

# McGill News

alumni magazine fall 2009



## PLUS

Brain Gains:  
The Neuro Turns 75

Stage Struck:  
Inside McGill's  
Theatre Scene

Céline Galipeau:  
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is on the hunt for more gold

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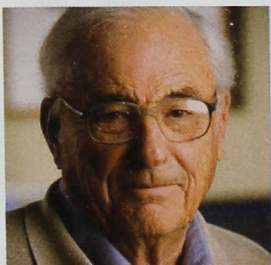
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## 07 “Stockholm is Calling”

In the span of 48 hours, two new names were added to the ranks of Nobel laureates with McGill degrees, as Jack Szostak, BSc'72, and Willard Boyle, BSc'47, MSc'48, PhD'50, were honoured for their respective contributions to medicine and physics.

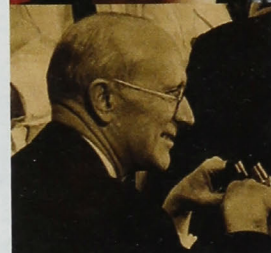
BY MICHAEL WOLOSCHUK



## 15 Golden Girl

McGill management student Jenn Heil is a dominant force in freestyle skiing and the defending Olympic champ. It wouldn't have happened, though, without an unexpected helping hand at a crucial moment. Heil is one to repay her debts.

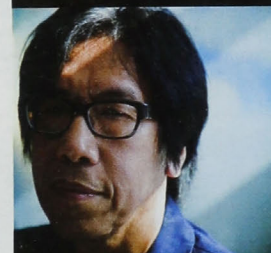
BY NEALE MCDEVITT



## 20 Penfield's Brainchild

For 75 years, the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital has led the way in exploring the mysteries of the brain. The future for the world-renowned Neuro looks just as bright.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



## 25 Engineering Flies High

Recreating space collisions. Designing wheels for lunar rovers. Creating new materials out of hi-tech spray. McGill's aerospace engineers are working on projects that are out of this world.

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH



## 30 All the World's a Stage

McGill's vibrant theatre scene offers drama lovers everything from full scale musicals to slapstick farces to thoughtful explorations of mental illness. Even engineering students are getting in on the act.

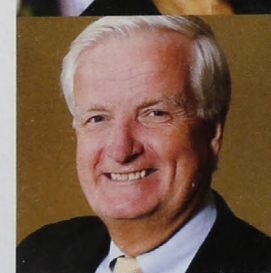
BY ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77



## 36 Citoyenne du monde

De ses racines asiatiques aux défis liés à son rôle actuel de tête d'affiche du grand rendez-vous de la télévision de Radio-Canada, Céline Galipeau (B.A. 1982) se confie sur son métier et un chemin qui semblait presque tracé à l'avance.

PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B.A. 1992)



## 49 Orchestrating the March of the Penguins

When Ken Sawyer, BSc'71, joined the front office of the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2006, the team was broke, a perennial loser and uncertain of its future. Now, thanks in part to Sawyer's efforts, the Penguins are Stanley Cup champions and one of the hottest tickets in town.

BY GARY FRANCOEUR

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Dr. Robert Stevenson  
with Principal and  
Vice-Chancellor Heather  
Munroe-Blum at the  
McGill 1821 Society Tea  
in May 2009.

## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

# A Meaningful Life at McGill

After Robert Stevenson graduated with his BA from McGill in 1949, he worked in advertising for 10 years. But he realized that lifestyle was not for him, and he became fascinated by the study of world religions.

"I began to ask myself, why are there so many other gods besides our own?" he remembers with a smile. He was one of the first students enrolled in McGill's Bachelor of Divinity program with the goal of becoming an academic rather than a minister. "I had discovered I could make a living by lecturing about world religions," he quips. He specialized in the Hindu tradition and his honours thesis questioned "the essential unity of all religions."

After graduating with his BD in 1961, he completed his master's and PhD at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religion, where residents hailed from around the world and from many religious backgrounds. "Students in the Divinity School called

it God's Motel," he laughs. He returned to McGill, where he taught comparative religion from 1966 to 1991, and also served as Dean of Students from 1983 to 1985.

Dr. Stevenson believes it is "extraordinarily important to give back for what you have received." Over the years, he and his wife Deirdre have given annually to multiple areas across the university.

They have also funded two special initiatives: the Deirdre and Robert Stevenson Award for students entering a graduate program in the Faculty of Religious Studies, in which the study of Asian religions is a major component. Most recently, they have established the South Asian Religions Distinguished Lectureship with a gift of securities.

"I thank my lucky stars I switched from business to academics," he says. "My life at McGill has been so much more meaningful."



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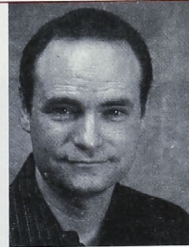
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# A special man, a special place



It's been an eventful autumn at McGill. Two of the world's most famous people, the Dalai Lama and Bill Clinton, dropped by for visits. Two McGill science grads, Jack Szostak, BSc'72, and Willard Boyle, BSc'47, MSc'48, PhD'50, each scooped up a Nobel Prize for their respective research accomplishments.

McGill was named the 18th best university in the world by the Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings, marking the sixth year in a row that the THE-QS has included McGill among the 25 finest universities on the planet. McGill also took the top spot, for the fifth year in a row, in the medical/doctoral category of *Maclean's* magazine's annual ranking of Canadian universities.

Campaign McGill passed the \$500-million mark in October. Worldwide economic crisis or not, the campaign is now more than two-thirds of the way towards reaching its \$750-million goal.

The weather has been unseasonably chilly for much of the fall, but, hey, you can't have everything.

Autumn also marked an important milestone for McGill's Montreal Neurological Institute, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. It's no accident that the Quebec government's highest honour for biomedical research is named after Wilder Penfield, the neurosurgeon who led the effort to create the MNI. Penfield is one of four MNI researchers who have been named to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame — five if you include Nobel laureate David Hubel, BSc'47, PhD'46, DSc'88, who spent part of his early career as an MNI Fellow.

One of those Hall of Fame inductees is William Feindel, MDCM'45, DSc'84, who served as the director of the MNI from 1972 to 1984. Feindel receives much of the credit for ensuring that the MNI would be a world leader in brain imaging — the MNI's Brain Imaging Centre was developed on his watch and the institute became the first centre in Canada to acquire new leading-

edge technologies such as PET and MRI scanners during his years at the helm.

In earlier years, Feindel worked closely with Penfield, making important contributions to the latter's famous Montreal Procedure, a surgical approach to treating epilepsy that is now used around the world.

"Penfield had tremendous tenacity," Feindel says of his colleague and mentor. He needed it. "In the early thirties, when he was putting together his plans [for the MNI], McGill was deep into the Great Depression, which was far worse than the economic troubles we're experiencing today," Feindel points out. "Salaries were being cut and Principal Currie almost closed down the nursing school." Not the best of times for ambitious new initiatives.

Nevertheless, Penfield won the backing, not only of McGill, but of the Rockefeller Foundation, the governments of the day and some of the city's leading philanthropists. Penfield had a low-key but highly effective method for motivating those around him. "He had this determined sense of optimism," says Feindel. "He just expected the best out of you."

The "genius" of Penfield's plan for the MNI was in "having the surgeons, the clinicians and the scientists all in the same box," says Feindel, a retired neurosurgeon who can recall startling more than one budding young scientist encountered in an MNI elevator with "So, what are you doing to cure brain tumours?"

"The notion of 'bench to the bedside' is well understood, but here it is often 'bedside to the bench,'" says Feindel. "Scientists see the patients here and hear their stories and they realize that there are lots of really big questions out there that we still need the answers to."

As you'll see in this issue's feature article about the MNI, there are precious few places in the world as well equipped to answer those questions as the Montreal Neurological Institute.

DANIEL MCCABE

# Swimming against the current

In just a little more than two years since its public launch—and in the midst of a worldwide economic crisis—Campaign McGill has raised \$500 million of its \$750 million goal. These funds will be used to support the University's top priorities. Regular *McGill News* contributor **Andrew Mullins** recently sat down with Principal **Heather Munroe-Blum** for her thoughts on the campaign, the economy and the role of alumni in McGill's most ambitious fundraising initiative ever.



PHOTO: CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

## *What is your reaction to the success of Campaign McGill?*

I'm delighted to be reaching this milestone. When we began the campaign, we had the highest launch goal of any public campaign for a university in Canada. That we're at the \$500 million mark with another three-and-a-half years to go in the campaign is terrific, especially when you think of the economic downturn and the challenges we all faced in the last year.

## *What impact has the international economic crisis had on the campaign? Are potential donors more cautious in the midst of economic uncertainty?*

People understand that when times are tough, public causes need support. We have many more people giving than we have seen in the past, and that was one of our goals. One expected consequence of the economic downturn was that overall giving was down 20% compared to the previous year. Our hope is that this year will be different as things start to pick up again.

## *The crisis has hit university endowments, including McGill's. Does that affect the campaign?*

There's no question that donors want to see that their investment is extremely well stewarded. And while McGill, like all universities, had our endowment hurt, we haven't been hurt as badly as many other universities. I want to take this opportunity to thank our investment committee. This extremely talented group of volunteers works with the senior administration on the management of our endowment. I know there were some who believed that our endowment was invested somewhat conservatively. Of course, we're celebrating the investment committee members as heroes right now for having been so prudent.

## *How has McGill fared in general during the economic downturn, compared to other universities?*

Wealthier universities have long had the luxury of saying almost every good idea will be funded. We've never had that luxury at McGill. It's not a matter of suddenly waking up in an economic downturn and

saying, oh, we've got to make some hard choices. We have a long history of thinking very carefully about our programs and how to support our outstanding students and faculty. It's in our DNA.

We benefited enormously from being at the tail end of a massive faculty renewal phase, not at the beginning of it. We've recruited 900 new professors in the last eight years. Universities in Canada and the U.S. that were just about to ramp up into a renewal of their professoriate have suffered a real blow. There are universities in the U.S. that have had to slash enrolments, reverse hirings and cut back on student aid. We are in much better shape than that. We face budget cuts, but we'll be able to maintain our emphasis on our priorities.

## *In terms of the money that has been raised, where do you think Campaign McGill will have the greatest impact on McGill's future?*

We've already seen enormous strides in support for graduate students, and undergraduate student advising and mentoring. Graduate student support

is a *sine qua non* with having a world-class research enterprise. The research that goes on here supports the development and education of our graduate students, and the contributions of our graduate students provide invaluable support for the research and scholarly enterprise.

***What has been the biggest surprise for you over the course of the campaign so far?***

We've had an exceptional ability to connect with many alumni for the first time ever, or the first time in a very long time, and have them immediately support us. I make it clear that we don't engage with them only for their financial support. We engage with them because it makes us a better institution. We learn from them. They encourage great young people to come here to study. They recommend

new professors and staff. They help us connect with other parts of the world.

***During your campaign tour, what questions have you been asked the most by alumni?***

They are eager to learn about the renewal of the professoriate, and they're thrilled about our efforts to bring undergraduate students into the research realm. They're very interested in interdisciplinarity, because they see in their own lives how the world has changed. For instance, they love the fact that neuroscience at McGill incorporates intellectual contributions from five different faculties.

***Is there anything about McGill's alumni that makes them distinct in your eyes?***

I've travelled a lot in the last year for the campaign and I've seen exceptional loyalty.

I met Edgar Fay in London. He is 100 years old and he took the time to talk to me about his own ambitions for McGill. Then there is Gang Ye, MEng'03, from Wuhan, China. He travelled 10 hours to Beijing to attend an alumni event, and then travelled 10 hours to get back home so he could go to work the following day. I have been associated with six universities and I have never seen the passion for a university that McGill alumni show. It borders on patriotism.

***Are there particular campaign priorities that remain to be addressed?***

We still have a significant way to go to reach the level of student support that will allow us to say that every qualified student can come here, independent of financial means. That is an absolute commitment for me during my time as principal: that we reach that goal and sustain it. ✦



Principal Heather Munroe-Blum at one of the launch events for Campaign McGill along with campaign co-chairs (l to r) Eugene McBurney, LLB'79, Yves Fortier, BCL'58, LLD'05, and Michael Meighen, BA'60

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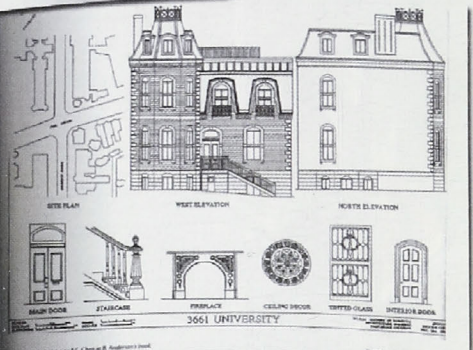
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# “STOCKHOLM IS CALLING”

**W**ILLARD BOYLE, BSc'47, MSc'48, PhD'50, was fast asleep in his Nova Scotia home on October 6 when he and his wife Betty were awakened by a telephone call announcing that he had won the 2009 Nobel Prize for Physics. “Betty got up and went to the phone, and they said: ‘Stockholm is calling. Is Dr. Boyle there?’”

The spokesperson for the Nobel committee first explained to Boyle that he was sharing the Nobel in Physics with two others for his seminal contributions to digital imaging technology. And then Boyle was told that he had about 10 minutes to prepare himself before the announcement was made public to the rest of the world.

The retired researcher has won other major prizes for inventing the semiconductor sensor known as a charge-coupled device, or CCD, which provides the optical guts for digital imaging equipment the world over, from millions of digital cameras to the Hubble Space Telescope. But this was different. “After 10 minutes,” recalls Boyle, “all hell broke loose. Within an hour, we ended up with 20 or 30 reporters, two or three cameras, down in the lobby of the condo.”

The fateful phone call from Stockholm capped a remarkable two-day period during which the number of Nobel laureates with McGill degrees increased by 50 per cent—from four to six. The day before, Harvard University molecular biologist **JACK SZOSTAK**, BSc'72, was

co-awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his contributions to the discovery of telomerase, an enzyme that protects chromosomes from degrading.

There were early clues that Szostak was destined for special things. For one thing, he was only 15 when he began his studies in biology at McGill in 1968. For another, he published his first peer-reviewed journal article only a year after earning his undergraduate degree, co-authoring it with his former McGill professor, Mel Goldstein. When Szostak graduated in 1972, he was awarded McGill's Penhallow Prize in Botany.

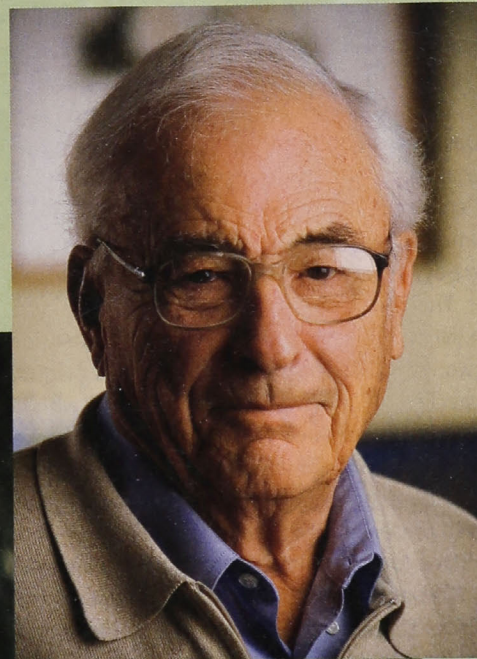
Boyle is grateful for the education he received at McGill, especially since his bachelor's degree was completed under special circumstances during the Second World War. Boyle interrupted his studies to join the Royal Navy, where he flew Spitfires on aircraft carriers. When he returned to finish his third year in honours mathematics and physics, the University made sure the young war veteran received the extra attention he deserved. “I think they were very helpful with my situation and they gave me a little extra tutoring and so on, to get me up to full speed,” says Boyle. “So I have the utmost respect for McGill as an institution.”

MICHAEL WOLOSCHUK

JUSSI PUUKKONEN



*Nobel laureates Jack Szostak and (upper right) Willard Boyle*



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

## Other Nobel Prize-winning alumni

**Rudolph Marcus**, BSc'43, PhD'46, DSc'88, received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his theory of electron transfer.

**David Hubel**, BSc'47, MDCM'51, DSc'78, was co-recipient of the 1981 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his groundbreaking work on visual perception.

Particle physicist **Val Fitch**, BEng'48, DSc'87, was co-recipient of the 1980 Nobel Prize in Physics for an experiment that disproved the long-held theory that particle interaction should be indifferent to the direction of time.

Endocrinologist **Andrew Victor Schally**, BSc'55, PhD'59, DSc'79, was the co-recipient of the 1977 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his research on hormones.

## Star on TV? Check

When McGill undergrad **JONNIE PENN** first encountered *The Buried Life* in English 202, little did he know that a few short years later, he would end up starring in an MTV show named after Matthew Arnold's stirring poem.

Back in 2006, Penn, his brother Duncan and their friends Dave Lingwood and Ben Nemtin were doing some serious soul-searching. "We had no idea what to do with our lives," says Penn. "We wanted to create something new, but we didn't know what. That poem articulated our thoughts so much better than we ever could have."

That summer, they formed their group, the Buried Life, wrote a list of 100 Things To Do Before I Die, and drove off in an RV for two weeks. They promised themselves that for every item they checked off, they would help a stranger with his or her dream.

A little over three years later, they've checked off at least 49 things (from Open the Six O'Clock News to Visit Folsom Prison to Kiss the Stanley Cup), helped countless strangers, established a web presence with a worldwide following, and produced several videos (one of which got half a million hits on YouTube).

Earlier this year, they made the front page of the *New York Times* ("Make room, cynics: MTV wants to do some good") with the news that they are producing and starring in their own MTV reality show, slated to premiere in Canada on December 1. Which means they can cross off #53: Start a Television Show. Initially, they actually turned MTV down, but relented when the network agreed to let the Buried Life crew put together the show the way they wanted to. "We can do it on our own terms," says Penn.

Penn acknowledges it has been a unique coming-of-age journey for them. "Honestly, helping other people with things on



Jonnie Penn (first on left) with his *Buried Life* co-stars Duncan Penn, Ben Nemtin and Dave Lingwood

their list has been 10 times more satisfying than the things we've done off our own list," he says. "It's a deeper satisfaction—it makes the hairs on your arms stand up." They've helped a recovering drug addict get a truck for his first business, took four kids with cancer on a toy store shopping spree, and bought computers for an inner-city school, to name just a few examples.

Penn insists all the media attention will not change them. "Our rule from day one has been 'Would our friends watch this?' The minute we get crass, then we've lost the people who are most important to us."

Penn says he looks forward to graduating from McGill with his history degree in early 2011. After all, #11 is Get a College Degree. For more info, visit [www.theburiedlife.com](http://www.theburiedlife.com).

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77

## A VISIT WITH THE DALAI LAMA

McGill recently played host to one of the world's most famous figures, as the Dalai Lama spoke to 500 education students from Quebec universities gathered in Pollack Hall on October 3.

Quebec's recent introduction of an ethics and religious culture program in its school system was a key factor in the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader's decision to include Montreal in his latest North American tour. He used his encounter with the future teachers to highlight the importance of ethical lessons for youngsters growing up in a world that too often confuses "material values" with "inner values."

Ethics may be thought of as actions—physical or verbal—that bring some benefit to others, "especially in the long term." And they aren't necessarily linked to religious beliefs, the Dalai Lama said.

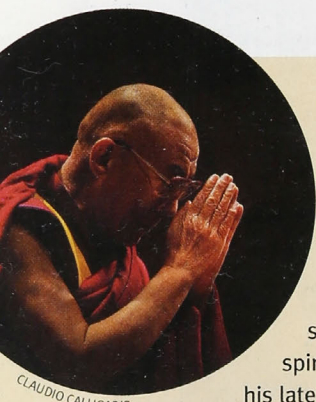
His free-wheeling discourse was punctuated with Buddhist philosophy, Western science, impish humour and infectious laughter. As he noted at the outset, it also reflected a global view shaped by 50 years of living in India and travelling the world.

Billionaires, he has found, are often unhappy. Money and material goods bring physical comfort. But they also produce anxiety, stress and "problems." Internal peace comes from caring, compassion and true friendships.

The 1989 Nobel Peace Prize laureate spoke in English during the two-hour session, with occasional help from Tibetan interpreter Thupten Jinpa, an adjunct professor in the Faculty of Religious Studies.

He challenged the future Quebec teachers in the audience to make a difference in the lives of others. "As soon as you wake up in the morning, think: my duty [is to] make some contribution for a better world."

CHRIS CHIPELLO



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

# Is there a doctor on the plane?

One out of every 150,000 aircraft passengers experiences some sort of medical problem, says **VINCENT POIRIER**, MDCM'96. He knows better than most the sorts of things that can go terribly wrong during a flight.

Several years ago, Poirier was en route to a sunny vacation spot when a fellow passenger began gasping for air. He ended up saving a child suffering from anaphylactic shock.

The experience stayed with him. How prepared were most doctors to deal with similar situations, he wondered.

Today Poirier is an assistant professor of medicine at McGill. Together with Anna Carvalho, a fellow ER specialist at the McGill University Health Centre, Poirier developed the Onboard Medical Emergencies course to equip doctors for dealing with the unexpected when they're flying.



Tending to patients during flights offers a unique set of challenges, says Poirier. "For one thing, you're not dealing with a normal oxygen environment. It's like treating a patient on top of a mountain that's 8,000 feet up." Any sort of lung problem becomes much more fraught under those circumstances.

Teaching aboard an aircraft simulator, Poirier and Carvalho go over the sorts of medical scenarios that can take place on a plane, outlining the resources that doctors would have available to them (a small medical kit is on each flight and some airlines can patch you through to medical experts on the ground via satellite) and the time constraints they might contend with (it can often take at least an hour for a plane to land when faced with a medical emergency).

The next course, already fully booked, is in December. Demand for the course keeps growing, says Poirier, and it may soon go international. Poirier and Carvalho have been asked to teach it at an international conference in Singapore next year.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



JOHN MORSTAD

## CONCIERGE TO THE STARS

**HEIDI SMALL**, BA'96, headed south after completing her McGill degree, eager to break into the movie business. But working on the set of an Eddie Murphy flick, she realized that "nobody had a life; they [sat] around all day waiting for lighting. I got quite turned off."

Returning to Montreal, Small noticed she hadn't quite left the film biz behind. A movie boom was happening right in her home town, with three big-budget blockbusters slated to shoot that summer.

A chance encounter with a film producer's wife who was looking for a day camp and a pediatrician during her family's stay in Montreal led to Small's 'Aha!' moment—she had discovered a unique niche market that she was perfectly equipped to cater to.

Small became the go-to girl for relocation and concierge services, specializing in movie stars, directors and producers who uproot their families for months during film shoots. Her company, LivvMtl, has access to dozens of high-end properties to rent out to Hollywood movers and shakers.

Her job duties have included taking Brendan Fraser to see Madonna, stocking Hugh Jackman's fridge with gourmet food, and installing blinds for Robert Carlyle. She once rented out her own home to Oscar winner Mira Sorvino. "I'd just had a baby six weeks before; I packed up, and we couch-surfed everywhere."

Hollywood studios often let Small know who's coming to town. "I get a feel for their personality and set them up A to Z: I tell them where to eat, where to shop and what to do while they're here."

While she generally enjoys her work, Small admits that some A-listers can be "a royal pain"—one showed up with five dogs and three cats in tow, and caused \$10,000 in damage to their temporary digs.

WENDY HELFENBAUM

# Keeping tabs on a dangerous world



CSIS

Starting a new job always presents a steep learning curve. But when you become Canada's top spy, the level of detail can stagger even the best prepared.

"I feel like there's a fire hose attached to my head, filling it with information," says **RICHARD FADDEN**, BA'72, who became

director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service on June 27.

Fadden is new to CSIS, but his curriculum vitae and his reputation for cool-headed thinking in a crisis seem to point him directly to the director's chair. He was deputy clerk of the Privy Council Office and security and intelligence coordinator during the 9/11 attacks. He then became president of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2002, handling the mad cow outbreak that rocked Canadian beef producers. He has also monitored foreign affairs for the auditor general and, most recently, served as deputy immigration minister.

It was the new job itself—and not its cachet—that enticed Fadden. "This place is not like a James Bond movie," he jokes. "It really isn't. But it is an interesting place."

With criticism hitting CSIS in recent years for a series of controversies—Maher Arar, the Iacobucci Inquiry plaintiffs and Aousfian Abdelrazik among them—the former McGill political science major acknowledges the service needs a public makeover, but feels handcuffed by the top-secret nature of the files. "Like any other government entity, CSIS can be criticized, but unlike most, we can't very often counter the criticisms" with success stories, he explains.

Although such heat would keep many out of the CSIS kitchen, the call of duty was too strong for Fadden to ignore. "The terrorist threat to Canada is not artificial," he says. "People aren't making this up. All countries today—and I do mean *all* countries—worry about it."

JAKE BRENNAN, BA'97

## COSMIC CANUCKS

McGill grads meet in the darnedest places. Aboard the International Space Station, for instance, some 220 miles above the Earth.

Astronauts **ROBERT THIRSK**, MD'82, and **JULIE PAYETTE**, BEng'86, DSc'03, made history this summer when they met aboard the ISS, becoming the first two Canadians ever to be in outer space simultaneously.

Payette travelled to the ISS aboard the space shuttle *Endeavour* to take part in a 16-day mission. She helped set up Japan's Kibo space lab and operated no fewer than three different robotic arms (including *Endeavour's* Canadarm1 and the ISS's Canadarm2) during her stay.

Thirsk hitched a ride on a Russian Soyuz rocket in late May before beginning a six-month stay on the ISS—the first time a Canadian has ever remained in space for such a long period of time. Thirsk served as his mission's medical officer, taking part in a wide variety of maintenance tasks and participating in several research experiments. He returns to Earth this December.

One evening during their time together, Payette and Thirsk (who served on the committee that selected her as an astronaut) watched from the ISS as the space station passed over Canada, offering a majestic nine-minute view of the country from one coast to the other.



CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY

Canadian astronauts Julie Payette and Robert Thirsk aboard the International Space Station

To thank the ISS team for their hospitality, Payette and the *Endeavour* crew treated them to a dinner that featured plenty of Canadian fare, including salmon pâté from British Columbia, beef jerky from Alberta and Maple Leaf cookies.

"Canada may not be known for its gastronomy on Earth," recounted Payette on a blog that informally chronicled her mission, "but in space, we are now world-renowned!"

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

# GOOD ETHICS FOR GOOD SCIENCE

Keeping pace with the world of genomics is not for the faint of heart. And in an accelerated world of medical research promising new diagnostic tools and treatments for Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and even cancer, grappling with the ethical issues arising from all this progress is a daunting task.

Enter **BARTHA MARIA KNOPPERS**, LLB'78, BCL'81, the recently appointed director of McGill's new Centre of Genomics and Policy. Knoppers is a world-renowned bioethicist, and the research team she leads at the centre tackles issues ranging from stem cell controversies to privacy concerns surrounding our individual genetic and genomic makeup. Their aim is to promote good science and responsible research, while educating the public along the way.

The centre is located inside the McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre, placing it at the heart of the genomic action. "It's important in the development of policy to be surrounded by the very scientists and fields of science in which you're working," says Knoppers.

Five domains form the core of the centre's work: procreation and reproductive policy; pediatrics, including the involvement of minors in genomic research; populations, including biobanks that store and organize genetic material, and track whole populations; privacy; and the developing field of pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine, in which health care can be tailored to individual genomic and phenotypic data. Recent success by scientists in British Columbia in decoding the breast cancer genome, for instance, could lead to more effective, personalized treatment for patients.

The centre's own publicly accessible research database at [www.humgen.org](http://www.humgen.org) collects laws and policies from around the world and is used by high school students, royal commissions, scientists and policy-makers—anyone dealing with ethical questions in genomics research.

The site also provides expert analysis from the research team. "We prepare editorials that people can use to analyze what's happening regionally, internationally, or on a country-by-country basis."

Knoppers heads up the Public Population Project in Genomics as well, providing IT tools for researchers to share data between large population biobanks. The biobanks collect enormous amounts of information on genetics, lifestyle, nutrition, income and other factors to examine how genes interact with their environment. Networking such information will provide scientists with a bigger picture than they've ever had before.

"It means that the science moves faster, it's statistically more powerful and thus more significant."

Sound policy, too, helps move the science forward. Knoppers made news recently as the lead author of the Stem Cell Charter presented at the World Stem Cell Summit in Baltimore, where the aim was to affirm the importance of stem cell science for humanity.

"We want to bring stem cell science back into the public domain, away from some of the scandals and controversy, and prepare a code of conduct based on the five principles of responsibility, protection of citizens, intellectual freedom, transparency and integrity. And then kick-start international research under these five principles."

ANDREW MULLINS



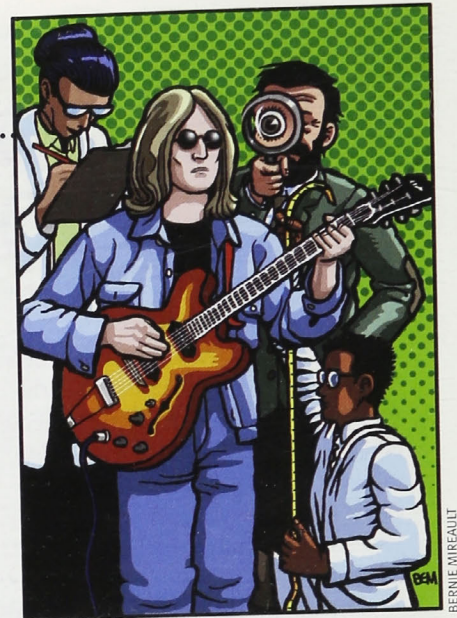
RACHEL GRANOFFSKY

# Playing with ideas

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper pounds out "With a Little Help from My Friends" on a piano at the National Arts Centre and his poll numbers jump across the country. A month earlier, *The Beatles: Rock Band* video game smashed records by selling 700,000 copies in its first week. Apparently, all you need is the Beatles to succeed. But why does a hint of John or a dab of Ringo still set off public pandemonium?

It's the sort of question that scholars associated with McGill's new Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas, or IPLAI ("I play"), might well explore. IPLAI will be examining why some thoughts, people or artistic expressions have the ability to transcend cultures, disciplines and time periods.

