill.ca.

October 4, Toronto: Nuit Blanche. Visit some of the more than 150 artsy destinations open from sundown to sunrise during Toronto's famed Nuit Blanche. Starting at Trinity-Bellwoods Park (just inside the main gate) at 8 pm. Your guide will be wearing a McGill shirt and waving a McGill flag. Contact toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca.

October 5, Toronto: Family Day at the Zoo with the Stingrays. Join other McGill families for a day at the Toronto Zoo and visit the new live exhibit "Stingray Bay—A Touching Experience." Toronto Zoo, Meadowvale Road, North of Hwy 401, \$25 for adults, \$15 for children from 4 to 12 (free for children three or younger). Event limited to 100 people. Contact 416-703-9795 Ext. 221 or toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca.

October 6, New York: The Making History Tour: New York Stop. Principal Heather Munroe-Blum will outline McGill's plans for the future while associate professor of psychology Daniel Levitin will discuss his new book, *The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature*. 92Y Tribeca, 200 Hudson Street, free, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Contact 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

October 10 – October 11, Montreal: MBA Reunite Weekend. All MBA alumni are invited for a weekend of events

to celebrate the re-launch of the MBA Program. Desautels Faculty of Management, 1001 Sherbrooke St. West, 3rd floor, \$250. Contact 514-398-1253 or alumni.mgmt@mcgill.ca.

October 15 - November 26, Montreal: McGill Mini-Med 2008. Learn about everything from cardiology to pain management to stem cells from Dean of Medicine Richard Levin and other top McGill medical experts. Charles Martin Amphitheatre, 6th floor, 3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, \$112.87 (\$67.72 for students and seniors). Contact 514-398-5332 or minimed.med@mcgill.ca or visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/minimed.

October 16 - October 19, Montreal: Homecoming Weekend, McGill University. Join hundreds of fellow alumni for the 39th Annual Stephen Leacock Luncheon (with John A. Rae), the Beatty Memorial Lecture (with environmentalist James Gustave Speth), the Spotlight on Schulich Concert and Reception, the McGill Homecoming Game (McGill vs. Université de Montréal) and many other events. Contact Pina Lanni at 514-398-8288 or homecoming.alumni@mcgill.ca or visit www.mcgill.ca/homecoming.

October 16 - October 19, Montreal: McGill Parents Weekend, McGill University. Listen to some of McGill's top professors discuss their areas of expertise, attend the Beatty Memorial Lecture (with environmentalist James Gustave Speth), explore Mount Royal or take part in many other events. Contact 514-398-2937 or parents.association@mcgill.ca or visit www.mcgill.ca/parents/weekend2008.

October 16 - November 20, Montreal: McGill Mini-Law 2008. Six-part lecture series featuring Dean of Law Nicholas Kasirer and other top law professors. Faculty of Law Moot Court, 3644 Peel Street, \$112.87 (\$67.72 for students and seniors). Contact 514-398-7276 or mini.law@mcgill.ca or visit www.mcgill.ca/minilaw.

October 22, Montreal: McGill Book Fair Day One, Redpath Hall, 861 Sherbrooke, free, 9 am to 9 pm. Contact Janet Arts at 514-398-5000.

October 23, Montreal: McGill Book Fair Day Two, Redpath Hall, 861 Sherbrooke, free, 9 am to 9 pm. Contact Janet Arts at 514-398-5000.

October 25, Munster: Halloween at Saunders Farm (Ottawa Young Alumni). Enjoy the all new stage show "Ghoul School Musical" and explore the Field of Screams. 7893 Bleeks Road, \$20, 6 pm to

10 pm, carpooling available. Contact Spy Tsoukalas at spy_ts@rogers.com.

October 27, Toronto: McGill on the Move: David Lank, director emeritus of the Desautels Faculty of Management's Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies, discusses "Making Successful Mistakes." University Club of Toronto, 380 University Street, \$15, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Contact 514-398-7684 or event.registration@mcgill.ca.

November 2, Ottawa: Centrepointe Theatre (Ottawa Young Alumni). Experience the hit Canadian musical *Anne and Gilbert*, based on the sequel novels to *Anne of Green Gables*. 101 Centrepointe Drive, \$33, 1:30 pm to 3 pm. Contact Anik Morsani at amorsa5@hotmail.com.

November 5, Ottawa: Wicked Wednesday Pub Nights (Ottawa Young Alumni), The Standard Luxury Tavern, 360 Elgin Street, free, 6 pm to 9 pm. Contact ottawayoung.alumni@mcgill.ca.

November 6, Montreal: Chronic Disease and Aging: From Research to Policy to Practice: An International Dialogue. International symposium featuring experts from McGill, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ben-Gurion University and elsewhere. Gelber Conference Centre, 5151 Côte Ste. Catherine Road, \$60, 7:15 am to 4:45 pm. Contact Rebecca Rupp at 514-340-8222, Ext. 2354 or visit www.solidage.ca/CDA08.htm.

November 8, Ottawa: Comedy Club Night (Ottawa Young Alumni), Meet at the Prescott Tavern, 378 Preston Street, \$12, 7 pm to 11 pm. Contact Julie Polisen at jpolis27@yahoo.com.

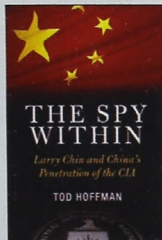
November 21, Ottawa: World Trivia Night (Ottawa Young Alumni). Take part in Canada's largest live trivia event and raise money for the Champions for Children Foundation. Aberdeen Pavilion, Lansdowne Park on Bank Street, \$35, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Contact Susan Zwanenburg at susan_zwanenburg@hotmail.com.

November 26, Montreal: Supreme Court of Canada Justice Ian Binnie presents the annual F.R. Scott Lecture, Faculty of Law Moot Court, 3644 Peel Street, free, 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Steven Spodek at 514-398-1771 or steven.spodek@mcgill.ca.

November 29, Ottawa: Curling (Ottawa Young Alumni), Ottawa Curling Club, 440 O'Connor Street, \$10, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Contact Eddie Chow at eddie.chow@mail.mcgill.ca.

THE SPY WITHIN: LARRY CHIN AND CHINA'S PENETRATION OF THE CIA

by Tod Hoffman, BA'85, MA'88, published by Steerforth Press



For more than three decades, a Chinese spy infiltrated the CIA and used his privileged position to pass official secrets to Beijing.

Larry Wu-Tai Chin had been one of the CIA's most respected translators. China-related matters of the highest importance crossed his desk, and his "secret" security clearance allowed him access to some of America's most sensitive documents. His primary espionage tactic was low-tech but effective — he simply stuffed classified documents down his shirt, strolled out of the office and photographed them at home.

Over the course of his career, Chin's espionage contributed directly to the deaths of Korean prisoners of war in China and derailed American intelligence-gathering in that country. By all accounts, Chin's penetration was a devastating breach.

When a top-ranking Chinese spymaster defected to Washington, he brought with him evidence of a mole in the CIA. A handful of crack FBI agents began tracking Chin down, and *The Spy Within* is their story.

Himself an eight-year veteran of anti-Chinese counter-intelligence, Tod Hoffman provides an insider's view of a real-life spy hunt. Though his dramatic style can sometimes seem a bit overdone, his tireless research into the case results in a narrative that is as authoritative as it is readable. Hoffman conducted close to 30 interviews with intelligence agents, investigators and law enforcement officials. The result is a fascinating glimpse into the high-stakes world of international espionage — and the closest most of us will ever get to a real-life James Bond movie.

MARK ORDONSELLI

STUNT

by Claudia Dey, BA'95, published by Coach House Books



Eugenia Ledoux, nine years old and alarmingly precocious, lives in a down-at-heel neighbourhood in Toronto. "Stunt" is the secret nickname her father has given her, since she is fearless and loves to thrill him with her reckless, improvised acrobatics.

In this novel's quirky world, all the characters have colourful names: Eugenia's ghoulish and exquisitely beautiful sister is named Immaculata. Their narcissistic mother — an exotic dancer turned B-movie actress — is called Mink. And their father's name is Sheb Wooly Ledoux.

Devoted to her eccentric, gifted father, Eugenia's world is turned upside down when he abandons the family, leaving a cryptic note addressed *only* to her mother and sister. What follows is a darkly comic coming-of-age story, an extended ode to unrequited love, and a journey into the wilds of Toronto and Eugenia's own psyche.

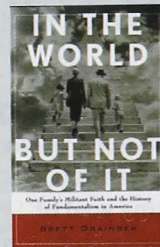
A playwright recognized for her offbeat and vividly imaginative style, Claudia Dey is essentially a word artist who paints with poetry. *Stunt* positively sings with evocative character details, pithy dialogue and astonishing wordplay. Describing one character, Dey captures his essence as he heads to his front door, "withering into the shape of a question mark as he draws near."

With elements of magic realism, the new wave fabulists and Charlie Kaufman movies, *Stunt* walks the treacherous tightrope between reality and fantasy with the greatest of ease. And in balancing a story that is playful, poignant, breathtaking and surreal, Dey performs quite a dazzling stunt, thrilling us with her fearless writing.

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77

IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT: ONE FAMILY'S MILITANT FAITH AND THE HISTORY OF FUNDAMENTALISM IN AMERICA

by Brett Grainger, BA'95, published by Walker & Company



In secular circles, Christian fundamentalists are often regarded with considerable unease — as oddballs or intolerant extremists. As a liberal-

minded Anglican who works in the media, you might expect Brett Grainger to be the sort of fellow who views Christian fundamentalists with scorn and suspicion. But he isn't. He knows them far too well for that.

Grainger grew up among the Plymouth Brethren, a Christian fundamentalist community in northern Ontario. While he no longer counts himself among their ranks, Grainger's book, *In The World But Not Of It*, offers a sympathetic, but hardly uncritical, examination of Christian fundamentalism — how it has evolved and how its adherents relate to the world around them. One point that Grainger emphasizes is that Christian fundamentalists are hardly uniform in their views or goals.

"Once believers move past a sacred ring of social values — opposition to gay marriage, abortion, pornography — they have difficulty reaching consensus," he writes.

Grainger guides his readers through this world with a keen eye for detail and a knack for memorable metaphors. Of the Plymouth Brethren, he notes, "They lived off the Bible the way the Great Plains Indians lived off the buffalo. No part was waste."

The book is at its best when Grainger looks back on his youth. He clearly doesn't see the world the same way the Plymouth Brethren do, but he conveys their way of life with wit and insight.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

MAKING HISTORY

Campaign McGill off to *a great start*

ON OCTOBER 18, 2007, MCGILL launched Campaign McGill: History in the Making, a visionary initiative with an ambitious \$750-million target, the largest starting goal of any university fundraising campaign in Canadian history.

Based on the University's academic plan, Campaign McGill focuses on the five areas in which McGill is poised to have the most impact: advancing health and wellness, building global prosperity, furthering the next generation of science and technology, creating environmental sustainability, and strengthening culture and civil society.

The Campaign was launched on a strong note, with \$325-million

already raised through gifts of all sizes.

On April 30, Campaign McGill reached the \$400-million mark. This outstanding achievement reflects "our dedicated alumni worldwide who have demonstrated tremendous support for McGill," says Marc Weinstein, Vice-Principal of Development and Alumni Relations.

