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alumni magazine spring/summer 2010

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07

## An Olympics to Remember

At the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, McGill alumni and students made pivotal contributions — on the ice, on the slopes and behind the scenes — to one of the greatest success stories in Canadian sports history.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



11

## National Geographic Put Him on the Map

McGill geographer Bernard Lehner has created a one-of-a-kind map of the world's rivers that offers a wide range of invaluable applications. The innovative map recently made its international debut in the pages of one of the most popular magazines on the planet.

BY ALLISON FLYNN



15

## Solving the Pain Puzzle

It's surprising just how much we don't know about pain, given the toll it takes on everyone at one point or another. McGill has assembled one of the largest and most talented teams of pain researchers in the world to pursue solutions to the suffering.

BY ANDREW MULLINS



20

## Little Liars

They might look angelic, but young kids are far better at bending the truth than many parents realize. According to Victoria Talwar, an expert on children and lying, that's not necessarily bad — it means they're developing important cognitive skills.

BY JOEL YANOFSKY, BA'77, MA'81



24

## Lettres modernes

Le Département de langue et littérature françaises de McGill s'est considérablement transformé au fil des ans, surtout depuis la mise en place du programme de création littéraire il y a 25 ans. Ses diplômés occupent une place de choix sur la scène littéraire québécoise.

PAR JULIE FORTIER

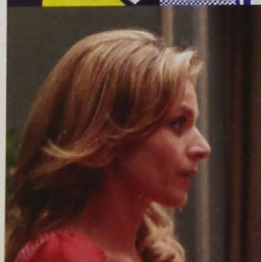


29

## A Feast for the Eyes

McGill's downtown campus is known for its visual delights — an oasis of green space amidst some of the city's stately architecture. It also boasts an impressive array of public art ranging from Victorian-era classic realism to modern minimalism.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89, AND CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS



41

## Grateful for a Gleeful Gig

Jessalyn Gilsig, BA'93, remembers what it was like to be nervous before auditioning for a McGill student play. The *Glee* star recently felt something very similar as she prepared for her first big musical number on the hottest show on television.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

- 03 Editor's Notebook
- 04 Letters
- 06 The Principal's Perspective
- 07 Newsbites
- 11 Insights
- 34 Reviews
- 36 Campaign McGill
- 40 Alumni Activities
- 41 Alumni Profiles
- 43 Alumnotes
- 54 In Memoriam
- 56 Online Offerings



## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME



Her entry in *Old McGill* 1945 says: "Sifted through four years of high school emerging with a chronic headache." Clearly, things looked up for Anne M. Hughes once she arrived at McGill!

# An American in Montreal

"It was a mind-opening experience," says Anne M. Hughes, BA'45, of her time at McGill. Born in New York City, Anne began her postsecondary studies in the U.S. but with the outbreak of World War II, she decided to study in Canada. She already spoke French, she wanted to live in a big city, and "I wanted to go 'abroad'!" – and so she happily transferred to McGill.

In her first year here, her father passed away. "It was difficult," she says. "But I received two bursaries from McGill. I will always remember that." She studied economics and Spanish, participated in student radio and theatre, and "had a marvellous time."

Her talent for languages and love of travel continued to serve her well. After two years in Germany with the U.S. Army, Anne was given a nudge by her brother, who applied for her to work at the United Nations.

"They told him: If your sister can type and knows French, please ask her to contact us," she remembers with a laugh. She began her career at the U.N. in 1948 as a clerk-typist and retired as Chief of Service in 1985.

Anne has travelled extensively in her lifetime, including many trips to the Arctic. ("I know Canada better than most Canadians!") She now lives in her native New York, where she had a second career as a portrait painter. She is active with poetry and play readings, and is a member of the Russian Nobility Association. Oh, yes, she speaks Russian, too, as well as Italian and Portuguese.

A loyal McGill donor since 1949, Anne has remembered her alma mater in her estate plans. "I am very grateful," she says. "McGill gave me a fine education."



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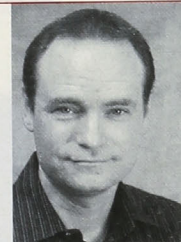
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## Drawing comfort from art



When I began my undergraduate studies at McGill in the mid-eighties, I wasn't terribly confident about my ability to fit in. My parents hadn't gone to university, nor had my grandparents. In my extended family, I knew of only a single cousin who had made the leap before me.

I grew up in a largely working-class neighbourhood where university educations weren't the norm and I attended a notoriously rough-and-tumble high school that wasn't known for being an academic launching pad (though, in fairness, plenty of my former classmates went on to university). When I once mentioned my old high school to a friend familiar with its unsavoury reputation, she reacted with the sort of startled gasp that might have been more appropriate to discovering that I had once served on a Kingston Penitentiary chain gang.

As a callow young Montrealer, I hadn't fully grasped McGill's international stature until I had attended classes there for a few weeks (it is distressingly easy to be blasé about what's remarkable in your own home town). Once I did begin to encounter brainy students from all over the place who were thrilled to be at McGill, well, that only made matters worse. What had I gotten myself into?