Taking a page from the Fab Four, professors from the Faculties of Arts,



BERNIE MIREAULT

Quite apart from the annoyance of never having name recognition or a proper desk to call their own, temporary workers often receive lower wages, minimal employment security and few benefits, according to primary investigator **AMÉLIE QUESNEL-VALLÉE**, an assistant professor with both the Department of Sociology and the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health.

It is perhaps not surprising then that mental health side effects, including insecurity and innate stress, as well as a disconnect between staff and temps, occur — Quesnel-Vallée recalls one example in which "temp workers were not allowed in the same cafeteria as other workers!"

While temp work represents only seven per cent of the Canadian workforce, the economic funk and its resultant hiring freezes could fuel an increase in temp positions.

It is not up to the temps, Quesnel-Vallée says, but rather those who employ them, to ensure worker well-being.

"If they choose to use a temp workforce, they should be mindful of these populations and not treat them as disposable, second-class workers."

LIZ ALLEMANG, BA'06

Education, Engineering, Law and Religious Studies, as well as the School of Architecture, the Desautels Faculty of Management and the Schulich School of Music, will come together to collaborate on innovative, interdisciplinary research projects.

IPLAI is one of only a handful of academic centres in North America that focus solely on the humanities, and the first to take such an interdisciplinary tack. "People within universities need to rekindle the idea that knowledge can be an adventure," says IPLAI director **DESMOND MANDERSON**. "If people don't have that sense of play, of experiment, of newness, of risk, then you don't get new knowledge. You just get more of the same."

During the 2009-10 academic year, IPLAI will be organizing workshops, sponsoring seminars, welcoming visiting scholars and developing an open-access website ([www.mcgill.ca/iplai](http://www.mcgill.ca/iplai)) — all while laying the groundwork for the institute to begin offering classes next autumn. Some of the initial course ideas being kicked around include a class on how children's books transmit social lessons and another on the concept of home. To start, though, professors and fellows will dive into IPLAI's inaugural research theme of "Memory and Echo."

BRETT HOOTON, BA'02, MA'05



ISTOCKPHOTO

## TEMPORARY BREAKDOWN

Not all jobs are created equal. That's the conclusion a McGill research team reached when it recently examined the lot of temporary workers.

Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in August, the research indicated a correlation between workers in temporary, contract or casual positions and higher than average levels of psychological distress and depression.



ISTOCKPHOTO

## UNDER PRESSURE

In places like eastern Canada, earthquakes seem a distant concern. But civil engineering professor **DENIS MITCHELL** thinks we should be ready for the ground to shake.

"Seismic activity is a really serious problem," he says, "and we've had some major earthquakes in Quebec — magnitude 7, for example — quite a few years ago. They're bound to come back. The only thing we can do to guard against it is to make sure our structures are capable of resisting these major events."

To that end, Mitchell is heading the Canadian Seismic Research Network, a new national research network headquartered at McGill, which is aimed at mitigating the impact of earthquakes on Canada's urban centres.

Resilient though it may seem, much of our infrastructure predates proper seismic provisions, which emerged in the mid-seventies, and can't withstand the stresses earthquakes impose.

"That's where we have a problem," Mitchell says. "You want to make sure that your bridges are still functioning after a major event, that the hospitals can still operate properly." Schools are another concern. "We usually use those as shelters if it's a very serious earthquake."

Mitchell and a team of 26 researchers from eight universities will map major cities for the seismic risks their key structures face. They'll evaluate how these structures would resist an earthquake before focusing on how to ready them for one.

"We're working with various government agencies, design consultants and municipalities," Mitchell says. "They're very, very helpful, and they realize the need themselves."

LUCAS WISENTHAL, BA'03

## Can IT provide the cure?

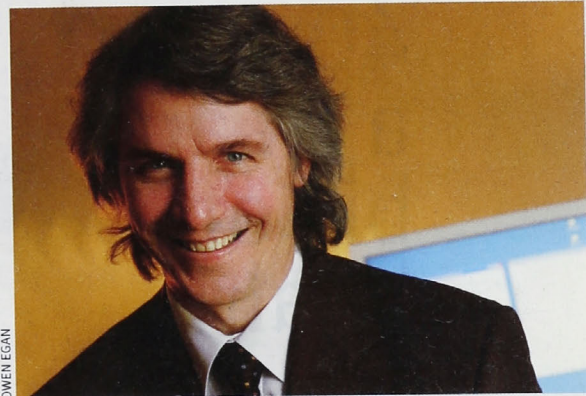
When Canadians think about how to improve the health care system, "better information technology" might not be the answer that springs to mind. But Healthcare Support through Information Technology Enhancements (hSITE), a new national research network based at McGill, is built on the idea that novel, advanced communications systems and infrastructures will boost health care workflows, patient care and safety — as well as help deliver more efficient and cost-effective health care to Canadians.

"By mobilizing engineers, computer scientists and healthcare professionals, we see tremendous opportunities to improve health care delivery," says electrical and computer engineering professor **DAVID PLANT** (pictured), hSITE's scientific director.

The network brings together researchers from seven universities and eight health care organizations — including the Ontario Ministry of Health. Industry partners include RIM, Nortel, TELUS-Emergis, IBM, and HInext.

Some of the projects that hSITE members will pursue involve critical care outreach and homecare for seniors and people with disabilities.

Another area in which hSITE hopes to have an impact is in ensuring that medical practitioners have easy access to timely information. Plant foresees ER doctors and nurses being able to quickly check the results of MRI scans or blood tests on laptops or hand held devices. One of hSITE's goals, says Plant, will be to find ways to "provide the right information to the right person at the right time."



OWEN EGAN

The network is one of nine new strategic research networks created by the federal government and funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. Two of the nine are located at McGill — hSITE and the Canadian Seismic Research Network (see article above).

JAMES MARTIN, MLS'05



We hear increasingly about the difficulties of veterans trying to return to ordinary life after a stint in the military. Associate professor of social work **MYRIAM DENOV** is involved with a group of former soldiers whose re-entry into society is nothing short of miraculous.

## CASUALTIES of CONFLICT

Denov, BSW'94, works with children in Sierra Leone who have been both perpetrators and victims of violence in armed conflict. Many were abducted, forced into armed groups and ordered to murder, rape and torture "enemies," mainly civilians. The young people — girls as well as boys — were often fed powerful drugs to gird them for combat.

Since the decade-long civil war ended, these youth have had "enormous issues of guilt and shame to deal with," says Denov. "Many communities rejected the children. They couldn't go home so they migrated to urban areas where they could remain hidden."

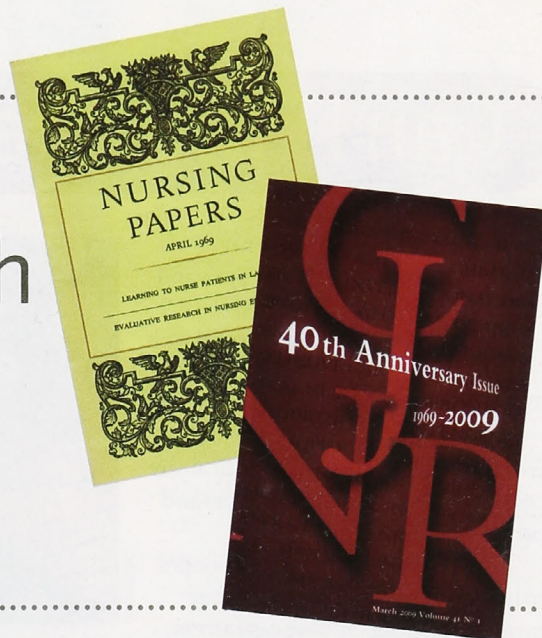
For some, life is still harsh. Denov, whose book *Child Soldiers: Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front*

will be released in January, has met many former child soldiers. "I came across a slum community in Freetown where I found the worst of the worst-off living on the streets; no family, no support system, no school. They've remained in semi-militarized structures because it's all they know. It's incredibly grim."

But not all stories are bleak. "Girls are doing a good job bringing up children born of rape. And there are cases of young people who have carved out a new niche." She cites a group who worked cooperatively to set up a motorbike taxi business, even organizing unions. "They are learning to use political means and to get what they need in non-violent ways. It does give you hope."

DIANA GRIER AYTON

## CJNR: 40, with a clean bill of health



Nursing has come a long way since 1969, and the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, published since its inception by the McGill School of Nursing, has been there to document its transformation. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year (the publication was originally called *Nursing Papers*), *CJNR* is now one of more than

400 nursing journals, a number that has "increased almost exponentially," says nursing professor **LAURIE GOTTLIEB**, BN'69, MSc(A)'74, PhD'85, the journal's editor-in-chief since 1992.

Yet despite the depth and breadth of nursing literature, *CJNR* is one of the few remaining university-based nursing journals, most having moved to publishing

houses for financial reasons. This makes them more "subject to certain interests," she suggests, adding, "the joy of running it is having editorial and board control."

Gottlieb runs *CJNR* like a small business, and claims the journal, which went electronic eight years ago (<http://cjr.mcgill.ca>), has long been ahead of its time. "We're lean and mean, so we can adapt quickly." It is able, for example, to cover the bases of a general research journal while also focusing on emerging areas. Among the latter, says Gottlieb, "some topics repeat every five years in the journal, and show the progression of the field" — from a general discussion about women's health to its determinants, for example.

The combined approach gives *CJNR* broad appeal: it is widely indexed in MEDLINE and other important medical indices, a measure of its repute. Gottlieb says that interest in nursing keeps growing as people come to recognize that "nursing is the glue that holds the health care system together."

JAKE BRENNAN, BA'97





# Golden girl

**Jenn Heil is one of Canada's top medal hopes for the Vancouver Games. The gritty moguls champ received some crucial help along the way—and she is eager to return the favour.**

BY NEALE MCDEVITT

**I**n February 2008, Jenn Heil was about as many time zones out of her element as she could possibly get. Canada's snow queen, the four-time World Cup and defending Olympic freestyle mogul champion, was in Koupéla, Burkina Faso, thousands of miles away from the nearest ski slope, sweltering under the blast-furnace heat of West Africa's harmattan—the unrelenting hot wind that rolls in from the Sahara Desert.

To top it off, Heil had just been presented with a chicken. A live chicken. Hers, for keeps.

## NOT SETTLING FOR EASY

Heil went to Burkina Faso to learn. She had just agreed to be a Canadian spokesperson for the Because I Am A Girl program established by Plan—an international development agency dedicated to improving the lives of children and their families. Founded in 1937 as the Foster Parents Plan, Plan runs programs in 66 countries to give children, families and communities the tools to build sustainable solutions to break the cycle of poverty. More than 70 per cent of the one billion people living in extreme poverty in the world are girls and women. Because I Am A Girl targets its support to them, funding educational, health care and livelihood initiatives in developing countries.

In signing on with Plan, Heil could have taken the easy route. Like so many star athletes, she could have filmed a few TV spots urging people to give generously; could have fulfilled her duties at a handful of photo ops, flashing her mega-watt smile while collecting oversized cheques from any number of political bigwigs; could have lent her name and face to any number of events and never left the

comfort of her Montreal home where she was pursuing her undergraduate degree at McGill's Desautels Faculty of Management.

But Heil doesn't believe in the easy route ("I'm throwing up at least once a week during my workouts," she beams during a recent interview when asked how her training is going). When she was told that Sangita Patel, a senior program manager from Plan Canada, was going on a 10-day trip to monitor Plan programs in Burkina Faso, Little Pepper, as she is called by her teammates, jumped at the chance to tag along.

While her rivals were at home skiing and hitting the gym with an eye to dethroning her at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, Heil was rattling around in a jeep beside Patel, eating cloudfuls of rust-coloured dust and bouncing her way to some of the most remote areas in a country wracked by poverty where the risk of getting waylaid by malaria and other exotic diseases is very real.

"Jenn could have simply donated money and a little media time, but that just isn't Jenn," says Rosemary McCahey, president and CEO of Plan. "She wanted to know what we do and how we do it and more than anything she wanted to be an advocate for the children we serve."

"I understand how lucky I am to have grown up in Canada," says Heil, 18 months removed from her West African adventure and spearing the last stubborn chickpea of her post-workout meal on a restaurant terrace along Montreal's gentrified Lachine Canal. "But I wanted to see the reality of Burkina Faso for myself because I



RHOUMELA CABANBAN / ABA JOURNAL

## VANCOUVER BOUND

# Howard Stupp

the Games. He remembers one case where athletes from the former Yugoslavia faced UN sanctions that jeopardized their participation in the Olympics. He was part of an IOC solution that allowed them to take part as individuals not representing any specific country. "Had they won a medal, the IOC anthem would have played," says Stupp. "In this job, it isn't enough to have legal expertise. You have to be open-minded."

That also applies to the high-level work he does representing the IOC in its various dealings.

"You work with people from around the world. There are different cultural norms, different ways of approaching things. Adapting to the way business is carried out [in different countries] can be difficult, but it's always a great learning experience."

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

Sometimes, Howard Stupp, BEng'78, LLB'83, BCL'83, sees himself as a peacemaker. The larger Olympics family—the International Olympics Committee (IOC), the various national Olympics bodies, the different international sports federations—can occasionally be somewhat fractious. "They're all interested in the overall well-being of the Olympics movement," says Stupp, the IOC's director of legal affairs. "But different entities have different agendas and that can be challenging at times. The job of a lawyer is to try to propose solutions."

And, sometimes, Stupp isn't so interested in making peace. "When

somebody makes unauthorized use of our trademarks, there is no middle ground. My number one job is to protect my client."

While Stupp chooses his words with a diplomat's cautious finesse, there is no question that he can handle himself in a fight. The man was a wrestler, after all.

"Going to university was a way to legitimize my wrestling," says Stupp with a laugh. He competed on the McGill squad and represented Canada at the Montreal Games in 1976.

Having been an Olympian himself, Stupp says he is sympathetic to the concerns of athletes who take part in



## VANCOUVER BOUND Ward Chapin

It's a huge undertaking and mistakes, for the most part, aren't an option. The timing and scoring systems have to be glitch-free and perfectly precise—it's a safe bet, after all, that world records will be broken and that some competitions will be won by razor-thin margins. In addition, TV networks paying millions of dollars to air the Olympics won't be amused if their signals suddenly go dead.

Chapin and his team also oversee the systems responsible for managing transportation, accreditation and communication for all Vancouver Games participants.

"A big part of the cost for this sort of event is building redundancies everywhere," observes Chapin. "We have to back up everything."

Chapin and his team have been busy preparing for 2010 for four years now and at this point, most of the

necessary technology is in place.

"This has been our testing and fine-tuning year," says Chapin. "We've been springing 'evil' scenarios on our people, to make sure that they can deal with the unexpected."

Chapin says the decision to take on his current job wasn't an easy one. He had spent years building his career at HSBC Bank and he and his family were excited about a recent transfer to London, England.

"This was such a unique opportunity to build a team from scratch," Chapin explains. "In any large organization, it's normal to have to deal with a certain level of day-to-day politics. Not here. We all know we're out of a job in 2010. We have a clear deadline. We can't postpone the Olympics, so we have to pull together and get the job done."

DM

Most people won't notice the behind-the-scenes work of Ward Chapin, BA'75, and his team at the Vancouver Games, unless, of course, things go wrong.

As the chief information officer for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympics (VANOC), Chapin is responsible for the smooth functioning of the technology that will be pivotal to, well, just about everything.

believe once we are aware of what's going on—once we've been touched by something that profound—that's when we're ready to really help.

"We spent a lot of time visiting schools filled with girls receiving Plan scholarships that pay for their education, their lunches—even their bikes to go to and from school," says Heil. "The sad reality is that without these scholarships, most girls don't go to school because the boys are sent first. Instead, they stay at home and do the chores."

"But to see the excitement in the eyes of these girls in the classrooms is really powerful. One girl, Marie Anne Marie, told me—and these were her exact words—'Now I have a chance to be a full citizen of tomorrow.' She's 15 and is studying hard to become a lawyer to protect the rights of children. It's so moving to see and hear that in person."

Perhaps Heil is so moved because she understands what it is like to have people, sometimes total strangers, pick her up when she had fallen. Strangers who imparted a gift that resuscitated her failing dream.

### A TIME TO REBUILD

At the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, the 18-year-old Heil finished fourth in the freestyle mogul competition, missing the podium by a mere 1/100th of a point. Adding injury to insult, her body—both an athlete's ally and enemy—had betrayed her in the worst way. For years, her knees had absorbed a horrific pounding in an event known to chew skiers up and spit them out. In constant

agony, Heil was unable to train and actually won her first World Cup medal without taking practice runs. "I could only use my one run for the competition, so I just visualized what I had to do and went out and did it," says Heil, wincing at the recollection.

But instead of quitting, Heil decided to take a year off completely from skiing and enroll at McGill. Feed the brain while healing the body. "Living in one place, studying full time, meeting new people outside the sport—it brought balance back into my life," Heil says of her decision. World class athletes like Heil lead complicated



Heil visited Burkina Faso as a Canadian spokesperson for Plan



## VANCOUVER BOUND Connie Lebrun

Though Dr. Connie Lebrun, MDCM'81, will soon be taking part in her seventh Olympics, she is insistent that "the thrill never goes away."

Lebrun, the director of the University of Alberta's Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic, has been part of the health care team looking after Canada's athletes at five different Olympics—soon to be six. For the Beijing Games in 2008, she served as assistant chief medical officer. In Vancouver, she'll be primarily responsible for looking after the medical needs of the Canadian snowboarding squad.

Lebrun took part in the Montreal Games in 1976 in a very different capacity—she was a member of the women's volleyball team. "Chills still go up and down my spine when I remember the opening ceremonies in Montreal."

Sports medicine has come a long way since her days as an athlete, Lebrun says. "The science has evolved so much." For instance, in Athens and Beijing, Canadian athletes were equipped with

specially designed cooling vests during breaks in the action to protect them from overheating, while winter athletes sometimes don heated "warm-up pants" to help them maintain a steady muscle temperature.

Lebrun won't be the only member of Canada's Olympic health care team with a McGill connection. Others include Dr. **ROBERT FOXFORD**, an ER specialist at the McGill University Health Centre, women's hockey team physician Dr. **SUZANNE LECLERC**, PhD'04, and sports psychologist **WAYNE HALLIWELL**, DipEd'50, MA'73.

At the Salt Lake City Games in 2002, Foxford played a supporting role in one of Canada's biggest victories. When Canadian skaters Jamie Salé and David Pelletier were locked out of their equipment room only minutes before the bus taking them to their event was scheduled to leave, a quick-thinking Foxford helped solve the dilemma with a crowbar. Salé and Pelletier went on to win gold.

DM

lives, though, and she admits she hasn't been able to pursue her studies as quickly as she would have liked. "Once the Olympics are done, my goal is to finish my degree," Heil says. "I'll be going to school full time, taking summer classes, night classes—whatever it takes."

Her coach, Dominick Gauthier, believes Heil can pretty much do anything she sets out to accomplish. "When it comes to focus, she is unbeatable," says Gauthier. "You can see it in her eyes at the top of the course. And what makes that focus so special is that she is like that in everything she does in life."

During her time away from her sport, Heil started assembling a world-class team of trainers and therapists who revamped her entire training regimen and rebuilt her—both her battered body and her mental approach. Of course, that kind of support network costs money and the pittance she received as a national athlete was quickly running out. But just when things looked bleakest, a friend of the family in Edmonton stepped forward and enlisted a group of businessmen to support Heil's endeavours. The group's only stipulation: no publicity, no names, total anonymity—a gift with no PR strings attached.

Heil stormed back onto the freestyle scene in 2004, taking her first of four straight World Cup crowns and setting the tone for Canada's best ever Winter Olympics in 2006 with a clutch, one-run, last-woman-down-the-hill gold medal performance on day one of the Turin Games.

"I stood on top of the hill and it was the single most pressure-filled moment of my life—but I was so calm," Heil recalls. "I [knew] I had done absolutely everything I could do to prepare myself and that feeling of confidence was absolutely amazing. After the Olympics, I took a step back and said, 'Wouldn't it be amazing if other Canadian athletes could have that same feeling?'"

### GIVING AND RECEIVING

With that in mind, Heil co-founded B2ten, a privately funded, non-profit organization that provides crucial support to other elite Canadian athletes—the kind of support she was so grateful to receive from those anonymous business-people. B2ten focuses on each athlete's specific needs, then deploys the expertise, resources and services required to facilitate his or her climb to the top. Bobsledder Helen Upperton and figure skater Patrick Chan are among the athletes who have profited from B2ten's assistance.

Heil isn't devoting as much time to B2ten these days—she is focused on her preparations for the Vancouver Games—but still offers her input to the group. "Having had the success at Turin, I have a good idea of what works," she says.

Heil's success was put into new perspective in Burkina Faso. The generous gifts she received from those nameless business people a few years back came without a catch, save one: along with much-needed financial support, Heil was given a new awareness of the responsibility of those who have to reach out to those who have not. "I've never had to question where I wanted to go in life or what I wanted to do because my possibilities were endless," Heil

says. "Obviously, to get where I am, so many people have backed me and supported me.

"But these girls in Burkina Faso don't have that opportunity just because they are girls. I want to help them and if people could see these girls at school smiling and saying, 'I want to be a doctor,' 'I want to be a lawyer,' 'I want to be a nurse,' they'd all want to help too."

Sangita Patel, Heil's sole travelling companion in Burkina Faso, had seen the unhappy chicken from a long way off, flapping its wings in protest as it was passed from one smiling villager to the next through the throngs of Burkinabés who had gathered to greet Heil—the planet's top competitor in a sport her audience knew virtually nothing about.

"I remember thinking, 'OK, Jenn, here comes the gift,'" says Patel with a chuckle. "Jenn didn't see it coming and I was very interested to see how she would react."

While Heil has had lots of experience on the podium side of things—she has collected 37 World Cup medals alone at last count—she'd never been handed live poultry before.

"Jenn was incredibly gracious and you could see right away that she was genuinely touched," remembers Patel. "She's so warm and compassionate—as usual, people were captivated by her. She's an impressive, impressive person."

When asked to name one of the things she'll remember most about Burkina Faso, Heil smiles and shakes her head. "There I was in one of the poorest countries in the world, yet everywhere I went people gave me things—traditional bags and clothing, food, crops and, yes, a chicken. How could I not be humbled by that kind of generosity?" Heil asked,



Heil after winning her gold medal at the Turin Games

clearly pondering the strange, circular magic of gifts in which giver and recipient are equally enriched. ❧

*Neale McDevitt is the editor of the McGill Reporter, a newspaper for the McGill community. 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 won the Quebec Writers' Federation's First Book Award in 2003.*

ALLEN MCINNIS



## VANCOUVER BOUND Peter Smith

the truth is, the coaches had such a singular focus on having the team perform well, we didn't get to experience as much of the Turin Games as we should have. My wife came to Turin and I saw her for maybe 10 minutes after each game. I'm going to try to do better this time."

Smith was part of a gold medal effort at Turin. He is taking time off from his regular role as coach of the McGill Martlets (he recently steered them to back-to-back Canadian championships) to help prepare the national squad for the Vancouver Games.

It'll be exciting for the team to play for a home crowd—maybe a little too exciting. Expectations will be high in this hockey-crazy country.

"There are going to be plenty of distractions [around the Games] and we can't do much about that," says Smith. "The key is preparation. We want the players to develop good habits to fall back on so they'll be able to focus regardless of who is sitting in the stands or what is going on off the ice."

Of the 26 players currently vying for 21 final roster spots, Smith has coached three of them for the Martlets—goalies **KIM ST. PIERRE**, BEd'05, and **CHARLINE LABONTÉ** and rearguard **CATHERINE WARD**, BCom'09.

"One of the strengths of this team is its depth. It's hard to determine who is at the top and who's at the bottom of the roster. We have 26 world-class players and cutting down to 21 is going to be very tough."

DM

**P**eter Smith, BEd'79, MA'86, assistant coach of the Canadian women's hockey team, sheepishly admits he doesn't always take his own advice.

"When you're at the Olympics, everybody says, 'Enjoy the moment.' As a coach, that's what we tell our players. But



# *Penfield's* BRAINCHILD

Seventy-five years ago, the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital began a bold campaign to reshape the way we learned about the brain. The revolution is going well.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

**T**hirteen years before the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital first opened its doors in 1934, Wilder Penfield, its founder and one of the most revered neurosurgeons in the history of his profession, offered a jaw-dropping assessment of the way he earned his living.

"Brain surgery is a terrible profession," he declared. "If I did not feel it will become different in my lifetime, I should hate it."

Brain surgery did become different, in large part because of what Penfield himself achieved in the operating room. But it also became different thanks to

what Penfield accomplished when he wasn't wearing his surgical scrubs.

Penfield is best remembered today for the daring and inventiveness he demonstrated as a surgeon, developing innovative techniques for the treatment of epilepsy.

Or he is remembered as an early pioneer of brain mapping. After carefully carving through the skulls of anesthetized, but still conscious, patients, he would stimulate different areas of their brains to determine which bits of grey matter were responsible for seizure activity—in so doing, he also started identifying the parts of the brain that were linked to specific motor functions or senses.

David Colman, the current director of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital (or “the Neuro,” as it's commonly known), has his own thoughts about Penfield's legacy. “He was a brilliant administrator,” says Colman. “He put together this place and conveyed a vision for it that was so compelling, every individual who has served as the director of the Neuro since, including me, has been absolutely faithful to it.” That loyalty to Penfield's vision spreads far beyond the director's office, adds Colman. “You spend a little time here and you become a convert.”

Colman dug up Penfield's bitter-sounding quote about brain surgery for a recent edition of the Neuro's electronic newsletter. The way Colman looks at it, these weren't the words of a man who was giving up. They were the words of someone who was developing a very clear sense of the direction that he and his colleagues needed to take if they wanted to avoid stagnation.

Penfield's vision was this: to build a world-class centre devoted to deciphering the mysteries of the brain while simultaneously treating the diseases and disorders that targeted the brain. Clinicians and basic scientists would work in close quarters, often collaborating on studies. The researchers at this centre, keenly aware of the needs of the patients who resided there, would never settle comfortably for the way things were now. They would always look to the future with a measure of restlessness.

It was a vision that caught the attention of the Rockefeller Foundation and they supplied Penfield and McGill with the then eye-popping sum of \$1.23 million to make it happen.

Seventy-five years later, there is no question that the Neuro is one of the premier institutions of its kind in the world. Last year, the institute and hospital were assessed by a blue-ribbon external review committee headed by Hunter College neurobiologist Marie Filbin. The resulting report card was chock full of gold stars.

The committee concluded that the Neuro enjoyed “an extremely strong international reputation” and that it had no difficulty attracting talented researchers—both promising up-and-comers and established stars. It noted, as well, that the Neuro's scientists had an enviable track record in terms of securing research funding—twice the national success rate for receiving grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, for instance.

Finally, the external reviewers lauded the Neuro's long-standing commitment to nurturing close ties between

clinical and basic research, concluding that this approach “tremendously increases the likelihood that advances will be made that result in improvement in neurological health.” According to Filbin and her committee, the National Institutes of Health in the U.S. are looking at the Neuro as a model for their own approach in this regard.

## A WINNING FORMULA

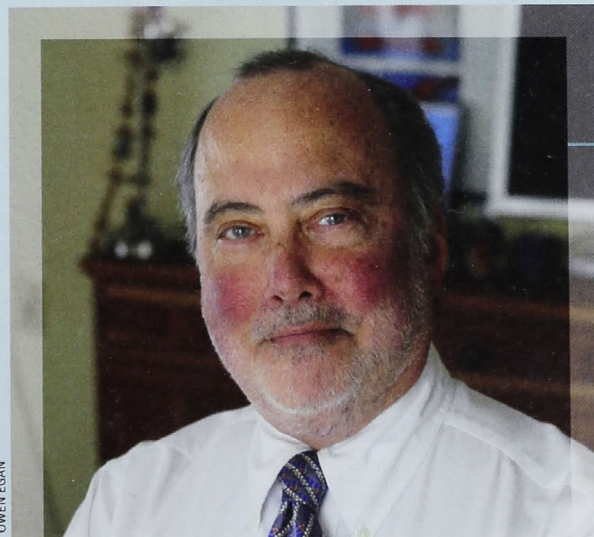
Neurology professor Edith Hamel is quick to vouch for the effectiveness of that model. She says her own research has benefited immensely from the close ties between clinicians and lab scientists at the Neuro.

Hamel examines how nerve cells govern the brain's blood supply—more specifically, she focuses on this relationship with an eye to unravelling why things go horribly awry sometimes. Hamel's work has been largely devoted to acquiring a better understanding of neurovascular disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and migraines.

It is estimated that migraineurs—individuals prone to debilitating migraine attacks—constitute about 12 per cent of the population. Some of these migraineurs can experience migraines up to 20 days each month. “It can be very difficult to live your life that way,” says Hamel.

The intense, disorienting pain that migraineurs cope with is related to the functioning of sensory nerves in their blood vessels, which are themselves influenced by serotonin-containing neurons. Serotonin plays an important role in regulating mood and appetite, but when these neurons are too active, it can result in the onset of a migraine.

Thanks to the Neuro's neurosurgeons, Hamel was able to access fresh brain tissue that enabled her to zero in on the receptors in human cerebral blood vessels that reacted to out-of-kilter serotonin activity. “We were the first in the world to do it,” she says. “No one knew the site, so this was important information.” It helped spur the development of new anti-migraine drugs and gave drug developers a clear idea about which areas of the brain these new medications should target. “These new drugs are one of the biggest advancements in migraine therapy over the past 20 years,” says Hamel.



David Colman,  
the director  
of the Montreal  
Neurological Institute  
and Hospital

OWEN EGAN

Neurology  
professor  
Edith Hamel,  
an expert on  
migraines  
and Alzheimer's  
disease



JOHN MORSTAD

She collaborated with PET imaging experts at the Neuro, and with Dr. Michel Aubé, a senior neurologist and migraine specialist, to get a better understanding of why these drugs, known as triptans, were proving to be so effective for many migraineurs.

Patients afflicted with migraines were recruited as research subjects and instructed to get to the Neuro as fast as they possibly could once they started experiencing the first stirrings of a migraine attack. Their brain's serotonergic activity was measured—and the effects of the triptans were closely observed.

The PET imaging offered visible evidence that the triptans exerted a “cooling off” effect on serotonin activity in the brain.

“You can't do a study like that just anywhere,” stresses Hamel. “It was important for us to be able to do the PET scan right away when one of our research subjects came in so we could see what was happening in the brain during the attack. Our study had priority unless a patient simply couldn't wait for a PET scan that had been previously scheduled. For a study like this to happen, the whole institution has to be sensitized to the importance of the research that goes on. That's something very unique at the Neuro.”