Contributions of all sizes and to all areas count toward Campaign McGill's goal, and will provide the essential resources the University needs to attract and retain the top students and faculty from around the globe.

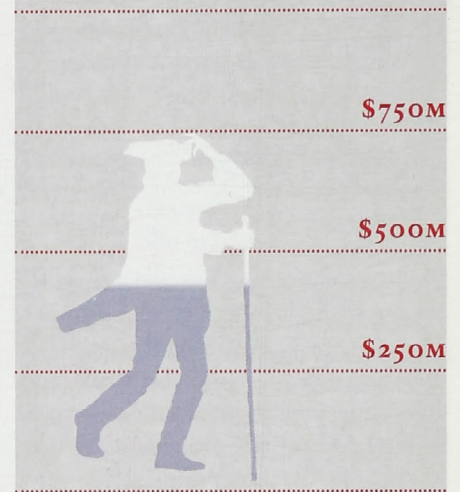
Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for your support!



CAMPAIGN McGill

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS



McGill alumni *give back* to students

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN EDUCATION of a meaningful nature, you are very limited in what you can do in the world," says **Dr. Gerald Hatch, BEng'44, DSc'90**, who recently made a gift of \$1.5-million to endow the Hatch Graduate Fellowships in Engineering. He has also endowed another \$1.5-million to create the Hatch Faculty Fellows in Engineering, to encourage outstanding professors.

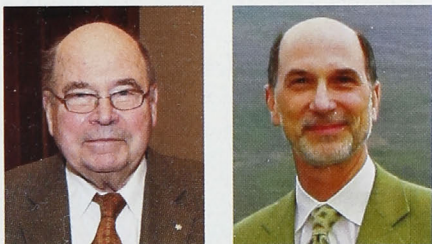
William J. Heller, BCom'78, has recently pledged \$1-million to establish the Heller Family Entrance Scholarships (for Medicine, Arts and Management), as well as the Heller Family Fellowships in Engineering, Arts and Science. A first-generation

Canadian with several McGillians in his family, he views his gift as a way to "honour what Canada and McGill have done for me and my family."

"At the end of the day, the customer is the student," says **Dr. Richard Walls, PhD'78**, who with his wife, **Carolina J. Walls, BSc'85**, has pledged \$1-million to create the "Best in the West" Scholarships in Science and Earth and Planetary Sciences. Explains Mrs. Walls, "We want to give undergraduates from the West the opportunity to study at a world-class university such as McGill, with the hope, of course, that they will return home enriched by the experience."

—Allyson Rowley, BA'77

Dr. Gerald Hatch, William J. Heller,
Dr. Richard Walls and Carolina J. Walls



TOGETHER

Connecting with McGill alumni

{ FIRST STOPS ON THE MAKING HISTORY TOUR }

PRINCIPAL HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM has been busy meeting alumni and friends on the Making History Tour. Featuring lively panels with some of McGill's leading academics, these events are a great way to connect with each other and learn about McGill's vision for the future.

CALGARY, APRIL 30



1



2

CALGARY: 1 *Principal Munroe-Blum (c) with our lead volunteers in Calgary (L to R): David O'Brien, BCL'65, Gail O'Brien, BA'66, Carolina J. Walls, BSc'85, and Richard Walls, PhD'78.*

2 *Vice-Principal of Development and Alumni Relations, Marc Weinstein, BA'85, BCL'91, LLB'91 (2nd from R), with (L to R): Leslie Fryers, LLB'75, Cliff Fryers and Jack Sloggett, MBA'82.*

3 *"Healing Our World: Health and the Environment" with Dr. Brian Ward, MDCM'80 (L) and Professor Nigel Roulet (C), moderated by CBC personality, Jeff Collins (R).*

BOSTON: 4 *Our lead Boston volunteers with Principal Munroe-Blum (L to R): Lindsay Cook, BA'75, Annalee Abelson, BA'68, MSc(A)'71, PhD'81, and Mark Abelson, BSc'66, MDCM'70.*

5 *Principal Munroe-Blum with Anna Burgess and Phillip Burgess, BA'81.*

TORONTO: 6 *Marie Wong, MBA'97, with Claire Deng.*

7 *Two of the Toronto Co-Chairs, Donna Hayes, BA'78, and Stephen Halperin, BCL'75, LLB'78.*

8 *Allison Thompson, BA'00, and Frances Duncan-Locke, BA'39.*

9 *"Philanthropy in Canada," with leading philanthropists Seymour Schulich, BSc'61, MBA'65, DLitt'04 (L), and Marcel Desautels, LLD'07 (R). The sold-out panel was moderated by acclaimed journalist Sally Armstrong, BEd'66, DLitt'02 (C).*

BOSTON, JUNE 10



4



5

TORONTO, JUNE 16



6



7



8



9

COMING UP:

San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and then off to Asia... We hope to see you at one of these upcoming events!

DETAILS AND DATES at www.alumni.mcgill.ca/sites/campaign_mcgill

HONOURS & AWARDS

McGill is blessed with a worldwide network of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, and every spring the McGill Alumni Association hosts its annual Honours and Awards Banquet to thank some of its most loyal supporters. On May 21, graduates, friends, faculty, students and staff once again gathered in downtown Montreal to celebrate this year's crop of honorees and their contributions to McGill.

PHOTOS BY PAUL FOURNIER



A LIVING LEGEND

Tom Thompson, BSc(PE)'58, MEd'78, recently retired after a 37-year career in development and alumni relations, during which he helped steer four major capital campaigns and annual solicitation programs which have raised over \$850 million for the University. As the evening's grand finale, Principal Heather Munroe-Blum presented Tom with the Award of Merit, the McGill Alumni Association's highest honour.

ALL SMILES

Dentistry alumni, professors and staff show off their pearly whites after the Faculty's graduates snagged two awards. Herb Borsuk, DDS'72, received the E.P. Taylor Award for his volunteer work, while the Dentistry Class of 1987 earned the D. Lorne Gales Award for maintaining close ties to the University and each other since graduation.

Seated, left to right: Dr. Don Taylor, DDS'66; Leigh Taylor; Dr. Daniel Borsuk, BSc'00, MBA'06, MDCM'06; Dr. Herb Borsuk, DDS'72; Eileen Borsuk, BPhysTher'72, BSc(PT)'86; Olga Chodan. Standing, left to right: Charles Kaplan, BCom'69; Dr. James P. Lund; Dr. Marie Dagenais; Debbie Larocque.





OUTSTANDING OTTAWANS

The 2008 Charles Peters Branch Award went to the McGill Young Alumni Association of Ottawa. Led by a dynamic pair of co-presidents, these go-getters keep their social calendars full with everything from curling to salsa dancing. *Co-presidents Jonathan Mitchell, BSc'01, (left) and Eddie Chow, BSc(Arch)'91, BArch'93, with Lissa Matyas, Director of Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention at McGill.*

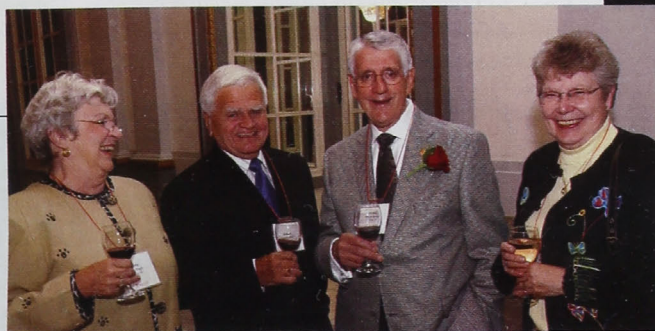
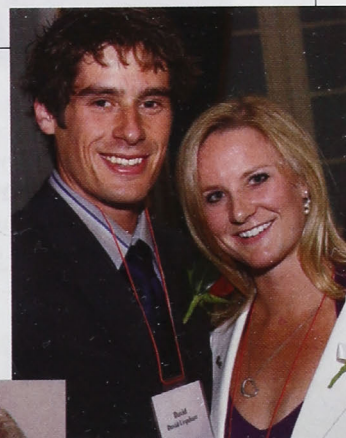


BREAKING THE ICE

McGill hockey players David Urquhart, BCom'08, and Shauna Denis, BCom'07, CertPRMgmt'08, were presented with two of the evening's three Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Awards. Urquhart and Denis were recognized for their accomplishments on and off the ice — both athletes are also community service volunteers.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Prior to the awards ceremony, the McGill Alumni Association appointed Bruce Dobby, BSc'76, DDS'81, as its new president during its Annual General Meeting. Here, he pays tribute to his predecessor Ann Vroom, BA'67, who will continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the MAA.



Left to right: Thora Pugh, DipEd'52; Bob Pugh, DipEd'52; event organizer Byron Beeler, BSc(Agr)'58; and Elsie Patterson.

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

During last year's Homecoming at Macdonald Campus, 170 alumni, friends and former athletes from all over North America gathered at a special dinner to salute Bob Pugh, DipEd'52, Athletics Director at Mac from 1955 to 1970. The enthusiastic response soon led to the establishment of a scholarship fund in Coach Pugh's honour and earned the event and its team of organizers this year's Special Recognition Award.

AWARD WINNERS

AWARD OF MERIT

Thomas B. Thompson, BSc(PE)'58, MEd'78

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Leonard Pinchuk, BSc'76, DSc'05

HONORARY LIFE

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Vivian Lewin

Donald L. Smith

E. P. TAYLOR AWARD

Herbert Borsuk, DDS'72

Joan Ivory, BA'54

DAVID JOHNSTON AWARD

Linda Crelinsten

EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

My Fur Lady Reunion

Audrey Rockingham Gill, BA'58

CHARLES PETERS BRANCH AWARD

McGill Young Alumni Association of Ottawa

Eddie Chow, BScArch'91, BArch'93

Jonathan Mitchell, BSc'01

PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Heidi Allardyce, BA'79

President, McGill Alumni Association of Atlanta

D. LORNE GALES AWARD

Dentistry Class of 1987

Anita Orendi, BSc'78, DDS'87,

Class Representative

FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

IN ALUMNI EDUCATION

Margaret Somerville, DCL'78

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Bob Pugh Reunion —

Former Director of Athletics

Gerald Kelly, BEd'64, MA'68, MEd'70,

LLD'94, and his team

GRETTA CHAMBERS STUDENT

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Shauna Denis, BCom'07, CertPRMgmt'08

Mallory McGrath, BMus'08

David Urquhart, BCom'08



Left to right:
Trip host
Heidi Allardyce,
BA'79, Terry
Hollands, PhD'67,
Mara Hollands,
Dr. Pierre Boutan,
Caryl Stewart,
MSW'63, Harvey
Grossman, BA'51,
Eileen Grossman,
Marilyn Ross and
John St. Clair
Ross, BEng'55.

Serenity on the Seine

Nine McGill grads explored Normandy in May — one of the stops during a luxurious cruise through the French countryside. The Chateau Gaillard in Les Andelys was just one of many points of interest in the Alumni Travel program's River Seine tour.



Left to right: David Friendly, BSc'71,
Dean Levin, Annette Rudman,
BSc(OT)'84, and Daniel Holland, BA'94.

Maritime Medicine

Dean of Medicine Richard I. Levin sailed into the Lunenburg Yacht Club on June 14 to deliver the keynote lecture at the Nova Scotia alumni branch's annual dinner. Following the talk, fellow physician David Murphy, MDCM'60, presented Dean Levin with an original Scarlet Key sweater from the 1960s.