In the early going, I spent much of my time going back and forth between the Arts and Stephen Leacock buildings where most of my courses took place. So I became quite familiar with pop art master Roy Lichtenstein's *Abstraction*, a tapestry I would encounter frequently as I made my way from one building to the other. I had grown up devouring comic books and Lichtenstein's famously comics-influenced style produced a work of art that provided an oddly comforting presence as I made my way to my classes. A little slice of my old life present in my new surroundings. I've had a soft spot for it ever since.

I imagine everyone who has ever studied at McGill has his or her own favourite work of art on campus. Perhaps the Three Bares fountain was a regular meeting spot for you and your friends and you'd drink in its kitschy charms before trekking off to Amelio's for pizza or to the Peel Pub for beer. Or maybe you'd find yourself admiring the graceful athleticism of R. Tait McKenzie's *The Falcon* as you waited for the other members of your study group to turn up outside the McLennan Library. Hopefully, you'll spot something you like in this issue's photo essay, "A Feast for the Eyes."

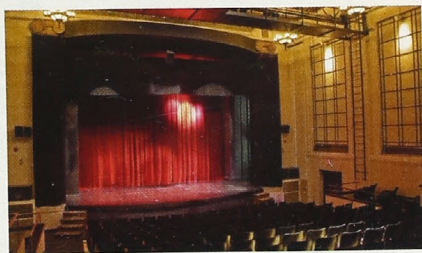
David Covo, BSc(Arch)'71, BArch'74, an associate professor of architecture and the head of the visual arts committee that helps oversee the varied items in McGill's collection, has his own faves. One of them is *Icarus*, artist Catherine Widgery's steel and wood mobile which presents its own unique take on the classic Greek myth above the heads of passersby on the ground floor of the Leacock Building. "It's a wonderful interpretation of the myth," says Covo. "It constantly reconfigures itself as you walk towards it, underneath it, or around it."

Sometimes someone might get a little *too fond* of a particular work. Decades ago, when security measures were, perhaps, a little more lax, a painting vanished from campus. About a dozen years ago, it reappeared, wrapped in a nondescript package that was sent to the principal's office. Inside was an anonymous note that explained how the work had been pilfered by a former student. The note writer, the thief's wife, further explained that she had been hounding her husband for years to return the work. Finally, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

Art might occasionally steer some of us in the wrong direction, but, thankfully, it generally reaches out to our nobler instincts.

DANIEL MCCABE





CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

## TALES FROM BACKSTAGE

I was delighted to read Allyson Rowley's article in the fall edition of the *McGill News* and learn that the University's love affair with the theatre continues with all its passion.

I took all the theatre courses that were available in the Department of English between 1946 and 1949 and we did all the same things that today's undergraduates do – we built sets, created costumes, wrote plays at breakneck speed and then produced them in the sanctified environment of Moyses Hall.

For some reason that I can no longer remember, all of the teaching staff in the theatre program came from North Carolina. (Try taking *Lady Macbeth* seriously when she declaims her speeches with a Southern drawl!)

However, fear and trembling descended upon us all when a Professor Duthie joined the English department. That worthy academic insisted that while theatrical literature fell within the teaching mandate of a university, the actual production of plays belonged in a trade school. Fortunately, as it turned out, no one in authority heeded his dictum.

I have been able to carve out a lifetime career in "show business" but my one and only 15 minutes of fame were realized in the summer of 1952 while I was actor/manager of a now long-gone summer theatre, the Mountain Playhouse, situated at Beaver Lake on the top of Mount Royal. A newly-minted BCom graduate approached and asked for a job as an actor. As he wanted the then princely salary of 35 dollars a week, I could only afford to hire him if he also took on the job of assistant box-office manager. William Shatner agreed.

I wish that I were still in Montreal so that just before the curtain opens on a

new student play, I could echo the age-old greeting given to all actors, "Break a leg!"

**BRUCE RAYMOND**, BA'49  
Toronto, Ontario

I really enjoy getting my *McGill News*. I visited the campus last spring and had a lovely chat with Professor Myrna Selkirk, who was at McGill during my time there in the eighties. Walking through the Arts Building and Morrice Hall (home of the Tuesday Night Café Theatre) brought back so many fond memories of my time at McGill. Much of what I have achieved in my life is thanks to the education and the strong foundation I received at McGill and the many hours I spent in Moyses Hall, Players' Theatre and TNC. Thanks McGill!

**JAMES SIMON**, BA'85  
Artistic Director  
George Brown Theatre School  
Toronto, Ontario

## NOT SO GOOD WITH NUMBERS

I'm sure Céline Galipeau will be surprised to learn she received a BA in 1982 (pp. 1 and 37), and yet another in 1992 (p. 39)! Then there is Nobel Prize laureate David Hubel (p. 3), who earned a PhD in 1946, before his BSc in 1947? Quite a feat! Just love your alumni magazine, nevertheless.

**ROBIN SWALLOW**,  
BCom '92 (I think!)  
Ottawa, Ontario

*For the record, Ms. Galipeau actually earned her one and only McGill BA in 1980 (Rats. We did get the year right when we mentioned her recent Order of Quebec appointment in that issue's Alumnotes section), while Dr. Hubel didn't receive a PhD from McGill at all. He did earn two degrees here, a BSc'47 and an MDCM'51. I quadruple-checked this time, just to be sure.*

## ANOTHER TRUDEAU SCHOLAR

When I received the Fall-Winter 2009 *McGill News*, I noticed that three alumni were identified as having recently been awarded Trudeau Scholarships. I was also fortunate enough to be awarded a Trudeau Scholarship in 2009. I graduated from McGill with a master's degree in geography in 2007 and am now a PhD candidate in geography at the University

of Western Ontario. I just wanted to acknowledge the important contribution that McGill has made to my career.