“What you get from the clinicians is a different way of thinking about what you're doing,” says Christopher Pack, the Neuro's Canada Research Chair in Visual Neurophysiology and a leading expert on how vision processes motion. “When you're doing basic research, you tend to

think of the brain as intricate machinery—you want to examine it to understand how it works. The clinicians see machinery that's broken and they're trying to fix it.”

When Hamel first arrived at the Neuro two decades ago, it wasn't for a lack of options. “I had other opportunities, but I felt that this was the place where I could have the most impact.” Working at an institution where she regularly sees patients struggling with a variety of neurological diseases and disorders can't help but influence the approach that she takes to her work. “Most of us here feel the same,” says Hamel. “We want to make a difference.”

### TIME FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH

That's certainly what motivated Rolando del Maestro when he relocated to Montreal to work at the Neuro nine years ago. A gifted surgeon, a specialist in brain tumours and, at the time, the director of the University of Western Ontario's Brain Research Laboratory, del Maestro was frustrated by the lack of progress he saw in his field.

“Brain tumours weren't getting the attention they deserved,” says del Maestro. “We hadn't made any substantial improvements in treatment in 20 to 30 years.”

As a neurosurgeon, del Maestro deals very directly with patients afflicted by brain tumours and his interest in their well-being isn't dispassionate. Brain tumours are insidious, in del Maestro's view, because they often attack a person's identity, as well as their health, by causing changes to personality. It's also a disease that targets children and young adults in far greater numbers than most other forms of cancer.

As a leading expert, del Maestro had been consulted on the creation of the Neuro's new Brain Tumour Research Centre. He knew that the unit promised to bring new vigour to the study and treatment of brain tumours by relying on the time-tested methods the Neuro had applied to other neurological conditions—breaking down the barriers between clinicians and lab scientists.

When approached to become the budding centre's clinical director, del Maestro readily agreed. “It's one thing to have a good idea and it's another to be able to do something about it,” notes del Maestro. He was impressed by how quickly the Neuro managed to construct a new building for the centre while securing important infrastructure funding from both government and philanthropic sources. “The Neuro has a worldwide reputation that's associated with intellectual rigour. It allows us to do things that others can't do.”

Today, del Maestro is the centre's director and is involved in a number of major projects. He is the principal investigator for a massive new study that will examine the effectiveness of a promising drug treatment for one of the most aggressive forms of brain tumours. One hundred hospital centres on four different continents are taking part.

He is also working with scientists at the National Research Council to develop a highly nuanced neurosurgical simulator. “The idea is to be able to simulate brain



*“The Neuro has a worldwide reputation that’s associated with intellectual rigour. It allows us to do things that others can’t do.”* — ROLANDO DEL MAESTRO

tumour operations,” explains del Maestro. “Almost every week I meet a medical student who wants to be a neurosurgeon. Well, this would be a way of showing them what that world would be like. The ‘brain’ would be pulsing and bleeding just as it would in real life. You would feel what a brain tumour really feels like.” The goal is to make the simulator available at major centres across Canada.

“The notion that there is some sort of a separation between basic science and clinical science is an anachronism,” insists Colman. “It’s all part of the same foundation from which all our advances come. If you understand how a yeast cell secretes, you’ll understand how nerve cells secrete. There isn’t much of a difference.”

Any type of research that promises to turn up new information about the functioning of the brain could pay all kinds of unexpected dividends, says Colman.

“You might ask, for instance, why does an institution that treats patients care about how people learn music?” The Neuro plays a major role in the Montreal-based International Laboratory for Brain, Music and Sound Research (BRAMS), an initiative that involves scientists from McGill, the Université de Montréal and several other North American and European universities. The Neuro’s Robert Zatorre, a professor of neurology and neurosurgery, serves as the co-director of BRAMS.

“Why do we care about music?” queries Colman. “Well, there are a lot of interesting things associated with music. It’s related to how we learn language, for one thing. There is an absolutely fundamental human need for music—they recently found flutes that were 35,000 years old—so we know it’s important.

“Is there any clinical value to this? Possibly. Certain patients with Parkinson’s disease, who are frozen in their chairs, will get up and start moving if you play a piece of music with a beat to it. How is that driven?” Referring, in part, to the work of BRAMS members, Oliver Sacks, the neurologist and best-selling author, recently described Montreal “as the musical neuroscience capital of the world.”

In Colman’s estimation, science works best when it isn’t bumping up against borders. Not only is it important for clinicians and basic scientists to work together, it’s also vital that the Neuro’s researchers take advantage of having close access to a university that’s full of people studying a wide range of things.

Case in point: McGill’s new NeuroEngineering Program, which Colman himself helped spearhead. The program involves several Neuro scientists as well as researchers from many different McGill departments.

“When you’re merging fields like this, it’s good to focus on a biological problem that you can explain easily enough,”

says Colman. The members of the NeuroEngineering Program picked a doozy—repairing damaged nerve cells.

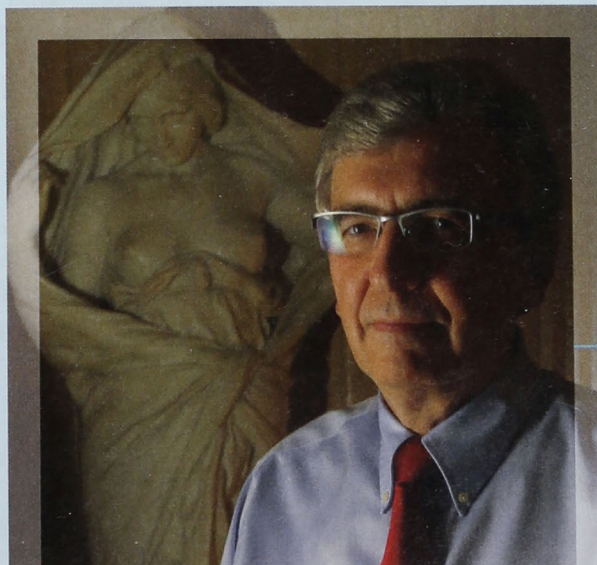
“If a nerve fibre gets cut, we have a devilish time getting it to regrow,” says Colman. “We can get it to regrow a few centimetres from the spinal cord, but then something happens and it aborts.”

The program members started thinking of a different approach. Could a custom-made chip be created that was capable of forming the crucial connections to neurons, connections that could reverse the effects of the damage?

This bioengineered chip would be coated with the appropriate proteins for attracting the attention of nerve cells and with a microcomputer that could collate signals from these nerve cells and send them on, via a wireless route, to muscles which would then either contract or relax.

“When we first thought about this five years ago, it was completely out of the realm of possibility,” says Colman. “But we started getting together for lunch regularly with a group that included neuroscientists, engineers, cell biologists, computer scientists, chemists and nanoscience experts, and out of that process, we ended up with this idea.”

Colman and his collaborators have been able to prove that their concept isn’t just the stuff of sci-fi—they recently became the first research team in the world to offer concrete evidence that nerve cells can make meaningful connections with an artificial component. The product of those interdisciplinary lunchtime chats was significant enough to make the cover of the October 7 issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience* and Colman and his colleagues are hopeful that a fully functioning device based on their work could be ready within five years.



Rolando del Maestro,  
director of the  
Brain Tumour  
Research Centre

JOHN WORSTAD

## NEW COLLABORATIONS

In Colman's estimation, the seeds for this sort of interdisciplinary approach should be planted early on. With the recent launch of McGill's new Integrated Program in Neuroscience, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will now have a far easier time familiarizing themselves with the broad range of activities that go on in neuroscience labs across the University.

"It's the biggest program of its kind in North America," says Colman. "By far."

"There is quite a lot of brain research going on at McGill," says Remi Quirion, the Faculty of Medicine's vice dean for science and strategic initiatives. "A graduate student based at the Montreal Neurological Institute might not know about the work going on with schizophrenia at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute or with Alzheimer's disease at the Jewish General Hospital."

"This program is for top students who know they want to be in neuroscience, but they aren't quite sure what they want to focus on just yet," says Colman. "This gives them the chance to rotate in three or four different labs until they find one that feels like a good fit—and all the while they're learning about different things."

Quirion is anxious to build on the partnerships that already exist at McGill among neuroscience researchers and to make the wider community more aware of the depth of strength that McGill has in this area. The University launched a new initiative, the Brain@McGill, which hopes to promote neuroscience partnerships within McGill and between McGill and other partners—the University recently signed an agreement with Oxford University that will facilitate joint research projects, graduate student exchanges and visiting professorships.

At the official launch of the Integrated Program in Neuroscience in September, hundreds of young neuroscientists listened to a presentation by a woman who could accurately be described as a living legend.

Brenda Milner, the Neuro's Dorothy J. Killam Professor, had just been named one of the 2009 recipients of the International Balzan Prize for innovative research, an award worth about \$1 million. Nobel laureate Eric Kandel has credited Milner, who is now in her sixth decade at the Neuro, with creating the field of cognitive neuroscience by combining neurobiology with psychology.

Milner, PhD'52, DSc'91, talked about how she had worked with one of the most famous research subjects in the annals of medicine—Henry Molaison, better known as H.M. As the result of brain surgery to control a severe form of epilepsy, H.M. was left without the ability to store new experiences into his long-term memory. Whenever Milner visited him, he could not remember who she was. What Milner discovered, though, was that H.M. could still acquire new skills even if he couldn't remember doing so.

Milner asked H.M. to take on a difficult drawing task, one where he couldn't watch what he was doing directly, but only as reflected in a mirror. Over the course of three days, he clearly became more skillful at it. "This was the early evidence that there was more than one memory system in the brain," says Milner. "At the end, I remember him saying, 'That was much easier than I thought it would be!'" It was a startling finding. "This wasn't at all the prevailing view about memory at the time."

"When you rattle off the names of the people who were working here 50 years ago," says Christopher Pack, "they're the people who helped build the fields that we're all working in today."

A day before Milner's talk, I was in David Colman's office, watching his computer screen as Milner discussed her experiences with H.M. To be more precise, it was a gracefully drawn animated version of Milner, part of an ambitious new 3-D IMAX film called *Neuropolis* that is being prepared by the National Film Board in collaboration with the Neuro.

"I've been kicking around this idea for 10 years," says Colman. "I wanted to make a movie for kids about the great things you can do in neuroscience and about how the brain is organized like a complex city. I want kids to start thinking about neuroscience before they decide to become lawyers or accountants—careers where the trajectory is much more predictable."

The future looks exciting to Colman and he believes that the next 75 years will bring about enormous change.

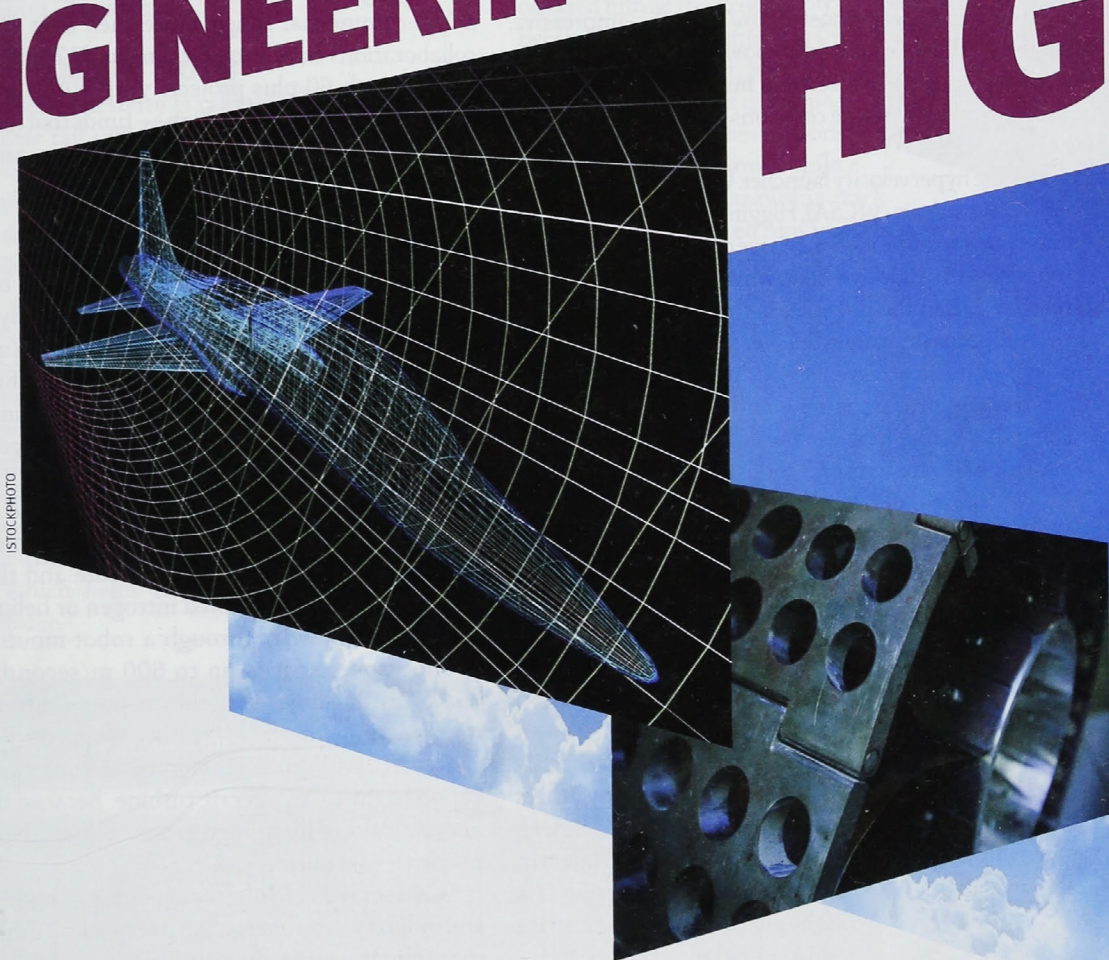
"We're developing a much better understanding of cellular processes even if we don't understand all the subtleties. I think we'll see a new generation of compounds that will transform a lot of neurological disorders into chronic diseases. One day, when you get a diagnosis of ALS, it won't be an inexorable downhill course. We'll be able to arrest it. The same thing with multiple sclerosis. There is every hope that we'll be able to arrest brain tumours before they spread rapidly. Not only does this seem possible to me, but I feel that we're close." ❧



OWEN EGAN

Neurology and neurosurgery professor Brenda Milner, one of the 2009 recipients of the International Balzan Prize for innovative research

# ENGINEERING FLIES HIGH



ISTOCKPHOTO

CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

**McGill researchers are making major contributions to Montreal's burgeoning aerospace industry.** BY PATRICK McDONAGH

**T**he mood was tense on the International Space Station last spring. Tracking telescopes had discovered that on March 12 its orbit might intersect with that of a bullet-sized fragment of space debris travelling at 8 km/second. The three-person crew huddled in the Soyuz escape capsule, waiting to see if the fragment would strike the station and pierce its hull, depressurizing it and forcing them on a treacherous journey back to Earth.

Also monitoring the potentially devastating situation was mechanical engineering professor Andrew Higgins.

Like the anxious trio of astronauts, he was well aware of an incident only a month earlier where American and Russian satellites had collided at a relative velocity of about 11 km/second, flinging their shattered fragments into orbit.

While the space station and its crew were spared, Higgins fears it may only be a matter of time before a fatal accident occurs. "Each impact generates more space debris, generating more impacts. There is an avalanche effect, and if a fragment were to hit the space station or a satellite, it would be game over," he says. "So there's a lot of concern about these impacts

# The next lunar rover could well scoot across the moonscape on wheels that took shape in McGill's undergraduate labs

but we don't yet understand the physics involved because we can't recreate them in the laboratory."

Recreating high-impact collisions is important not only to learn what the effects would be but also to develop materials that could withstand them. Currently, light gas guns can fire projectiles at almost 8 km/second—impressive, given that bullets from a high-powered rifle travel at a relatively sluggish 1 km/second, but the bare minimum for orbiting masses, whose collisions could occur at almost twice that speed.

Enter the hypervelocity launcher. With funding from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Higgins and his team of graduate and post-doctoral students have developed a gun barrel surrounded with explosives that, when detonated, pinch the barrel shut. "Then the projectile is thrust out of the barrel much as toothpaste is squirted out of a tube," he explains. This approach has achieved speeds of about 6 km/second so far, but the process is new and Higgins anticipates doubling that before long—a breakthrough guaranteed to be a hit with the aerospace industry. Already Montreal-

based MPB Communications is taking steps to work with Higgins on testing how well some new composite materials would sustain high-speed impacts.

Higgins is hardly the only McGill engineering professor looking to the skies. At least 30 other faculty members run research programs directly related to aerospace, and many others carry out work that could be useful in this milieu. Consequently, the Faculty of Engineering is a bright presence on the aerospace industry's radar.

Of course, it would be hard for the aerospace sector to overlook McGill—and vice versa. Quebec has almost 240 aerospace companies with a total of 42,400 employees, primarily in the Montreal-Laval region. And with \$12.3 billion in sales in 2008, Montreal is one of the world's aerospace industry hubs, on a par with Seattle and Toulouse. Thanks to marquee names like Pratt & Whitney Canada, Rolls Royce, Bombardier, Bell Helicopter, CMC Electronics, CAE, a supporting cast of numerous smaller companies and the Canadian Space Agency, the province's aerospace sector accounts for roughly 60 percent of the Canadian total industrial activity, as well as 70 percent of research and development.

Much of that research (and an increasing amount of the development) involves McGill professors like Higgins, especially since the University reached agreements on such

issues as intellectual property and publishing rights about three years ago with Pratt & Whitney Canada and the Consortium for Research and Innovation in Aerospace in Quebec, an industry-government partnership aimed at developing collaborations with universities for projects at a "pre-commercial" stage. Since then over 100 industry collaborations have brought almost \$12 million into the faculty, with 60-plus projects with NASA and the CSA garnering another \$6.8 million—funds that help maintain and enhance the University's teaching and research programs and facilities.

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

While the faculty's aerospace profile has been in the ascendant for the past few years, it recently received a further boost. This past April, Stephen Yue, chair of the Department of Mining and Materials Engineering, was named the first Lorne Trottier Chair in Aerospace Engineering, a position made available by a generous gift from Lorne Trottier, BEng'70, MEng'73, DSc'06.

As a pioneer in the emerging field of cold spray technology, Yue is a logical choice. Cold spray involves taking a metallic powder at room temperature and then mixing it with heated, concentrated nitrogen or helium in order to blast the powder through a robot-mounted nozzle at supersonic speeds up to 600 m/second (or 2,150 km/hour). At this velocity, the gas-propelled powder fuses upon hitting a surface, creating whatever product the computer has been programmed to construct—from a paperweight to an aircraft turbine. Because the sprayed materials don't reach high temperatures, their essential properties are unchanged.

Cold spray is catching the attention of both researchers and industry as an alternative to expensive time- and heat-consuming manufacturing technologies like cast moulding, or as a means for repairing mechanisms where precision is critical, like jet engines. Not surprisingly, industry giant Pratt & Whitney Canada has been an enthusiastic and generous supporter of Yue's research.

But the technology is young, and while the general recipe is sound, much remains to be learned. For example, what qualities characterize the final manufactured product if you start with a specific alloy mix? Or, how consistent are these qualities across a cold-spray surface?

As cold spray could prove to be an alternative manufacturing or repair technique, Yue and materials engineering colleagues Mathieu Brochu, PhD'04, Richard Chromik and Jerry Szpunar, all members of the new McGill Aerospace Materials and Alloys Design Centre (MAMA-DC), are avoiding the problems that occur when a technology tested in small university laboratories is scaled up to the production levels needed by industry by carrying out their research on an industrial scale.



Professor Stephen Yue is McGill's new Lorne Trottier Chair in Aerospace Engineering

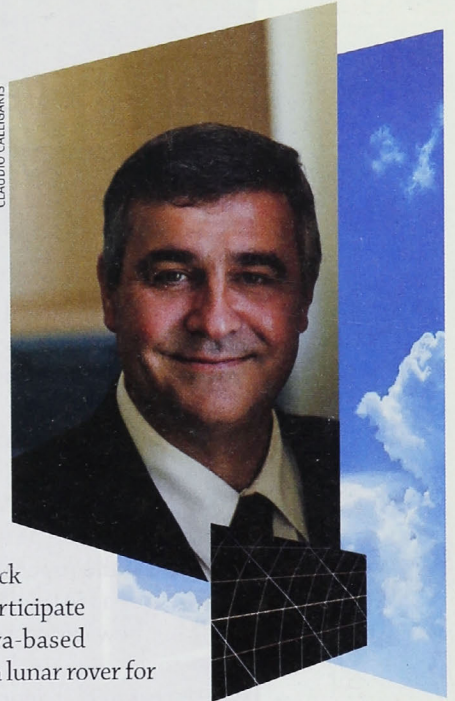
"The facility is actually too big to fit on the McGill campus," Yue says, with a certain satisfaction. Instead, the lab is maintained at the National Research Council (NRC) Industrial Materials Institute in Boucherville, about 45 minutes from the downtown campus, and the shared effort of McGill's engineering researchers, NRC staff and aerospace industry professionals is proving a tremendous success. The facility, now two years old, is abuzz with research. "Activity here has really taken off, if you'll pardon the pun," Yue says.

## REACHING FOR THE MOON

In fact, aerospace activity is taking off across the faculty, which this fall will launch the McGill Institute for Aerospace Engineering (MIAE) to develop and promote the faculty's aerospace teaching and research efforts, with Yue serving as the institute's first director. "My responsibilities include being an ambassador," he says. "After all, if you are doing aerospace engineering research at McGill, reaching out to the local industry is really a no-brainer." The number one item on the agenda: create new educational and employment opportunities for undergraduate students by having them work on real-life engineering problems imported from the local aerospace industry. Career placements would then follow, especially as the MIAE gives the faculty a formal vehicle for connecting with the Montreal Aerospace Institute, which helps new graduates move into the local workforce.

Indeed, the stellar reputation of the faculty's students has been one of its best advertisements for building external collaborations. When mechanical engineering professor Peter Radziszewski arrived at the CSA for sabbatical research on lunar mining in 2007, staff there recognized him as the driving force behind his department's fourth-year capstone project, for which undergraduates have developed innovative and unique creations like the electric snowmobile. Impressed by Radziszewski's track record, the CSA invited him to participate in a collaboration with Ottawa-based Neptec Design Group to develop a lunar rover for future NASA-led moon missions.

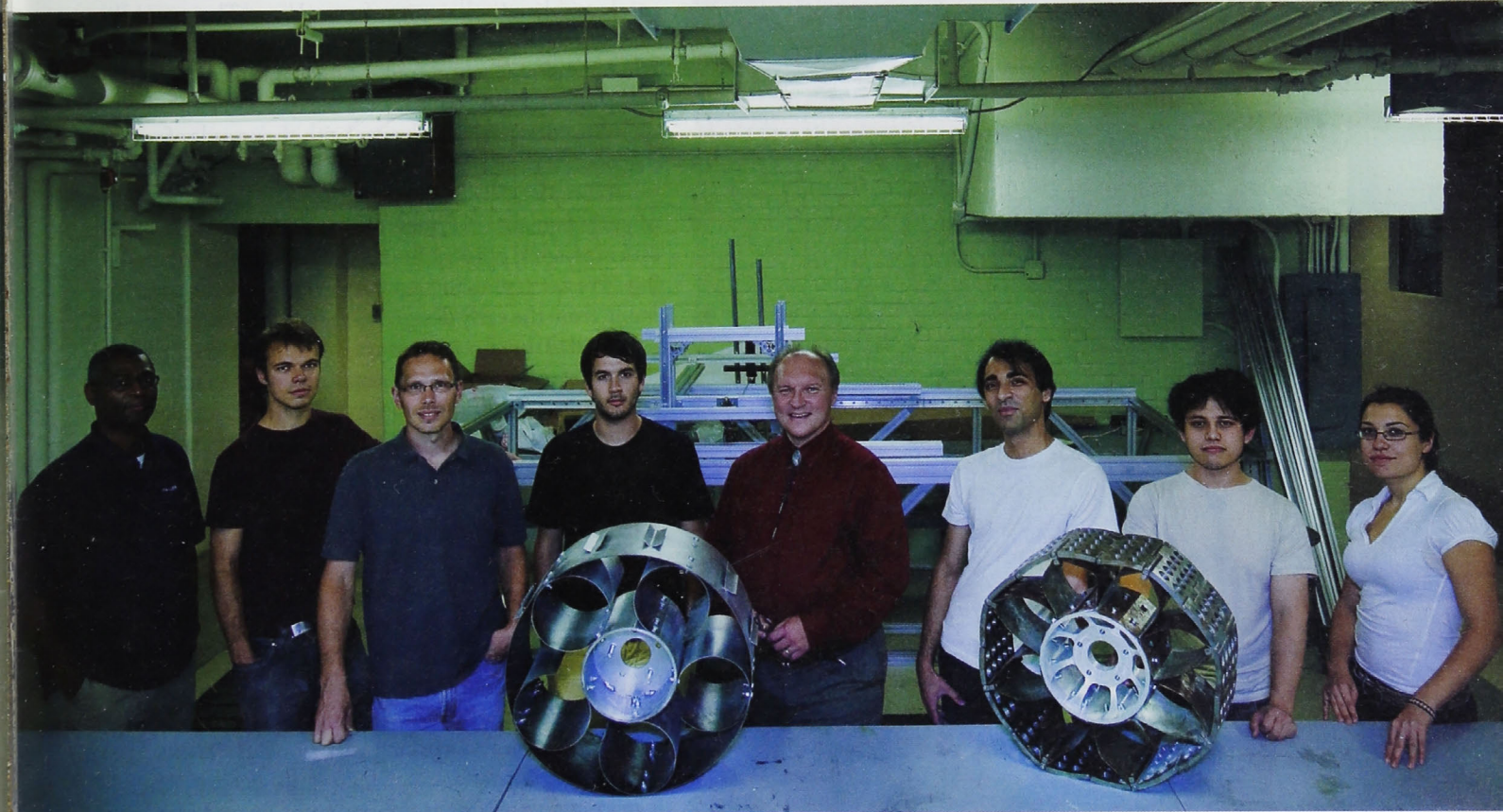
Today Radziszewski, along with fellow mechanical engineering professors Vince Thomson and Damiano Pasini and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering's David Lowther, are designing, building and testing models for a wheel that will carry a rover for long treks across the cold, dusty and abrasive lunar landscape. A flexible metal wheel—or something comparable—is necessary for lunar travel, as the extremes of temperature would destroy anything built of plastic or rubber.



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Dean of Engineering  
Christophe Pierre

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS



Mechanical engineering professor Peter Radziszewski (fourth from right) leads a team of engineering students in developing a wheel design for a lunar rover

*“Industry needs the talent that our students provide, and students benefit from the experience of working on real aerospace engineering problems.”*

“We’re developing prototypes with our graduate students; then we bring in the undergraduate students to build them,” says Radziszewski. Last spring, Sean Davis, BEng’09, was part of the student team designing and building the testing apparatus; three other teams worked on different wheel designs. “We had to construct a frame and a motor that could handle the load requirements for different sizes of wheels,” he explains. “I especially enjoyed learning about the issues involved with manufacturing parts—we had to think not only about how it was going to work, but how we were going to put it together.” The next lunar rover could well scoot across the moonscape on wheels that took shape in McGill’s undergraduate labs.

### COLLABORATIVE INNOVATIONS

Such collaborations with industry and the Canadian Space Agency can be expected to grow thanks to the new MIAE, stresses Dean of Engineering Christophe Pierre. “Industry needs the talent that our students provide, and students benefit from the experience of working on real aerospace engineering problems,” he says. “Competition is ferocious for the best technology, and the university-industry partnership can be very productive.”

Pierre’s own Structural Dynamics and Vibration lab is a good example: as a leading researcher into the effect of vibration on the structural integrity of mechanisms—including jet turbines—Pierre and his team of graduate and post-doctoral students have extended knowledge while also winning research contracts from Pratt & Whitney Canada as well as the French companies SNECMA and Turbomeca. The support has benefited his lab in all its research, whether on industry contracts or more purely academic, “curiosity-driven” ones.

The MIAE will not only spark greater interaction with professors and students on research projects. Pierre anticipates a host of different exchange opportunities, from industry professionals teaching specialized courses to professors working on sabbatical with industrial researchers and perhaps even aerospace engineers on campus as “engineers in residence.”

“The MIAE will act as a hub, integrating our activities and giving them a higher visibility,” he says. “Currently, our

activities are somewhat fragmented and disconnected, so when companies are interested in a project they don’t know how to approach us. With the MIAE, we’re staking our flag in the ground.”

The effort is receiving plaudits from industry. “We’re very happy to see McGill taking this step,” says Hany Moustapha, senior fellow and manager of Pratt & Whitney Canada’s Technology and Collaboration Program (and formerly an adjunct professor in mechanical engineering for over 20 years). “Our collaborations with universities mean we have students doing course projects based on the real engineering problems industry faces, and when they graduate we want to hire them. We also get access to top researchers—and McGill certainly has the expertise to help us in important areas. University researchers bring totally different approaches to problems, and they are focused and dedicated to their projects.”

### PILOTING NEW PROCESSES

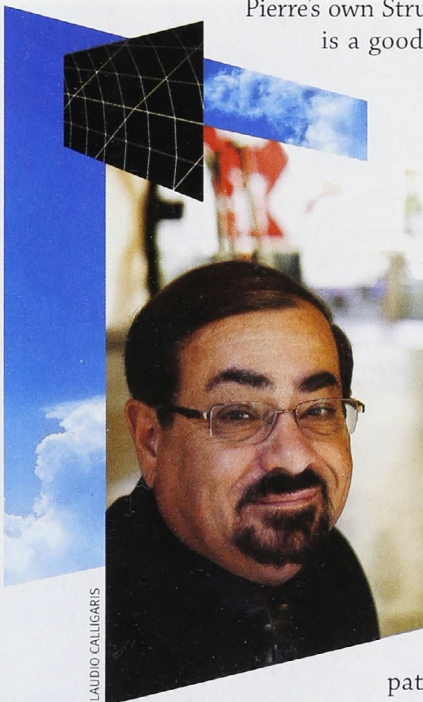
While collaboration is the name of the game in industry, it can create turbulence. “Companies want to improve their product life cycle management (PLM) techniques in order to increase productivity and reduce costs,” explains mechanical engineering professor Vince Thomson. “It’s hard enough to develop a design for aerospace products if you are managing hundreds of people internally, within one company. But today the industry is moving towards global partnerships for design, with thousands of people distributed across dozens of companies.”