David Murphy (left)
with Dean Levin, as he
models his gift.

Region Revived

Graduates, spouses and friends gathered on April 5 for McGill Night at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Organized by the Western Pennsylvania alumni branch, the event was part of an ambitious attempt to revitalize the University's connections to graduates in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and Northern West Virginia.



Left to right:
Professor Nader,
Brandi Sundby,
BA'04, Sondra
Schloss, BA'53, and
Gordon Lindsay,
BEng'48.

Putting Minds at Ease

Associate professor Karim Nader's research on memory and post-traumatic stress disorder led *Forbes* to include him on its list of "Ten People Who Could Change the World." In May, Nader shared his expertise with the Vancouver alumni branch, presenting a *McGill on the Move* lecture entitled "Fear and the Mind."



Not Your Typical Tea Party

Over 100 new McGill students mingled in the garden of the Canadian Consul's residence in Boston on July 15. This summer the McGill Alumni Association hosted nearly three dozen of these send-offs in cities around the world.

Below, left to right: Rev. Harold Lewis, BA'67, Canadian
Consul General in Buffalo Stephen Brereton, Doug Owen,
BCom'79, and Maestro Charles Dutoit, former artistic
director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.





KATE HUTCHINSON

THE ART OF THE HUNT

“There’s something going on in Montreal right now, there’s a new spirit here. Everyone’s talking about it in Canada!” **MARC MAYER**, BA’84, director of the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, practically radiates with enthusiasm.

Before returning to Montreal in 2004 to take up his position at the MAC, Mayer surveyed Montreal’s crop of thirtysomething artists and was duly impressed. “It’s not like previous generations of great artists; there’s no movement or ism. It’s not a conversation among artists; it’s a conversation among individuals. That, I think, is the sign of authentic maturity in an arts community, and Montreal has arrived.”

Mayer was the deputy director of art at the Brooklyn Museum before arriving at the MAC. “I’m a collector, a public collector, and that’s one reason why I came to Montreal. At the Brooklyn Museum I could buy Egyptian art, but I couldn’t really buy contemporary art, and that’s my strength. I’m by nature a big game hunter!”

Originally from Sudbury, Ontario, Mayer studied art history at McGill in the eighties. He was a baroque architecture buff—until he discovered the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal and fell in love with contemporary art. So years later, when he got the call for the top job at the MAC, it seemed too good to pass up. “The sheer poetry of being able to come full circle, having fallen in love with contemporary art here, and pursuing a career in it when all signs were pointing elsewhere, only to end up as the director of the museum where I had that experience, it was just too beautiful.” He’s made it his personal project to spread the word about the MAC. “I want everyone from coast to coast in Canada to realize there is one museum of contemporary art in Canada that makes a difference to an artist’s career: It’s this one, and it’s in Montreal. This is the place.”

SHELLEY POMERANCE



RACHEL GRANDOSKY

WHO KNOWS WHAT RUDENESS LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF SALES CLERKS?

It all started with handcuffs, a badge and \$6.50 an hour. Working as an 18-year-old store detective, part of **MICHAEL GLAZER's** job was making sure the cashiers weren't stealing from the till. But while observing the staff, the budding young entrepreneur came up with a million-dollar idea.

Glazer, BCom'93, BCL'98, LLB'98, MBA'98, decided to become a man of mystery. Mystery shopping, that is.

Glazer's Montreal-based company, Premier Service, has grown into a multi-million-dollar venture. Sending trained "mystery shoppers" into retail establishments posing as real consumers and reporting their findings, Glazer's team helps companies see their businesses from their customers' point of view.

Are shoppers greeted with a smile? Not greeted at all? Is the store messy? Are staffers chatting on the phone with friends? Clients might not complain about poor customer service out loud, but they may never shop at your store again once they've encountered it, reasons Glazer.

Much of the planning behind Premier Service stems from an undergraduate research project Glazer completed for the Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies while studying management at McGill. "Peter Johnson, the centre's former director, was a phenomenal mentor," says Glazer. "Without his guidance, Premier Service would have remained a school project."

Fifty businesses across North America, including movie theatres, restaurants and banks, use Glazer's services; his three largest clients have 600 stores across Canada.

Running Premier Service from his home office in Montreal's west end, Glazer oversees a large network of mystery shoppers spanning the country from Newfoundland to British Columbia (he has operatives in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, too).

Glazer believes making business fun is one of the secrets to his success. "I try to keep a positive, upbeat spin on everything, because wit and humour make people enjoy what they're doing."

Glazer's own sense of fun is easy to spot. A perfect replica of rock star Eddie Van Halen's famous red and white striped Kramer guitar, which Glazer painstakingly painted at age 17, is carefully propped against the wall of his office. A few feet away, in his "vintage room," are a 1966 slot machine (originally his grandfather's), a pinball machine and a classic barber's chair.

"A lot of entrepreneurs, from Donald Trump to KISS rocker Gene Simmons, say that they don't like to take vacations," says Glazer. "I totally agree, because my life is a vacation."

WENDY HELFENBAUM

AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

DAVID FITZGERALD, DipAgr'65, has been appointed to the expanded board of directors for Dairylea Cooperative Inc. Dairylea is a farmer-owned cooperative that markets fluid milk. There are 2,500 members throughout the Northeast. David and his wife Carol are in partnership with their son Jay. They operate a 90-milk cow dairy on their Paris Station, N.Y., farm.

BILL ANDERSON, DipAgr'76, accepted a Research Assistant position at Maize Product Development at the Coteau-du-Lac Research Centre that began in April 2008.

KEVIN SIBLEY, BSc(AgrEng)'82, MSc'84, graduated on May 8, 2008 with a PhD in production ecology and resource Conservation from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Kevin's thesis was entitled "Development and Use of an Automated Soil Nitrate Mapping System." Kevin is currently employed as Associate Professor in the Engineering Department of Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). Kevin also serves as Chief Operating Officer of the Atlantic BioVenture Centre, the commercial arm of NSAC.

ROBERT J. GORDON, BSc(AgrEng)'86, MSc'88, has been appointed as the new Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College. Robert was previously a professor and dean of research at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He also previously served as the provincial climatologist for Nova Scotia. Robert is the Canada Research Chair in Agricultural Resource Management and received a Premier's Award of Excellence in 2007, among other awards throughout his career. Robert is the chief administrator of the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan



VICTORIA BROWN, BA'97, is the co-founder of Big Think, a web site devoted to sparking discussion about major issues. by featuring the ideas of prominent thinkers in the form of video interviews. The site includes interview clips with dozens of notable figures, including U.S. senator John McCain, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, author Naomi Klein and *New Yorker* editor David Remnick. Big Think visitors can post comments on these interviews or begin new conversations about other issues. Victoria earned an Emmy Award nomination in 2005 for her work as a producer on the PBS talk show *Charlie Rose*. Big Think (bigthink.com) will be relaunched in October, offering new features.

Program, sits on a number of boards, including Conserve Nova Scotia, and is active with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

ARCHITECTURE

HELEN MALKIN, BSc(Arch)'82, BArch'84, is a consultant in arts and cultural management in Montreal. She is the co-author of *A Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal* (Douglas & McIntyre), which offers readers a look at 75 innovative and well-designed buildings and public spaces that have had an impact on Montreal. Organized by neighbourhood, the book has 15 maps that allow the reader to go on self-guided walking tours. Helen has more than 20 years' experience in the development of exhibition and publication projects on architecture and the city, including 15 years managing exhibitions for the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

JOHN LEROUX, BSc(Arch)'93, BArch'94, is the author of *Building New Brunswick: An Architectural History* (Goose Lane), a new book that explores the development of architecture in New Brunswick from the

Mi'kmaq and Maliseet architecture of the pre-contact period, through the late 20th century—with a strong emphasis on the post-WWII period. John is a native of New Brunswick and has worked as an architect for more than a decade. He was awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Foundation Award in 2004.

ARTS

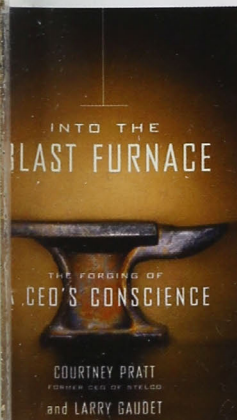
HELEN R. KAHN, BA'55, MA'76, has been elected to the American Antiquarian Society, which was founded in 1812. Helen is one of only four Canadians to be honoured. Helen is a past president of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of Canada, and past secretary of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers.

PETER BARTHA, BA'61, completed a six-year term as Academic Director of the CIDA-sponsored Canada-Russia Program in Corporate Governance at York University's Schulich School of Business. His wife, JEANNIE TOSCANO, BA'56, was the lead translator of *The Collected Works of Gonzalo de Berceo*, Spain's earliest poet known by name. It was published in 2008 by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

MICHAEL SCHLEIFER, BA'64, PhD'71, together with LEONIE RICHLER, BSW'89, MSW'90, and LEE LONDEI, BSW'05, has published *Mutual Respect with Teenagers: Having Dialogues about Feelings and Values*. This book is a resource for anyone in routine or direct contact with teenagers. Michael promotes engaging in dialogue with teens in order to deal with difficult situations or conversations.

THOMAS M. BIRKS, BA'68, has been elected as Chairman of the Board of Viterra.

COURTNEY PRATT, BA'68, is chairman of Knightsbridge Human Capital Solutions and the chairman and CEO of the Toronto Region Research Alliance. He is the author (with Larry Gaudet) of *Into the Blast Furnace: The Forging of a CEO's Conscience*. The book recounts his experiences as the head of troubled steel manufacturer Stelco Inc. Hired shortly before the company went into bankruptcy protection, Courtney dealt with a gruelling court-mandated restructuring and with a wide range of players—investors, union leaders, politicians and hedge fund managers—each with their own interests to protect and with little enthusiasm for compromise. The book challenges the notion that CEOs are incubated for the sole purpose of looking after their own selfish ends.





SHERRILL GRACE, MA'70, PhD'74, a Professor of English and the Brenda and David McLean Chair in Canadian Studies at the University of British Columbia, was one of five Canadian scholars awarded a 2008 Killam Prize in June by the Canada Council for the Arts. Sherrill's widely praised *Canada and the Idea of North*, first published in 2002, synthesized 150 years of representations of the Canadian North in art, music, fiction, poetry and drama. Her writings have helped shape new understandings of such towering Canadian figures as Margaret Atwood, Malcolm Lowry and Tom Thomson. The \$100,000 Killam Prize is Canada's most distinguished annual award for outstanding career achievements in engineering, natural sciences, humanities, social sciences and health sciences.

Most recently, Thomas served as president of Henry Birks and Sons Ltd. in Montreal. Viterra Inc. is Canada's leading agribusiness with extensive operations and distribution capabilities across Western Canada, and with operations in the United States and Japan.

JULIAN SHER, BA'75, is an investigative journalist, a documentary filmmaker and an author. His most recent book, *One Child at a Time: The Global Fight to Rescue Children from Online Predators*, recently earned the Crime Writers of Canada's Arthur Ellis Award for best work of non-fiction.