**JEREMY SCHMIDT**, MA'07  
London, Ontario

*In March, we launched the new McGill News website. The site will be featuring almost everything from our print issues, but it will also include plenty of online-only content, with new articles being added each month. We asked readers for their initial thoughts on the site. Here are some of their responses.*

## SPLENDID SITE

Great addition! As an old-timer, I miss the four-times-a-year publication schedule, but this is definitely state-of-the-art. I hope the print edition continues to come out at least twice a year. When I receive it in snail mail, I reserve a couple of hours to read it from cover to cover.

**THOMAS MCCARTHY**, MBA'76  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

I just took a few minutes to glance over the new *McGill News* site, and ended up reading all four articles you highlighted. Great lay-out, great writing, and exactly the right length.

Well done!  
**PATRICIA THIEL**, BA'92  
Vancouver, B.C.

It is a very good way to know the latest news about my alma mater.

**GYAN CHANDRA SHRIVASTAVA**,  
PhD'62  
Hyderabad, India

## PREFERRING PRINT

I did enjoy reading the articles in the new online version of the *McGill News*. However, I must say that I much prefer reading the *McGill News* in its original magazine form.

**CAROL E. GRAHAM**, BA'48  
Deep River, Ontario

The articles all look very interesting, but I would really prefer to read a hard copy. Guess that's my age showing,



but you did ask for comments!

**JUDY KLINEBERG MENDELSON,**  
BA'60, MDCM'61  
Montreal, Quebec

I find reading anything of substance online somewhat annoying. The columns and pages do not scan in the same way and it seems to demand that I read it immediately, rather than at a relaxed pace. I am very aware of the impact of print on the environment, however part of the joy of reading is holding the item and feeling the paper and reading in a comfortable chair instead of being tied to a computer. If asked, I would not vote for an online version only.

**LINDA STEPHENS,**  
DipNursT&SPH'66, BN'67, MSc(A)'87  
Pointe-Claire, Quebec



Gary Cooper (right) played a McGill graduate in *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer*

### FICTITIOUS AND FASCINATING

I especially enjoyed the online article about the McGill characters in literature. I shall make a trip to the library to check out a few that I haven't read.

**CARMELLA LORING,** BA'58  
Duxbury, Massachusetts

Fun article on the "Make-believe McGillies."

**ROGER JONES,** DipMan'79, MBA'82  
Thornhill, Ontario

"Make-believe McGillies" was a great article. It was really interesting.

**ANNE PURCELL,**  
BA'89, BEng'96, MEng'00  
Singapore

As a proud McGill graduate, it was gratifying to see a feature article on the *McGill News* site about "Make-believe McGillies." Unfortunately, the article only discusses characters that are purported to have been McGill alumni, including Marie St. Jacques, Jason Bourne's accomplice in *The Bourne Identity*.

One of my favourite novelists, Kathy Reichs, who is both a forensic anthropologist and a writer, mentions McGill at various points in her novels. The main character of her novels, Temperance Brennan (upon whom the TV series *Bones* is based), spends her time between Montreal and North Carolina.

In Reichs's second novel (and one of my favourites), *Death du Jour*, the McGill campus is mentioned often. Here, the heroine Tempe ends up wandering the halls of McGill's William and Henry Birks Building, home to the Faculty of Religious Studies, consulting with one of the professors there to solve her case. Her descriptions of the Birks Building are spot on, and whenever I've read those sections, I have a tad bit of homesickness for the beautiful old building where I did my doctoral work.

**DAVID GURETZKI,** PhD'06  
Caronport, Saskatchewan

### WAYNE'S WORLD

I enjoyed reading "The mental work behind medals," by Daniel McCabe, profiling sports psychology consultant Wayne Halliwell. Mr. Halliwell's behind-

the-scenes work with Olympic athletes such as Joannie Rochette, Alexandre Bilodeau and Jenn Heil is fascinating, and the article brings it to life.

**DON MARSTON,** MBA'88  
Toronto, Ontario

It's a great site and easy to navigate. It was nice to get caught up on Wayne Halliwell. He and I worked together at Dawson College in the sixties.

**BILL CONROD,** MA'70  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Editor's note:** We want your letters! We really do enjoy hearing from you, so please send us your thoughts. From here on in, one letter writer each issue, chosen at random, is going to be rewarded with some swag for their efforts. Carol E. Graham can expect to receive copies of some of the books we spotlighted in our online article, "Make-believe McGillies." (Can anybody out there think of a particularly nifty fictitious grad we left off our list?) A lucky letter writer next time around will be getting copies of Cleo Paskal's *Global Warring* and Elizabeth Abbott's *A History of Marriage*—you can learn more about both books in this issue's Reviews section. Our contact information appears below.