A company like Bombardier requires many thousands of parts to make one plane, and the challenge of tracking and managing product life cycles for all these is staggering. “We are trying to create a new production environment, from the early designs to the final products that are delivered to the customer,” says Patrice Bélanger, manager of PLM processing with Bombardier. “Our university collaborations allow for more creativity in approaching this problem because they do not have the same constraints in terms of timelines, infrastructure and processes as our internal R&D.”

Bombardier, along with CAE, CMC Electronics, Pratt & Whitney Canada and Rolls Royce, is participating in a multi-university project led by Thomson to develop new concepts that will help companies with the complexities of PLM. Says Thomson, “If we can demonstrate that these ideas work well, we can help software vendors to integrate them into commercial PLM products.”

Thomson is also working with Bombardier and Pratt & Whitney Canada on a “lean engineering” project. “Creating an airplane is a large, complex and expensive task, costing millions of dollars in terms of engineering

*Professor Wagdi Habashi was recently awarded the prestigious Killam Prize*



CLAUDIO GALLIGARIS

hours," he explains. His research will identify how the many stages in the process could be streamlined more efficiently, so that the engineering design stage flies along as smoothly as the final product is meant to do.

## ICE SAGE

Mechanical engineering professor Wagdi Habashi, BEng'67, MEng'70, confronts a different kind of complexity when he works with his team in the Computational Flow Dynamics (CFD) lab. There, Habashi has developed models of in-flight icing that have transformed how we understand what happens along the skin of a plane in flight. "Airport crews can de-ice the plane all they want on the ground, but when it's flying through clouds, ice will form on it—and ice is extremely treacherous," he says. "Sometimes even small traces in the wrong places will make an airplane lose aerodynamic efficiency."

While statistics are elusive, the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority directly attributed almost 400 air crashes in the nineties to icing problems. Habashi's approach stands out because, while most CFD models focus on localized icing, his group has developed computer code to model ice along the entire aircraft, as well as within the aircraft engine or on helicopters. It can also be used to produce flight simulator data for pilot training.

"We consider ice as a system," he explains. "For example, what happens to an airplane when it flies into a cloud? Where is water going to freeze? What shape will it take? And how much heat do you need in the wing to de-ice in flight?"

His research continues to win recognition: last spring Habashi, a Pratt and Whitney Fellow as well as the NSERC-Bombardier Industrial Chair in CFD, won a Killam Prize, Canada's most prestigious academic award for career contributions. It's not surprising, then, that his de-icing technology is setting the industry standard. Buyers include Lockheed-Martin, Bombardier, Boeing, Bell Helicopters, Airbus, Northrop Grumman and many other aircraft manufacturers; ultimately, Habashi anticipates a cockpit interface that could inform pilots of icing conditions during flight.

"Taking something that on paper looks feasible and bringing it to the point where an industry adopts it can be a very painful process," he says. "But everything we develop ends up being used."

Such is the goal of almost all researchers: to generate knowledge and develop technologies that will one day prove useful. Thanks to closer links with the vibrant local aerospace industry and the new MIAE focusing research and teaching efforts, more and more McGill researchers will be realizing this ambition. "The sky is our limit now," says Dean of Engineering Pierre. "We have deep resources of experience and expertise, and are creating more. The potential is huge." ✦

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*Patrick McDonagh's book Idiocy: A Cultural History, was a finalist for the 2009 Mavis Gallant Prize for non-fiction.*

# LEGAL EAGLES IN FLIGHT

There are over 600,000 pieces of space debris larger than 1 cm orbiting the Earth, the legacy of 50 years of space activity. And eventually someone will have to deal with the flying junk, composed of bits of old rockets, chunks of satellites, and assorted flotsam and jetsam. This past May, legal experts gathered in Montreal for the International Interdisciplinary Congress on Space Debris, hosted by the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL) in collaboration with the Cologne University Institute of Space Law and the Netherlands-based International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety, to parse the problem and discuss how to define responsibility for and guide responses to space trash.

It is a challenging issue, but the IASL, based in the Faculty of Law, became a global leader in aviation and space law by grappling with the most difficult questions connected to human activities in the skies above. Created by a visionary group of academics and aviation lawyers in 1951—six years before Sputnik, the first Earth-orbiting satellite, ever left the ground—the IASL has established fruitful interactions with governments, industry and other air and space law stakeholders, and led research through its Centre for Research of Air and Space Law (est. 1976) and its international journal, *Annals of Air and Space Law*. Today, the IASL has five full-time professors, including director Paul Dempsey, and another nine adjunct members. The 900-plus alumni of its graduate programs can be found in leading positions in 120 countries.

Air and space law is an active field. Immediately before the space debris congress, the IASL had hosted the International and Interdisciplinary Roundtable on Space Governance; this October, it was the McGill Conference on International Aviation Liability and Insurance. The IASL has also analyzed activities both peaceful and military in outer space and has proposed a framework to develop safety standards for space missions.

Soon, as Dempsey has pointed out, the air and space division itself will become problematic, as the rules governing one are opposite to those for the other. While nations exercise sovereignty over "airspace," meaning that foreign aircraft must receive permission to enter it, the realm of "space" is defined as being free of national jurisdictions. So where does "air" end and "space" begin? That question will keep the legal experts busy for a long time.



ISTOCKPHOTO



# ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

*McGill's Moyse Hall  
accommodates  
306 theatre-goers*

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS





## Rehearsing till midnight? Cramming for exams between productions? It's all worth it for the thrill of the curtain rising on opening night.

BY ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77

Julien Naggar is staring into space. Actually, he's staring at his friend, Dan Ruppel, who is sitting across from him. It's a Thursday night and they are at Gert's, a student-run campus pub, each trying to write a play in 24 hours.

Under the gun, the pair make use of what's readily available—each other. “We included a few lines of each other's conversation in our plays,” Naggar says. “Then at one point, Dan became a character in my play.”

Naggar, BA'09, and Ruppel, BA'09, along with Zoe Page (U1 English and sociology), were the three playwrights who entered McGill's most recent 24-hour playwriting contest, produced each January by Tuesday Night Café, a student-run theatre company located in Morrice Hall.

“My play was terribly glum,” Ruppel acknowledges. He wrote until 6 a.m., slept a bit, and then managed to find a little humour in the light of day. Page admits it took her four hours just to get started and later she rewrote the entire script.

All faced the daunting task of not only writing a one-act play in 24 hours, but also casting, directing and producing it in the subsequent 24 hours, culminating in a performance on the Saturday evening in front of a packed house (and two judges).

Even more daunting, though, they had to use these first and last lines which the judges had randomly chosen: First line: “What's the capital of Belize?”

Last line: “Let's all go touring the neighbourhood looking for interesting pieces of wood.”

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Soon after transferring to McGill from the University of Waterloo, where he had been studying chemical engineering, David Hudgins, BA'91, took a wrong turn that changed his life.

“I was wandering around the Arts Building and I stumbled into the wrong classroom,” he recalls. He discovered the professor there teaching a class on Bertolt Brecht, the German dramatist. “I was stunned. I thought to myself, there's such a thing as a course on Brecht?” Hudgins had been active in theatre as a teen, but had never thought of it as a subject one could study. “Something clicked for me. I felt everything had led up to that moment.”

He switched his major to English and became involved in all things theatrical, including directing his first site-specific play, a trilogy of Gothic one-acts (“united in their gloominess”), performed outdoors

by the light of a campfire. “There was a tremendous ‘go-ahead’ spirit to McGill. It was a very rich environment, both academically and creatively. I remember counting 33 plays being produced in one semester.”

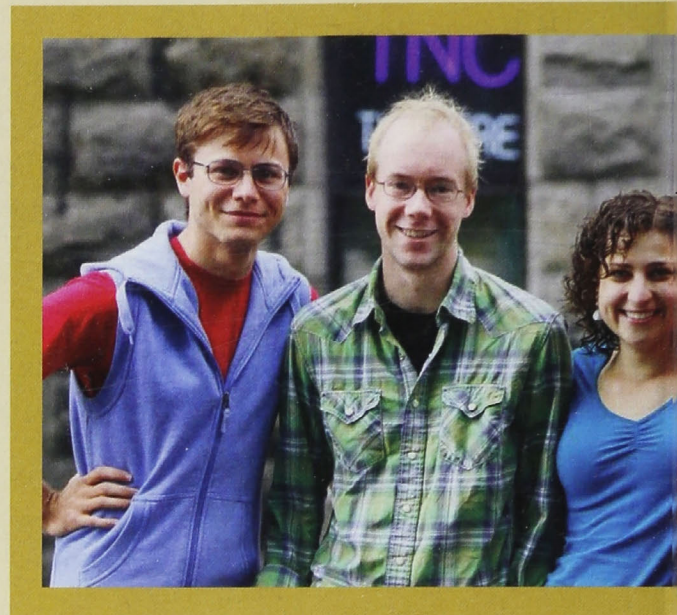
Hudgins can easily name 17 former McGill contemporaries now working in film, television, or theatre, including actress Jessalyn Gilsig, BA’93 (*Glee*), TV producer Tom McGillis, BA’91 (*6Teen*), and CBC journalist Evan Solomon, BA’90, MA’92. Hudgins himself went on to co-found Vancouver’s Electric Company Theatre, which has produced its share of award-winning, site-specific theatre over the past 14 years, including a show at (and in) a swimming pool. He is also associate director at Langara College’s Studio 58, one of Canada’s top theatre conservatories.

“I defy you to find another university that has this much active, student-run theatre,” says Myrna Wyatt Selkirk, associate professor in the Department of English. She also happens to have been that professor teaching Brecht whom Hudgins stumbled upon.

When she first arrived at McGill in 1982, Wyatt Selkirk remembers being “stunned” by the quality—and quantity—of theatre she found here. Like Hudgins, she can offer a long list of former students who have gone on to professional careers in theatre.

If you Googled your brain for “theatre + mcgill,” you might come up with *My Fur Lady*, the legendary musical that toured Canada in 1957. Your mental search might also bring up the McGill Savoy Society, still going strong after 45 years of Gilbert and Sullivan. And of course, there’s Players’ Theatre, which has played a role in Canadian theatre history since 1921, and which can lay claim to such illustrious alumni as Emmy winners Hume Cronyn and William Shatner, BCom’52.

In fact, McGill is now home to at least nine theatre companies and they aren’t just populated with drama students—there are troupes affiliated with both the Faculties of Law and Engineering. All are independently



student-run. As well, there are the English department’s two annual productions, and an evening of one-acts from its Directing Class Project every other year. This year, Wyatt Selkirk will return to Brecht with a spring 2010 production of *The Good Person of Szechwan*, while her departmental colleague Sean Carney will direct *In Extremis* by Howard Brenton in fall 2009. The English department offers 20 or so theatre-themed courses each year, ranging from “Introduction to Performance” to “Costuming for the Theatre” to the intensive 9-credit “Theatre Laboratory.”

McGill is also home to three theatre venues: Players’ Theatre, Moyses Hall and Morrice Hall. (Ah yes, the bane of mumbler and dyslexics everywhere—Moyes Hall is the 306-seat theatre in the Arts Building, while Morrice Hall is the circular space across from the Redpath Museum.) Moyses Hall is rented out year-round for everything from spelling bees to children’s theatre performances to an international art deco conference.

Moyes Hall is home to a professional scene shop and costume shop, run by three long-time staff members: theatre manager Corinne Deeley, technical director Keith Roche (both graduates of the National Theatre School of Canada) and costume designer Catherine Bradley, whose costume shop now rivals that of any theatre company anywhere (thanks, in large part, to the generous support of Mrs. William P. Wilder, BA’51). Bradley and Roche both teach classes associated with their areas of expertise, so McGill drama students have the opportunity to learn how to cut wood, hang lights and use an industrial sewing machine in addition to mastering playwriting, theatre history, dramatic literature and acting.

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It’s 6 p.m. on Friday and the three playwrights have finished their 24 hours of writing. They have a short break, and then they cast their shows from 8 to 11 p.m. There are about

Drama enthusiasts  
(l to r) Julian  
Silverman, executive  
director of Players’  
Theatre, James  
Thornton, executive  
director of Tuesday  
Night Café, director  
Rachel Paul and  
Meg Annand,  
Arts Undergraduate  
Theatre Society  
producer

Below: Associate  
professor of English  
Myrna Wyatt Selkirk



OWEN EGAN



OWEN EGAN

30 actors in the three plays. (Anyone can sign up to audition — anyone who enjoys intense deadlines, of course.)

Ruppel has directed before: he has taken the directing class offered by the English department. It's a relief to be finished with writing and move on to directing. Naggar, on the other hand, has never directed so he is "much more anxious" about this next 24 hours.

They cook up a name for the club they have all joined: Students Who Admit to Voluntary Sleep Deprivation.

.....

Wait a minute. Theatre produced by engineering students? The Engineering Undergraduate Society Theatre has produced a show each spring for the past five years. In keeping with engineering students'

propensity for highjinks and high spirits, "we usually produce farces involving a lot of slapstick, sexual innuendo and mistaken identities," explains executive director Florian Prat-Vincent, BEng'09.

Last year, though, he ventured into new territory: three comedic (but not farcical) one-acts by Canadian playwright Cherie Thiessen. A structural engineer now beginning his master's at McGill, Prat-Vincent managed to balance his undergraduate course load with an enormous amount of work, from directing the show to finding a venue to working on publicity and fundraising.

"You actually use a lot of the same skills as engineering, like teamwork, project management and leadership," he says. "Working in the arts has made me a more rounded person. And the semesters that I did theatre, I also did the best academically."

"The great thing about McGill, is that we have free rein," says Julian Silverman, the executive director of Players' Theatre. "We can do the shows we want, when we want." "Students take serious ownership of their theatres," notes Wyatt Selkirk.

Theatrical offerings at McGill are many and varied. Players' Theatre produces at least four shows a year, along with the student-run McGill Drama Festival, a juried showcase of student writing. The McGill Savoy Society presents an annual Gilbert and Sullivan musical and the occasional sideshow.

Established in 1978 and affiliated with the English department, Tuesday Night Café (TNC) has three to four productions a year, as well as ARTifact, a week-long, all-student arts festival, which culminates with the 24-hour playwriting contest. The Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society (AUTS) was formed in 2007 to produce a full-scale musical each year (their 2009 show was a revival of *Hair*, which they performed to packed houses in Moyses Hall).

Actus Reus produces an annual law-themed play in the Faculty of Law's Moot Court. Now in its 12th year, V-Day

**J. KELLY NESTRUCK, BA'03**  
Theatre critic for *The Globe and Mail*

*"I played the Lord High Executioner in The Mikado at Savoy, and I directed my first show while at McGill. The best part was being around so many smart, creative people. People ask, 'What use is it to study theatre?' Well, it was extremely useful for me! I constantly refer back to my drama textbooks from McGill. They're practically falling apart."*

**LARA CHATTERJEE, BA'05**  
Associate producer, *CBC News: The National*

*"One thing theatre did was force me to learn to multitask. When you have a paper due, a mid-term, a costume fitting and a rehearsal until midnight, you learn to make every second count. This helped me in journalism, especially daily news, which has you on your toes every moment."*

**KEN CAMERON, BA'92**  
Playwright and artistic director of the *Magnetic North Theatre Festival*

*"In my third year, I was involved with 27 theatre productions: building a set, publicizing, directing, acting and so on. My McGill degree gave me a diversity of experience which set me up for a great career in theatre."*

**JENNIFER YUNG, BA'98**  
Costume shop manager, *Segal Centre for the Performing Arts*

*"I took two semesters of 'Costuming for the Theatre' with Catherine Bradley. It was the first time I had felt really passionate about something. The skills I learned from Catherine and the social connections I made while working on various productions in the McGill costume shop have been integral to bringing me where I am today."*

**RYAN KICHLER, BA'09**  
Co-producer of *Hair* with *Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society, 2008-09*

*"There's nothing like working on a show. When the final curtain comes down, the feeling is indescribable. This is what I want to do with my life."*

THE VIEW FROM BACKSTAGE

McGill organizes benefit performances, as well as concerts and film screenings, to raise awareness of gender-based violence. McGill's francophone student theatre is Théâtre de la Grenouille; and McGill Improv offers weekly Saturday afternoon workshops and performs anywhere from five to 15 shows around campus each year.

Topping it off is mcgillSTAGE, an alliance of all the above groups, which was formed to share information and pool resources.



OWEN EGAN

Above: Student playwright Anna Roth Trowbridge uses drama to explore her interest in cognitive science

Far right: Theatre students can hone their handyman skills in Moyse Hall's set-building workshop

Students working in theatre come from any and all disciplines, as a sampling of the 2009-10 leadership illustrates: Player's Theatre's Silverman is a third-year chemistry major, with a minor in French. Cameron MacLeod, BE'd'09, the president of the McGill Savoy Society, is a recent education graduate. Meg Annand, AUTS producer, is a U3 student, majoring in political science and minoring in geography. Cassandra Zawilski, V-Day McGill's producer, is U1 in psychology "with a possible minor in neuroscience."

TNC's executive director, James Thornton, U3, who majors in anatomy and cell biology and minors in psychology, sums it up: "I like to joke that between psych, anatomy and theatre, I'll have covered mind, body and soul."

It's no secret that theatre is hard work—long hours, little or no money, theatres that badly need renovations, limited rehearsal space—and McGill is no exception. Why bother, especially when you have your studies to worry about? After touching base with several dozen students and graduates, the same answer comes up time and again: to be part of a community.

"Theatre helped me overcome some of my shyness and I made some great friends," says Michelle MacArthur, BA'04. Now a doctoral student at the University of Toronto's Graduate Centre for Study of Drama, MacArthur has fond memories of working on McGill productions. "Rehearsing into the early hours of the morning creates a unique bond between people!"

"I wasn't very happy at McGill until I fell in love with the theatre here," says Anna Roth Trowbridge, who is completing her final semester in a dual arts and science degree in English and cognitive science. While a floor fellow at her residence, she regularly advised first-year students to make friends and have fun by joining a theatre group.

Roth Trowbridge became interested in playwriting as "a way to answer questions I had put forward in my studies." She wrote and directed *A One Man Show for My Brother* at Players, this spring, both as her honours English thesis and to explore her scientific interest in bipolar disorder. The play also won the English department's Clark Lewis Memorial Prize for drama writing. "It was a great way to learn how to write a play," she says with a laugh.

Now a research assistant at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Roth Trowbridge plans to continue her creative writing after graduation. "McGill is a great place for the arts," she says, pointing to the quality of the teaching and the solid combination of academics alongside practical experience. "The student theatre companies are some of the most motivated groups on campus."

Rachel Paul, U3 English, is another such highly motivated McGill student who has combined for-credit and extracurricular theatre. Last year, she took on the daunting task of directing her first show for a three-credit independent theatre project. And not just any show—she directed *Hair* with a 19-person cast. The experience led to a summer gig as an assistant director with a professional Shakespeare company, and she's already lined up to direct *Miss Julie* at TNC in October and *Eurydice* at Player's in January.

"At a traditional conservatory, everything would be generated by the instructors, but here students are given the opportunity to structure our own learning," says Paul. "The rehearsal was my classroom. It was thrilling!"

What about life after graduation?

"Well, I'm sure it got me my first job at the CBC," says Evan Solomon, who has hosted such TV shows as *Hot Type* and *CBC News: Sunday*. He credits his acting experience at McGill for helping him successfully improvise a live two-minute audition—and the rest is history.

"Theatre is all about taking risks—huge risks—in front of a live audience," says Solomon, who finds himself performing live once again, this time as the host of *Power & Politics*, a new daily show on CBC News Network. Although Solomon did degrees in English literature and



religious studies at McGill, much of his time outside the classroom was spent at Players', where he acted and wrote plays. He describes theatre as "a powerful, significant and adult way" for young people to find their voice. "Having a play mounted at McGill was one of the great thrills of my life, no question."

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It's Saturday night and almost show time. The three playwrights have spent all day rehearsing with their cast. It is barely 48 hours after they sat down to write their first words.

All three plays are well received by the audience. Ultimately, though, it is Naggar who wins the contest, based on the assessment of the two judges, professors Myrna Wyatt Selkirk and Fiona Ritchie.

Why does he think his play won? "Maybe because it had the most consistency between dress rehearsal and the show," Naggar ventures. He points out that all three of them received the same prizes: Moleskin notebooks and coupons to Second Cup.

Naggar has since graduated, but he'll be back this year to direct two shows, one at TNC and the other at Players'. He and Ruppel are creating their own theatre/media production company, which will perform in "any space that can fit people, indoors, outdoors, in a park, maybe even in a swimming pool." (Hmm, another swimming pool.)

"I was on adrenaline the whole time," says Naggar, remembering the grueling pace with surprising fondness. There is something to be said for not spending months and months on a project, he says. "After all, art is spontaneous." 🐦

*Allyson Rowley was first bitten by the theatre bug in 1976 at Players' Theatre. She went on to work as a professional theatre actor and later won a 24-hour playwriting contest. She works at McGill now, and often has to write something in under 24 hours.*



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

## MCGILL PRODUCTIONS FOR 2009-2010

**Miss Julie** by August Strindberg. Tuesday Night Café, Morrice Hall Theatre. Oct. 14-17/21-24.

**Hedwig and the Angry Inch** by John Cameron Mitchell. Players' Theatre. Oct. 21-24/28-31.

**The Caretaker** by Harold Pinter. Tuesday Night Café, Morrice Hall Theatre. Nov. 11-14/18-21.

**In Extremis** by Howard Brenton. English department production, Moyses Hall. Nov. 18-21/25-28.

**Trainspotting** by Henry Gibson. Players' Theatre. Nov. 18-21/25-28.

**ARTifact**, a week-long festival of the arts. Morrice Hall Theatre. Jan. 11-17.

**Cabaret**, the musical. Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society, Moyses Hall. Jan. 14-16/21-23.

**Eurydice** by Sarah Ruhl. Players' Theatre. Jan. 20-23/27-30.

**The Secretaries** by the Five Lesbian Brothers. Tuesday Night Café, Morrice Hall Theatre. Feb. 3-6/10-13.

**The Vagina Monologues** by Eve Ensler. V-Day McGill, Leacock 132. Feb. 5-7.

**Henry VI**, parts of Parts II and III, by William Shakespeare. Players' Theatre. Feb. 10-13/17-20.

**The Pirates of Penzance** by Gilbert and Sullivan. McGill Savoy Society, Moyses Hall. Feb.-dates TBD.

**The Good Person of Szechwan** by Bertolt Brecht. English department production, Moyses Hall. Mar.-dates TBD.

**The Bald Soprano** by Eugene Ionesco. Tuesday Night Café, Morrice Hall Theatre. Mar. 3-6/10-13.

**McGill Drama Festival**. Players' Theatre. Mar. 17-27.

**The Visit** by Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Players' Theatre. May-dates TBD.

THE PLAYERS' THEATRE



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS



# Citoyenne du monde

Entre son enfance et ses multiples affectations à l'étranger pour Radio-Canada, Céline Galipeau aura effectué un véritable tour du monde. Elle raconte son retour au pays et son passage remarqué à la barre du *Téléjournal*. PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B.A. 1992)



Elle se prénomme Céline Loan et sa mère est une Vietnamiennne de religion bouddhiste. Toute sa vie, elle a entendu ses parents parler le vietnamien. Un de ses oncles était haut fonctionnaire dans le gouvernement sud-vietnamien. Elle est née à Longueuil, mais elle a passé presque toute son enfance au Togo, au Sénégal, au Liban, en Cisjordanie et en Jordanie. Elle a fait une année d'université à Jérusalem, une autre à Amman. La majeure partie de sa vie professionnelle, elle l'a passée à l'étranger.

« À bien des égards, la culture d'ici m'était étrangère », raconte Céline Galipeau (B.A. spécialisé, 1982), chef d'antenne du *Téléjournal* qui est devenue la voix et l'image de l'émission-phare de Radio-Canada en janvier 2009. « C'est fantastique d'avoir pu développer un lien d'appartenance, justement grâce au public. »

Depuis ses débuts en journalisme en 1983, Céline Galipeau est une figure familière du petit écran. Jusqu'à sa nomination comme lectrice des bulletins de week-end en 2003, on la voyait plus souvent porter la veste pare-balles ou le voile, exerçant avec passion le métier exigeant de chef de bureau à Londres, Moscou, Paris ou Beijing. Au Kosovo, les autorités lui ont déchiré sa carte de presse sous le nez. En Tchétchénie, elle devait sortir du pays la nuit pour éviter les bombardements. « Bizarrement, cette vie aventureuse ne m'angoissait pas du tout, c'était tout naturel », dit Céline Galipeau.

Sa mère, Pham Thi Ngoc Lang de son nom de jeune fille, était une réfugiée de la guerre d'Indochine (1946-1954) lorsqu'elle a fait la connaissance sur un navire de Georges Galipeau, journaliste à *La Presse* et globe-trotter émérite. En 1960, le père de Céline devient diplomate à l'ONU, d'abord pour des organismes scientifiques, puis des organisations d'aide aux réfugiés. Pendant les 16 prochaines années, ce sera la valse des valises, et Céline étudiera parmi les enfants de diplomates.

C'est ainsi que Céline Galipeau a vécu de près, à 13 ans, la crise palestinienne en Jordanie même. Mais c'est la guerre du Vietnam qui sera le bruit de fond de toute son enfance. Ce conflit lointain était un drame familial chez les Galipeau, car la famille Pham était aux premières loges du gouvernement sud-vietnamien. Chaque soir, les Galipeau écoutaient

les bulletins de la BBC, puis les commentaient systématiquement (un excellent entraînement pour la future journaliste). « Maman avait de la famille au Vietnam et elle les a tous fait venir au Canada. »

Céline Galipeau explique qu'elle a conservé quelques traits très profonds de la culture asiatique, dont le réflexe de toujours sourire et le sens de la famille. Elle voit venir le moment où elle accueillera chez elle sa mère maintenant veuve et sa sœur cadette trisomique — sa sœur aînée est décédée.

« En Asie, ce sont les enfants qui s'occupent de leurs parents et ça m'a été inculqué très tôt », raconte Céline Galipeau, dont le premier voyage en Asie, à Beijing en 1995, fut une révélation. « Je n'avais jamais eu aussi fort l'impression de revenir chez moi. J'ai tout de suite appelé ma mère. »

## LA VOCATION DE VIVRE L'ACTUALITÉ

À 20 ans, Céline Galipeau débarque à Montréal — où elle n'a pas vécu depuis la tendre enfance. Son père, qui veut qu'elle renoue avec ses racines, l'inscrit à l'UQAM. Céline n'y fera qu'une session avant de passer à McGill. « J'avais plus d'affinités avec des milieux multiculturels », dit-elle. « Je connaissais plein de Palestiniens diplômés de McGill. Il y a 30 ans, c'était la seule université canadienne vraiment internationale. »

Céline Galipeau y fera une double majeure spécialisée en sciences politiques et en sociologie. « J'ai fait ma scolarité de maîtrise en sociologie, mais je n'ai jamais complété ma thèse », admet-elle en expliquant que les études ne lui venaient pas aisément. Elle conserve des souvenirs impérissables des professeurs Charles Taylor (en sciences politiques) et Maurice Pinard (en sociologie), qui lui ont « appris à apprendre ». Elle était particulièrement sensible à l'énergie militante déployée par les étudiants étrangers. « Pour tous les conflits du monde, il y a avait des étudiants des deux côtés : des Israéliens, des Palestiniens, des Nicaraguayens. C'était passionnant. »

Céline Galipeau amorcera sa carrière de journaliste en 1983, comme journaliste de nuit au poste de radio CJMS. Mais peu de gens savent qu'en parallèle, elle avait entrepris des études au Collège LaSalle... en mode!

« La plus grande rébellion de ma vie! », raconte-t-elle. « Ma mère est une artiste et mon père, un intellectuel. Je me dirigeais naturellement vers le journalisme, et je luttais un peu contre ça. »

Pendant son enfance, Céline Galipeau a vu sa mère confectionner les vêtements de toute la famille, et la jeune femme était fortement attirée par les couleurs et les tissus, au point d'envisager d'ouvrir un atelier et une boutique.

Or, c'est une tragédie qui l'oriente définitivement : en 1984, un certain Denis Lortie attaque à la mitraillette l'Assemblée nationale avec l'objectif de tuer le premier ministre René Lévesque. Il abat trois fonctionnaires et en blessera 13 autres, avant d'être arrêté. « Quand je suis arrivée au collège, personne ne savait de quoi je parlais. Ce matin-là, je suis retournée chez moi et je n'y ai plus jamais remis les pieds. »

Longtemps avant de couvrir des conflits terribles à titre de correspondante, Céline Galipeau a fait ses débuts à Radio-Canada en 1985 comme lectrice suppléante de Bernard Derome, le légendaire chef d'antenne, en poste depuis 1970. « Mais j'ai tout de suite voulu aller sur le terrain. »

Sa vie sera trépidante : elle part pour Toronto dès 1989 et couvrira tous les événements entourant la crise du lac Meech et ses suites. « Je doute que le Canada et le Québec se soient beaucoup transformés depuis, même s'il y a eu des changements », dit-elle. « Le sujet n'est plus aussi à vif, mais les mêmes questions se posent à chaque campagne électorale. »

voile ne me choque sans doute pas autant que d'autres », dit Céline Galipeau, qui trouve passionnant tout le débat québécois sur les accommodements raisonnables. « J'admets que les femmes du Québec n'aient pas aimé que je me sois pliée à une coutume rétrograde, mais c'était une condition nécessaire pour faire mon travail de journaliste, et je n'étais pas là pour libérer les femmes pakistanaises ou afghanes. »

## LE DÉFI DU RETOUR À LA MAISON

Après le conflit irakien, son retour définitif à Montréal en 2003 sera une expérience difficile. Sur le plan personnel, tout comme son mari — le journaliste Jacques Bissonnet — elle entretient l'illusion de « revenir au bercail » : or, ils ne savent même pas comment inscrire les enfants à l'école. Il faut tout réapprendre. « Mais je suis heureuse que mon fils grandisse à Montréal. »

Professionnellement, elle a accepté de devenir la lectrice du *Téléjournal* du week-end, une décision difficile à assumer. Habituee à l'actualité bouillonnante, Céline Galipeau mettra des mois à s'habituer à ce trou noir de l'info — exemple : un embâcle sur la rivière des Prairies menace trois sous-sols! « Pour tout dire, il y a des jours où il n'y a même pas d'actualité significative. »

Mais au bout de quelques mois, Céline Galipeau réalise qu'elle a pris la bonne décision. « J'ai pu retrouver mes marques tranquillement, sans trop de pression. » Car le rôle de chef d'antenne ne consiste pas à simplement lire les nouvelles. De concert avec le rédacteur en chef et le réalisateur, un chef d'antenne a la responsabilité de la « mise en scène » du bulletin : avec quelle nouvelle amorcer, suivi de quelle nouvelle, et avec quel lien, tout en gardant en tête qu'il faut du rythme, de la pertinence et de la variété (autant que l'actualité le permet).