CHRISTOPHER W. KIMBALL, BA'77, became the seventh President of California Lutheran College on April 1. A widely published author and speaker on academic affairs, his scholarly work is in the field of American history, specializing in social history and the history of sport. Chris joined the CLU administrative team as provost and vice-president for academic affairs in 2006, after serving as provost and dean of the faculty at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

PATRICIA KIRKPATRICK, BA'77, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. Patricia is an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill. She was recognized for her "contributions over more than two decades to the program of theological education" and for her contributions as a biblical scholar to the diocese of Montreal and the Anglican Church of Canada.

ROBERT REINTGES, BA'78, has earned his Certified Information Systems Security Certification. Rob is now in his ninth year as an IT Specialist with the federal government in the U.S. and is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration

(TSA) in Arlington, Va. Rob is the information systems security officer for a number of TSA systems.

ROGER KERSHAW, BA'79, is realizing his life-long passion in travel as an independent travel consultant, specializing in luxury, life-changing experiences. Roger is one of only five accredited space agents in Canada capable of booking Virgin Galactic space flights, and is the only Canadian member of the Orient-Express Bellini Club, a group of the top 100 agents in North America. Roger always welcomes new clients, especially fellow alumni! Visit www.RogerKershaw.com.

MARCY GOLDMAN, BA'81, recently released her third cookbook, *A Passion for Baking* (Oxmoor House) and has celebrated being online for over a decade with her online arts and culinary magazine, BetterBaking.com. She is also a regular *Washington Post* contributor and her work appears in *Bon Appetit*, the *New York Times* and other publications. She has appeared several times on *Martha Stewart Live* on Sirius Radio. Marcy's first book was nominated for the Julia Child Award. Currently, Marcy is working on *Tango Confidential*, a book of memoirs. The mother of three sons, Marcy proudly announces the graduation of

her eldest, **JONATHAN GOLDMAN, BMus'08**. He has opted to continue at McGill and will begin pursuing his master's of music education degree this fall. He recently launched his own site, www.JonathanGoldmanMusic.com.

RICHARD GROOME, BA'81, started a new investment and merchant banking boutique in Montreal called Notre Dame Capital Inc. One of the companies that Notre Dame Capital has invested in is Sofame Technologies Inc., where Richard is now Chairman of the Board. Sofame designs and manufactures engineering solutions and water heating systems for large buildings. Its systems aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and overall natural gas consumption by between 10 and 40 per cent. Sofame's largest Canadian installation is at the University of Toronto.

ANNETTE HAYWARD, PhD'81, won the 2007 Governor General's Literary Award for French Non-fiction and the Prix Gabrielle-Roy in 2006 for *La querelle du régionalisme au Québec (1904-1931): Vers l'autonomisation de la littérature québécoise*. The book stems from her doctoral thesis at McGill. Annette teaches in the French studies department at Queen's University, focusing on Quebec and French-Canadian literature. She is currently doing research on the anglo-Canadian critical reception of Quebec literature.

STEPHANIE ISAACS, BA'83, was appointed Director of Government Relations for the Montreal Port Authority (MPA), which operates the world's largest inland port. Stephanie has over 20 years of government relations and industry experience from serving as a strategic advisor to senior executives at companies in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. At MPA, Stephanie will lead the government relations effort in advancing the MPA's strategic relationships with key government stakeholders.



DONNA PENNEE, PhD'94, began a five-year term on September 1 as the new Dean of Arts and Humanities for the University of Western Ontario. Donna left the University of Guelph, where she was the associate dean of arts and social sciences, to take on her new role at UWO. Donna's academic focus in teaching and research is in the study of Canadian literature, literary theory, literature and social change, and cultural nationalism. She is a member of the executive of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, where she serves as vice-president for equity issues.

VIVIANNE M. SCHINASI-SILVER, MA'85, published her memoirs, *42 Keys to the Second Exodus*, which deals with her life as part of the last generation of Jews to have lived in Egypt before the Suez Crisis of 1956. Vivianne recounts Jewish life in Egypt as well as her experiences as an immigrant in Canada.

LINDA K. STROH, BA'85, a Professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Business Administration, has written a book called *Trust Rules: How to Tell the Good Guys from the Bad Guys in Work and Life*. The book has received great press – it was recommended by *U.S. News & World Report* for executives' nightstands and Linda appeared on *Oprah and Friends* on XM radio. For more information, please visit www.lindaastroh.com.

JAMES SMEDLEY, BA'87, is a writer and photographer who specializes in work related to the great outdoors. For the third year in a row, James placed first in the photography category of the Outdoor Writers of Canada's annual National Communication Awards. He earned the prize for a photo of a walleye and angler that appeared on the cover of *Ontario Out of Doors* magazine. James earned six awards in all this year, four for writing and two for photography.

100 BEST PAINTINGS IN NEW YORK



DEANNA MACDONALD, PhD'02, is an art historian and writer based in Montreal. She is the author of *Art for Travellers Prague*, and her writing on art, architecture and travel has appeared in such publications as the *Globe and Mail* and *Los Angeles Times*. Her most recent book, *100 Best Paintings in New York*, co-authored with Geoffrey Smith, offers readers insights into some of the great masterworks available for public view in New York. MacDonald and Smith's selections include paintings by Chagall, Degas, Klee, Rembrandt, Rothko, Van Gogh, Warhol and O'Keeffe.

ROMYSHILLER, BA'88, was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2003 and lapsed into a post-surgery coma that lasted five months. Afterwards, she was stricken with akinetic mutism—a partial paralysis that made it very difficult to move or talk. Romy's new book, *You Never Know: A Memoir* (Trafford Publishing), features her musings on illness, rehab, pop culture, quantum physics, dreams and psychic phenomena. The book is available at Amazon.ca.

CAROL DEVINE, BA'89, is an AIDS and human rights activist and Vice-President of Dignitas, a Canadian medical humanitarian organization committed to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. Together with

Dignitas board member PAM HUGHES, BA'74, LLB'77, a senior partner at Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP, Carol led an HIV advocacy and gender empowerment workshop in Malawi last year for community health care workers. The workshop dealt with discrimination, rights abuses, women's rights in Malawi, inheritance and property rights and how to respond to sexual gender-based violence. For more information, visit www.dignitasinternational.org.

JOYCE R. LOMBARDI, BA'91, graduated with top honours from the University of Baltimore School of Law in May 2006. She is currently a prosecutor with the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City.

celebrate *a* Life

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

Gifts will support the University's educational mission in any area you choose. We will advise the honoree or family, according to your instructions. All donations are acknowledged with a tax receipt.

For more information please contact Sophia Johnson at 514-398-3748 or honmem.dev@mcgill.ca

hon·our [on'ər] *transitive verb*

to distinguish, exalt or ennoble:

to show respect and recognition

mem·o·ry [mem'əre] *noun*

a retained impression:

the knowledge or reputation of someone retained by others



McGill

One of her duties is to coordinate the statewide Maryland Task Force on Human Trafficking.

PALMINA IOANNONE, BA'92, received her PhD in human development and applied psychology from OISE at the University of Toronto. She looks forward to seeing where the next journey takes her.

MARC J. O'REILLY, BA'92, published a book in April entitled *Unexceptional: America's Empire in the Persian Gulf, 1941-2007* (Lexington Books). To promote the book, Marc has given talks at places like the German-American Institute in Heidelberg, Germany. In 2006, Marc co-edited *Handbook of Canadian Foreign Policy* (Lexington Books). Marc is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of International and Multicultural Academic programs at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. Marc lives in Tiffin with his spouse, Julie O'Reilly, also a professor at Heidelberg College.

ERIC AVNER, BA'93, was selected to serve as Vice President of the Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation. Eric will oversee the organization's grant-making activities in support of economic development in the Cincinnati region. In addition, Eric recently launched



PAUL ALLISON, PhD'98, is McGill's new Dean of Dentistry. He began his five-year term in June, succeeding James Lund, who served as dean for 13 years. Paul is also the director of the Network for Oral and Bone Health Research, an effort involving more than 50 researchers from McGill, Université de Montreal, Université Laval and other institutions. Paul has been an active and contributing member of the Faculty of Dentistry's curriculum, promotions, admissions and graduate studies committees, and spearheaded a major initiative to develop a non-thesis MS program in the Faculty.

a free weekly online publication, *Soapbox Cincinnati* (soapboxmedia.com), to focus attention on the positive economic and physical transformations of the region. Through original weekly stories and photography, *Soapbox* is changing a rustbelt narrative of Cincinnati into one dominated by news of innovative companies, venture capital, neighbourhood development and quality design.

GERALD BUTTS, BA'93, MA'96, and his wife Jodi are happy to announce the safe and healthy arrival of their second child, Ava Augusta Butts. Ava was born on December 1, 2007 at Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

VERA MORGADO, BA'94, gave birth in May 2008 to her second son, Emanuel Duarte Konstantin. In 1999, Vera obtained an MBA from Wales University in the U.K. She has worked for the Canadian government, Seagram and Hewlett-Packard and is currently employed by Siemens in Germany. Vera is happily married to a German and has been living in Bavaria since 2000.

ROBERT COLMAN, BA'96, is releasing his first book of poetry, *The Delicate Line* (Exile Editions), in October 2008. Robert is the Founding Editor and Associate Publisher of *Green Business*, a business-to-business magazine focused on creating more environmentally sustainable organizations.

AUDRA SIMPSON, MA'96, PhD'04, began a tenure-track position in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University in July 2008. After three excellent years, Audra left her previous position in the Department of Anthropology and American Indian Program at Cornell University. Audra is the happy recipient of the School for Advanced Research (Santa Fe, New Mexico) Katrin Lamont Fellowship for 2008-2009. During

her fellowship, Audra will revise her book, *Paths Towards a Mohawk Nation: Kahnawake Mohawk Narratives of Self, Home and Nation* (under contract, Duke University Press) and work on an article in preparation. Audra looks forward to commencing her fellowship and living in New York City.

DARRYL LEVINE, BA'97, was appointed Director of Public Affairs and Communications for the city of Côte Saint Luc, the third largest municipality on the island of Montreal.

TODD MONTGOMERY, MA'99, CertPRMgmt'02, relocated last year from London, England, and now lives in Manly, Australia (just north of Sydney), where he works as an independent management consultant. Friends are invited to get in touch with Todd through his blog: www.tmconsultancy.blogspot.com.

PHIL PRICE, BA'99, is a Montreal filmmaker and TV show producer. Phil's company, Philm Pictures Inc., has created several feature films and television shows over the last 10 years. Phil's latest creation, the comedy *Prom Wars*, premiered at theatres across Canada in May. Please check out the Philms website at www.philms.tv where you can view the trailer for *Prom Wars* and information about the company's other productions.

ANNA MOLTCHANOVA, PhD'01, was awarded tenure by the Board of Trustees at Carleton College. An Assistant Professor of philosophy, Anna's research explores group membership, nationhood, political culture and justice.

REBECCA ROSENBLUM, BA'01, is publishing her first collection of short fiction, *Once*, in September with Biblioasis. Rebecca works in publishing in Toronto, a city she loves though she still longs for Montreal.



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ASA BOXER, MA'04, won the Canadian Authors Association Award for Poetry in May for his first collection of poems, *The Mechanical Bird* (Véhicule Press). The poems explore the natural and man-made worlds with an imaginative mix of fact and invention.

MARKANTHONY KARANTABIAS, BA'06, graduated with a Master's in Classical Studies in October 2007 from the University of Ottawa and was the recipient of the Dean's Scholarship for his master's degree.