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## Reaching out to the world

In recent months, Principal Heather Munroe-Blum accompanied Premier Jean Charest to India as part of a Quebec delegation that explored possible new partnerships between Quebec and India, and she travelled to England to sign an official accord between McGill and Imperial College London that paves the way for future collaborations in neuroscience. She recently spoke to *McGill News* contributor Jake Brennan about why McGill's international connections are so crucial.



*McGill principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Imperial College London rector Sir Keith O'Nions sign a partnership agreement between their two institutions.*

***McGill has a strong international reputation – it has ranked in the Top 25 universities in the Times Higher-QS World University Rankings for the past six years. But what makes McGill an “international university?”***

We've always had a very big international student population — from more than 160 countries in any one year — and a very international faculty. And our community extends to our 200,000 (and growing) living alumni in virtually every country in the world. It's also the sense that we understand our distinctive ability to contribute as a research-intensive, student-centered university, not only locally, which is important, but according to the highest international standards. Our academic plan is written off that, our recruitment strategies are driven off that, our measures of our own performance include this international character. It's part of our mission.

***You've talked about making McGill an even more international university. What else do we need to do?***

I think we could work towards having international experience become a hall-

mark of an undergraduate education at McGill. We already do a lot of that, but we could do more. Otherwise, I would say our focus needs to be on nurturing our international distinctiveness — maintaining programs that rank with the very best in the world, continuing to attract outstanding students and faculty from around the world, and ensuring that our efforts have the greatest impact possible through international partnerships and networks.

***Can you offer some examples of what you mean by international networks?***

Our professors are already engaged in collaborations all over the world. Where we can add value to this is to say, “Are there partnerships that we can create that would give us a strategic lift by contributing to the domains we are leaders in?” Our neuroscience partnerships with Oxford and now Imperial College London would be one example. Another is our recent collaboration with the Energy and Resources Institute in India. That partnership helps puts Quebec right at the heart of climate-change research.

***So we'll be seeing more of these partnerships in the years to come?***

In the seventies, we talked about internationalization being important, but it didn't really affect the way universities ran or the way economies developed. It was at the margins. We are now in the middle of a globalized world.

Let's take global health as an example. Global health wasn't as meaningful a field 30 years ago. Yes, we cared about the health of people on other continents, but it was viewed as a social value. But now what happens in Africa or Asia can affect us profoundly. So if universities want to be part of a solution for a positive societal future, we've got to be part of the globalization process and help to shape it in ways that will be constructive.

One of the tremendous assets that McGill brings to Quebec and Canada, by having such an international group of students, professors and alumni, is that when events happen quickly that require international mobilization — something like a disease outbreak, or a tsunami in Malaysia — we've got people in those places who we can interact with and who have the expertise and confidence needed to make a difference. ✦



# AN OLYMPICS TO REMEMBER

Months later, Canadians are still basking in the glow of the 2010 Vancouver Games. According to *Maclean's* columnist Andrew Coyne, the Olympics unleashed a "massive, almost cathartic banshee yell of national pride" felt throughout the country.

Some of the loudest yelling was emanating from McGill.

From the start, members of the McGill community were instrumental in putting together the Vancouver Games. Chancellor emeritus **RICHARD POUND**, BCom'62, BCL'67, a longtime mover-and-shaker on the International Olympic Committee, was a key member of the board of directors for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympics (VANOC). **WARD CHAPIN**, BA'75, VANOC's chief information officer, had the Herculean task of overseeing the massive technology infrastructure required to support the biggest international event on the planet.

At the opening ceremonies, astronaut **JULIE PAYETTE**, BEng'86, DSc'03, was part of a distinguished group of Canadians (among them, Romeo Dallaire, Anne Murray, Bobby Orr and Donald Sutherland) who carried the Olympic flag into B.C. Place, while k.d. lang's shivers-down-your-spine rendition of "Hallelujah" (a song by **LEONARD COHEN**, BA'55, DLitt'92) won't soon be forgotten.

McGill management student **JENN HEIL** earned Canada's first medal of the Olympics, a silver in women's moguls. Strangely, McGill is sort of responsible for the fact that Heil didn't place first in her event. The gold medalist was American Hannah Kearney, whose parents, Jill Gass, BEd'79, and Tom Kearney, MA'79, met at McGill.

Heil wouldn't be the only McGillian to medal. The Canadian women's hockey team captured the gold thanks, in part, to the contributions of a formidable McGill Martlets contingent—goaltenders **CHARLINE LABONTÉ** (a physical education student) and **KIM ST-PIERRE**, BEd'05, blueliner **CATHERINE WARD**, BCom'09, and assistant coach **PETER SMITH**, BEd'79, MA'86.

And, sometimes, McGill grads played a pivotal role getting other people to the podium. **KOSAR KHWAJA**, MDCM'99, MSc'04, the director of clinical teaching for trauma services at the McGill University Health Centre, was part of the VANOC medical team for the Whistler-based events—other members included **GREG BERRY**, MDCM'91, **PIERRE GUY**, MDCM'89, and **TAREK RAZEK**, MDCM'93. While tending to various neck and knee injuries, Khwaja encountered one of the most memorable athletes of the 2010 Games—Slovenian cross-country skier Petra Majdic, who, incredibly, placed third in her event despite puncturing a lung and breaking four ribs.