Autre défi pour la nouvelle lectrice : réapprendre les subtilités de la politique nationale, provinciale, voire municipale, et à détecter la nouvelle dans les soubresauts d'une société de privilégiés avec des problèmes de privilégiés. « Qui n'en sont pas moins des problèmes », précise Céline Galipeau. « J'ai beaucoup d'estime pour mes collègues qui font de la couverture locale. À l'international, l'actualité est évidente : il s'agit d'arriver vite sur place. Ici, il faut fouiller des cas comme les contrats douteux de la Ville de Montréal ou les amitiés particulières à la FTQ Construction. C'est moins évident! »

À sa grande surprise, elle sortira finalement assez vite de l'obscurité, grâce à « l'effet Guy A. Lepage ». C'est que l'émission *Tout le monde en parle*, la plus regardée sur le réseau, précède tout juste le bulletin du dimanche. Or, dès la première en septembre 2004, son populaire animateur adoptera la coutume de terminer son émission en invitant les téléspectateurs à rester en ondes avec « la radiieuse », « la souriante », « la sémillante Céline Galipeau » — le qualificatif change chaque semaine.

« C'est anecdotique », raconte Céline Galipeau. « En réalité, l'effet Lepage tenait à ses cotes d'écoute, qui nous ont amené beaucoup de téléspectateurs. » Si bien que l'obscur bulletin du dimanche est devenu le plus écouté de la



STEEVE DUGUAY / MÉTRO

Céline Galipeau  
avec Bernard  
Derome

Puis dès 1992, ce sera Londres, Moscou, Paris, Beijing, et on la verra suivre de près tous les grands conflits — Tchétchénie, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Irak.

La grande controverse de sa carrière aura trait à ses reportages sur la guerre aux talibans depuis Quetta, au Pakistan, où elle apparaîtra voilée. Son geste déclenche une intense polémique, dont elle n'a vent que lorsque ses patrons lui demandent de faire un topo d'une minute pour expliquer pourquoi elle portait le voile.

« Sur le coup, j'ai été surprise par la controverse. J'ai vécu dans plusieurs pays arabes, et j'y étais habituée, et le



semaine. Du jour au lendemain, les journalistes jouaient du coude pour se joindre à l'équipe ou y passer leur topo. « Ça nous a donné un pouvoir de négociation qu'on n'avait pas, et on est allé chercher du personnel, des ressources, du budget. » C'est ainsi que Céline Galipeau, tout en étant lectrice de nouvelles, a pu continuer à faire des topos à l'étranger, depuis l'Inde notamment, et même, une fois, un *Téléjournal* complet depuis l'Afghanistan!

## UN MONDE D'INFORMATION EN MOUVANCE

Or, de grands chambardements internes se préparent. En janvier 2008, Bernard Derome annonce qu'il prendra sa retraite. Céline Galipeau est pressentie pour lui succéder, mais elle hésite devant l'énormité de la tâche. « Je me suis demandé si j'avais l'étoffe. J'aurais très bien pu me monter mon petit royaume du week-end, mais c'est finalement l'adrénaline de la grosse actualité qui m'a décidé à faire le grand saut. » Céline Galipeau arrive donc au *Téléjournal* en janvier 2009 à une époque trouble, où les habitudes des téléspectateurs se transforment sous l'impact combiné du Web, des chaînes spécialisées et de la concurrence de TVA, dont le bulletin a détrôné le *Téléjournal* au chapitre des cotes d'écoute.

« Le *Téléjournal* n'est plus la grand-messe de 22 h sur laquelle tout le monde se branchait, mais je doute que l'existence même des bulletins soit remise en cause d'ici 10 ans. Le cinéma n'a pas disparu malgré l'apparition des cassettes, du Web, du VHS. Les cotes d'écoute se maintiennent relativement bien, et les Québécois, en général, s'informent beaucoup par la télé. »

Mais les changements sont importants : la salle des nouvelles se réorganise en fonction des compressions et du Web. Finie l'époque où la radio et la télé travaillaient en vase clos : on demande désormais aux mêmes journalistes de faire de la télé, de la radio et du Web. À chacun d'inventer la façon de redire à la télé la nouvelle dite précédemment à la radio, sans se répéter. « Alors qu'il n'y a pas 36 façons de présenter une même nouvelle! », dit Céline Galipeau. « Il y a un équilibre à trouver, il faut pouvoir expliquer davantage. »

Un autre important défi à l'horizon sera l'émission-phare des grandes soirées électorales, où l'empreinte de Bernard Derome est la plus forte, avec son approche dynamique, ferme, teintée d'humour, mais très centralisée.

« On s'interroge sur la façon de faire, mais il est acquis qu'il y aura plus de gens sur le terrain, plus de travail décentralisé, et pas seulement avec un seul animateur », précise Céline Galipeau, qui cite le cas de la couverture de la dernière élection présidentielle américaine de CNN, avec des animateurs présents sous forme d'hologrammes. « Je ne peux pas en dire plus parce que nous étudions la façon de procéder, mais je compte dire au moins une fois dans ma vie le fameux « Si la tendance du vote se maintient... »! »

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*Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1992) est journaliste et auteur. Il a signé plus de 700 articles de magazine (principalement pour L'Actualité) et cinq livres, dont Pas si fous ces français et La Grande aventure de la langue française.*

# A citizen of the world

BY JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA'92  
TRANSLATED BY CH-KAY TRANSLATIONS

For more than a decade, between 1992 and 2003, Céline Galipeau, BA'92, was one of Canada's most respected foreign correspondents, earning plaudits and awards for her coverage of news events in London, Moscow, Paris and Beijing.

She was a fixture in CBC and Radio-Canada newscasts, often sporting a bulletproof vest during her reports from war zones like Afghanistan and Iraq. In Chechnya, she had to leave the country in the middle of the night to escape bombings. "Strangely, this adventurous life didn't bother me at all. It was natural," says Galipeau.

Galipeau's ability to adjust to new environments likely stems from her nomadic childhood. The daughter of a Quebec journalist turned diplomat and a mother who belonged to a prominent Vietnamese political family, Galipeau spent almost her entire youth in Togo, Senegal, Lebanon, the West Bank and Jordan.

She was 20 when her family moved to Montreal. After beginning a degree at the Université du Québec à Montréal, she transferred to McGill. "I was more comfortable in a multicultural environment," she says. "Thirty years ago, [McGill] was the only truly international Canadian university."

Galipeau actually pondered a career in fashion design at one point, even enrolling in a college program. "The greatest rebellion of my life!" she recalls. "I was naturally heading for journalism and I was fighting this a little."

In 1984, when Denis Lortie rampaged through the National Assembly with a submachine gun, killing three and wounding 13, Galipeau realized that design school was not for her. "When I got to college, nobody knew what I was talking about. I never set foot there again."

Today, Galipeau anchors Radio-Canada's flagship news show, *Le Téléjournal*. When the highly regarded Bernard Derome announced his retirement, Galipeau was selected as his successor. At first, she hesitated. "I wondered whether I had the right stuff. But the adrenalin rush finally made me decide to take the plunge."

She arrived at a challenging time, when viewer habits were being transformed by the combined impact of the Web, specialty channels and competition from TVA.

"*Le Téléjournal* is no longer the 10 pm high mass to which everyone tuned in," says Galipeau, "but I doubt that the existence of newscasts will be called into question in the next 10 years. Movies didn't disappear despite the emergence of the Web and other technologies. Quebecers still get a lot of their information from TV."

# SIX-WORD WONDERS: MEET OUR WINNERS

Here are three (very) brief tales that made a big impression on alumni voters

1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

## *Roddick Gates. Short Walk; Long Strides*

Earle Straus, BA'71, BCL'75, LLB'76, prides himself on his ability to wield words wisely, an ability honed over the course of three decades of practising law. "You learn to be succinct without being opaque," explains Straus. "That's a skill attributable to my years at McGill."

So when he heard that McGill was inviting people to submit six-word stories, he was game for the challenge. What he hadn't counted on was that a panel of judges would consider his submission to be among the top 10 received. Or that a vote by fellow graduates would result in his story being selected as the finest among those 10. "That was a very pleasant surprise," says Straus.

Straus says his six-word tale is autobiographical.

"I attended the High School of Montreal on University Street. McGill was just steps away, right across the street," he relates. To Straus's father Maxwell, though, the distance between the two schools was much more pronounced. No one in their family had attended university.

"My father was very keen on the importance of learning. He would say, 'Earle, I'm urging you to crash through the gates of

McGill.' I didn't need much encouragement, though. I was quite academically inclined."

The first of Straus's three McGill degrees was in philosophy. "I'm glad that preceded law school," he says. "Studying philosophy, I learned how to learn. I learned how to

There is something to be said for being short and to the point. Take McGill's six-words campaign, for instance. Inspired by the legendary Ernest Hemingway's own timeless six-word tale, "For sale: baby shoes, never worn," the University launched a website a year ago ([sixwords.mcgill.ca](http://sixwords.mcgill.ca)) where alumni and others could post their own six-word stories. So far, more than 1,800 enthusiastic scribes have taken McGill up on the offer and the campaign has earned awards both nationally and internationally.

In our last issue, the McGill Alumni Association invited readers to help determine which of the hundreds of stories featured on the University's six-words site has used its handful of words most skillfully. More than 5,000 votes poured in. Here are the tales that triumphed.

question things and to be analytical. Those skills served me well in my profession and in my personal life."

After graduating with a pair of law degrees a few years later, Straus began a career in law that eventually led him to the Ontario civil service.

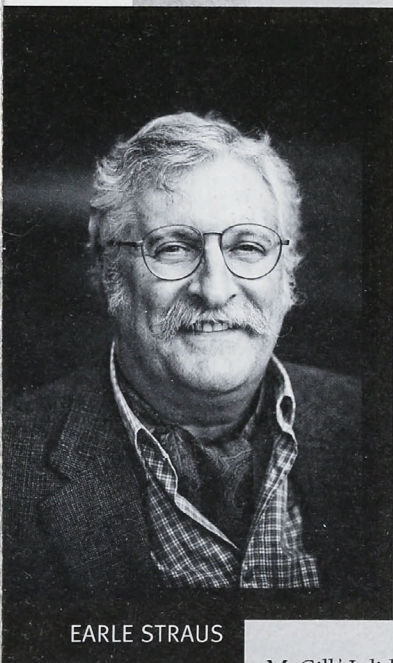
"When I started working with the Attorney General's Ministry in Ontario, a couple of us noticed that the AG lacked in-house expertise in dealing with international trade law." Straus and a colleague convinced the deputy attorney general to let them focus on trade issues and their timing proved to be prescient. Negotiations for the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement were about to begin in earnest and Straus was soon a very busy man, helping to piece together some of the implications for the Ontario government.

He would go on to work on other dossiers for the government, including business regulation, access to information and privacy law, before retiring recently. He keeps busy, working part-time for the city of Toronto, hearing appeals related to property standards violations. He also volunteers on a Toronto Board of Health committee. But his real passion is the same as it was when he took his first long strides through the Roddick Gates as a newly enrolled McGill student in the late sixties.

"I'm living a university life redux," says Straus. "I'm taking a course on dark matter and learning about black holes. I've been doing a lot of reading about crisis economics.

"I have the time now to pursue some of the interests that I'd deferred in the course of my working life. It's so easy to be consumed by the everyday crises we all face, particularly when you're working for the government."

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



EARLE STRAUS

ALYSSA BISTONATH

2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

## Passion is Contagious: Spread Your Virus

After completing her degree in zoology, Tanya Drapeau, BSc(Agr)'01, was all set to continue studying bugs. But when a friend recommended a summer job with the World Bird Sanctuary in the U.S., a love for birds of prey soon took flight, leaving insects in the dust.

After returning home, her eagle eye spotted a bird-themed van in a mall parking lot, which led her to Falcon Environmental Services, a company that uses raptors for pest control at airports and landfills. Now Drapeau is an enthusiastic falconer and the director for Falcon-Ed, the company's educational wing, and she spreads her passion for raptors and bird lore to a wide audience.

At schools she introduces her young audiences to live birds of prey. She also worked from June till Thanksgiving at Mont Tremblant, making daily presentations with a cast that included a bald eagle, a great horned owl, an American kestrel and a black vulture.

Before that fateful summer job, Drapeau had assumed birds had all the character of fish. Now she sees them as individuals.

"There are so many personalities within a species," she says. Like people, birds have good days and bad days. Sometimes they'll obligingly hop from perch to perch for a treat, or soar up high playfully in the breeze. And sometimes, well, they won't. "That gives me an opportunity to explain about the training," she says, and different factors

that influence bird behaviour, such as hunger, familiarity with a trainer, or weather that's too hot or windy.

It's not only the birds' behaviour that keeps her on her toes. At one high school visit, a cheeky teenager asked if her bird had a penis. "When I said no, he was flabbergasted," she laughs. Ever the educator, she cheerfully explained that most birds reproduce by squirting sperm through the cloaca, the multi-purpose tract common to both feathered sexes. But some birds, like waterfowl, which mate in more challenging environments (in lakes or rivers, for instance, where sperm might get quickly washed away), do have penises. "The ones that have it the hardest need that extra appendage," she explains.

Drapeau has become a mythology buff, unearthing references to birds of prey as devils, angels and creators. She's amused by the wise reputation of owls, noting that their "charmingly large eyes" take up two-thirds of their skull, not leaving a lot of room for brains. "They're the perfect predator, in a sense, but still kind of clumsy," she says.

BY MAEVE HALDANE

For more information on Falcon-Ed see [www.falcon.biz](http://www.falcon.biz).

OWEN EGAN



TANYA DRAPEAU

3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

## Not Us Against Them, Mais Ensemble.

For Joliette native Jeannette Bellerose, BA'77, PhD'86, there was never any debate about the benefits of learning a second language. Her parents, who had very little education and spoke only French, "always told me 'it's good to learn English,'" she recalls. "I guess it was adventure and naiveté, thinking 'Oh yeah, I can do this,' and not really knowing what learning another language involved."

She soon found out. Although her first undergraduate semester, spent sharing an apartment with anglophones in Milton-Parc, was a tough adjustment—"I never spoke any English except for what you learn in school, like 'John and Mary go to school,' before McGill"—at the same time "it opened up a whole world to me," she reminisces. "That was probably my best move: to learn the language and really be immersed in it."

And from there, she never looked back—except through her research. An eventual PhD in psychology, in which she examined relations between anglophones and franco-phones in Quebec, showed her that despite the persistent intergroup conflicts, at the interpersonal level, people are often actually trying to be accommodating.

"We're making a debate when there's no need to have one," she opines. "To me, we are so lucky to live in this country that has a lot and offers a lot, and if we could just put the bickering aside about the language issues, we could do so much together."

Living her beliefs of integration, she not only married an American she met while working as a consultant for Bell Northern Research, but set up her Ottawa-based social research consulting firm with him. She admires how he "struggles through French" with her expansive Quebec family.

When not busy conducting marketing or social research, Bellerose sings with the Ottawa McGill Alumni Choir, gardens, travels and enjoys the company of her two cats, Wolfe and Montcalm.

The most exciting thing she's done in the past year? "I wrote a six-word novell!" she beams, joking that it rankles a little with her husband. "He's working on writing novels and short stories. He said, 'I write thousands of words, and you write six and you get all this recognition!'"

BY JAKE BRENNAN, BA'97

COLIN ROWE



JEANNETTE BELLEROSE

## Good things in small packages

She knows she'll always only get second billing for her efforts—her collaborators will always be the star attractions—but **HEIDI PITLOR**, BA'92, still thinks she has one of the best gigs in publishing.

"It's like being in a very exclusive book club and the only other member happens to be a very distinguished author."

Pitlor serves as the series editor for *The Best American Short Stories*, an annual anthology of short fiction that dates back to 1915. Each year, she works with a well-known writer, picking through piles of possibilities in search of 20 gems to include in that year's edition.

Since joining *Best American Short Stories* three years ago, Pitlor has worked with Stephen King, Salman Rushdie and, for the newly published 2009 edition, Alice Sebold. "Every year is different and every guest editor is different. That's one of the things I like about the job."

King, for instance, "helped me see the value of action in a story. He likes a plot that takes you somewhere. He also inspired me to pay much more attention to genre fiction and to read every horror, science fiction and fantasy story that I could get my hands on."

Rushdie, says Pitlor, "brought more of an outsider's point of view to things.

He has a very European sensibility. He was surprised by the amount of realism he found in American fiction. He was interested in stories that were more experimental in how they dealt with language."

As for Sebold, the author of the smash hit *The Lovely Bones*, Pitlor credits her with "a wonderful sense of humour. Alice chose stories that were more emotionally resonant. We are also a little more topical this year—we have stories that deal with AIDS, with Hurricane Katrina."

Pitlor estimates that she goes through 3,000 to 4,000 short stories every year, selecting 120 possibilities for each edition of the book that she sends to her guest editors. While a lot of the tales chosen for *Best American Short Stories* have been published in leading literary magazines—the usual suspects like the *New Yorker* or *Paris Review*—Pitlor hunts through dozens of obscure publications in search of a good read. "I'll read whatever gets sent to me."

When she isn't busy with *Best American Short Stories* or tending to her young twins, Pitlor is carving out her own writing career. Her debut novel in 2006,



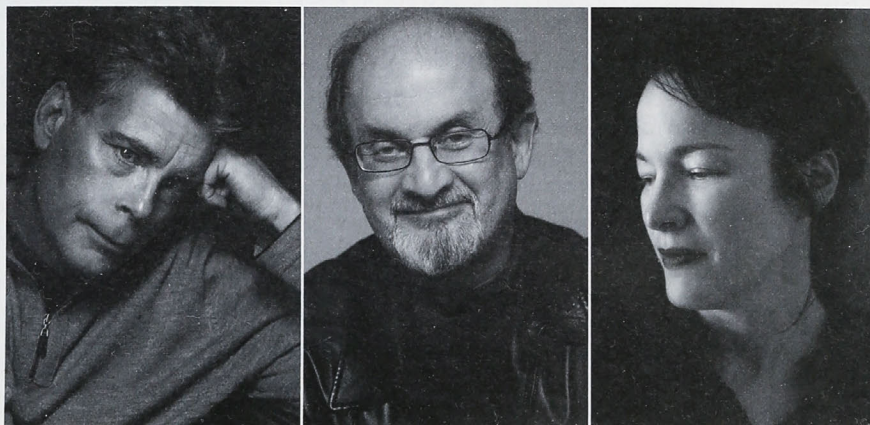
NEILGIORDANO

*The Birthdays*, attracted strong reviews—the *Observer* praised Pitlor for her "acute ear for the anxieties and regrets that proximity renders unspeakable in marriages and families." Pitlor is currently crafting her follow-up, which she describes as "a love triangle between a dead woman, her husband and his second wife."

Before *Best American Short Stories*, Pitlor was an acquiring editor for a major publisher. "I would read manuscripts with an eye towards their literary merits, but I would also read them with an eye towards the market—'Could this sell?' That's not a concern when selecting content for *Best American Short Stories*, a perennial best seller and a proven brand name. "Now when I read stories, the only thing I'm thinking is, 'Is this good?' And that's nice."

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

Some of the authors Heidi Pitlor has worked with on *The Best American Short Stories* include (l to r) Stephen King, Salman Rushdie and Alice Sebold



## THE SIMPSONS: AN UNCENSORED, UNAUTHORIZED HISTORY

by John Ortved, BA'03

When people think of *The Simpsons*, they tend to credit cartoonist Matt Groening with the show's astounding success (now in its 21st season, *The Simpsons* has garnered 24 Emmys and earned roughly \$3 billion in revenue). What John Ortved makes clear in his new book, a lively oral history that traces the show from its origins to its current standing as a cultural colossus, is that Groening didn't do it alone.

In particular, Ortved singles out producers James Brooks, who used his considerable clout to prevent network executives from interfering with the show, and Sam Simon, who, in the show's early years, assembled one of the best writing staffs TV has ever seen, while fleshing out Groening's characters.

Ortved is clearly a fan of the show (though he laments that its glory years are long gone). Still, he isn't shy about sharing tales about in-fighting and questionable conduct amongst the show's principals. *Simpsons* fans — and they are legion — will find much of interest in this meticulously researched book that features interviews with dozens of key players, including former *Simpsons* scribe turned TV star Conan O'Brien and media magnate Rupert Murdoch.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

## SINGULAR INTIMACIES: BECOMING A DOCTOR AT BELLEVUE

by Danielle Ofri, BSc'86

In her first day on the wards at Bellevue Hospital, medical student Danielle Ofri's main contribution when a patient had a cardiac crisis was to get out of the way — and she didn't do that very well. Despite three years of medical school and four years in a lab earning a PhD, Ofri said she felt like an "inept dolt," as she watched an experienced medical

team go to work. "They all spoke that secret language. They all knew something I didn't."

In vivid prose, Ofri, now 44, takes us along as she learns the secret language and becomes a confident practitioner at "the Vue." Her essays segue neatly through her training experience and are a joy to read. Not only does Ofri acquire medical skills, but the patients she encounters teach her life lessons. These are the "singular intimacies," the unique bonds that develop when, for example, "you accompany someone through a lifesaving experience."

DIANA GRIER AYTON

## WHY YOUR WORLD IS ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT SMALLER

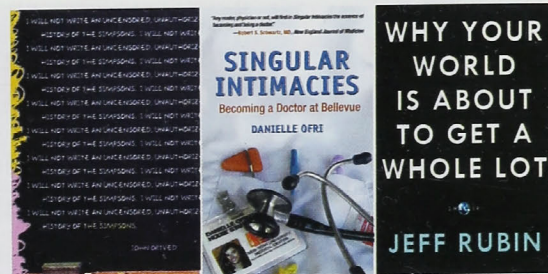
by Jeff Rubin, BA'82

When Jeff Rubin, the former chief economist at CIBC World Markets, predicted that the price of oil was going to top \$50 a barrel, there were skeptics aplenty — and then it happened. When Rubin later predicted that oil was going to top \$100 a barrel, the skeptics re-emerged — and then it happened.

Now Rubin is warning that the price of oil will keep climbing well past the ability of most of us to comfortably pay for it. Once that happens, says Rubin — and it'll happen soon — our day-to-day lives will be profoundly altered.

Many of the things that North Americans take for granted — suburban homes located far from the city core, the availability of cheap food and goods from abroad, affordable air travel — are utterly dependent on access to relatively cheap oil. Oil can't remain cheap, argues Rubin. It's a finite resource and the demand for it, particularly in emerging economies, continues to escalate.

The news isn't all bad, though, says Rubin. As we adapt (farming and manufacturing will become much



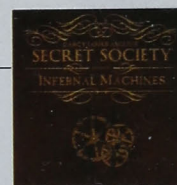
more locally based and a much improved public transportation system will become essential), our air will be cleaner, community bonds will be tighter, and we'll be forced to live greener lives out of "good old-fashioned naked economic self-interest."

DM

## Soundcheck

### INFERNAL MACHINES

By Darcy James Argue's  
Secret Society



Darcy James Argue's Secret Society isn't such a secret anymore.

The buzz around the Brooklyn-based composer and bandleader and his 18-member ensemble has been steadily building for the past few years, thanks to the group's enthusiastically-received live performances.

Argue, BMus'97, and the Secret Society released their first album, *Infernal Machines*, earlier this year and critical reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. "A potent debut," observed the *New York Times*. "A wholly original take on big band's past, present and future," in *Newsweek's* estimation.

Argue draws on a wide range of musical influences to cook up compositions that are nuanced and unpredictable — in interviews he muses about imagining what Elvis or David Bowie would have sounded like if they had been backed by a big band.

Argue's vivid compositions — at turns sinister, at turns jazzy — are performed by a crack squad of gifted collaborators, including trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, BCom'89, and trombonist Mike Fahie, BMus'98.

DM

# HOMECOMING WEEKEND '09

Approximately 3,000 McGill graduates returned to their alma mater between October 14 and 18 to take part in some of the more than 70 events that constituted McGill Homecoming 2009. Attendees arrived from across the globe, hailing from such places as Australia, the Caribbean, France, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, the U.K. and the U.S.



NICOLAS MORIN

## GOOD FUN, GREAT COMPANY

These 1949 alumni and friends happily celebrated their 60th anniversary at a dinner for graduates from the thirties, forties and fifties.



NICOLAS MORIN

## STELLAR STRINGS

Homecoming and Parents Weekend guests enjoyed this year's gala concert by performers from the Schulich School of Music. Among the musicians taking part were (from left) Emily Westell, Carissa Klopoushak, MMus'08, and Chloé Dominguez, DipArt'03, MMus'05, DMus'09.



NICOLAS MORIN

## MCGILL LITERATI

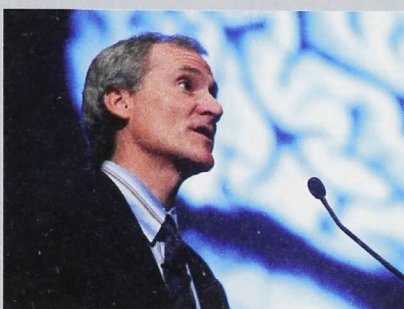
The featured authors at this year's Lunch et Livres event were kept busy signing their books. Susan Pinker, BA'79, (left), Claire Holden Rothman, BA'81, BCL'84, and Colin McAdam, BA'93, read excerpts from their respective works: *The Sexual Paradox*, *The Heart Specialist* and *Fall*.



NICOLAS MORIN

## A WELL DONE ROAST

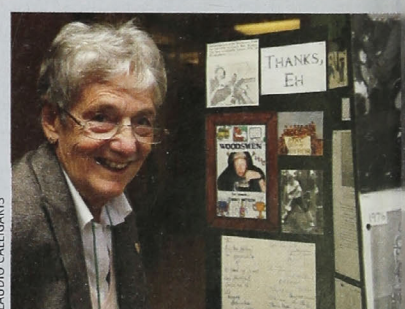
A highlight of Homecoming's Leacock Luncheon is always the irreverent introductions by moderator Derek Drummond, BArch'62, of the event's head table guests—"those boring overachievers you don't want at your table." Taking his lumps with good cheer is Airborne Mobile president Andy Nulman, BCom'83, shown with Quebec justice minister Katherine Weil, BA'78, BCL'82, LLB'82.



OWEN EGAN

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Neuroscientist and Genentech executive vice president Marc Tessier-Lavigne, BSc'80, once described by Nobel laureate Eric Kandel as "the best that science can produce," delivered this year's Beatty Memorial Lecture.



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

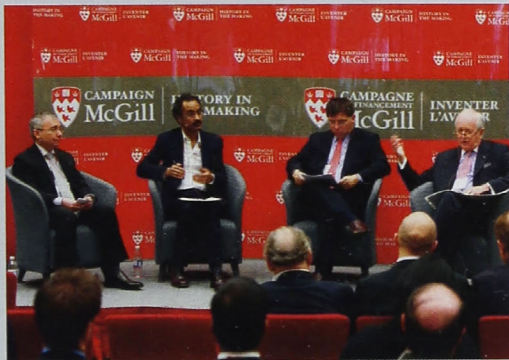
## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Helen Thomason Lambert, BSc(HEc)'54, enjoys a look at Macdonald Campus memorabilia, which is always on display during Homecoming.

# LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Some of Campaign McGill's top volunteers gathered with administrators, academics and students from the University for a two-day Leadership Summit where they heard about McGill's global impact. The event concluded with the awarding of an honorary degree to former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

PHOTOS BY OWEN EGAN



## PIECING OUT PEACE

*Yves Fortier, BCL'58, LLD'05 (right) moderates a panel discussion called Policies for Peace: Whose Job Is It Anyway? with speakers (l to r) Philip Oxhorn, founding director of the McGill Institute for the Study of International Development, Islamic studies assistant professor Khalid Mustafa Medani and Hans and Tamar Oppenheimer Professor of Public International Law François Crépeau, BCL'82, LLB'82.*



## CAMPAIGN KUDOS

*Management student Fatoumata Diané of Guinea speaks of the impact Campaign McGill has had on scholarship recipients like her. Diané, who speaks six languages, is the director of ACE McGill, the University's entrepreneurship club.*



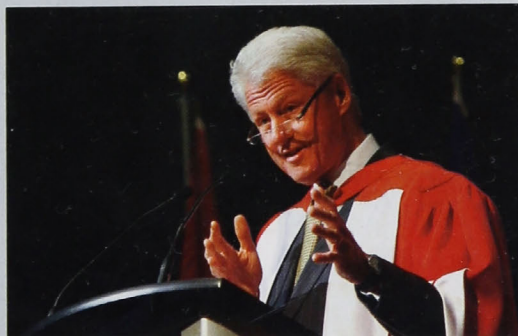
## TAKING A BREAK

*Between the scholarly sessions, participants mixed light refreshments with light relief. Campaign McGill co-chair Michael Meighen, BA'60, (left), Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Jonathan Birks, BA'67, share a laugh.*

## ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE



*The Leadership Summit concluded with the awarding of an honorary degree to former president Bill Clinton, here making the degree official, in the company of Principal Munroe-Blum and Board of Governors Vice-Chairman Kip Cobbett, BA'69.*



*Before an invited audience of 700 at a special ceremony, Mr. Clinton spoke for an hour, mostly without notes, about the need for a communitarian approach to fighting global poverty, illness and climate change.*



*Following the degree presentation, he took a few minutes to answer questions from students who hold Dahdahle-Clinton and Sauvè scholarships.*

# HONOURS & AWARDS BANQUET



McGill is blessed to have a fiercely loyal corps of alumni spread throughout the world. Each year, the McGill Alumni Association shines a spotlight on some of the graduates and supporters who have distinguished themselves—both for their own achievements and for the contributions they have made to the University. Here are some of the standouts who were saluted at the MAA's annual Honours and Awards Banquet on May 19.