AMANDA T. QUAN, BA'07, was awarded a Diversity Scholarship by the law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP. Amanda is a first-year law student at the University of Akron School of Law. This scholarship recognizes first-year minority law students who have demonstrated leadership skills, a commitment to excellence, service to the community and academic strength.

EDUCATION

CHRISTINE HELMER, BEd'87, has recently moved to Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., as Professor of Religion and Adjunct Professor of German. Christine is married to Robert Orsi, who is a professor of religion and history. They have a son, Anthony Orsi, who is three years old.

CLAUDE ANDRÉ DESPARD, DipEd'89, is the new Principal of FACE High School in Montreal, which belongs to both the Commission scolaire de Montréal and the English Montreal School Board. FACE welcomes students from kindergarten to secondary five and specializes in musical, stage and fine arts. He had been the principal of Louise-Trichet High School for five years and previously worked as a high school vice-principal and an English teacher.



PETER BRIGGI/MACLEANS

SALLY ARMSTRONG, BEd'66, DLitt'02, an author, journalist, human rights activist and documentary filmmaker, was presented with the Canadian Journalism Foundation's 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award in May. Sally is the former editor-in-chief of *Homemaker's Magazine*, an editor-at-large at *Chatelaine* and the author of *Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of the Women of Afghanistan*. In her work, she has tackled issues such as child prostitution in Bangladesh, war crimes in the Balkans and abuse in women's prisons. Past recipients of this prize include Norman Webster, Knowlton Nash and June Callwood.

SOPHIE PRINCE, BEd'99, MA'06, is publishing an article in the magazine *Oriflamme* entitled, "Histoire de la langue française." Sophie is currently a French teacher at John Abbott College in Sainte Anne de Bellevue.

ENGINEERING

G. DENTON CLARK, MEng'52, has been named Trustee Emeritus of the Florida Institute of Technology. Denton was a trustee for 25 years and chairman of the board of trustees for three of those years. Denton has the distinction of being the last chairman, president and CEO of RCA Inc. Canada.

MARC RYAN, BEng'69, worked as a lawyer for the Quebec Securities Commission, BCE Inc. and Bell Canada. He launched an independent investor website in March 2008 at the McGill Faculty Club. The site provides information to investors who wish to manage their investments themselves. The site also comments on current financial events and weaknesses of the financial system from the viewpoint of independent investors. Access to the site is free and it is intended to be an unbiased source of information on investing. Marc is the founder of the site and also gives conferences based on the phi-

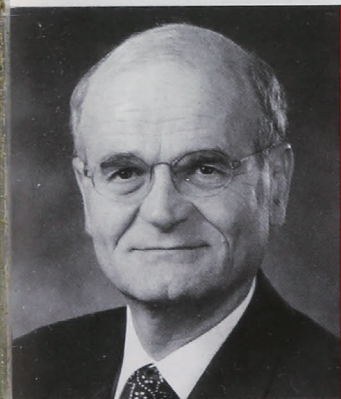
losophy of the site, notably the advantages of self-investing. For more information: www.independentinvestor.info.

ROE-HOAN YOON, MSc(Eng)'71, PhD'77, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in February 2008. He has contributed significantly to the technology and science of mineral processing – specifically, clean coal technology. In 1980, he and his colleagues at Virginia Tech developed a technology using small air bubbles to remove various impurities from coal. He also directs the Virginia Tech's Center for Advanced Separation Technologies, which aims to develop technologies to produce clean fuels from domestic energy resources.

ROBERT CRAWHALL, BEng'80, MEng'86, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of NanoQuébec. Prior to this appointment, Robert served as president and CEO of the National Capital Institute of Telecommunications.

ARUN SOMANI, MEng'83, PhD'85, spent the past 11 years at Iowa State University and was promoted to Distinguished Professor in 2007, an honour awarded to two or three ISU faculty each year. This year Arun will be receiving an award for departmental leadership (ISU presents one such prize per year). Arun is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and an Association for Computing Machinery Distinguished Engineer and has served as an IEEE distinguished speaker and IEEE distinguished tutorial speaker.

ROBERTO RUELAS-GOMEZ, MEng'86, was elected President of the Colegio de Ingenieros Mecanicos Electricistas in Guanajuato, Mexico, for a two-year term. Roberto is also a member of the Mexican National Committee on Standardization of Electrical Installations and lives with his wife, Alicia, and three children in Leon,



ANDREW BENEDEK, BEng'66, DSc'05, is the first recipient of the new Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize. Andrew founded ZENON Environmental in 1980 and led the firm's efforts as it pioneered the development of low-pressure membranes that enabled drinking water to be produced from even highly polluted water. The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize is an international award recognizing outstanding contributions in the world of water management. Named after the first prime minister of Singapore, the award comes with a cash prize worth \$215,000 (U.S.) and is sponsored by the Singapore Millennium Foundation.



ARMAND DE MESTRAL, BCL'66, is the Jean Monnet Chair in the Law of International Economic Integration at McGill's Faculty of Law and the Co-Director of the McGill-Université de Montréal Institute of European Studies. In April, he was formally inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada by Governor General Michaëlle Jean in recognition of "his contributions to teaching and to the development of Canadian constitutional law and international economic law." An expert on international trade law, he has served on WTO and NAFTA dispute settlement and arbitration tribunals. He was also president of the Canadian Red Cross Society from 1999 to 2001.

Mexico. Contact from friends is welcomed at r.ruelas-gomez@ieee.org.

WAH KEUNG CHAN, BEng'88, was honoured at Vanier College's 10th Annual Big Band Benefit Concert in April 2008. Each year the concert is dedicated to someone who has made significant contributions to music. Wah Keung, a Vanier alumnus, publishes a free classical music magazine, *La Scena Musicale*, and an award-winning website, www.scena.org. Wah Keung was also the recipient of an Honourable Mention at the 2006 National Magazine Awards (Arts and Entertainment Category).

SUBIR KUMAR SAHA, PhD'91, published a book in May 2008 entitled *Introduction to Robotics* (Tata McGraw-Hill, New Delhi). He is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Delhi and a former member of McGill's Centre for Intelligent Machines, where he worked with Professor Jorge Angeles. For more information about the book, please visit www.mhhe.com/saha/robotics or web.iitd.ac.in/~saha/

BENJAMIN WINCURE, BSc'89, BEng'92, MEng'94, PhD'07, is currently working as an Engineer at Heat Transfer Research Inc. in College Station, Texas. Benjamin is interested in getting in touch with people who design, revamp, or retrofit Heat Exchangers. Benjamin can be reached at bmw@htri.net.

CHRIST KENNEDY, BEng'01, penned his first novel, *The People*, while in prison for aggravated assault. He now resides in Saskatoon. The book chronicles the destiny of a man whose son is fated to become a leader who will unite 12 warring tribes.

HEALTH SCIENCES

F. JOHN SERVICE, MDCM'62, recently delivered the 15th annual Eugene Furth Lecture at the Brod School of Medicine at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and the Invited Lecture at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons, of which he is an honorary member. In addition, John was named the 2008 Distinguished Physician by the Endocrine Society.

ZOSIA ETTENBERG, Dip(PTh)'65, BPhysTher'66, is the 2008 recipient of the Courage to Come Back Award in the Medical Category. Presented by Coastal Mental Health, this award recognizes people who have valuable lessons to share as they have courageously battled back from illness, adversity or injury. Zosia has faced a series of serious health challenges in her life, including polio, diabetes and breast cancer, and has still managed to become an award-winning insurance broker and



VICTOR J. DZAU, BSc'68, MDCM'72, is the Chancellor for Health Affairs at Duke University and the President and CEO of Duke University Health System. A former chair of medicine at Harvard Medical School, Victor helped create Harvard's Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequities, which seeks to eliminate health disparities among underrepresented populations and the socio-economically disadvantaged. As a researcher, he pioneered gene therapy for vascular disease. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by McGill at the convocation ceremony for health sciences students on May 28.

the author of a book about her brush with cancer.

FRANCISCO-JAVIER CAMPOS, DipPsych'70, recently became a staff psychiatrist at the Mental Health Center in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Francisco-Javier published several short literary pieces in the San Luis Potosi newspaper, *El Sol de San Luis*, in January 2008. Francisco-Javier also recently presented a paper at the Colloquium on States of Consciousness and World Cosmologies entitled "Cosmic Consciousness according to Richard Maurice Bucke."

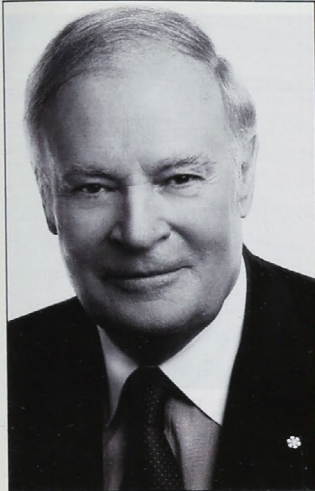
GEORGE SARKA, MDCM'80, has become Governor of the Southern California Region II Chapter of the American College of Physicians, the national organization of internists. George is the Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCLA and a staff physician and headache specialist at the Klotz Student Health Center at the California University, Northridge.

LAW

DAVID FRANKLIN, BA'56, BCL'59, recently published a book entitled *International Commercial Debt Recovery*, a guide to collection procedures in 50 jurisdictions. It is the first book of its kind, designed as a guide to debt collection in the global economy. It is a resource for collection agencies or lawyers working with a global business.

DAVID KAUFFMAN, BA'64, BCL'67, and Guy Gilain have published a book entitled *The Construction Hypothetic* (Wilson & Lafleur Limitée, Montreal), which reviews in depth all aspects of construction lien legislation in Quebec. The book was released in February 2008.

ROBERT BLOND, BA'66, BCL'69, retired in October 2007 after 35 years as Clerk of the



ROY L. HEENAN, BA'57, BCL'60, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by McGill during the Faculty of Law's convocation ceremony on May 26. An expert in labour and employment law, international trade, civil liberties in the workplace, and administrative and constitutional law, Roy taught as an adjunct law professor at McGill for 25 years. He also chaired the Faculty of Law's advisory board when McGill launched its program of trans-systemic legal education and during the construction of the Gelber Law Library. He is the chairman and founding director of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

Court in the Judgment Department at the Palais de justice de Montréal. In May 2008, Robert was hired as a cocktail pianist on the Golden Princess cruise ship and finds that the music theory he learned doing his arts degree at McGill comes in handy when he is writing piano arrangements.

ALLAN J. GOLD, BA'70, BCL'73, has published *Elder Law in Canada* as a resource to highlight major legal issues facing aging Canadians and their families. This three-volume series, comprising over 2,500 pages, examines a person's circumstances and rights as he or she grows older, with extracts of the applicable statutes affecting aging individuals from each province and territory.

JACQUES J. M. SHORE, LLB'80, has been appointed the new Chair of Carleton University's Board of Governors. Jacques is a partner with the national law firm of Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP in Ottawa. He has worked on several government commissions of inquiry, most recently as co-lead counsel to the Air India Victims Families Association before the Federal Commission of Inquiry into the Bombing of Air India Flight 182.

TOM SCHNEIDER, BCL'89, LLB'89, recently received his LLM in criminal law and procedure from York University. He is an assistant crown attorney in Toronto and is married to Esther Shron. They have three sons.