SEAN KILPATRICK / CP

Above: Jenn Heil receives congratulations from Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Right: Mike Babcock wore his lucky McGill tie for the gold medal game



JOHN MAHONEY / THE GAZETTE

Following her race, she sought treatment.

"She told us she wasn't going to miss her medal ceremony," says Khwaja. "She could hardly breathe. I said, 'You can't leave like this.' She said, 'I am leaving.' It became a negotiation. We took her to the ceremony in an ambulance and, as soon as she got her medal, we took her right back in the ambulance."

While Canadians cheered for all their Olympians at the Games, there was little doubt about which event mattered the most. **MIKE BABCOCK**, BEd'86, coach of the Canadian men's hockey team, knew he would have to contend with second-guessers from coast to coast if his charges faltered. Babcock's players won a nail-bitingly close victory over their U.S. rivals in the gold medal game, a victory that established a new Olympic record as Canada became the first country to win 14 gold medals at a Winter Games. Babcock wore his not-so-secret weapon at the game—his lucky red McGill tie, which promptly became a red-hot fashion accessory and a Facebook and YouTube star. (See [youtube.com/mcgilluniversity](http://youtube.com/mcgilluniversity).)

Finally, at the closing ceremonies, **WILLIAM SHATNER**, BCom'54, delivered the shout-out of shout-outs, expressing his pride for his alma mater before an estimated television audience of a billion or so.

In the words of Montreal *Gazette* columnist Peggy Curran, "McGill University owned the [Olympics] podium on closing day."

Hard to argue with that.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



## Aviation all-stars



A pair of high-flying graduates from very different eras will soon be inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.

**R. H. "RED" MULOCK**, BSc1909, a decorated fighter pilot during the First World War, and astronaut **JULIE PAYETTE**, BEng'86, DSc'03, will be added to the hall on June 10.

Mulock flew for the Royal Naval Air Service, becoming the first RNAS pilot to win five aerial battles at a time when his German opponents had the advantage of more sophisticated weaponry. Those five victories made Mulock Canada's first official flying ace and he also became the first

Canadian pilot to attack an enemy submarine. Mulock would also prove to be an effective commanding officer—he would go on to lead a squadron of pilots that claimed 80 aerial victories.

Payette was the chief astronaut of the Canadian Space Agency from 2000 to 2007. She has been part of two space shuttle missions, serving aboard the *Discovery* in 1999 and the *Endeavour* in 2009, logging more than 25 total days in space. As an astronaut, she has supervised a space walk, operated three different robotic arms and helped complete the construction of Japan's KIBO space lab. Since 2003, she has worked at NASA's Mission Control Centre as a CAPCOM (spacecraft communicator) and was the lead CAPCOM for a space shuttle mission in 2006, overseeing all communications between Earth-bound NASA personnel and the astronauts in flight.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

## SAILING INTO HISTORY

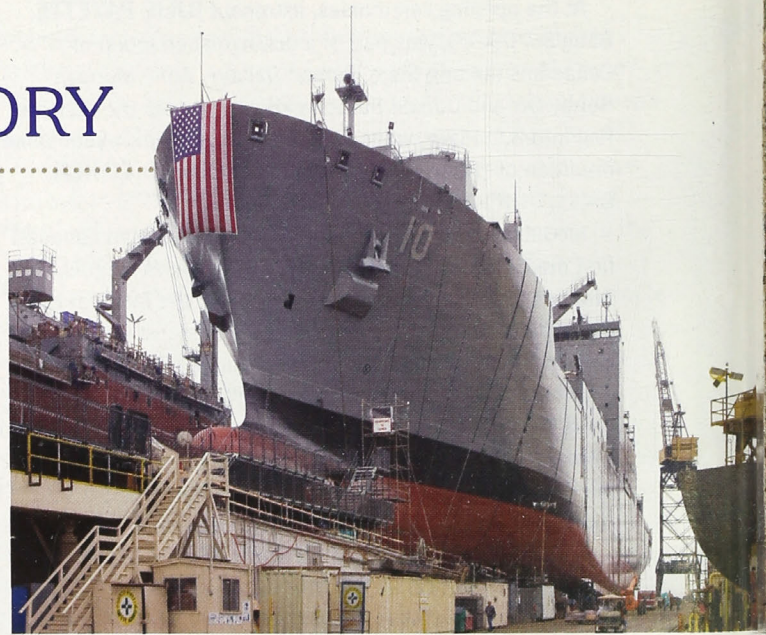
He's had a university, a health centre and several schools named after him, and the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in his memory in 1981. But **CHARLES DREW**, MDCM'33, received perhaps his most unusual honour yet when a 210-metre U.S. Navy ship was christened in his name.

The USNS *Charles Drew* was launched in the early morning of February 27 at San Diego, after a ceremony honouring Drew, the African-American medical researcher who helped pioneer the safe storage and transfusion of blood. The cargo ship will be used to transport ammunition, food, fuel and other supplies to U.S. and allied ships at sea.

"At first we were a little puzzled to learn of the honour, since my father had no direct connection with the U.S. Navy," says Charlene Drew Jarvis, one of Drew's three daughters. "But we realized the armed services in the Second World War benefited greatly from my father's work, and so it is indeed a meaningful nexus."