PHOTOS BY CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

## REACHING OUT TO NEW ALUMS

Kendy Bentley, BSc(N)'71, (left) is shown with pals Lindsay Strachan Baker, BEd'80, and Jackie Fee, BA'71, coordinator of the Honours & Awards Banquet. Kendy, a Calgary businesswoman, received the Alumni-Student Engagement Award for years of volunteer service on behalf of students and young alumni in the Calgary area.



## YOUNG ACHIEVER

Melissa Sawyer, BA'98, flanked by proud parents Don and Jan, was the recipient of the James G. Wright Award. The prize, created in memory of consummate volunteer Jim Wright, BA'65, was presented to Melissa for her work with at-risk youth in New Orleans.





### PRIZED STUDENT

An excited Josh Vorstenbosch, BSc'04, received a Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Award for contributing to campus life. Awards should be old hat for him by now, as he has collected several for outstanding academic performance. Josh, who is pursuing a PhD in surgical research, has served on the Scarlet Key Society executive for four years, the last two as president.

# AWARD WINNERS

**AWARD OF MERIT**  
C. Gordon Lindsay, BEng'48

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**  
Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**  
H. Arnold Steinberg, BCom'54, LLD'00

**JAMES G. WRIGHT AWARD**  
Melissa Sawyer, BA'98

**CHARLES PETERS BRANCH OF THE YEAR**  
McGill Alumni Association of Boston

**CATHERINE NANCE COMMON PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
Jeremy Clark, BSc'98

**ALUMNI-STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARD**  
Kendrieth Bentley, BSc(N)'71

**EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
Lunenburg Reception and Dinner  
McGill Alumni Association of Nova Scotia

**D. LORNE GALES AWARD**  
Medicine Class of '81

**E.P. TAYLOR AWARD**  
Irving H. Fox, BSc'65, MDCM'67

**DAVID JOHNSTON AWARD**  
Saul Frenkiel, BSc'67, MDCM'71  
Don McLean

**FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ALUMNI EDUCATION**  
Nigel Roulet

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**  
Daniel Levitin

**GRETTA CHAMBERS STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
Grace Kim, BCom'09  
Ken Morin, BA'09  
Joshua Vorstenbosch, BSc'04



### WAY TO GO, MOM!

Samantha Levy shared a prize-winning evening for McGill's Boston branch with her mother, Deborah (Allen) Levy, BA'89. Branch president Deborah, a great volunteer board and an enthusiastic base of graduates earned Boston the Charles Peters Branch of the Year award.



### CHICKENED OUT

Also honoured at the banquet was Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, who was about to step down as McGill's chancellor. He was presented with the Special Recognition Award, for his decades of service to the University and to the Alumni Association, and for consuming more rubber chicken than any other volunteer—ever.



### THREE MEDICAL MUSKETEERS

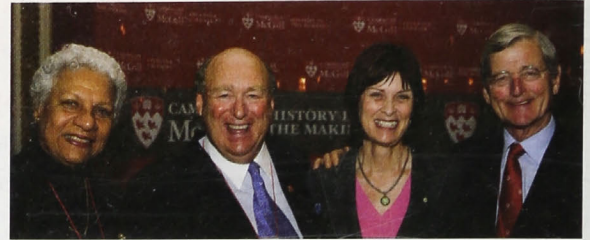
This trio of alumni is from the Medicine Class of '81, winners of the D. Lorne Gales Award. François Bertrand, MDCM'81, Nancy Epstein, MDCM'81, and Henry Olders, MDCM'81, were part of a close, friendly class that has stayed in touch since graduation. The class established a record with their 25th anniversary gift, raising close to \$110,000 for student aid.



## Weekend in Weimar

Red-hatted alumni, McGill parents and friends got together in Germany to hoist a few black beers—a specialty of the historic region—and the University flag.

(first row, l to r) Madeline Cathcart-Bohr, BA'71, Andrew Wood, BSc'64, MA'70, Bernhard Düchting, MSc'83, Bernd Kobert, Lise Middleton, BCom'82, (second row, l to r) Stefan Bohr, Sibylle Stossberg, BA'08, Ingrid Wood, Albrecht Kurbjuhn, BA'79, Georg Wittuhn, LLM'88, (third row, l to r) Harald and Antonina Graske, Frauke Wehmann, Wolfgang Schumann, Dip Epid&Bio'96, and Baldur Bujatzeck, MSc'98, PhD'08.



## Parliamentary People

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum wrapped up her worldwide whistle-stop tour close to home. After 18 months of trips to meet alumni around the globe, she visited Ottawa where more than 400 graduates and friends turned out, including Senators Anne Cools, BA'81, David Angus, BCL'62, and Michael Meighen, BA'60.

## All Docs on Deck



Graduates from the Medicine Class of '95 chartered a catamaran for a closer look at the Greek islands.

Pictured (l to r) are Craig Baldry, BSc'91, MDCM'95, Yasmine Mawji, BSc'89, MDCM'91, Peter Menikefs, MDCM'95, Sophia Ouhilal, MDCM'95, and Neal Mahutte, MDCM'95. Kneeling in front is Daniel Rosenstein, BSc'91, MDCM'95.



## GTA Get Together

The McGill Alumni Association is now offering welcome receptions for fresh graduates who are either establishing themselves in new cities or returning home. Members of this happy group got acquainted with each other at one such event held in Toronto this summer.

## Presidential Welcome

MAA President Bruce Dobby, BSc'76, DDS'81 (left), chats with Gerald A.P. Zion, BSc'70, DipEd'72, and Antoinette Carnevale, BA'71, at the Parents Tent. Set up by the Alumni Association during Orientation Week in August, the Parents Tent provides information and refreshments for families accompanying their children to McGill.



## Fit for their 40th

Phys Ed alumni from 1969 held a 40th anniversary class reunion in Montreal in August. The grads, some of whom travelled from Ireland and Florida to attend the two-day event, visited both the Macdonald and downtown campuses. Kinesiology and physical education professor Greg Reid treated them to a tour of McGill's sports facilities.

(l to r) Ruth MacLeod, BEd'69, Greg Reid, BEd'70, Eileen Cohen Myers, BEd'69, Kathy Pike, BEd'69, Arlene Harris Lane, BEd'69, Ellen Keane Dowling, BEd'69, Sue Cowan Robert, BEd'69, CertSecLang'86, MEd'92, Judy Chown Addie, BEd'69, and Steve Jackson, BEd'69.



TOM ALTANY

## Orchestrating the march of the Penguins

When **KEN SAWYER**, BSc'71, was asked by Pittsburgh Penguins part-owner Mario Lemieux to take over as the team's chief executive officer in 2006, he knew he'd have his work cut out for him.

To say that the Penguins were skating on thin ice at the time is an understatement; the City of Pittsburgh had put off building the team a much-needed new arena, fan attendance was dwindling and the franchise had been forced to file for federal bankruptcy protection. "The future of the organization was very much in doubt," Sawyer says. "We needed to shake off the negative aura, re-establish a fan base and develop a long-term plan for success."

If anyone could help Lemieux transform the financially frail franchise into a success, it was Sawyer. Before coming to Pittsburgh as the team's chief financial officer in 1999, Sawyer had spent 14 years as the National Hockey League's CFO, exercising control over all league fiscal matters.

After taking the reins in Pittsburgh, Sawyer worked relentlessly with local and state officials and business leaders to secure the funding needed for a new arena. He is now overseeing its construction, which is scheduled for completion by the 2010-11 season. According to the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, "it is because of Sawyer's largely behind-the-scenes efforts that the Penguins are in Pittsburgh today."

In 2006, Sawyer made another important contribution to the Penguins, hiring Ray Shero, the team's highly regarded general manager, who assembled much of the on-ice talent that has propelled the Penguins to back-to-back appearances in the Stanley Cup finals.

Of course, Sawyer and the Penguins also received a fair bit of luck from the hockey gods when they won the Sidney Crosby draft lottery in 2005, ensuring that the franchise would have the services of the most heralded player of his generation. The one bright spot associated with enduring several losing seasons was that the Penguins were able to secure high picks in the NHL's annual entry draft. The team used those picks shrewdly in selecting soon-to-be stars Evgeni Malkin, Marc-André Fleury and Jordan Staal. "We followed our plan to rebuild and we were able to draft a great group of young players," Sawyer says.

The result has been one of the greatest turnarounds in professional sports history. The Penguins have sold out every home game for the last three seasons—a first in team history—and TV ratings have soared through the roof. They topped off their impressive comeback this year by winning the Stanley Cup, clipping the Detroit Red Wings in seven games.

Earning sports' most storied trophy is a "dream come true" for Sawyer. "I've been in this business almost 40 years, and this is what I have worked for and aspired to achieve since my first day on the job," he says. "It is the ultimate feeling and it is better than anything you can possibly imagine."

So, what did Sawyer do on his day with the Cup? He brought it to his summer cottage in Lachute, in his home province of Quebec, for a party with friends and family. He even took it for a boat ride on the lake.

"I never thought I would ever have this opportunity," he says, "but life is full of surprises and sometimes takes you down unexpected paths."

GARY FRANCOEUR



FRANCIS YACHON

## From *Romper Room* to the boardroom

Generations of Canadians spent their preschool mornings waiting breathlessly for the lady on television to “see” them through her magic mirror: “I see Jenny, and Tommy, and Billy, and Dan...”

From the early fifties to the mid-nineties, *Romper Room* was as much a staple of the childhood diet as cereal and orange juice. And while the daily helping of distraction, entertainment and education provided a brief respite for parents, it was the magic-mirror ritual at the end of the show that captivated young viewers the most.

For three seasons, from 1977 to 1980, **DIANE IPPERSIEL**, BA’77, was the smiling face behind the mirror in the Kitchener-Waterloo studios of CTV affiliate CKCO.

She applied for the show during her final year at McGill and credits her time at the University with giving her the background and skills to be chosen from a field of 300 candidates. She had majored in English literature, took classes in communications and business, and even studied dance (what she calls “non-verbal communications”) at McGill.

“McGill was a wonderful experience, and it trained me for the job, apparently,” she says. “It was my first job and it was a dream job!”

After her stint on *Romper Room*, Ippersiel moved with her then husband to Quebec City, where she would raise a family and eventually get the itch to return to professional life.

“At that time, there was one English TV station and one English radio station in Quebec. There was no work for an anglophone,” she says. “Then I realized that my English skills could really benefit the commercial industry in Quebec.”

She spent the next decade running Ippersiel Communications, serving corporate clients in a francophone city gradually coming to terms with the need to speak English outside its borders. Then a new idea struck.

“A lot of these businesses wanted to penetrate markets in the rest of Canada and the U.S.,” she says. “What I said to them is that they need to speak the language.”

So, in 1993, she co-founded *Une Affaire d’Anglais*, a language school geared to the specific needs of francophone business people looking to make headway in an increasingly global marketplace where English is often *de rigueur*.

Using meeting-style classes that simulate the business environment, Ippersiel has built *Une Affaire d’Anglais* into a full-service language school and communications company that has made true believers out of clients like Louise Barrette, president and general manager of a human resources consulting firm.

Barrette, who has been taking weekly classes almost since *Une Affaire d’Anglais* was born, now rates her English as “between intermediate and the highest level” and credits Ippersiel and the school for making it easier for her to do her job. “I work up north sometimes and in the Ottawa region, so I have to know how to speak English.”

Ippersiel may no longer have access to a magic mirror, but she can still glimpse exciting challenges ahead in her future.

“There’s another wave of young business people coming up in Quebec City,” she says.

And with it, another generation to teach.

MICHAEL BOURGUIGNON

## AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

**MELVIN BARCLAY**, BSc(Agr)'64, was recently awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists. Melvin retired in 1996, after more than 41 years of service for the provincial government; 10 years as a teacher, 21 years as the officer-in-charge of the Bon Accord Elite Seed Potato Farm and 10-and-a-half years as district agriculturalist for Victoria County. Other awards received during his career include the Distinguished Services Award from the New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists, the James Robb Award (the highest honour given by the New Brunswick Federation of Agriculture) and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, awarded by the New Brunswick 4-H Council. He is also a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

Le 16 mars dernier, **YVES BOIS**, B. Sc. (Agr.) 1982, a été nommé directeur général du Centre de recherche, de développement et de transfert technologique acéricole inc. (Centre ACER), dont la mission est d'assurer le rayonnement et le développement international de l'industrie acéricole québécoise par le biais de la maîtrise technologique et des échanges scientifiques. Au cours des dernières années, M. Bois était directeur général d'un centre collégial de transfert de technologie. À ce titre, il était membre des conseils d'administration du Réseau Trans-Tech et de la Technopole Vallée du Saint-Maurice.

## ARCHITECTURE

**JOANNA MERWOOD-SALISBURY**, MArch'95, is an assistant professor in



**JESSALYN GILSIG**, BA'93, plays the role of the conniving, crafts-addicted Terri Schuester in the television series *Glee*. The *New York Times* credits *Glee* with "a strong satiric pulse that doesn't diminish the characters' identities or dim the showmanship of a talented cast." Jessalyn has played recurring characters in several other shows, including *Friday Night Lights*, *Heroes*, *CSI:NY* and *Nip/Tuck*. Jessalyn is also a painter and some of her works appeared in the 2003 film *The Station Agent*, as the artwork of Patricia Clarkson's character.

the department of architecture, interior design and lighting at Parsons The New School for Design. Her new book, *Chicago 1890: The Skyscraper and the Modern City* (University of Chicago Press), examines the emergence of Chicago's first skyscrapers and how they fostered an urban culture that spread across the U.S.

## ARTS

**MARGARET CATHCART**, BA'39, MEd'73, marks her 70th anniversary with McGill this year. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Margaret and her family moved to Montreal. As one of the 200 women living in the Royal Victoria College Residences, Margaret enjoyed some wonderful friendships. Following graduation, Margaret began working at a bank—with so many men fighting in the Second World War, there was a shortage of workers and newfound opportunities for women. After nearly a decade working at the bank and another 13 years as a stay-at-home mother for her three children, Margaret returned to McGill to complete her master's degree in education. She then took up her next career, teaching seventh graders in Montreal. Margaret now resides in Toronto.

**LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY**, BA'49, MA'50, is the author of three books published in 2009. *Last Days: The Apocalypse, The Messiah, The Rapture, The Last Judgment* surveys end-of-the-world history and literature from many cultures. *Mexico: The Smart Traveler's Guide to All the Names* supplements tourist guide books by providing travelers insights into the country's names and place names. A former president of the American Name Society, Leonard has also published the 800-page *Language in Action*, which combines onomastics (the origins of names) with geolinguistics (who speaks what languages where and what this means for culture, commerce, politics, etc.).

**FRANKLIN TOKER**, BA'64, a professor of the history of art and architecture at the University of Pittsburgh, is the author of *Pittsburgh: A New Portrait* (University of Pittsburgh Press), a lavishly illustrated book that explores the colourful neighbourhoods and extraordinary architecture that have helped earn Pittsburgh the title of "America's Most Livable City." Franklin is a past president of the Society of Architectural Historians.

**RICHARD H. MASLAND**, MA'65, PhD'68, has been presented with the 2010 Proctor Medal, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's (ARVO) highest honour. Richard is the director of the Howe Laboratory and associate chief for ophthalmology research at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He is being honoured for his research with the neurome of the retina, an attempt to specify all of the cell types that underlie the retina's processing of information. Among his awards are the Hoopes Prize and Irving M. London awards, both for excellence in teaching, and the Brian Boycott Prize for research on the retina.

**SEYMOUR MAYNE**, BA'65, is the 2009 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian



**DAVID THEODORE**, BA'91, BSc(Arch)'94, BArch'96, MArch'01, was one of 15 doctoral students from Canada to receive Trudeau Scholarships from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation this year. Each scholarship, worth about \$60,000 a year for up to four years, is awarded to a doctoral candidate pursuing research of compelling present-day concern. David's work on hospital environments examines the intersecting histories of architecture, medicine and technology. Currently pursuing his PhD at Harvard University, David is one of three McGill graduates to receive Trudeau Scholarships this year (please see our section on law graduates).

Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award, given by the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS). The award recognizes Seymour's lifetime achievement in literary scholarship, poetry and translation as well as his central role in the founding and directing of the Vered Program in Canadian Jewish Studies at the University of Ottawa. His recent books include *Reflejos: Sonetos de una palabra* and *Les pluies de septembre: poèmes choisis 1980-2005*. He also co-edited *Pluriel: Une anthologie, des voix/An Anthology of Diverse Voices*.

**JAMES BARTON LOVE**, BA'68, has been appointed to the position of chair of the board of directors of the Royal Canadian Mint for a period of five years, effective April 23, 2009. He is currently chair of the board's governance and nominating committee. James is a partner in the law firm Love and Whalen in Toronto. Since 2002, he has served as chairman and chief executive officer of Legacy Private Trust. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992.

**SHERRILL E. GRACE**, MA'70, PhD'74, has written a biography of playwright Sharon Pollock titled *Making Theatre: A Life of Sharon Pollock*. The biography won the Ann Saddlemyer Book Prize for 2008. The award is given by the Canadian Association of Theatre Research.

**EMMANUEL HADZIPETROS**, BA'77, is the author of *Architecting EDI with SAP Idocs*, a new book published by SAP Press that describes the design and development of an enterprise-scale Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system for an imaginary Hollywood studio. The book is a resource for managers, developers and consultants engaged in building or maintaining a large-scale SAP EDI system for businesses that buy and sell goods through computer systems. Emmanuel has been an SAP consultant for more than 15 years and has worked on projects in Europe, Asia and North America, most recently in the entertainment industry in southern California.

**AUDREY LAWRENCE**, BA'77, has been appointed the executive director of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada. Audrey's previous positions include director of education for the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists and senior health policy advisor for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

**JANET SPIEGEL**, BA'80, is proud to announce that her mother, Corinne Heather Copnick, was awarded a finalist designation at the 2009 Indie Book Awards for her novel *Cryo Kid* ([www.cryokid.com](http://www.cryokid.com)). Janet is currently living in Los Angeles and enjoying building her businesses. Gen Plus

([www.GenPlusUSA.com](http://www.GenPlusUSA.com)) helps small companies develop their online footprint, while Pooch Buddies ([www.PoochBuddies.com](http://www.PoochBuddies.com)) is a premier pet services company, based in the San Fernando Valley. Janet's daughter, Samantha, is now in grade four.

**PETER MACARTHUR**, BA'81, has been appointed director general for the Global Business Opportunities Bureau at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa. He is responsible for the development and delivery of integrative commercial strategies for industry sectors of priority interest to Canada globally. From 2004 to August 2009 Peter served as senior trade commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo. Peter and wife Karen have two teenage children. He can be contacted at [petermacarthur@hotmail.com](mailto:petermacarthur@hotmail.com).

**GRANT MCCREA**, BA'82, LLB'85, MA'86, published his second novel, *Drawing Dead*, with Random House. The third in the series, *Card Dead*, is in the works. He was also appointed to the "Panel of Distinguished Neutrals" of the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution. Grant now specializes in arbitrations and mediations.

**MARIAM S. PAL**, BA'82, MA'86, BCL/LLB'05, was appointed to the Immigration Appeals Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board's Montreal office.

**DANIEL COSTELLO**, BA'84, has been appointed Canadian ambassador to the Republic of Poland. He taught for several years at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Université François-Rabelais in Tours, France, before returning to Canada to serve as policy advisor and executive assistant to the director of policy and research in the Office of the Prime Minister, executive assistant to the minister of citizenship and immigration, and executive assistant (later chief of staff) to the minister of foreign affairs. He then returned to teaching at the University of Ottawa in the fall of 2004 prior to joining Foreign Affairs Canada in early 2005. He and his wife, Nathalie Zaquine, have two daughters, Clara and Mariane.

**ARIEL DELOUYA**, BA'84, has been appointed Canadian ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia and assumed his new responsibilities in August 2009. Ariel is accompanied to Tunis by his wife, **SARAH MEYER**, BA'85, and twin 12-year-old sons.

**CAROLINA WILLISHER**, BA'84, has been appointed associate vice-president, human



ALEXANDRA PETERS / MONGREL MEDIA

**JENNIFER BAICHWAL**, BA'90, MA'96, seen here with lightning strike survivor Dannon Brinkley, is the director of *Act of God*, a new documentary film that explores the paradox of being singled out by randomness by focusing on the stories of people hit by lightning. The *Vancouver Sun* describes the film as "a highly entertaining dash through the landscape of human meaning." Jennifer earned a Genie Award for Best Documentary in 2007 for *Manufactured Landscapes*, her film about photographer Edward Burtynsky.



MARK MARVANOVICH

**CHRIS LUEDECKE, BA'98**, a self-described banjo songster, won the 2009 Juno Award for Solo Roots and Traditional Album of the Year for his CD *Proof of Love*. Adopting the persona of Old Man Luedecke when he performs, Chris studied English literature at McGill, where his love for both the banjo and his future wife developed. He has shared the stage and studio with such musical icons as Feist, the Be Good Tanyas, Corb Lund, Joel Plaskett, Kris Kristofferson, Jill Barber and Buck 65. Chris managed to record *Proof of Love* in just a couple of days at the Factory Studio in Vancouver.

resources, of Concordia University. In this role, Carolina will head the human resources function at Concordia. She arrives from Carleton University in Ottawa, where she had been director of human resources since February 2004.

**MARINA BOULOS-WINTON, BA'86**, DipMgmt'90, has been named the new president and chief executive officer of the Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM). She has been pursuing a career in philanthropy and volunteerism for over 20 years, serving at different points as the executive director of Tel-Aide and Le Bon Dieu dans la Rue in Montreal. Marina was also the director of major gifts for United Way of New York City, president and CEO of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation and the first executive director of the High Water Women Foundation.

**ADEEB KHALID, BA'86**, has been appointed the Jane and Raphael Bernstein Professor of Asian Studies and History at Carleton College. His book *Islam After Communism: Religion and Politics in Central Asia* was awarded the 2008 Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Adeeb serves on the editorial boards of several journals and, in 2004, was elected president of the Central Eurasian Studies Society.

**MATTHEW FARFAN, BA'87, MA'91**, is pleased to announce the release of his latest book, *The Vermont-Quebec Border: Life on the Line*. Published by Arcadia, the book uses text and early photography to chronicle the history of the international boundary separating Vermont from Quebec's Eastern Townships. The book, which focuses on the towns and villages on either side of the line, and on the people that inhabit them, is available through most bookstores. For a signed copy, email mf@qahn.org

**JACOB WISSE, BA'87**, has been appointed director of the Yeshiva University Museum. Jacob, a tenured associate professor, has been head of the art history program at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University since 2005. He will continue to teach art history at Stern College, where he was named Lillian F. and William L. Silber Professor of the Year in 2005. His book, *City Painters in the Burgundian Netherlands*, will be published by Brepols Press in 2009. Jacob is a member of the College Art Association, the American Association of Museums and the Historians of Netherlandish Art, for which he serves as field editor for 14th- and 15th-century books. He lives with his wife and daughter in Manhattan.

**ROMY SHILLER, BA'88**, is a pop culture critic in Montreal with a PhD in drama from the University of Toronto. Her new book, *Again*, combines an academic exploration of reincarnation with real-life experiences. The book is currently available to order online at [www.trafford.com/08-1001](http://www.trafford.com/08-1001) and Amazon.com.

**RICHARD ASHOK COUTINHO, BA'89**, resumed his position as counsel for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General after a year studying international law at the University of Cambridge as a junior fellow at Wolfson College. He worked at the Constitutional Law Branch before returning to the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. Richard can be reached at [richard.coutinho@post.harvard.edu](mailto:richard.coutinho@post.harvard.edu).

**SARAH GUALTIERI, BA'90**, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure in both the department of history and the department of American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California. She recently published a book entitled *Between Arab and White: Race and Ethnicity*

*in the Early Syrian American Diaspora* (University of California Press). Sarah was awarded the Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies in 2008.

**NAIRNE HOLTZ, BA'90, MA'93, MLIS'95**, has written a new book, titled *This One is Going to Last Forever* (Insomniac Press). Her first book, *The Skin Beneath*, won the 2007 Alice B. Award for Debut Lesbian Fiction, and was a finalist for the 2007 McAuslan Quebec First Book Prize. Her latest book is a collection of short stories and a novella about students working at the *McGill Daily*.

**ANGIE MCARTHUR, BA'90**, and her husband David Peck, along with a small team of specialists, have created Dweeber.com, the first social networking site designed to facilitate student homework collaboration. Dweeber not only enables students to solve problems together, but also to participate in virtual study sessions and to communicate with friends concerning schoolwork in a variety of ways. With tools such as Dweeber's collaborative whiteboard, students can create joint drawings and diagrams, useful in subjects such as geometry and science. The site was launched in April 2009.



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**LESLEY ANNE WADE-WOOLLEY, MA'90**, has been promoted to the rank of full professor in the faculty of education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Lesley is cross-appointed to the department of psychology and can usually be found working with her honours and graduate students in the reading research lab. When not being Dr. Wade-Woolley or riding around town on her yellow Vespa, Lesley is busy being life-companion to **STU WOOLLEY, BA'71, MA'79**, and mother to 15-year-old Eve. (Eve has her sights set on McGill for 2011.)

**MAFALDA AVELLINO, BA'91**, has been appointed executive director for the York Regional Police Board. Mafalda, who has a master's degree in criminology from the University of Toronto, has worked as an investigator with the Ontario Human Rights Commission and as a research consultant with the Guelph Police Service, First Nations Chief of Police Association and Human Resources Development Canada. She also developed a community policing training manual for the South African Police Service.

**SCOTT MITIC, BA'92**, a former president of the Students' Society of McGill University, has written a new book, *Stopping Identity*

*Theft*. The book offers 10 steps towards reducing the risks of falling prey to identity thieves who ring up debts and commit crimes using other peoples' names. Scott is the CEO of Trusted ID, Inc.

**ITAI SNEH, MA'92, LLB'93**, was promoted to associate professor of history at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, part of the City University of New York. This promotion follows the publication of his book *The Future Almost Arrived: How Jimmy Carter Failed to Change U.S. Foreign Policy* (New York: Peter Lang Publishers, Volume 5 of the International Relations Studies Series, 2008). Itai's book in progress, *Torture Through the Ages*, is under contract with the Praeger division of Greenwood Press.

**TRISTAN JAMES MABRY, BA'93**, has moved from the department of government at Georgetown University to a new joint position at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. The mouthful known as "Joint Foreign Area Officer Skills Sustainment Pilot Program" is a new effort by the Pentagon to provide advanced education in cultures and languages to the military equivalent of the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service. This includes all four ser-

vices—army, navy, marines and air force. Tristan now lives in Carmel, California, with his wife Holly and two toddling daughters, Riley and Averil.

**DAVID A. MESSENGER, BA'93**, has published his first book, *L'Espagne Républicaine: French Policy and Spanish Republicanism in Liberated France* (Sussex Academic Press). He is an assistant professor of history at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, where he lives with his wife Maureen Walker and two sons Will (born 2003) and Jack (born 2006). He can be contacted at [dmesseng@uwyo.edu](mailto:dmesseng@uwyo.edu).

**BERKELEY S. SCOTT, BA'93, MBA'03**, has been appointed senior vice president of global accounts & business development for Harris Interactive, a global leader in custom market research. Previously, Berkeley was senior vice president of financial services of TNS-Kantar, part of WPP. He has held various senior research and P&L roles, including director of financial services and economist at J.D. Power Asia Pacific, director of strategy & research at AIG Japan and senior manager for business intelligence at United Healthcare.

**MEGAN MCDOWELL STANG, BA'94**, and her husband Mike welcomed Madeleine Sally to the world on February 24. She also



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successfully defended her dissertation to complete a doctoral degree in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University this spring.

**VIRGINIE RAGUENAUD**, BA'94, is the author of *Bilingual by Choice: Raising Kids in Two (or more!) Languages* (Nicholas Brealey Publishing). Virginie is raising bilingual twin girls and working on her master's degree in intercultural relations with a focus on the identity development of bilingual and multicultural children. Her book provides activities, games and insights designed to teach kids more than one language and to help them retain those language skills as they grow.

**KRISTIN ANDREASSEN**, BA'95, is one-third of the modern folk and string band *Sometimes Why*, which recently released its new album, *Your Heart is a Glorious Machine*, on Signature Sounds. According to *Elmore* magazine, the group "makes mature music with sultry, impulsive joy, harmonizing on deeply personal songs that have a fresh, feminine focus." Kristin is also a member of the bluegrass and old-time music band Uncle Earl.

**RICH LATOUR**, BA'95, has been appointed executive producer of *On the Money with Carmen Wong Ulrich*, a daily personal finance show on CNBC. Previously, Rich spent 12 years at NBC Nightly News, most recently as a senior producer. He lives in New York City with his wife, Deirdre.

**GUILLAUME LEGROS**, BA'95, is living and working for CIDA in Kyiv with spouse Karine Vincent and daughter Zoya.

**BELINDA LYONS-NEWMAN**, BA'95, and Dan Newman announce the birth of their daughter, Ella, in Berkeley, California. Belinda is the executive director of the Mental Health Association of San Francisco. Dan is the executive director of MAPLight.org, a nonpartisan non-profit group illuminating the connection between money and politics. Belinda can be contacted at belindasf@gmail.com.

**PATRICK MCWHINNEY**, BA'95, was recently nominated as a 2009 Young Global Leader (YGL), an honour bestowed by the World Economic Forum on 200 distinguished leaders under the age of 40 from around the world. He will be collaborating with other YGL members to develop, design and implement humanitarian initiatives to positively impact global change. Patrick is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Insight Partners and Insight Collaborative

SHANNON HANSEN



**MARK KUPPERT**, BA'06, **RICHARD YANOFSKY**, BSc'04, **MDCM'09**, **MARK SHORTT**, BA'06, **TED SUSS**, BA'09, (pictured, left to right), and David Buzaglo (not in the photo) are the founding members of Lovely Feathers, a Montreal-based indie music band that was formed when most of its members were pursuing degrees at McGill. The band has toured with Metric and its music has been featured on the TV shows *MTV Live* and *One Tree Hill*. Lovely Feathers released its latest album, *Fantasy of the Lot*, this summer. *Vue Weekly* describes it as "a thoroughly enjoyable listen, dripping with cynical irony and easy beats." Richard recently left the band to pursue his medical career.

and provides consulting and training services to corporate executives, professionals and government officials worldwide. He is a special advisor to the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

**JACOB M. BROSTOFF**, BA'96, shared the win for the prestigious International Federation for Housing and Planning Young Planners Award. His team's concept, másTransit, was originally developed for the Southern California Institute of Architecture's "A New Infrastructure: Innovative Transit Solutions for Los Angeles" competition, and won first place there in March 2009. The másTransit team proposes a regional high-speed rail for Los Angeles that would bypass roadway congestion by using a new raised infrastructure.