ISABELLE MARCOUX, BA'91, BCL'94, was elected to Rogers' Board of Directors in April 2008. Isabelle is Vice Chair of the Board and Vice President, Corporate Development, of Transcontinental Inc. of Montreal. In 2007, Isabelle was honoured as one of Canada's Top 40 under 40.

KATIA OPALKA, BCL'97, LLB'97, joined Blakes, Cassels & Graydon as environmental counsel in the Montreal office. Katia lives in NDG with husband Simon and daughters Olivia (7) and Carmen (4).

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

CYNTHIA BLEED, BLS'61, is the President of Canadian Future Achievers Awards, an



BERNARD AMYOT, BCL'82, LLB'83, completed his term as president of the Canadian Bar Association in August. A partner in Heenan Blaikie's litigation group and a member of its executive committee, Bernard worked to increase francophone participation in the CBA and played a major role in the CBA's human rights efforts, including defending the rights of the judiciary in Pakistan and calling for Canadian Omar Khadr's repatriation from the Guantanamo Bay prison facility.

organization committed to empowering bright outgoing youth with Caribbean origins. More information can be found at www.canadian-future-achievers.ncf.ca.

FRED BROSE, MLS'67, retired last December after 38 years as reference librarian at Riverside Community College in Southern California. Fred was awarded the title Professor Emeritus and had numerous papers published to his credit.

ANNE WADE, MLS'86, was selected as the 2008 recipient for the APA's Excellence in Librarianship Award. Anne is currently an administrator in the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance in the Education Department at Concordia University.

MANAGEMENT

ALBERTA G. CEFIS, BA'75, MBA'79, DipMan'79, is Executive Vice President & Group Head, Global Transaction Banking at Scotiabank. She was named Canadian Woman Leader of the Year for 2007 by the Federated Press. Alberta was inducted into "The Hall of Fame" of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in 2007, and was named to the Top 100 List from 2003

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GUY HACHEY, BCom'78, is the new President and Chief Operating Officer of Montreal-based Bombardier Aerospace, one of the world's largest aircraft companies. He joined Bombardier from Delphi Corporation, where he held the combined positions of Vice-President, Delphi Corporation, President of Delphi Powertrain Systems (a \$5.5-billion business with 16 product lines, 30 plants and over 30,000 employees) and President of Delphi Europe, Middle East and Africa.

to 2006 (by the Women's Executive Network). Alberta also served as a Director of the Visa International Board, as well as the Visa Canada Board, until the end of 2007. Alberta remains chair of the board of directors of Opera Atelier, a world class baroque opera company, and is a member of the cabinet for the Sunnybrook Cancer Research Centre.

GERRY RODRIGUEZ, BCom'83, was recently promoted to Treasurer of Boeing Capital, the wholly-owned aircraft financing subsidiary of Boeing. Gerry has been living in Seattle with his family for 14 years after five years of working in Madrid, Spain, for the Bank of America. Gerry is planning on attending the 25th year class reunion in October and can be reached at Gerry.Rodriguez@boeing.com.

NANCY DUNTON, BCom'91, is the co-author of *A Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal* (Douglas & McIntyre). Nancy has worked on architectural projects and has organized public programs about architecture since 1981. From 1992-1997, she was executive director of Heritage Montreal, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Montreal's built heritage. She has also worked at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), where she was head of university and professional programmes.

NATHALIE PREZEAU, MBA'91, has released the fourth edition of *Toronto Fun Places*, a guidebook about Toronto-area family outings published by her own company, Word-of-Mouth Productions. It includes 1,200 photos, a guide on sites around subway stations, places to visit with children, and a colour section on "urban strolls."

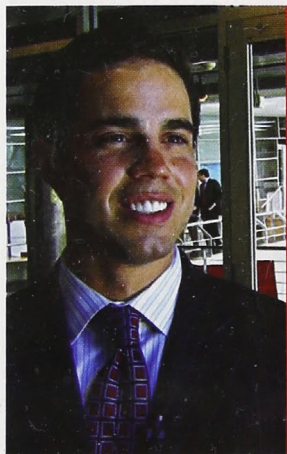
ROCHELLE STEINWALD, BCom'93, is the new owner and President of MGB Marketing & Communications, a full service marketing agency located in Concord, Ontario (just

north of Toronto). Since recently acquiring this company after having worked there for four years, Rochelle's main focus is the acquisition of new clients. If anyone is looking for a competitive quote on their next marketing project, big or small, please drop her a line at rochelle@mgbmc.com.

CHRIS HAROUN, BCom'94, and his wife Christine are living in the San Francisco Bay Area with their two sons, Andrew and Matthew. Chris is running a hedge fund, Haroun Capital Management, LLC.

ABDELILAH BOUASRIA, BCom'96, was hired as a Visiting Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California.

FATOU POMPILUS-TOURE, CertH&SS Mgmt'02, was selected as a 2008 Junior Fellow by Engineers without Borders Canada. The objective of the overseas placement is the acquisition by rural communities of technological tools and administrative skills to improve agricultural yields and member benefits. Fatou is currently working in Burkina Faso with a cooperative of rice farmers to improve traceability and ensure quality. You can contact Fatou at FatouPompilusToure@ewb.ca.



BRETT HICKEY, BCom'02, is the co-founder and President of Aegis Capital Group, a private equity firm that invests in small and medium-sized businesses. He also established Acorn Charities Group, which focuses its efforts on supporting initiatives linked to higher education and public health and safety. In March, the Shinyo-en Foundation gave Brett a "Pathfinders to Peace" award for his work with Acorn. The other winners were actors Morgan Freeman and Mira Sorvino, and fashion designer Marc Ecko. Brett also takes part in a reality TV show, *Wall Street Warriors*, which follows the lives of fund managers, options brokers, floor traders and other financial professionals in New York. The show airs in the U.S. on the MOJO HD cable television network.

MUSIC

NANCY NEWMAN, BMus'75, resides in Los Angeles and freelances on saxophone, clarinet, flute and bassoon. In 1999, Nancy was awarded a "Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec" grant to study in Los Angeles and moved there to complete her Master's in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California. Nancy has performed in international festivals in California, Hawaii and Peru.

STÉPHANE POTVIN, BMus'90, has been appointed Conductor in Residence of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra. Stéphane will begin duties with the TBSO in September 2008, working with Music Director Geoffrey Moull to shape the orchestra's music education and Family Series programs and lead some main-series concerts. Stéphane comes to the role with experience on the podium of several ensembles, including Orchestra London Canada, Oakville Chamber Orchestra and Oakville Chamber Ensemble (which he founded in 2005 and still conducts). For more information on Stéphane Potvin, visit www.spotvin.ca.

MAJA TROCHIMCZYK, PhD'94, received the Swastek Award for the Best Article on Polish-American culture published in 2007 from the Polish American Historical Association, for a paper on Polish folk dance in Southern California. Maja's book on the same topic was published by Columbia University Press in July 2007. In addition to books and articles on music history, Dr. Trochimczyk's publications include reviews, essays and poetry appearing in periodicals and chapbooks. Maja serves as Planning and Research Director of Phoenix Houses of California, while being active in a



MAY TRUONG

ELIZABETH SHEPHERD, BMus'04, is a singer, composer and pianist whose work pushes at the boundaries of what is considered conventional jazz. Her debut album, *Start To Move*, received a Juno nomination for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year in 2007. Her most recent CD, *Parkdale*, released earlier this year, has earned enthusiastic reviews, with the *Globe and Mail* praising Shepherd and her collaborators with "whipping up a sound as rich and delicious as chiffon pie." The album is, in part, an ode to the area of Toronto that she calls home. "It's a harsh neighbourhood—but then again, so is life," she says. "Parkdale is a window into the soul of a city—complex, fragmented and, above all, honest."

range of local organizations. Maja has two sons and one daughter.

JOSHUA RAGER, BMus'98, MMus'02, is a Montreal-based jazz pianist and arranger and the leader of the Joshua Rager Sextet. He and his wife, fellow jazz pianist Min Jung Suh, BMus'03, MMus'06, were commissioned by the CBC and the European Broadcast Union to compose a piece of music in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the death of Handel. The commissioned work, created for two jazz pianos, made its debut on September 18 at McGill's Pollack Hall. Both Joshua and Min teach at the Schulich School of Music.

MICHAEL ESCH, BMus'98, teaches piano literature at the Glenn Gould Professional School and Young Artists Performance Academy. In January 2008 Michael earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Rice University and most recently served as a piano judge for the Canadian Music Competition 50th Anniversary National Tour (www.cmcnational.com).

CHRISTIAN ELLIOT, BMus'06, is one of 14 Canadians to be awarded a scholarship towards studies in the United Kingdom through the Maple Leaf Trust's Canadian Centennial Scholarships. Christian was awarded the Belle Shenkman Award for the Arts and is currently studying classical music (cello performance) at Royal Northern College of Music.

MARTIN MACDONALD, MMus'06, was appointed as the new Resident Conductor of Symphony Nova Scotia. Nineteen candidates from across Canada and the world applied for this position.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RONALD CUTLER, BTh'83, was elected as Suffragan (or Assistant) Bishop by the diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on May 23, 2008. The Halifax-based diocese, founded in 1787 and the oldest Anglican diocese in Canada, includes 111 parishes, comprising 256 congregations. Ronald has been a priest in the diocese for 17 years.

SCIENCE

JIM LOTZ, MSc'57, is the author of *The Best Journey in the World: Adventures in Canada's High Arctic*. The book chronicles Jim's experiences as a member of an expedition that carried out scientific research and explored the icecaps of Northern Ellesmere Island, the most northerly island in the world. The book brings into focus the many successful and unsuccessful polar organizations that came before and examines the role of leadership and how humans behave in isolation.

J. RICHARD BERTRAND, BSc'64, received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ottawa, presented by the Telfer School of Management on June 11, 2008. Richard is Pratt & Whitney Canada's Vice-President for Government Affairs.

HYMAN ZUCKERMAN, BSc'64, MDCM'68, lives in India and is the Founder and Director of the International Bhaktivedanta Institute, a non-profit entity that deals with issues such as the nature of and the relationship and distinction between mind, body and consciousness. The institute also does humanitarian welfare work, distributing food, clothing and primary medical care, free of cost, to the needy. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness recognizes Hyman as a counsellor, philosopher and scientific thinker. Hyman presently resides in Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh (South India), and receives email at h.zuckerman@gmail.com and h.zuckerman@pamho.net.

CALVIN KALMAN, BSc'65, has published his third book, *Successful Science and Engineering Teaching in Colleges and Universities*. The book offers broad, practical strategies for teaching science and engineering courses and describes how faculty can provide a learning environment that helps students comprehend the nature of science, understand science concepts and solve problems in science courses. Calvin is currently a Professor in the Department of Physics at Concordia University.

VAIRA VIKE-FREIBERGA, PhD'65, DSc'02, the former President of Latvia, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the

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<http://www.mcgill.ca/ancillary/travel/hotels/listing/>

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University of Toronto on June 13. When she was first elected president of Latvia in 1999, a position she held until 2007, Vaira became the first female head of state in Eastern Europe. She is currently Vice-President of the European Union reflection group on the future of Europe.