Charles Drew graduated second in his class at McGill while also excelling in track and field—his athletic exploits earned him induction into the McGill Sports Hall of Fame. While working with his mentor, anatomy professor John Beattie, Drew began to ask the questions about blood preservation that laid the groundwork for his later, pivotal contributions.

In 1940, Drew became the medical director for the U.S. government's "Blood for Britain" project, helping to engineer mass production techniques for the shipment of large



quantities of blood plasma used to treat wounded civilians and soldiers in the United Kingdom. Later, while playing a pivotal role in the creation of the American blood bank system, he fought against the segregation of blood between white and black donors.

Drew died in 1950. At the christening ceremony, Jarvis's elder sister, Bebe Drew Price ("she was named Bebe after 'blood bank,'" says Jarvis) wielded the obligatory champagne bottle.

"She absolutely smashed it!" Jarvis says. "But the most extraordinary part was seeing the *Charles Drew* slip into San Diego Bay."

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77



## Never too old to learn

Whether you call them boomers or zoomers, there's no question that there are plenty of retirement-age Canadians out there and StatsCan predicts that their numbers will continue to swell in the foreseeable future.

The McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement—itself a mere 20 years old—provides a welcome remedy for aging brain cells: keep learning and share your knowledge.

A self-financing institute within McGill's Centre for Continuing Education, the MILR is volunteer-driven with only two paid staff members. "It's a real grassroots organization," explains longtime program coordinator Carolyne Rafman, MA'97.

About 800 mature learners participate in "peer learning" through small, self-directed MILR study groups. And don't call them students—they're "members." Teachers are "moderators" and the board of directors is the "council."



MILR members Linda Miller, Shirley Nadell and Alice Dind

Year-round, MILR offers all those subjects you always wanted to study if only you didn't have a job eating up so much of your time: literature, art, architecture, opera, history, film, science, technology and travel. The cost is low (currently \$85/semester), there are no educational prerequisites, no exams, no grades—and no age limits.

MILR president George Latimer, BCom'53, heads up the 14-person MILR council. "It's a very interesting group of people," he says of MILR members. "And since everything is volunteer-driven, it's [about] people stepping forward and saying, 'I'd like to lead this study group.'"

For more information, visit [www.mcgill.ca/conted/milr](http://www.mcgill.ca/conted/milr) or email [milr.conted@mcgill.ca](mailto:milr.conted@mcgill.ca).

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77



PHOTOS: OWEN EGAN

## TWO FOR THE RHODES

While pursuing an honours degree in history, with minor concentrations in political science and economics, **MICHÈLE SMITH** was the vice-president of the Classics Students' Association, a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, an editor for *Hirundo*, McGill's classical studies journal, and one of the organizers of McGill's Model United Nations Conference.

"My list of extracurricular activities is quite short compared to several of my friends at McGill," she says. "McGill's campus community is so active that it's difficult to not get involved."

While Smith might downplay her own achievements, the folks who hand out Rhodes Scholarships were clearly impressed. A Bermuda native, Smith was named the recipient of that country's sole Rhodes Scholarship for 2010.

She is likely to bump into **NITHUM THAIN**, MSc'09, once she is at Oxford. Thain, who is currently working towards a doctoral degree in mathematics at McGill, was chosen as one of Ontario's Rhodes recipients this year.

Thain has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout his graduate studies at McGill, earning an NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship in 2008. A prize-winning fencer during his undergrad days at Queen's University, Thain won the Quebec provincial savate kick-boxing championship in 2008 after only one year of training in the sport.

For her part, Smith has earned several McGill scholarships and the Department of History's Michael Silverthorne Book Prize.

Smith will begin her studies in jurisprudence (she plans on becoming a lawyer) in October at Oxford's Pembroke College. Thain, whose current research interests include machine learning, game theory and epilepsy prediction, will shift gears at Oxford, pursuing a degree in philosophy and economics. Thain says he'd "really love to encourage the growth of more social businesses" like Bangladesh's Nobel Peace Prize-winning Grameen Bank.

JIM HYNES AND NEALE MCDEVITT



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It's *Your McGill*, wherever you go... and since January, the redesigned and relaunched **Alumni Online Community** (R.I.P. *AlumniLife*) has been providing the comprehensive information you need to get the most out of your McGill connection, as well as some special networking features you can't get anywhere else.

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# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PUT HIM ON THE MAP

*Bernard Lehner holds the digital version of his one-of-a-kind map of the world's rivers*

He might be a humble hydrographer, but assistant geography professor **BERNHARD LEHNER**'s work has recently gone global. Fusing the fields of hydrology and cartography, he created a one-of-a-kind map of the world's rivers that was included as a pull-out in the April 2010 "Fresh Water" edition of *National Geographic*, the iconic magazine that's read in 32 languages by more than 8 million people every month.

Six years ago, while working on a watershed conservation project with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Lehner and his colleagues hit a snag. They were looking to characterize freshwater habitats within a remote region of the Amazon Basin covering parts of Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. The river maps of the three countries that existed weren't good enough because, when pieced together, they didn't exactly match up at the borders. Lehner's solution proved to be the catalyst for a wildly ambitious project: to be the first to build a comprehensive, seamless, digital map of the world's rivers, in unprecedented resolution and detail.