**JASON SZABO**, MA'98, PhD'04, is a medical doctor and historian involved in AIDS care and clinical research at the McGill University Health Centre's Montreal General Hospital. His new book, *Incurable and Intolerable: Chronic Disease and Slow Death in Nineteenth Century France* (Rutgers University Press), looks at the history of incurable illness from a variety of perspectives, including those of doctors, patients, families, religious counsel and policy makers.

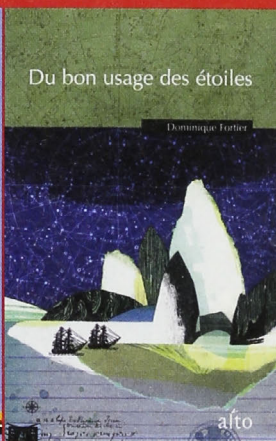
**ALEXANDRE V. BEAULIEU**, BA'99, is the founder and managing director of TBWA/DJAZ, representing the world's fifth largest advertising network, in Algiers, Algeria. After his graduation, he completed a master's degree at HEI in Geneva and went on to work and live in seven different countries before settling in Algeria at the beginning of 2002. TBWA/DJAZ provides full communications services to multinationals and local companies in Algeria and North Africa, and is ranked among the seven top agencies in the country. Alexandre is also the co-founder (with **VAHID FOTUHI**, BA'99) of the "Under 40 Club" of young managers and entrepreneurs in Algeria.

**ALVIN CHUNG**, MA'99, recently received the Ketchum Hong Kong Award of Excellence for outstanding achievements in client servicing in the corporate communications field. Alvin is currently a senior account manager at the Asia-Pacific/Greater China headquarters (Hong Kong) of top-10 global PR agency Ketchum. Last year Alvin married **PAOLA CARROZZA**, MA'99, in Hong Kong.

**SHAUN REIN**, BA'00, is now in his seventh year in Shanghai. He founded the China Market Research Group ([www.cmrconsulting.com.cn](http://www.cmrconsulting.com.cn)), a strategic market intelligence



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Nouvelles



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*Le Discours  
sur la tombe de l'idiot*



José Corti

Trois des cinq finalistes pour les Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2009, section romans et nouvelles de langue française, sont des diplômées du Département de langue et littérature françaises de McGill. **NADINE BISMUTH** (B.A. 1997) est en lice pour sa collection de nouvelles satiriques et psychologiquement chargées intitulée *Êtes-vous mariée à un psychopathe?* (Éditions du Boréal). **DOMINIQUE FORTIER** (Ph. D. 2003) est pressentie au titre des lauréats pour *Du bon usage des étoiles* (Éditions Alto), un récit romancé de l'expédition, vouée à l'échec, de Franklin dans l'Arctique au XIXe siècle. Pour sa part, **JULIE MAZZIERI** (Ph. D. 2005) est en lice pour *Le Discours sur la tombe de l'idiot* (Éditions José Corti), une étude de personnages aveuglés par les mesquineries quotidiennes dans leur entourage. Le nom de la gagnante, à qui sera remise la somme de 25 000 dollars, sera annoncé le 17 novembre prochain.

firm, four years ago and is now expanding despite the financial crisis. Shaun's son, Tom Richardson Rein, is now two and is speaking in both Mandarin and English. Shaun regularly contributes articles to both *BusinessWeek* and *Forbes*. He is always happy to catch up with fellow McGillians who swing through China. Shaun can be contacted at [shaunrein@reserachcmr.com](mailto:shaunrein@reserachcmr.com).

**DIANE GANONG**, BA'01, will receive the Canadian Red Cross 2009 Humanitarian Award for New Brunswick. Diane is a charity organizer, business leader and retired nurse. She chairs the innovative Extra-Mural Hospital, a New Brunswick-wide project enabling patients to remain at home longer rather than entering nursing homes. Diane is also a former provincial chairwoman and national president of UNICEF Canada. She remains an active volunteer and is the director of Ganong Bros. Ltd., a chocolate and confectionery manufacturer.

**JEREMY KUZMAROV**, BA'01, MA'02, has been appointed assistant professor and Jay Walker Chair in American History at the University of Tulsa. He is leaving his position as a visiting professor of American history at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. His recent book, *The Myth of the Addicted Army: U.S. Foreign Policy in Vietnam*, was published by University of Massachusetts Press. The book analyzes the links between the Vietnam War and the evolution of American drug policy. Jeremy is currently working on a new book about the CIA.

**MELISSA KARMEN LAM**, BA'03, has published her first book, *Disenfranchised from America: Reinventing Language and Love in Nabokov and Pynchon*. The book explores the ways in which Vladimir Nabokov and Thomas Pynchon manipulate the fictional strategies of a novel in order to de-familiarize our perceptions of everyday objects and people. Melissa is a faculty member in the English department at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She specializes in contemporary literature and is currently working on her next book project, on the

subject of Chinese magical realism and the Asian diaspora.

**SARAH HOPGOOD**, BA'04, graduated from Parsons The New School of Design in New York City in 2006. Afterwards, she joined luxury apparel company Ports 1961's design headquarters in China. After two years of designing for Ports 1961 collections, she was named the head of Ports 1961 "Fait Main" collection of one-of-a-kind evening gowns. Her designs have been worn by Angelina Jolie, Molly Sims, Ali Larter, Sophia Bush, Marg Helgenberger and Katharine McPhee. For the past year, Sarah has been working for Ports 1961's sister company of domestic luxury apparel in China, Ports International. As senior designer, her designs have been available in more than 400 stores across China and Hong Kong.

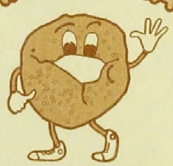
**CLÉA DESJARDINS**, BA'05, has been appointed communication advisor at Concordia University's faculty of engineering and computer science. She will advise the faculty on communications, including media relations, internal communications, marketing and advertising and the faculty's web presence. Previously, Cléa was communications and donor relations associate for the McGill University Health Centre Foundation.

**MATHIEU GOBEIL**, BA'05, has won the 2009 Bourse Fernand-Seguin prize for science journalism, awarded by the Association des communicateurs scientifiques du Québec and Radio-Canada. As part of the prize, Mathieu received \$12,000 as well as a three-month internship at a Radio-Canada-hosted science news program, along with other internship opportunities. The article that Mathieu wrote to deserve this honour is titled "Des parasites plein les oreilles."

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**CALLUM CAMPBELL**, BA'06, was one of 12 recipients of the 2009 MusiCounts Fred Sherratt Award. The award recognizes and celebrates the academic excellence, talent and superior leadership skills of graduating students selected from music and recording arts and sciences programs across Canada. Callum recently graduated from the Trebas Institute in Entertainment Management. This fall he starts his law degree at Dalhousie University and plans on practising entertainment law upon graduating.

**SAMUEL ZEEV KONIG**, BA'06, has joined the National Jewish Campus Life team in the capacity of national director. After graduation from McGill, he became the Hillel advocacy coordinator at Concordia University. For his outstanding contribution to community and campus life in Montreal, Samuel was the recipient of the Jon Roskies Award for New Leadership from the Montreal Federation CJA. In September 2007, he moved to Ottawa to attend Carleton University, while also working as the Hillel Ottawa advocacy coordinator. This past year, Samuel was an executive member of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students as well as an executive board member of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy's university outreach committee.

**CASEY COLLINS**, BA'07, and **LAURA DEAN**, BA'07, founded *The Lemon Life* ([www.thelemonlife.com](http://www.thelemonlife.com)), a new online magazine offering a fresh perspective on post-grad life. With the current state of the economy and growing unemployment rates, *The Lemon Life* is an interactive and informative online community geared to help post-grads achieve the life they want to lead.

**RANDY PINSKY**, BA'07, and **MARIAN PINSKY**, BA'07, were both recently hon-



**ERIK SLUTSKY**, Med'92, a Montreal artist and illustrator, was recently featured in the first online edition of *Tikkun Magazine*. Erik's work can be found in several public, private and corporate collections including those of the Banque Nationale, Dresdner Bank, Mercantile Bank, the Government of Quebec, Ultramar, Teleglobe Canada, Sheraton Hotels and United Steel. His art has been exhibited in the U.S., France, Israel, Germany and Cyprus. Erik has taught painting and drawing at many Montreal educational institutions. Though he spends most of his time on his own artwork now, he does still offer a few private art classes. He can be reached at [erik4art@videotron.ca](mailto:erik4art@videotron.ca).

oured with the Lieutenant-Governor Youth Medal for academic achievement, social activism and mentorship of youth. Since their graduation from McGill, they have remained committed to the ideas of social activism. They have launched a number of benefit concerts with the Starburst Entertainers performance troupe they co-founded. Their most recent endeavour is co-organizing a public workshop series with the Social Justice Committee of Montreal on the subjects of Third World debt and social activism. Both are students at Concordia University; Marian is working on a master's degree in sociology and Randy is in the honours program of political science.

**SEAN SLOAN**, MA'08, has been awarded a 2009 Lindbergh Foundation grant in plant conservation. Sean's work will be using satellite imagery and census data to examine how socio-economic development encourages forest regeneration in Panama. The results of this study will be used to inform public policymakers in Panama about how social trends might be harnessed and redirected to protect and expand forest cover as well as alleviate poverty. Sean was

chosen from 133 applicants and received one of eight Lindbergh grants awarded so far this year.

## DENTISTRY

**MERVYN GORNITSKY**, BSc'51, DDS'53, has been appointed emeritus chief of the Jewish General Hospital's department of dentistry. This is the first appointment to this position. After having practised clinical oral surgery for 50 years, he is now devoting his time to research. Mervyn has been awarded an operating grant from CIHR as principal investigator for his research titled "Oral Manifestations of Scleroderma and the Impact on Quality of Life." He is also the recipient of a grant from the Canadian Scleroderma Society for a study titled "Altered Salivary Redox Homeostasis in Patients with Scleroderma." Mervyn is a professor emeritus of the McGill Faculty of Dentistry.

## EDUCATION

**BRUCE GRAVEL**, BEd'79, has just published his first novel *Inn-Sanity: Diary of an Innkeeper Virgin*. Incorporating hundreds of true-life incidents (such as a horse in a motel room and an exploding pool) from actual innkeepers, the light-hearted novel chronicles the crazy first year of two middle-aged novice innkeepers. Bruce's humorous tales have appeared in the *Peterborough Examiner*, the *Globe and Mail* and *Maclean's*. In 2008, Bruce published *Humour on Wry, with Mustard*, a collection of 88 funny tales. Copies and sample chapters are available at [www.brucegravel.ca](http://www.brucegravel.ca).

**CLAUDINE BOILEAU**, BEd'80, is very proud of her second daughter, Isabelle, who is starting university studies at McGill.



**HARRY ROSEN**, DDS'53, is a McGill emeritus professor of dentistry and continues to teach at the Montreal General Hospital in the McGill Multidisciplinary Residency Program. He is also an accomplished sculptor who has been moving, splitting and fitting together rocks and boulders for almost five decades. He recently donated two of his works to McGill teaching hospitals, where they will be displayed prominently. His stone sculpture *Little Hercules* (pictured) is now located at the main entrance to the Montreal Children's Hospital, while *The Ascent* will grace the entrance to the Jewish General Hospital's Lady Davis Research Building.

Claudine wishes her to learn a lot and to have a good time, just like mom.

**LLOYD LAZAR**, BEd'86, is the representative of the Commonwealth Caribbean Region on the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport. The primary objective of this advisory body is to promote sport as a positive vehicle for nation building and human development, with an emphasis on youth. Lloyd received the Uldis Auders Memorial Award for academic and athletic excellence in 1985. He is currently the chairman of the Organization of Caribbean Administrators, Sport and Physical Education. Lloyd is a citizen of St. Kitts-Nevis in the Caribbean.

**AMEY DOYLE**, BEd'02, MA'05, has been appointed interim head coach of the McGill Martlets women's hockey team, the defending CIS national champions. Amey is a physical education teacher at Champlain College in St. Lambert, Quebec, and has also served as goaltender coach with the Dawson College Blues women's team.

**JOEL BERGERON**, BEd'05, is supervisor of custom sticks (his informal title is "stick doctor") with Bauer Hockey. He supervises production in China and assists the sales force from a technical expertise standpoint. His primary mandate is the NHL, which allows him to travel and to spend a lot of time with NHL athletes. Joel currently lives in Terrebonne Ouest.

## ENGINEERING

**FRANK KRUZICH**, BEng'63, MEng'67, has been selected to become a fellow of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. Established in 1986, these fellowships recognize members who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the mining, metallurgical and petroleum industries.

**SAM (SATYAN) BANSAL**, MEng'67, has written a new book *Technology Scorecards: Aligning IT Investments with Business Performance* (John Wiley). The book was written to help project managers learn how to establish key performance indicators and value scorecards for IT. The core theme of the book is based on Sam's research into enterprise optimization and business transformation. Sam has more than 40 years of field experience in the management of large and complex projects.

**ARUN S. MUJUMDAR**, MEng'68, PhD'71, was presented with a Platinum Award for outstanding academic achievements by the



MARIE-FRANCE COALLIER, THE GAZETTE (MONTREAL)

**DEREK WEBSTER**, DipEd'94, is the new managing editor of the Canadian version of *Reader's Digest*. Derek spent seven years overseeing *Maisonneuve* as the Montreal-based literary magazine's founding editor. In that time, *Maisonneuve* garnered several major awards, including Magazine of the Year from the National Magazine Awards in 2005 and Magazine of the Year from the Canadian Society of Magazine Editors in 2006. *Reader's Digest* and its French-language counterpart, *Sélection du Reader's Digest*, are Canada's most popular magazines, with a combined paid circulation of 1.2 million copies.

Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai, India. A new chair was established at the institute in his name with industry sponsorship. He was awarded an honorary degree by Lodz Technical University (Lodz, Poland) in 2008 for his contributions to research and development in heat and mass transfer. Arun is a professor of mechanical engineering at the National University of Singapore and director of its Mineral, Metal and Materials Technology Centre.

**HUSSEIN ANIS**, MEng'70, PhD'73, has received the Taqdirya Award from the Egyptian government in recognition of his extensive research work in the areas of electric power, high voltage and electrical insulation engineering. Hussein is a professor of electrical engineering at Cairo University, where in the nineties he managed a World Bank project to develop engineering education in Egypt. Between 2002 and 2005 he was the vice-president of the Arab Open University (AOU), which operates programs on an open learning basis in seven Arab countries.

**VICTOR PAKALNIS**, BEng'72, MEng'76, was appointed Kinross Professor in Mining and Sustainability at Queen's University in January 2009. Prior to the appointment, he served in the Ontario Public Service (OPS) for 30 years as director in mining health and safety, industrial health and safety and regional director, eastern Ontario. He served on the board of governors of the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada, as vice-chair of the Quarter Century board of directors, and on the board of Minerva Canada, a non-profit organization working to manage health and safety in business and engineering schools across Canada. Victor received the

prestigious Amethyst Award from the OPS for excellence in public service in 2007.

**ANDRÉ IVANOV**, BEng'83, MEng'85, PhD'89, has been inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering as a fellow. The academy comprises many of the country's most accomplished engineers and the members of the academy are nominated and elected by their peers to honorary fellowships. André, head of the department of electrical and computer engineering at the University of British Columbia, is an expert and innovator in the field of the design and testing of very large scale integrated (VLSI) circuits. He is a fellow of the IEEE and was the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Contribution Award of the IEEE Computer Society Technology Technical Council for achievement of major value and significance to the IEEE Computer Society.

**FILIP PAPICH**, BEng'83, and his wife, Carol Schweykowsky, live in Montreal and have four kids. Stefan, 19, is studying management at McGill. Sasha, 18, and Nikki, 16, are at a prep school in the U.S. called Choate Rosemary Hall and both play football. Mishi, 13, attends The Study and is an accomplished competitor in tennis—she is currently ranked sixth in her age category in Quebec.

**KARINE SAINT-CYR**, MEng'99, and Bernard Juchet are happy to announce the birth of their second child, Laurence, born in Montreal in February 2009. She joins big sister Charlotte, who is now three.

**DANIEL E. WANG**, BEng'00, has co-authored a book titled *Hybrid Organizations: New Business Models for Environmental Leadership* (Greenleaf Publishing).

The book examines how innovative market-oriented and mission-centred organizations are paving the way for a new type of business that focuses on profits as well as social and environmental concerns. Dan has provided services to public, private- and nonprofit-sector clients across the world on a range of issues—from developing sustainability strategies for multinational corporations to writing business plans for national parks. He currently works in Toronto for Deloitte & Touche LLP in their corporate responsibility and sustainability practice.

**SACHA NANDLALL**, BEng'07, has been awarded funding from the Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund for the 2009-2010 academic year. The CCSF provides awards ranging from £500 to £3,000 to Canadian men and women for academic and artistic study in the U.K. Sacha is pursuing his graduate studies in engineering at the University of Oxford.

## LAW

**HOWARD GRIEF**, BA'61, BCL'64, has published a book titled *The Legal Foundation and Borders of Israel Under International Law* (Mazo Publishers, Jerusalem). He was a practising attorney in Montreal for 23 years before moving to Israel. Howard once served as international law advisor to the Israeli minister of energy and infrastructure on matters pertaining to the Jewish legal rights to Israel under international law. An excerpt from the book can be found at [www.mazopublishers.com](http://www.mazopublishers.com).

**MICHAEL LEVINSON**, BCL'64, was appointed by the Quebec government to a three-year mandate, that commenced on December 1, 2008, as a commissioner on

the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec. Previously, Michael worked for 38 years as a real estate lawyer at McCarthy Tétrault LLP in Montreal.

**IRWIN RUDICK**, BA'64, BCL'67, has been named president of the Lord Reading Law Society for 2009-2010. The society, founded in 1948, focuses on legal education, the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms and acts as the collective voice of Jewish jurists in Quebec.

**LEWIS KLAR**, BA'67, BCL'70, LL.M.'73, a law professor at the University of Alberta, was awarded the 2008 Honourable Tevie H. Miller Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching by a full-time member of the faculty of law.

**IAN M. SOLLOWAY**, BA'70, BCL'73, is the chair of the English-speaking section of the Bar of Montreal for 2009-2010.

**DAVID ALLSEBROOK**, MBA'80, LLB'83, BCL'84, has moved his intellectual property law practice to LudlowLaw in Toronto, to join his old friend Greg Ludlow. David will continue litigating and otherwise dealing with patents, trademarks, trade secrets, information technology, reputations and related matters. As counsel of record in more than 20 cases, a frequent speaker (including McGill's Meredith lectures) and the author of more than 20 published papers, David has become well known in his field. David has also sold his sailboat and is keenly auditioning replacement vices.

**MEG KINNEAR**, LLB'81, was elected as the secretary-general of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, part of the World Bank in Washington. Meg will be leaving her job as director general of Canada's Trade Law



**NICHOLAS KASIRER**, BCL'85, LLB'85, was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal of Quebec, the province's highest court. He had recently stepped down as the dean of McGill's Faculty of Law, a position he had held for five-and-a-half years. A specialist in Quebec private law, comparative law, family property law, law and language and legal theory, Nicholas began teaching at McGill in 1989, serving as the director of the Faculty of Law's Quebec Research Centre for Private and Comparative Law between 1996 and 2003.

TRUDEAU FOUNDATION



**JONAS-SÉBASTIEN BEAUDRY**, BCL/LLB'04, and **KATHRYN CHAN**, LL.M.'06, are among 15 doctoral students in Canada to receive prestigious Trudeau Scholarships from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation this year. Jonas-Sébastien is examining how certain social groups in Latin America might not be well served by standard human rights approaches, while Kathryn is looking into ways to modernize the law to better support or regulate voluntary and not-for-profit organizations in Canada. Both are currently based at the University of Oxford.

Bureau and moving to Washington with her son Chris, 20, and her daughter Kelly, 15. The ICSID aims to foster increased flows of international investment by providing a neutral international forum for the resolution of disputes between governments and foreign investors.

**RENÉE VÉZINA**, BCL'82, vice president, legal, of Oxford Properties Group, was presented, on May 13, 2009, with the Pro Bono Award by the Quebec chapter of the Canadian Bar Association. This award is given annually to a lawyer who has made an exceptional contribution to the community. Renée was selected for her volunteer work as founding president of the Montreal Real Estate Foundation for Kids. The foundation seeks to provide support for underprivileged, sick, or disabled children in the Montreal area in order to make a direct impact and meaningful improvement to their lives.

**LOUISE DULUDE**, LL.M.'85, recently obtained a PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Ottawa. Her thesis was on the effects of nicotine on concentration and on brain waves in schizophrenia patients.

**JOSEPH JOHN VARGA**, BA'87, CertProf-French'87, BCL'91, LLB'91, and his wife,



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Edith-Cecilia, were blessed with the birth of their first child, son Joseph-John, Jr on October 11, 2008. Joseph-John has been the professional and legal advisor for the McGill Association of University Teachers since 1994. He is also the class of '87 alumni representative for arts and science as well as the law alumni representative for the class of '91.

**ADELLE BLACKETT**, BCL'94, LLB'94, an associate professor of law at McGill, was sworn in as a member of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Québec on June 26 at the National Assembly. Adelle, an expert in labour law, trade law and international development, will serve a five-year term. A former official of the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, she continues to advise the ILO on standard setting for decent work for domestic workers.

**RON LEVI**, BCL'94, LLB'94, has been promoted to associate professor of criminology (with tenure) at the University of Toronto, and was appointed director of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

**MARTIN-PIERRE BOULIANNE** (B.C.L./L.L.B. 1995), son épouse, Judith Harvie, et leurs filles, Raphaëlle et Simone, sont heureux d'annoncer la naissance de Laurent le 1er mai 2009.

**HUGO CYR**, BCL'97, LLB'97, has authored a new book, titled *Canadian Federalism and Treaty Powers: Organic Constitutionalism at Work*. Using the Canadian federation as its starting point, this case study illustrates a range of factors to be looked at in the distribution of treaty powers within a federation. Hugo is a professor of public law and legal theory at the Université du Québec à Montréal and a member of the Quebec bar. He is a member of the Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la diversité au Québec (CRIDAQ) and vice president of the Chaire UNESCO d'étude des fondements philosophiques de la justice et de la société démocratique.

**DEANNA D.B. MATZANKE**, LLB'98, BCL'98, was appointed in February 2007 to the position of director, global employment strategies, in the global HR and communications function at Scotiabank. Prior to joining this Global HR group, she spent six years in the employment law group as in-house counsel at the bank, where she dealt with all aspects of the employment relationship. In her current role, she guides two teams of employees who focus on diversity and inclusion and HR policy and compliance. Her group deals with a wide range of employment strategies, including privacy, occupational health and safety, employment equity, human rights, as well as fostering and integrating the bank's global inclusion strategy for addressing diversity.

**LAURO GAMA JR.**, LLM'00, has worked as a full member of the working group for the preparation of the third and enlarged edition of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts, which is expected to be completed in 2010. As a practicing lawyer and law professor at the Pontifical University of Rio de Janeiro, Lauro is also involved with international arbitrations and contractual dealings, as well as his work at the International Law Association, where he is currently vice-president of the Brazilian branch.

**DAVID SIMON**, BCL'00, LLB'00, has been appointed interim head coach of the McGill men's soccer team for the 2009-2010 school year. David had served as the team's assistant coach and fitness coordinator for the past two years. He is a former all-star player with the Redmen, and also played soccer in the Quebec Elite League for a number of years, winning two Quebec Cup titles with the Lac St Louis Lakers in 2001 and 2002. He was head coach of the Longueuil senior elite men's team in 2005 and 2008. He earned coach-of-the-year honours in 2006 after directing the Lac St Louis Lakers under-18 boys team to a division title in the Quebec Elite League.



**CLAUDE MONGEAU**, MBA'88, is the executive vice-president of CN, which operates the largest rail network in Canada. Earlier this year, he was selected to succeed E. Hunter Harrison as CN's president and chief executive officer. He'll take on this new role on January 1, 2010. Prior to joining CN, Claude was a partner with Groupe Secor, a Montreal-based management consulting firm providing strategic advice to large Canadian corporations such as Bombardier and Bell Canada.

**PIERRE-ETIENNE SIMARD**, BCL'02, LLB'02, was chosen by the Quebec government as "young volunteer of the year" and was presented with the Claude-Masson Award in a ceremony on April 22, 2009, in Quebec City to mark his involvement in community life. Over the years, he served on more than 20 executive committees and boards of directors of various organizations, including the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal. Recently, Pierre-Etienne helped raise more than \$350,000 to create the Fasken Martineau Excellence Fund, which will be used to support both research and students at McGill's Faculty of Law.

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

**LEILA WALLENIUS**, MLIS'88, has become the new university librarian for Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. Previously she was the head of acquisition and bibliographic processing at the University of Windsor.

## MANAGEMENT

**BARBARA STANLEY SINCLAIR**, BA'52, BCom'54, has been awarded the Senior of the Year Award in recognition of outstanding and ongoing contributions to the Seniors Association Kingston Region. Barbara is a volunteer with the Seniors Association, putting her proofreading and accounting skills to good use. Her efforts have earned her the affectionate nickname "Miss Marple." In addition to her work for the Seniors Association, Barbara has been a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women for more than 50 years and treasurer of the Scholarship Trust Fund for the last 10 years.

**TERENCE BOWLES**, MBA'75, has been named one of the top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada by *Atlantic Business* magazine. He is currently the president and CEO of Iron Ore Company of Canada. The magazine honours Atlantic Canada's most accomplished business leaders. Winners of this award were selected from hundreds of nominations submitted by *Atlantic Business* magazine's readers and evaluated by a panel of judges comprised of business executives from around the region. Iron Ore Company of Canada is the country's largest iron ore producer.

**MARION KIRSH**, BCom'76, DPA'78, was

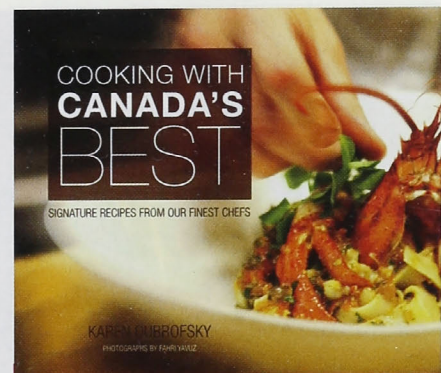
recently named a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. Marion is associate chief accountant at the Ontario Securities Commission. She previously worked with RBC Financial Group for 21 years. Her key roles at RBC included CFO Royal Trust, CFO RBC Insurance and chief accountant. Marion is chair of the board of directors of the Ontario division of the Canadian Cancer Society. She lives in Thornhill, Ontario, with her husband and three miniature poodles. Her son David is an astrophysicist and is engaged to be married this year to Amanda Schwartz, an anaesthesiologist. Her daughter Jennifer is a marketing director.

**YVES AUCLAIR**, BCom'82, DPA'83, has recently launched a real estate consulting firm based in Montreal. DESYX Capital Inc. specializes in the planning and execution of asset management and value maximization strategies for institutional real estate investors. His latest mandate is the asset management for a Montreal real estate portfolio owned by the Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan. Prior to starting DESYX Capital Inc., Yves held senior management positions with PSP Investments, the Caisse de dépôt et placements du Québec, GE Capital, MetLife, Standard Life, Equidev and Marcil Trust. Yves is married to **DOMINIQUE LABRECQUE**, BCom'80, and they live in the Montreal borough of Outremont with their three children.

**TILMAN DRIESSEN**, MBA'83, is organizing a project to modernize the local water and waste water utility in Annaba, Algeria, on Africa's Mediterranean coast. Tilman is the financial director for Gelsenwasser AG (Germany's leading water company). He is enjoying the beaches and the California-type climate in the north and the Sahara desert in the south, as well as utilizing the English and French he picked up during his time at McGill.

**BRIAN P. MACDONALD**, MBA'89, has joined Sunoco, Inc. as senior vice president and chief financial officer. Brian had been working at Dell, Inc., where he was CFO for the company's commercial business unit, overseeing all aspects of financial management. Prior to becoming CFO, Brian served as Dell's corporate Vice President and Treasurer.

**JEAN-FRANÇOIS COURVILLE**, BCom'91, has been appointed chief executive officer of MFC Global Investment Management (GIM). MFC GIM is the asset management



**KAREN DUBROFSKY**, BCom'82, crisscrossed Canada, collecting 90 recipes from top chefs at some of the country's most celebrated restaurants, for her new book, *Cooking With Canada's Best* (ECW Press). Proceeds from the book will go towards supporting autism research. Karen was the driving force behind a similar book, *Montreal Cooks*, which spent 43 weeks on the *Montreal Gazette's* bestsellers list and raised more than \$600,000 for the McGill University Health Centre's Women's Health Mission. Karen's fundraising efforts for the MUHC, all done as a volunteer, have helped raise more than \$1 million.

division of Manulife Financial and provides comprehensive asset management solutions for institutional investors, investment funds and individuals in key markets around the world. Previously, Jean-François was president and chief operating officer of MFC GIM.

**ANGELA HUANG**, BCom'92, a U.S. certified public accountant and former senior international tax manager, shares her personal experiences working at one of the Big Four global accounting firms in Canada in her new book, *The CPA Woman*. The book reveals Angela's secrets to success in public accounting in North America and aims to assist students and young professionals in choosing an accounting designation that best suits their needs.

**DEMETRIOS (JIM) STAMATOPOULOS**, BCom'93, DPA'95, and **EVANTHIA KARASSAVIDIS**, BCom'96, welcomed their second child, Louis Logothetis, in February 2009, who joins his three-year-old brother George Demetrios. Demetrios works for



**MOSTAFA ELHILALI, PhD'69**, pictured here with Quebec premier Jean Charest, was appointed an officer of the Order of Quebec in June. The immediate past president of the Société Internationale d'Urologie, Mostafa was also the recipient of the American Urological Association's Lifetime Achievement Award earlier this year. Others recently named to the Order of Quebec include **BRENDA MILNER, PhD'52, DSc'91**, the Dorothy J. Killam Professor at the Montreal Neurological Institute (as a grand officer), McGill principal **HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM**, Radio-Canada journalist **CÉLINE GALIPEAU, BA'80**, and Power Corporation chairman and co-CEO **PAUL DESMARAIS JR., BCom'77** (as officers), and former Quebec cabinet minister **ANDRÉ BOURBEAU, BCL'59** (as a knight). The Order of Quebec is the most prestigious distinction awarded by the Quebec government.