DAVID ASH, BSc'66, PhD'73, has retired after 40 years of working in the Canadian chemical industry. Most recently, he was General Manager of Columbian Chemicals Canada in Hamilton, Ontario.

MAXIANNE BERGER, BSc'69, MSc(Eng)'73, has published a book of poetry titled *Dismantled Secrets*. Maxianne also works as an audiologist at the McGill University Health Centre.

KAROL KROTKI, BSc'69, has been named an American Statistical Association Fellow. Karol, a senior research statistician at RTI International, was named as an ASA Fellow in recognition of his contributions to survey research in design and methodology for web-based surveys, for his leadership in the management and establishment of statistical units, for his exemplary teaching and for his promotion of high-quality statistical methods.

ANDY ROBERT, BSc'69, and RENÉE (VOGEL) ROBERT, MEd'80, would like to announce that their daughter Naomi has been accepted into the science program at McGill. She will be joining her sister SARAH (BA'09), who again made the Dean's List, while majoring in psychology with a minor in political science. Their son JOSH ROBERT, BSc'07, received his degree in anatomy and cell biology "with great distinction" from McGill and has been accepted into the medical program at the University of Toronto this fall. So the kids are all right and mom and dad are very proud of them. Equally proud is

Grandpa LOU VOGEL, BSc'51, who looks forward to spending more years with his grandchildren in Montreal.

JOSHUA ROSENBERG, BSc'70, recently moved to Singapore and is enjoying a position as the director of IP Licensing and Sales for Hewlett-Packard. Joshua has been with HP for almost 28 years. His twin boys, Alex and Sam, are sophomores at Cornell and Harvard. Joshua takes credit for the "Shoes for Industry" hoax that swept through Canada in 1968. He is glad to meet with all McGill alumni!

ALFONS POMP, BSc'76, was recently named Chief of Laparoscopy and Bariatric Surgery at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and the Leon C. Hirsch Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center. An international authority on advanced laparoscopic surgical techniques, Alfons is currently one of six co-investigators for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Bariatric Surgery Clinical Research Consortium.

YUK-SHAN WONG, MSc'76, PhD'79, is the Vice-President for Administration and Finance at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Also a Professor of Biology at HKUSU, he was recently elected as a Deputy to the National People's Congress, the highest organ of state power in China, where he will focus on education, cross-boundary cooperation on science and technology and environmental protection during his five-year term.

JEFF KELISKY, BSc'88, is CEO of Multimaps.com, a small start-up based in the United Kingdom which became the number one Internet mapping company in Europe, offering street-level maps of the U.K., Europe and the U.S., road maps of the world, door-to-door travel directions and



MARTHA BORGMANN CRAGO, BA'68, MSc'70, PhD'88, was appointed Vice President of Research at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Martha left her position as vice rector of international and institutional affairs at the Université de Montréal in June. Prior to joining the U de M, Martha was a professor at McGill, where she also served as dean of graduate and postdoctoral studies. Martha is a well-published researcher in language acquisition and the editor of *Applied Psycholinguistics*, a scientific journal. She has served as president of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies and on several national and provincial governmental committees concerning research and postsecondary education.



KURT GOTTFRIED, BEng'51, MSc'53, is an Emeritus Professor of Physics at Cornell University. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Physical Society, the Guggenheim Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Kurt's research has focused on the subatomic structure of matter and the foundations of quantum mechanics. In 1968, he co-founded the Union of Concerned Scientists, a science-based non-profit organization that strives to protect the global environment and to eliminate the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. On May 29, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by McGill during the convocation ceremony for the Faculty of Science.

other services. Multimap.com was recently sold to Microsoft.

STEPHANIE WRAGG, BSc'88, MSc'91, lives in south Florida and was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Faculty Development at the University of Miami, at the regional campus located in Boca Raton. The regional campus of medical schools is a model used to address physician shortage and an interesting way to develop new curriculum. Stephanie helped organize the upcoming Group on Regional Medical Campuses Spring Meeting, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

PAUL MCELLIGOTT, PhD'93, was appointed President of the BC College of Applied Biology on May 9, 2008. Paul is a Senior Scientist and Project Manager with Golder Associates Ltd. in North Vancouver, B.C., and has over 20 years of experience as an environmental biologist working in the fields of fisheries, wildlife and invertebrate biology. Prior to moving out west in the early 1990s, Paul lectured on entomology and impact assessment at Macdonald Campus, served on the inter-governmental team responsible for the review of the James Bay II hydroelectric project, and conducted field studies for the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

JONATHAN TOKER, BSc'96, founded his own company in 2006 and invented and engineered novel anti-cramp electrolyte supplement capsules and dispensers for athletes called SaltStick, which have helped athletes win the Ironman World Championship, and many other races, for the past two years. Jonathan has also been racing as a professional triathlete, though he recently stepped back to recreational racing. Former classmates and

friends can get in touch with Jonathan at www.SaltStick.com.

SIMON STRAUSS, BSc'00, MA'07, has been working at Golder Associates Ltd. in Mississauga, Ontario, as an Environmental Assessment Specialist since graduating from McGill with his master's degree. Simon lives in Toronto.

PETER MELVYN ROBINSON, BSc'03, received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on March 12, 2008 at Maxwell Air Force Officer Training School in Montgomery, Alabama. Peter was awarded a USAA Leadership Excellence Award and married his fiancée, Kelli Joann Smith, in March 2008. Together, they will reside at the Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, where he has begun pilot training.

JASON HESSELS, PhD'07, has won the 2008 CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award in the engineering, medical sciences and natural sciences category. The award recognizes doctoral students whose dissertations make original contributions to their academic field, and is offered by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies in collaboration with University Microfilms International. While studying at McGill, Jason led a team of astronomers to discover the fastest-spinning neutron star ever found, located in a crowded star cluster near the centre of the Milky Way. Jason is currently pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Anton Pannekoek Astronomical Institute of the University of Amsterdam.

SOCIAL WORK

VALERIE GARNER, BSW'90, MSW'93, is now working part time for Fresenius Corporation in the Cornwall, Ontario,

Dialysis Clinic, for Chartwell Corporation as a social worker, and for Château Gardens nursing home as a community care worker. Valerie previously working with the CLSC in Pierrefonds, Quebec, for 16 years. Valerie enjoys her social work career and has a busy and satisfying life. Valerie is the grandmother to two beautiful grandsons, a two-year-old and a four-year-old.

GOLAM M. MATHBOR, MSW'95, has been elected as the Vice President of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS). AIBS is an association of institutions of higher learning in the United States aimed at promoting scholarly understanding between Bangladesh and the United States.

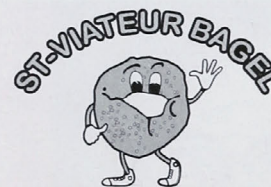
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THE 1930s

HARRY I. CRAIMER, BCom'33, at Westmount, Que., on February 20, 2008.

LEO SIMKOVER, BA'35, at Toronto, on May 11, 2008.

ALEXANDER B. BRODIE, BCom'36, at Ayr, Scotland, on February 18, 2008.

MARGARET M. DEVILBISS, BA'36, at Westmount, Que., on March 26, 2008.

STANLEY E. MALOUF, MSc'36, PhD'41, at Toronto, on February 8, 2008.

ANN N. SILVERSTONE, DipPE'36, BSc'39, at Montreal, on June 5, 2008.

VERA (PORRITT) SINCLAIR, BA'37, at Mississauga, Ont., on January 16, 2008.

RUBY E. J. SMITH, BA'37, DipPE'38, at L'Annonciation, Que., on March 31, 2008.

MARKIAN TOMIUK, BA'38, at Dorval, Que., on February 3, 2008.

HELEN (EVERETT) LYMAN, BHS'39, at Pointe Claire, Que., on February 16, 2008.

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

HELEN M. MERIFIELD, BA'39, at Toronto, on February 11, 2008.

THE 1940s

JOHN R. BLANCHARD, BEng'41, at Kingston, Ont., on April 2, 2008.

ROBERT A. LAWSON, BSc'41, DDS'45, at Windsor, Ont., on May 16, 2008.

WILFRED MCCUTCHEON, BSc(Agr)'42, at Ottawa, on March 31, 2008.

GRANT N. STEMMERMANN, MDCM'43, at Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 17, 2007.

LORNE C. DUNSWORTH, BEng'44, at Los Angeles, Calif., on January 10, 2008.

REX M. FREEMAN, BEng'44, at Burnaby, B.C., on October 29, 2007.

CATHERINE J. (WICKENDEN) MOONEY, BA'45, at Ottawa, on March 3, 2008.

JAMES LORNE ADAMS, BCom'46, at Toronto, on May 18, 2008.

HELEN A. ARMSTRONG, BN'46, at Surrey, B.C., on December 24, 2007.

EMILE COLAS, BEng'46, BCL'49, MCL'50, at Sherbrooke, Que., on February 8, 2008.

ALFRED J. KAHN, BSc'46, at Montreal, on July 7, 2007.

HAROLD M. JOST, MDCM'47, at Sarnia, Ont., on January 19, 2008.

GERALD J. MCTEIGUE, BEng'47, at Montreal, on March 20, 2008.

E. PETER NEWCOMBE, BA'47, at Ottawa, on January 31, 2008.

LOUIS A. ALBERT, BEng'48, at Montreal, on February 29, 2008.

IAN BARCLAY, BCL'48, at Vancouver, B.C., on June 6, 2008.

GEORGE P. BLUNDELL, MDCM'48, at Kensington, Md., on March 17, 2008.

EDITH (CANNON) JENKS, BA'48, at Bloomfield, Ct., on April 13, 2008.

WINIFRED M. ROSS, MSc'48, MDCM'52, at Kingston, Ont., on April 18, 2008.

FRANK E. TELFER, BSc'48, at Montreal, on March 19, 2008.

ROSS N. CLOUSTON, BSc'49, at Plymouth, Wisc., on March 18, 2008.

ROBERT E. CORRIGAN, BCom'49, at Kingston, Ont., on April 10, 2008.

WILLIAM GOSSAGE, BA'49, MDCM'53, at Pointe Claire, Que., on March 4, 2008.

HUGH A. HAMILTON, BSc'49, MSc'50, PhD'53, at Mississauga, Ont., on January 27, 2008.

NEVILLE PROBYN, BCom'49, at North York, Ont., on January 13, 2008.

THE 1950s

BERNARD J. BROPHY, BEng'50, at Oakville, Ont., on November 10, 2006.

ANNE MALONE COUGHLIN, BSc'50, at Kanata, Ont., on February 4, 2008.

ALPHONSE BARBEAU, BCL'51, at Longueuil, Que., on February 25, 2008.

DOUGLAS A. CAMPBELL, BA'51, at Los Angeles, Calif., on February 28, 2008.

ROSS D. FIRTH, BSc(PE)'51, at Montreal, on February 9, 2008.

NORAH (PEDLEY) HILDEBRAND, BSc'51, MSc'53, at Manotick, Ont., on January 12, 2008.

JOHN A. JOHNSTON, MA'51, PhD'55, at Hamilton, Ont., on January 10, 2008.

ESTHER AMIT, BSc'52, MPS'54, at Tel Aviv, Israel, on February 2, 2008.

CLIFFORD H. CAMERON, BEng'52, at Richmond, Ont., on November 15, 2007.