Using data gathered in 2000 by NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission — a space shuttle flight dedicated to measuring the topography of the Earth's surface — as his starting point, Lehner eventually produced a high-resolution map of that small portion of the Amazon Basin. "It worked well, and colleagues asked if we could repeat this for the entire Amazon," Lehner recalls. "So the Amazon map was the next step. Another colleague saw that one and asked if we could do it for all of South America."

The project just kept growing from there. Lehner left the WWF for McGill four years ago and has been working



OWEN EGAN

steadily on the map, with continued support from the WWF, ever since.

While it is not the first global river map in existence — one may be found in any atlas — it is the first high-resolution, seamless global river map that is also available in a digital, pixel-based format. Another element unique to Lehner's map is that it can be coupled with other maps or hydrological models. This enables Lehner to provide information on attributes like river flow and to distinguish large from small rivers — a feature that traditional maps have not been able to illustrate easily in the past.

"The rivers on most paper maps are simple lines, and the cartographers have to manually distinguish, one by one, whether they represent a little stream or the mighty Amazon," says Lehner. "For the first time we have a product for which we can automatically produce attributes that show river size, length, watershed boundaries, or even more

complex features such as how many people live upstream of a river reach."

While the global river map was formally released in a paper format in *National Geographic*, the project remains a work-in-progress as Lehner and his team continually add more attributes like river names and classes, the outlines of sub-basins and catchment areas and links to other layers such as lakes and reservoirs.

But the map already appears to have limitless practical applications. When asked, Lehner admits he doesn't know where to begin. From conservation biology and ecology to climate modelling to irrigation and food production, the map is in high demand. The map data are free and available for download, and Lehner estimates that since the data sets were made available online, there have been about a thousand downloads a month — and that was before *National Geographic* gave his work a worldwide plug.

ALLISON FLYNN



## Buddhism, True North style

Buddhism is often regarded as a recent phenomenon in this country, but it had already taken root in Canadian soil when the first Japanese Buddhist temple was built in Vancouver back in 1905.

The academic exploration of Canadian Buddhism, however, is a very fresh develop-

ment. Prior to the recent publication of *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, co-edited by McGill associate professor of religious studies **VICTOR HORI**, only two similar books existed. This in spite of the fact that more than 300,000 Canadians now practice what has



TZIGANE

Irwin first observed dwarf lemurs at Tsinjoarivo, Madagascar, in 2001, shortly after setting up a long-term rainforest research site. "Even then we knew something was unusual about them," Irwin says. "Instead of the rainforest species we expected to see, our lemur resembled the species known from dry western forests, only it was much larger."

In 2006, some of these dwarf lemurs were caught at several sites throughout Tsinjoarivo, which led to the revelation that there were two morphologically distinct dwarf lemur species living side-by-side. Genetic tests proved that some of these animals were indeed the elusive Sibree's dwarf lemur. The genetic analyses also confirmed that of the four known dwarf lemur species, this is the most genetically unique and probably closely resembles the ancestor that gave rise to the other species.

Irwin is hopeful that this new discovery will lead to increased conservation efforts. "Without the recognition provided by this study, this species probably would have gone extinct in the near future. Protecting its only known population and determining how many individuals are left are now top priorities, especially since much of this region's forests have already disappeared."

CYNTHIA LEE

become one of the more widely recognized religions in the country.

Buddhism in the U.S. has attracted not only scholarship, but also much fanfare: it's in American sects on the west coast that the ancient religion is seen to have been modernized. Hori has reservations about classifying Buddhists as either tradition-bound Asians or modernizing Westerners.

In *Wild Geese*, he writes, "When people in Toronto or Vancouver or Montreal pass the doors of a local Chinese Buddhist temple, they assume that they are seeing a quaint religion lifted from the rice paddies of Asia," when, in fact, "several major Asian Buddhist movements have recast the Buddhist message in modern terms" involving their own TV stations and publishing houses and a thoroughly sophisticated approach.

Hori himself lived for 13 years in a Buddhist monastery in Japan before resuming his academic career. "There are strong voices in America that claim to already have created a new kind of Buddhism, but it's better for a religion to grow without ideological pressure on it," he says. He suspects that Canadians might be better positioned to take a more nuanced look at how Buddhism is likely to evolve within—and shape—this country.

"Our discourse of multiculturalism allows for that."

SARAH COLGROVE, BA'08



COURTESY OF MITCHELL IRWIN

## LITTLE LEMURS, BIG DISCOVERY

It had been more than a century since anyone had spotted a Sibree's dwarf lemur, a rare creature known to exist only in eastern Madagascar. Following the destruction of its only known rainforest habitat, scientists had no idea whether these tiny, nocturnal dwarf lemurs still existed in the wild.

Well, it turns out that the Sibree's dwarf lemurs (pictured) haven't disappeared after all. **MITCHELL IRWIN**, a postdoctoral research associate with McGill's Redpath Museum, was part of an international scientific team that discovered approximately a thousand of these lemurs still alive.



## UNEARTHING THE TRUTH

If you've never heard the term "forensic geography," **MARGARET KALACSKA** wouldn't be surprised — the concept doesn't yet have a Wikipedia entry. Kalacska, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography, is opening up this new field that's part Indiana Jones and part CSI.

Kalacska is working on a multidisciplinary project called Clandestine Burial Detection. The idea is to use remote imaging technology to detect buried objects — human remains — through telltale changes to soil chemistry.