Fauteux Bruno Bussiere Leewarden Chartered Accountants in Montreal, where he practises as a business valuation consultant. Evanthia has been working as a senior consultant at a software company for the last 12 years.

**DANIEL THOMPSON, MBA'95**, recently became president and CEO of MacDougall, MacDougall and MacTier, Canada's oldest investment management firm (founded in 1849). Still independent after all these years and with offices in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, London and Kingston, 3Macs focuses on providing high quality investment advice to individual investors.

**RICHARD G. MCCREARY, MBA'97**, has been promoted to global head of CIBC World Markets, Mining Group. CIBC World Markets is a recognized leader in providing financing and advisory services to mining companies around the globe. Rick can be reached at rick.mccreary@cibc.ca.

**CAMERON TEDFORD, BCom'99**, is currently working for Voice on the Go, a start-up software company. Their technology helps people on the move, especially drivers, stay connected to their email. This new service allows users to speak, listen, compose and forward email without typing. When users send email/SMS by voice, the software converts their voice message into text. Cameron is also involved in some personal entrepreneurial activities; the biggest is another software company focused on media applications for BlackBerrys. He still plays golf, hockey and enjoys cooking and boating.

**CLARENCE (BOBBY) BOUTILIER, BCom'06**, of Deloitte & Touche LLP in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was recently awarded the Chartered Accountants of Canada regional Gold Medal for the highest standing in the Uniform Evaluation for the Atlantic Provinces. Bobby was officially recognized as

a medalist at the UFE graduation ceremony on February 14, 2009, in Halifax.

**ALIZA SHARFE, BCom'06**, graduated from the International University of Monaco in Monte Carlo on June 20, 2009, with a master's of science in luxury goods and services. She was also recognized as the class valedictorian. The intensive 10-month graduate program is similar to an MBA, but with a focus on the luxury sectors.

## MEDICINE

**DAVID MENDELSON, MSc(A)'61**, retired from his position as executive director of Montreal's Jewish Vocational Service (recently renamed Agence Ometz). He was recently named chair of the Quebec Employment Services Roundtable of Youth Employment Services in Montreal. The roundtable addresses the concerns of more than 25 English-language employment-service organizations. He authored an article which appeared in the Summer 2007 issue of the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service* titled "A Retrospective of Jewish Vocational Services As Viewed Through the Pages of the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*." The article documents the contributions of JVS professionals over the 82 years of the journal's publication.

**WILTON S. KEZALA, MSc(A)'72**, is currently an associate professor and principal of the International Institute of Health Sciences (IIHS) in Jinja, Uganda. He is also the founder of IIHS, which trains nurses for the Ugandan government and the world at large. Formerly, Wilton taught in several African universities and served as a World Health Organization (WHO) consultant in several African countries as well as in Geneva, Switzerland.

**JOHN NAPONICK, MDCM'73**, recently

became one of the very first inductees into the Norwin High School Sports Hall of Fame in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. John (the 6' 10" high-schooler was known as "Big John") led the Norwin basketball team to a Western Pennsylvania championship in 1963. In 1972, he accomplished the same feat at McGill, leading the Redmen basketball squad to a Quebec championship. He also spent a year as a pro football player in the Canadian Football League. A former medical director for Louisiana in the U.S., John is a specialist in maternal and reproductive health in Third World countries. He currently provides advice to the Cambodian ministry of health on training programs geared towards reducing maternal mortality.

**MURRAY REBNER, BSc'75, MDCM'80**, received the General Electric Healthcare Award from General Electric Medical Systems on February 11, 2008, in Royal Oak, Michigan. Murray is the co-director of the division of breast imaging and intervention at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and clinical associate professor of radiology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. The award recognizes his teaching, research and collaborations with industry in order to improve breast care for women.

**PERLE FELDMAN, BS'76, MDCM'80**, is delighted to announce that her daughter, **ALISON GLASER, BA'03, BCL/LLB'09**, graduated from McGill's Faculty of Law last spring, making her the third generation of McGill-educated professional women in the family. Perle was a member of McGill's Faculty of Medicine for more than 20 years. Her mother, **MALCA FELDMAN, BArch'53**, was, at that time, the only woman in the Faculty of Engineering and became one of the first practising female architects in Canada.

**VALERIE JAEGER, PhD'79, MDCM'82**, has been appointed acting associate medical



officer of health for Ontario's Niagara Region. Valerie will be responsible for providing medical guidance across public health programs and services, while supporting the medical officer of health and the medical team in providing public health leadership to the Niagara Region community. Valerie was named Family Physician of the Year for the Southern Region by the Ontario College of Family Physicians in 2006. She is the 2009 campaign chair for the United Way of St. Catharines & District.

**DAVID J. LEFFELL**, MDCM'81, has been appointed the David Paige Smith Professor of Dermatology at Yale University. He is a specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of melanoma and other skin cancers. David's research focuses on the molecular biology of basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma, wound healing and cancer epidemiology. He and his colleagues discovered the skin cancer gene, PTCH, in 1996. David is chief executive officer of the Yale Medical Group and has served as deputy dean for clinical affairs at Yale's School of Medicine since 2005. He is the founder of the cutaneous oncology unit, and the author of the book *Total Skin*, the text *Manual of Dermatologic Surgery* and more than 100 published articles.

**DAN POENARU**, Medical Resident'93, is presently working as a pediatric surgeon at Bethany Kids, Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, Africa. The hospital is the only rehabilitation facility of its kind in Kenya, dedicated to treating disabled children, refugees and victims of civil war. Together with **PATRICIA**

**SARAZEN**, BEd'93, the administrator of a Montreal bilingual children's choir called Éclats de Joie, Dan has raised funds through concerts to provide surgeries, send children to high school and feed 200 children of Eburu village in Kenya. Dan also serves as medical education director for Kijabe Hospital. His wife, **DITA POENARU** MSc(A)'86, is a nurse at Kijabe Hospital and works to raise the nursing standards through teaching and research.

**KEVIN ZORN**, MDCM'00, is an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Chicago who has just been appointed the chief of urology at Weiss Memorial Hospital. His research focuses on the surgical treatment of renal and prostate cancer. Other research interests include surgical, cancer-control and quality-of-life outcomes after radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer. He has published more than 85 peer reviewed articles and received awards for his clinical work, research and teaching from the Endourological Society. An expert in performing surgery with the DaVinci Surgical Robot System, Kevin helped develop and organize the University of Chicago Robotic Radical Prostatectomy Course, a symposium involving top international robotic surgeons.

## MUSIC

**BOB BACHELOR**, BMus'76, is the founder and musical director of the Lyric Theatre Singers, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2009-10. Recognized for its lively interpretations of Broadway, jazz and pop choral music, the ensemble is also chock full of McGill graduates. Performing to sold-out houses year after year, the Lyric Theatre Singers has won accolades for the unique concert style that Bob created, which combines award-winning choral work with effective staging. As well as an annual Broadway show, the group also offers a popular Christmas concert and community performances. For more info, visit [www.lyrictheatrecompany.com](http://www.lyrictheatrecompany.com) or email [lyrictheatre@linkinternat.com](mailto:lyrictheatre@linkinternat.com).

**CHRISTINE BECKETT**, LMus'79, MA'86, PhD'93, received tenure and is now an associate professor in the music department of Concordia University. Christine has been exploring relations between music and dance via rhythm and movement improvisations by dancers and drummers, recently giving talks at the Musical Body conference in London, England, and the 2009 conference of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition in Indianapolis. She has received a



**KATHRYN LAURIN**, BMus'80, is the new president of Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia. In taking on this new role, Kathryn has left Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, where she served for three years as its president and vice-chancellor. She was named one of *Atlantic Business* magazine's Top 50 CEOs for 2009.

grant to study perception of Irish traditional jigs and continues her work on music reading with Sylvie Hébert and other team members at the International Laboratory for Brain, Music and Sound Research.

**ALDO MAZZA**, BMus'79, Montreal percussionist and drummer, was honoured as a prominent Italian artist on April 22, 2009, at the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts. He was chosen as part of a select group of Italian artists who have made a significant contribution to the arts community. Aldo is the founder and artistic director of the KoSA International Percussion Workshop and Festival ([www.kosamusic.com](http://www.kosamusic.com)). He is a member of the internationally acclaimed Canadian percussion ensemble, Repercussion. Aldo has performed with artists such as James Brown, Chris de Burgh and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and has recorded with Céline Dion, Jon Bon Jovi, and Aldo Nova.

**TRISHA BARTLEY**, LMus'92, is practising law as a partner in private practice while continuing to play with Orchestra London and other area orchestras. She and her two daughters, ages 11 and 7, live in London, Ontario.

**COREEN MORSINK**, BMus'94, has organized the first composer/performer conference in Athens, Greece, for PhD students in cooperation with Goldsmiths, the University of London and St. Catherine's British School. The event will take place in early November and will include McGill students.

**MAJA TROCHIMCZYK**, PhD'94, published two books of poetry in 2008, *Miriam's Iris*, or *Angels in the Garden*, and *Rose*



OWEN EGAN

**LAMBERT CHEN**, DMus'08, has joined the Montreal Symphony Orchestra as associate solo viola. Lambert was one of four winners of the 2008 Sylva Gelber Music Foundation Awards for young Canadian musicians. He was also last year's recipient of the Faculty of Music's Golden Violin Award, the largest privately funded music scholarship in Canada.

*Always: A Court Love Story* (Moonrise Press). She is currently seeking submissions for an anthology of poetry called *Chopin in Poetry: A Tribute in Verse* due for publication in 2010. As a scholar, Maja has presented papers on music history and poetry at various international conferences. She is also a contributor of entries on music to the *Encyclopedia of Polonia* (Polish American Historical Association). Maja is also thriving in her second career as planning and research director for Phoenix House, where the total value of successful grant proposals has reached over \$40,000,000.

**LAURA BARRON**, DMus'96, has recently returned to live in Vancouver after almost a decade away, during which she held several professorships throughout the U.S. (including the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Northern Arizona University). Laura is now part of the Vancouver-based jazz ensemble Forbidden Flutes ([www.forbiddenflutes.com](http://www.forbiddenflutes.com)).

**PATRICIA ABBOTT**, MMus'00, recently stepped down as executive director of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities, a position she had held since 1993. She has been named artistic director of CAMMAC (Canadian Amateur Musicians/

Musiciens amateurs du Canada). She has been teaching for CAMMAC at the Lake MacDonald Music Centre since 1991. Patricia continues to conduct the English Montreal School Board Chorale, the Chorale du Gesù women's choir and the Cantivo Chamber Choir. She was guest conductor of the McGill University Chorus for the 2008-2009 season.

**ZACK LOBER**, BMus'00, is a former Montreal jazz bassist who has been based in New York City for the past four years. Zack is currently co-leading a band based in Brooklyn with **GREG RITCHIE**, BMus'01, called *The Story*. The band is touring eastern Canada this fall.

## SCIENCE

**THEODORE L. SOURKES**, BSc'39, MSc'46, has received the Lifetime Contribution Award 2009 from the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences. The award was given at the society's meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 2009. Theodore is a McGill professor emeritus in psychiatry.

**HAROLD KALTER**, MSc'51, PhD'53, is the author of the recently published *Mortality and Maldevelopment. Part 2, The Saga of Neural Tube Defects* (Springer, the Netherlands). Part one of the series, *Congenital Cardiovascular Malformations*, appeared in 2007. He served for 10 years as the editor of *Teratology, Journal of Abnormal Development*, the official publication of the Teratology Society, and for many years edited the annual publication *Issues and Reviews in Teratology*. Since retiring he has published five books. Harold is professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's department of pediatrics.

**BARBARA BOUDREAU**, BSc'61, won the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists' 2008 Family History Writing Contest. Her article on Florence Cubitt, subtitled "From Nudist to Dancer," has been published in the Spring 2009 issue of the organization's magazine, *MASSOG*.

**MILAN IHNAT**, BSc'62, PhD'67, has retired as a senior research scientist from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada after 37 years of service. His principal research interests were trace element analytical chemistry, emphasizing the development and application of reliable atomic spectrometric methodologies, and reference materials for quality control,

involving international collaboration. He has served on the first editorial board of the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*, and has authored and edited some 240 research, technical and other publications, including books. He resides in London, Ontario, with his spouse, Irene.

**GYAN CHANDRA SHRIVASTAVA**, PhD'62, returned to India after finishing his McGill degree and worked as deputy director at the Indian Institute of Cellular Biology in Calcutta. Gyan is now retired.

**PAT BUTLER**, BSc'65, is the co-author of *Write This Way: Getting Words to Drive Action* (Trafford.com). In a world that's inundated with words, the book argues for a reader-centred approach to writing. After all, readers approach all text with a WIIFM attitude—What's In It For Me? Pat worked for Toronto consulting firms for 15 years, most recently with Luminance Inc., a performance improvement company.

**SUSAN WOODBURY**, BSc'68, was awarded the Neil J. Campbell Medal for Exceptional Volunteer Service by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society at its annual congress in Halifax in June 2009. Susan is the president of Woodbury Management Solutions Inc. and the network manager of the Global Ocean-Atmosphere Prediction and Predictability Network (GOAPP) at Dalhousie University.

**CHRIS ORVIG**, BSc'76, teaches and researches medicinal inorganic chemistry as a professor of chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences at the University of British Columbia. In 2009, he won both the Rio Tinto Alcan Award (for inorganic chemistry or electrochemistry) from the Canadian Society for Chemistry, and the Bioinorganic Chemistry Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry in the U.K. The latter was presented during an associated lecture tour in the U.K. in October.

**CHARLES VINCENT**, MSc'80, PhD'83, was awarded the title "Commandeur de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole" during the Congress of the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec (OAQ) on June 5, 2009. This award is presented by the OAQ in recognition of exceptional services to agriculture. A few months earlier, he co-wrote a publication titled "Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Biological Control of Arthropods" (Christchurch, New Zealand, February 8-13, 2009). Charles is a horticultural entomologist at Agriculture and Agri-

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CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

**MARK WAINBERG, BSc'66**, director of the McGill AIDS Centre, is the recipient of the Canadian Medical Association's 2009 CMA Medal of Honour. Mark played an instrumental role in identifying 3TC as an effective antiviral drug, one which is now widely used to treat HIV. His research team has also made important contributions to the scientific understanding of HIV drug resistance and HIV replication. Mark served as the president of the International AIDS Society between 1998 and 2000 and as the co-chair of the XVI International Conference on AIDS, held in Toronto in 2006.

Food Canada's Horticulture Research and Development Centre in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec.

**GEOFF COULSON, BSc'83**, has worked as a meteorologist with Environment Canada for more than 25 years, based mostly in Toronto. Geoff and his fellow warning-preparedness meteorologists help to provide weather information to emergency organizations and the media prior to, during and after severe weather events. Geoff estimates that he has been interviewed by the media nearly 4,000 times in the past five years. In June 2009, Geoff was a recipient of the prestigious Public Service Award of Excellence. The award recognizes employees who have demonstrated excellence and leadership while reflecting the priorities of the public service.

**LESLY TEMESVARI, BSc'87**, a professor of biological sciences at Clemson University, has received a 2009 Sigma Xi Annual Researcher of the Year award from the Sigma Xi Clemson chapter. Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, recognizes the achievements of scientists and engineers. Lesly received the prize for her research in understanding *Entamoeba histolytica*, a parasite that is responsible for causing dysentery.

**JENNIFER MACKINNON, BSc'89**, graduated from McMaster University's medical school in Hamilton, Ontario, on May 22, 2009. Thanks to her husband Peter and three children for all of their support. Jennifer will be starting her family medicine residency training in Windsor, Ontario.

**G. ANDREW WORK, BSc'94**, pursued an MBA at the University of Victoria after graduating from McGill. He is the executive director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, where he lives with his wife and two children. He is also the director and co-founder of the Lion Rock Institute, a think tank focused on Hong Kong's unique free market characteristics.

**BENJAMIN TENOEVER, BSc'99, PhD'04**, an assistant professor in the department of microbiology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, has earned a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the U.S. government. Benjamin's lab focuses on developing novel vaccine strategies to combat influenza virus and other emerging pathogens. The award includes \$500,000 in research funding and that amount will be matched with another \$500,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Defense.

**JASON COCHRAN, MSc'04**, and his wife Dallys proudly announce the birth of their first son, Sebastian Claude, on June 27, 2009. Sebastian was born in Panama City, Panama, and weighed 3.74 kilos and was 54 cm in length.

## SOCIAL WORK

**LILLIAN JASLOW-SCHWARTZ, MSW'69**, is the author of *Stolen Passports* (Vantage Press), a novel that explores the lives of Jews in Austria in the closing decades of the 19th century. Over the course of her career, Lillian worked as an addiction specialist at the Montreal General Hospital and as a family counsellor for the Canadian government. Since retiring in 2005, she has focused on her writing.

**CATHERINE BUTLER, BSW'99**, is a fiction writer and has found a new passion in making one-of-a-kind jewellery using reclaimed material and vintage pieces. Her designs are modern, but attempt to capture the grace and artistry of traditional jewellery designs. Catherine's work can be seen at [www.catherinebutler.com](http://www.catherinebutler.com). A portion of each jewellery sale is set aside to support local humane societies and to help household pets whose vet bills become too costly for their owners.

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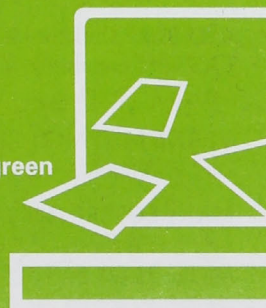
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PETER PARSONS/CP

**MURIEL DUCKWORTH, BA'29, LLD'84**, one of Canada's most prominent pacifists and social activists, died in Magog, Quebec, on August 22 at the age of 100. Duckworth had served as national president for both the Voice of Women, a peace organization, and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, a group she co-founded. In her later years, she became involved with the Raging Grannies.

**1930s**

**MOSES MARGOLICK, BA'31, MDCM'35**, at Sarasota, Fla., on November 20, 2008.

**DAVID GEORGE SCOTT, BCom'32**, at Washington, D.C., on May 27, 2009.

**ISABEL DAWSON GALES, BA'33, BCL'36**, at Westmount, Que., on June 15, 2009.

**DAVID HALPERIN, BSc'33, MDCM'39**, at Montreal, on March 8, 2009.

**CHARLES CHIPMAN PINEO, JR., BA'37**, at Kennebunk, Me., on March 17, 2009.

**VERNA M. (PARR) GELINAS, DipSW'38**, at Montreal, on June 26, 2009.

**MARY LOUISE (MOLLY) COOTE, BA'39**, at Toronto, Ont., on August 29, 2008.

**ELEANOR JANE ROSS, BA'39, DipPE'40**, at Toronto, Ont., on March 20, 2009.

**ROSAMUND HELEN (ROSS) SARLES, BHS'39**, at White Rock, B.C., on April 16, 2009.

**1940s**

**THOMAS DUNN DAILEY, BCom'41**, at Brockville, Ont., on July 26, 2009.

**RUPERTA MACAULAY DEWHIRST, BA'41**, at Don Mills, Ont., on February 12, 2009.

**ORRIE MAX FRIEDMAN, BSc'41, PhD'44**, at Brookline, Mass., on June 28, 2009.

**JEAN CATHERINE (GORDON) HOLDEN, BSc'41**, at London, Ont., on August 16, 2009.

**WALTER C. LLOYD-SMITH, BSc'42, MDCM'43**, at Montreal, on April 25, 2009.

**ARTHUR MELVIN BUTLER, BA'43**, at Oshawa, Ont., on October 2, 2009.

**JOHN SELDON CHARTERS, BSc'43, MDCM'44**, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on February 2, 2009.

**PIERRE-MICHEL SENÉCAL, MDCM'43, DipPubHealth'47**, at Montreal, on April 10, 2009.

**MARGARET M. STRONACH, BA'43, BLS'44**, at Montreal, on May 9, 2009.

**WILLIAM S. PIPER, BEng'44**, at Los Angeles, Calif., on July 25, 2009.

**GERALD BENJAMIN, BCom'46**, at Montreal, on March 15, 2009.

**JOHN DENNIS HILCHEY, BSc(Agr)'46, MSc'53**, at Truro, N.S., on February 7, 2009.

**H. RUTH (HARRIS) MARTIN, BA'46**, at Ottawa, Ont., on June 29, 2009.

**GORDON HART SEGALL, PhD'46**, at Toronto, Ont., on June 15, 2009.

**SHEILA (ABBEY) FINESTONE, PC., BSc'47**, at Ottawa, Ont., on June 8, 2009.

**JOHN HAROLD HARE, MSc'47, PhD'49**, at Camano Island, Wash., on March 23, 2009.

**MARVIN NORMAN LOUGHEED, MCDM'47**, at Roanoke, Va., on June 9, 2009.

**WILLIAM JAMES MACLAREN, BSc(Agr)'47**, at Montreal, on April 10, 2009.

**CHARLES MCCAMMON ALLAN, BSc'48, MDCM'52, MSc'55**, at Moncton, N.B., on April 24, 2009.

**DONALD W. COOK, BCom'48**, at Sarasota, Fla., on April 10, 2009.

**ROBERT FRANCIS FRASER, BArch'48**, at Thunder Bay, Ont., on February 20, 2009.

**RUBIN GOLDBERG, BCom'48**, at Calgary, Alta., on January 10, 2009.

**THOMAS HARVEY HOARE, BSc'48**, at Calgary, Alta., on May 26, 2009.

**PERCY H. TANNENBAUM, BSc'48**, at Berkeley, Calif., on Oct 2, 2009.

**MURRAY M. TEMPLETON, BSc(Agr)'48**, at Ormstown, Que., on March 26, 2009.

**FRANK P. BRADY, BCL'49**, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on May 22, 2009.

**HARRY B. FLEMING, DDS'49**, at Roanoke, Va., on August 20, 2009.



**ARTHUR ERICKSON, BArch'50, LLD'75**, was a world-renowned architect who first achieved major prominence for spearheading the award-winning design of Simon Fraser University. He went on to design many celebrated works, including Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto, the Canadian Embassy in Washington, the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology and the Museum of Glass in Tacoma. He died in Vancouver on May 20.

**FLORENCE MARY (FERGUSON) MARSTON**, BA'49, at Westbank, B.C., on October 13, 2008.

**KENNETH F. MCPHERSON**, BLS'49, at Brunswick, Maine, on September 18, 2008.

**WILLIAM EVERTON WILSON**, BSc'49, MDCM'53, MA'57, at Westwood, Calif., on April 6, 2009.

## 1950s

**P. CLAUDE HANNAN**, BCom'50, at Ottawa, Ont., on February 2, 2009.

**DAVID C. HOGG**, MSc'50, PhD'53, at Boulder, Colo., on August 9, 2009.

**DONALD JOHN MACCANDLISH**, BEng'50, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on March 8, 2009.

**ROBERT STUART McLATCHIE**, BEng'50, at Sudbury, Ont., on February 17, 2009.

**J. KENNETH CHONG**, BSc'51, at Corona del Mar, Calif., on May 18, 2009.

**PETER CURRAN PULRANG**, MDCM'51, at Tallahassee, Fla., on September 23, 2008.

**CYRIL J. POMPURA**, BEng'52, at Montreal, on December 3, 2008.

**LEO V. WOYTIUK**, BSc'53, at Montreal, on December 4, 2008.

**JUDITH R. GREENBLATT**, BA'54, at London, England, on January 28, 2008.

**MARY EDITH (DALTON) AUCKLAND**, BLS'55, at Kingston, Ont., on May 19, 2009.

**PHILIP RE CALANCHINI**, MDCM'56, at California, on April 25, 2009.

## 1960s

**DOUGLAS G. DALE**, MSc'60, at Kemptville, Ont., on February 21, 2009.

**ALLAN SCHNAIBERG**, BSc'60, at Chicago, Ill., on June 6, 2009.

**GODFRIED KPORTUFE AGAMA**, BA'61, PhD'65, at Accra, Ghana, on August 5, 2009.

**JERRY (GERALD ALLAN) COHEN**, BA'61, at Florida, on August 5, 2009.

**CHARLES RUSSELL FISH**, MDCM'61, at Rochester, Minn., on March 15, 2009.



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

**CHARLES GONTHIER**, BCL'51, LLD'90, who spent 14 years as a justice on the Supreme Court of Canada, died in Montreal on July 17. His time on the court coincided with many cases related to the still relatively new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and many of the court's rulings during this period played a major role in determining the charter's overall impact.

**PEER M. PORTNER**, BSc'62, MSc'64, PhD'68, at Stanford, Calif., on February 9, 2009.

**SANDRA MAGEE**, BSc(HEC)'64, at Ottawa, Ont., on July 24, 2009.

**ALENA PASCUAL**, BA'64, at Toronto, Ont., on April 5, 2009.

**PHILIP SHAW BARKER**, PhD'65, at Winnipeg, Man., on May 3, 2009.

**DONALD G. MOEHRING**, MDCM'65, at the Galapagos Islands, on February 23, 2009.

**JAMES H. STEWART CAMPBELL**, BEng'66, at Vancouver, B.C., on July 4, 2009.

**ROBERT WAYNE SHEWMAN**, MSc'66, at Oakville, Ont., on March 15, 2009.

**NOEL RYAN**, MLS'67, at Kingston, Ont., on April 25, 2009.

**BENJAMIN H. HIGGINS**, BA'69, MA'72, at Montreal, on January 10, 2009.

**ESTHER STRAUSS**, BA'69, at Victoria, B.C., on June 17, 2009.

## 1970s

**ROSLYN CABOT**, BPhysTher'71, BSc(PT)'77, at Montreal, on January 15, 2008.

**BRIAN ALLARDICE**, BSc(Arch)'74, BArch'75, at New Westminster, B.C., on May 13, 2009.

**CECILIA H. GONZALEZ**, BA'76, at Washington, D.C., on May 4, 2009.

**BRENDA JOY Y. SAKAUYE**, BA'78, at Germany, on January 23, 2009.

**SUSAN M. KING**, MDCM'79, at Toronto, Ont., on February 15, 2009.

## 1980s

**PHILLIP RAND BROWN**, MSc'80, at Baltimore, Md., on January 25, 2009.

**CLEMENT LANGEMEYER**, BEng'81, at Ottawa, Ont., on June 19, 2009.

**LISA GOLDSTEIN**, BCom'85, at Toronto, Ont., on January 27, 2008.

**ISABELLE BELANCE**, BMus'89, LMus'89, at Chicago, Ill., on June 18, 2009.

## 1990s

**JULIA DORFMAN**, BSc'90, MDCM'94, at Montreal, on May 26, 2009.

## FACULTY/STAFF

**KEVIN PAUL BRISSETTE**, MDCM'72, faculty member, Department of Family Medicine, at Ormstown, Que., on January 23, 2009.

**ROSE JOHNSTONE**, BSc'50, PhD'53, professor emeritus, Department of Biochemistry, at Montreal, on July 3, 2009.

**MYER KATZ**, BSW'50, MSW'51, faculty member and former director, School of Social Work, at Montreal, on January 20, 2009.

**WALLACE E. LAMBERT**, professor emeritus, Department of Psychology, at Montreal, on August 23, 2009.

**ROBERT LEWIS WILLIAMS**, faculty member, Departments of Physiology, Pediatrics and Radiology, at Montreal, on April 30, 2009.

# It's her turn now

BY NOAH RICHLER, BA'83

"Just think, I could be living in Kingston!" said my daughter, as we walked the lively streets of Montreal under a shining full moon. Well, she's my stepdaughter, actually, one of two, but I just think of my delightful girls as having come ready-made.

In the years that I have known these girls, young women now, their resistance to taking a walk just about anywhere in Toronto, where we live, has been one of the sticking points in my natural Jewish resistance to accepting just how good life can be. Their rooms as after-the-hurricane still life installations I had become used to, along with wet towels on the bathroom floor and so on.

But now daughter number one was beginning university and the point of these domestic skirmishes seemed silly and redundant. Still, it bothered me that I was never able to take a simple walk with either of my children, as I had so enjoyed doing with my father, even if conversation had been difficult.

The relationship of parent to child has been the subject of lively debate in our house. We have talked about love a lot, my wife Sarah and I, about its forms and about what I see as the extraordinarily irrational quality it takes between children and their natural parents—a bond that, despite their better instincts, step-parents sometimes find themselves competing against.

Wise Sarah will have none of this. She says that the baby arriving in the sling of a stork myth exists to explain how inherently strange a child is even to its mother. And she says that it was impossible to give birth and not come face-to-face with the fact of her own mortality, cradling beings that were not just separate but that had sapped life from her.

In my own plodding way I have experienced moments of the limits of my own life closing as those of the kids gloriously open up. The first came as I was out for a run, stunned to find myself not elaborating on the usual daydream about the Stanley Cup-winning assist I made, but fantasizing instead about my daughter wowing the crowd with her concerto flute-playing at London's Royal Albert Hall.

More recently, I visited daughter number one at university—at McGill, my alma mater. The full moon shone and as we walked I stopped talking about the city as it had been in my day and listened to the jubilant sound of students in their apartments and myriad lives just beginning. For years, I'd thought that I might be able to take my university Greek Grammar and my Homer and abscond to a Pacific island for a year, but then I saw

that I would not—that it was her turn now—her turn to feel that everything is an opportunity for a life that can be voraciously lived.

"I walk all the time," she said, perhaps to have me understand that it wasn't that she didn't like to walk, but that she'd been waiting for the right city to walk in and Montreal—not Kingston, or Sackville, or Vancouver—was the place. She was beaming and as I asked her if she'd like to stop and have a beer, I recognized, in my tone, what I'd heard in my father's voice the first time he properly made me feel an adult because it sounded as if really he did not know what my answer would be and that whatever I said actually mattered.

We had our beer and walked for another half hour back to her residence. She spoke effusively—about her new friends and the possibility of an archaeological dig and most of all about how exciting and attractive the campus and the city were. And suddenly I realized that I was feeling a connection to the city of my

own boyhood and university years that I had not known for decades. Montreal, I'd been telling those who'd asked, was a memory, was a city I no longer pretended to know.

So this was her further gift to me—allowing me to see that Montreal is still my town and that now I have a daughter living there who can explain the place as it is. ♣

*Noah Richler is the author of This is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada, which won the 2007 B.C. Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. A longer version of this essay originally appeared in the National Post.*



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