RUTH (COLEMAN) HARDING, BFA'52, at Cobourg, Ont., on January 24, 2008.

EDGAR J. LEROUX, MSc'52, PhD'54, DSc'73, at Ottawa, on October 13, 2007.

WILLIAM R. MURRAY, MDCM'52, at San Francisco, Ca., on July 4, 2008.

TREVOR DACOSTA, BSc(Agr)'53, at Washington, DC, on June 2, 2008.

H. REGINALD HARDY, BSc'53, at State College, Pa., on January 22, 2008.

MICHAELA KLUGMAN, MSc'53, PhD'56, at Panama City Beach, Fla., on March 4, 2008.

RUTH ANN (LAFFOLEY) MCGERRIGLE, Dip P&OT'53, at Huntingdon, Que., on March 21, 2008.



SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE LOUIS-PHILIPPE DE GRANDPRÉ, BCL'38, LLD'72, passed away at age 90 on January 24, 2008 in Saint-Lambert, Quebec. In 1977, after serving as president of the Montreal and Quebec bars, as well as the Canadian Bar Association, he reached what many consider the pinnacle of a Canadian legal career when he was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada – but the harried pace left him unsatisfied. “You’re just reading through files all day long and you’re just listening to arguments without being able to offer up anything,” he told *Le Devoir* in 2007. “You can’t call that a life!” After three years, he returned to private practice.

JOHN SANDOE, BA'53, at London, England, on December 29, 2007.

BRUCE M. BERRIDGE, BEng'54, at Ottawa, on July 8, 2008.

NANCY ST. CLAIR RYLEY, BA'54, at Salt Spring Island, B.C., on November 20, 2007.

DONALD V. STIRLING, BA'54, BD'58, at Ormstown, Que., on April 17, 2008.

RICHARD F. WELTON, BScAgr'54, MSc'69, at Innisfail, Alta., on March 1, 2008.

JAMES H. WILDING, BScAgr'54, at Newmarket, Ont., on May 23, 2008

DONALD M. MURRAY, BCom'55, CA'58, at Picton, Ont., on February 15, 2008.

DIANE K. WOLCH, BCom'55, at Victoria, B.C., on January 26, 2008.

BRUCE CUMMING, PhD'56, at Victoria, B.C., on February 20, 2008.

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

DOREEN E. (JOHNSON) WHERRETT, Dip P&OT'56, at La Paz, Mexico, on February 17, 2008.

MICHAEL J. CRIPTON, DDS'57, at Moncton, N.B., on March 27, 2008.

FAITH (SHAW) HARRISON, BSc(HEc)'58, MEd'70, at Sherbrooke, Que., on May 20, 2008.

JOSEPHINE S. SALMON, BA'58, at Arlington, Va, on November 1, 2007.

H. ARTHUR VESPRY, BLS'58, at Hamilton, Ont., on January 24, 2008.

THE 1960s

IVOR NEWSHAM, BLS'61, at North Battleford, Sask., on February 14, 2007.

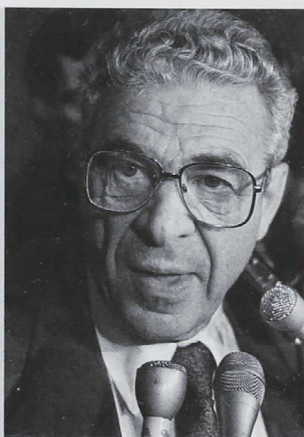
BRUCE S. ALTON, BD'63, at Toronto, on January 8, 2008.

JOSEPH (JERRY) D. DERMER, BEng'64, at Toronto, on January 23, 2008.

ROBERT LEMIEUX, BCL'65, at Sept-Îles, Que., on January 21, 2008.

NICHOLAS GRANATO, BSc'66, at Burlington, Ont., on April 14, 2008.

CLAUDE LANGLOIS, DipAgr'66, at Venise-en-Quebec, Que., on April 15, 2008.



SIMON REISMAN, BA'41, MA'42, who played a key role in negotiating the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the U.S., passed away on March 9, 2008 in Ottawa. Born in Montreal, Simon built his career in Ottawa, working as a public servant with the finance department before becoming Canada's first deputy minister of industry. He was a major contributor to the 1965 Canada-U.S. Auto Pact, which was essential in establishing the southern Ontario car industry. It was his Auto Pact success which spurred Brian Mulroney to hire him as the chief Canadian negotiator in the talks which led to the 1987 Free Trade Agreement. In his memoirs, the former prime minister praised Simon's skills, saying the FTA "would not have been successful without him."

GAYLEN A. DUNCAN, BA'67, at Toronto, on March 26, 2008.

HARRIET (COHEN) KOLOMEIR, BA'68, MSW'61, at Montreal, on February 21, 2008.

REET ODER, MSc'69, at Mississauga, Ont., on January 29, 2008.

LAUREL L. WARD, BSc'69, MSc'73, LLB'78, at Thunder Bay, Ont., on December 4, 2007.

THE 1970s

PEKKA H. ERKKILA, BScArch'70, BArch'73, at Saskatoon, Sask., on October 21, 2007.

THOMAS L. MACMASTER, DDS'70, at Rothesay, N.B., on November 1, 2007.

PHILIPPE ROSS, BSc'72, MSc'75, at Golden, Co., on July 3, 2008.

JOY BRIGHTEN, BSW'77, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on April 23, 2008.

JENNIFER (WEBBER) GRIFFITH, BSc(OT)'79, at Sherbrooke, Que., on April 19, 2008.

THE 1980s

LUCIA A. HUNT, BSc(N)'81, at Montreal, on April 30, 2008.

IAN M. RUBINS, BSc'83, MDCM'87, MSc'92, at Stamford, Ct., on January 23, 2008.

JAMES D. JONES, BA'85, BTh'89, at North Bay, Ont., on March 27, 2008.

NIGEL COLTERJOHN, MDCM'89, at Hamilton, Ont., on March 31, 2008.

THE 1990s

RICARDO CODINA, BCL'94, LLB'94, at Toronto, on March 25, 2008.

BRADLEY DAVIS, BCom'95, at Montreal, on January 24, 2008.

THE 2000s

AE-GYEONG CHEONG, PhD'04, at St. Paul, Minn., on January 28, 2008.

DARCY JANE HUGHES, BA'05, at Balgonie, Sask., on June 20, 2008.

FACULTY/STAFF

HELEN KAROUNIS, MDCM'93, faculty member, Department of Pediatrics, at Montreal, on June 19, 2008.

PAUL VAUGHAN LATOUR, MDCM'74, former faculty member, Faculty of Medicine, at Barrie, Ont., on April 17, 2008.

MORRIS MILLER, BCom'45, former faculty member, Departments of Economics and Political Science, at Ottawa, on February 17, 2008.

HARRY OXORN, BA'41, DipObstetrics'51, former faculty member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at Ottawa, on March 16, 2008.

KURT B. RUF, faculty member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at Montreal, on June 29, 2008.

DONALD THEALL, founding director of the Graduate Program in Communications, in Peterborough, Ont., on May 14, 2008.

A. LLOYD THOMPSON, PhD'43, former faculty member, Department of Mechanical Engineering, at Richmond, Que., on March 22, 2008.

Look out below!

BY BRUCE GRAVEL, BED'79

When I attended McGill decades ago, all of 18 and flush with the heady freedoms of new adulthood, I craved unique experiences. Already a scuba diver, I reasoned that if I enjoyed swimming underwater, then surely I'd enjoy soaring above water.

So I joined the McGill Skydiving Club. I paid careful attention in skydiving class — especially to the lecture on What To Do If Your Chute Doesn't Open — and took many notes. My girlfriend later asked what good would notes do when I was two miles up, falling at over 140 feet a second. Good point.

The Big Day finally arrived. My first jump. My honey, muttering that sane people did not voluntarily leap out of perfectly good airplanes, accompanied me to a small airport north of Montreal.

We were a mixed group: ebullient would-be skydivers, with sombre friends who looked like their next stop would be a funeral parlour.

Checked and cross-checked, four of us eager eaglets crammed into a modified Cessna with the pilot and instructor. The plane lumbered skyward.

En route to the drop zone, a curious phenomenon occurred: the higher we climbed, the less excited we got.

Finally, the cabin door was latched open and, with a demonic grin, the instructor selected me to go first.

Pushing forward against the buffeting wind, remembering warnings not to look down, I emerged from the cabin's safe womb and inched along a ledge under the wing, hands death-gripping the wing strut.

The instructor screamed: "GO!"

I screamed: "WHY? Haven't I already demonstrated my courage just by exiting this aircraft at 2,000 feet?"

The instructor bellowed that returning to the cabin was not an option; it was too hazardous. (Like letting go wasn't?)

I let go.

As I fell away, the idiot-cord attached from the plane to my chute snapped tight and, miracle of miracles, my chute flowed out behind me. Even more miraculous, it ballooned open. Straps jerked tight, I was yanked upright and voila: I floated over serene Quebec farmland.

Awesome view: blue sky around me, white canopy above, green fields below. Green fields coming closer every second. With mysterious brown spots on them. That moved.

I was coming down on a field full of cows.

I pulled on the chute cords, attempting to change direction. That just moved me from the edge of the field to the middle. Where the cows were thickest.

Figuring that Bessy would not appreciate someone suddenly dropping onto her back, I yelled down at the herd, to get them to move. They stayed put.

Remembering they were Québécois bovines, I bellowed in French. Same result.

I just missed a cow as I landed and rolled, shouting "Merde!" which accurately described what I landed in. The animal, eyes bulging in astonishment, bolted.

My chute settled gracefully behind me. Upon the rest of the herd. Chaos ensued.

Two weeks later, we were at the airport again. My girlfriend remarked that the number of repeat skydivers had dwindled significantly since their first jump. I ignored her.

Up we went into the wild blue yonder.

When it was my turn, determined to repair my reputation, I wasted no time clambering out and letting go. (I'm sure no one heard my whimpering over the roar of engine and wind.)

My chute considerably blossomed open again. Disregarding the wonderful view, I looked where the wind was sending me. Trainer parachutes are quite unresponsive compared to expensive, advanced chutes. With those, you could literally control your descent to land on a dime. With my chute, you couldn't land on the Canadian Mint if it was right below you.

Only empty fields lay beneath me. Not a cow in sight. I heaved a sigh of relief.

Dropping lower, I observed that the local farmers had industriously bordered their fields with sturdy upright posts and wire fence.

One of those sturdy upright posts was directly below me, framed between my dangling feet.

I was about to be impaled. Bruce-on-a-stick. An embarrassing epitaph.

I started swaying like a pendulum beneath my canopy as the post drew rapidly closer. Just missing the pole, I crashed into a deep ditch filled with reeking brackish water.

After two close calls in two jumps, I decided to stick with scuba diving. Sharks, barracudas and string bikinis were less hazardous. 🐋



TZIGANE

Bruce Gravel is president of the non-profit Ontario Accommodation Association and writes a biweekly humour column for the Peterborough Examiner. His work has also appeared in Maclean's and the Globe and Mail. His first book, Humour on Wry, with Mustard, was published earlier this year. For more information, visit www.brucegravel.ca.

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 - Entrepreneurship
 - Health Care
 - Human Resources
 - International Business
 - Leadership
 - Marketing
 - Operations Management
 - Public Relations
 - Taxation
 - Treasury-Finance

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