"Remote sensing technology has been used for a long time in geology to find minerals," says Kalacska. "The goal is to be able to image large areas and identify potential sites of mass graves."

So far, Kalacska and her collaborators

have analyzed satellite and aircraft data from test sites in Quebec and Costa Rica. They're working with Parc Safari, east of Montreal, to image an old animal burial ground near the zoo. They're using a National Research Council of Canada Twin Otter plane equipped with devices that record spectral data. Near-infrared imagery can reveal likely burial sites. Such sites can give off unique spectral signatures, such as higher chlorophyll levels in plant leaves.

Kalacska, an Edmonton native who traces her interest in buried objects to scouring Drumheller for dinosaur bones, studied forensics at Simon Fraser University's School of Criminology. She's also interested in the effect of climate on mass graves, and has been analyzing



plants, reflectance and methane emissions at a test site in Costa Rica. Next, she wants to analyze a traditional human burial site on Hawaii's Molokai Island.

Could the research be used to find real secret graves? Kalacska says the basics of the science have to be properly understood first. "There isn't 10 or 20 years of experience in this, but we have to start somewhere."

TIM HORNYAK, BA'95

## From the cold to the cosmos



Lyle Whyte (in red at far right) and colleagues at the McGill Arctic Research Station

Through 600 feet of permafrost rises a spring so salty that it's still liquid at minus five degrees Celsius. Bubbles appear on the surface, and the researchers, cumbersome in their protective clothing, work with specialized instruments to capture this gas for test-

ing. As they acquire these samples, they mull over how they might automate the procedure so that, one day, they can design robots to do it in outer space.

These researchers are astrobiology students on MARS (the McGill Arctic Research Station), and exercises like this will be a key segment of their interdisciplinary field study in the new Canadian Astrobiology Training Program. McGill is the lead partner in a consortium of five universities collaborating on the program, which is sponsored by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Its goal is to produce highly qualified Canadian astrobiologists to take part in future international space probes.

The new field of astrobiology, lead investigator **LYLE WHYTE** explains, has been gaining momentum after a pair of recent scientific revolutions. On earth, microbiologists have been discovering

new forms of life in environments formerly thought to be uninhabitable, including many without oxygen. In space, telescopes have detected the presence of several compounds generally associated with life, including methane in the atmosphere of Mars.

Because most of our solar system is extremely cold, MARS is a prime location for field work and training for CATP members. Recruiting is underway for the program's first group of PhD students.

Many will be drawn by the larger questions. Are we alone? Can other parts of our solar system, or planets or moons beyond it, sustain life?

"The people we're training now will answer these questions within the next 25 to 50 years," says Whyte, McGill's Canada Research Chair in Environmental Microbiology.

VIVIAN LEWIN



## AT-RISK ABORIGINALS VULNERABLE TO TB

**T**uberculosis (TB), considered by many Canadians to be a scourge of the past, is alive and well among high-risk aboriginal communities in Montreal. According to a recent study by McGill researchers, the prevalence of latent TB infection among this group,

many of whom are homeless and impoverished, is alarmingly high, nearly 18 per cent as compared to 4.3 per cent in the rest of the population.

Working with the Native Friendship Centre, a community-based organization for aboriginal peoples in Montreal, the



*Homeless aboriginals in downtown Montreal receive coffee and a friendly word from the Native Friendship Centre's Ka'wahse Street Patrol*



## Medical records at your fingertips

**W**hen it comes to staying healthy, some track blood sugar levels, others track pounds. Unani.ca, a new online personal health tool, lets both the diabetic and the überjock keep an eye on their progress.

Launched in March by the McGill University Health Centre and MedforYou, a Montreal-based software company specializing in health management tools, Unani.ca can store a list of personal health conditions, medications, allergies and vaccinations, and track appointments and test results. "It's an online medical organizer," says **JEFFREY BARKUN**, MDCM'83, MSc'94, chief clinical officer for informatics at the McGill University Health Centre. Rather than relay symptoms or a medical history to a new doctor from memory, patients can print out details from Unani.ca and hand over their file.

"It's also the antidote to the fragmentation of medical information," says Barkun. Most people have information dispersed among different hospitals,

doctors, walk-in clinics and specialists. Move from one city to another, or between provinces, and your medical history might not follow.

But Unani.ca isn't only for patients. Because it can track temperature, heart rate and weight, it's a useful tool for exercise enthusiasts and women who want to get pregnant.

Google, Microsoft and umpteen others have launched online personal health records in recent years, but it's Unani.ca's interface that sets it apart, says Philippe Panzini, a co-founder of MedforYou, the Montreal-based company that wrote the software. "Some are well engineered in terms of their medical content, but they make for a poor user experience. If we make it painful for them it's a lost battle," he says.

In the future, MedforYou plans to add management modules to meet the demands of fitness buffs, diabetics, mothers-to-be and others, and make it compatible with smart phones so you can log your data on the run.

HANNAH HOAG, MSc'99

McGill team performed TB skin tests on 141 people. A survey was also conducted to measure knowledge and attitudes of the disease among this group. One-on-one interviews were conducted with additional clientele from the Friendship Centre to better understand their experiences living with tuberculosis or having a loved one who had TB.

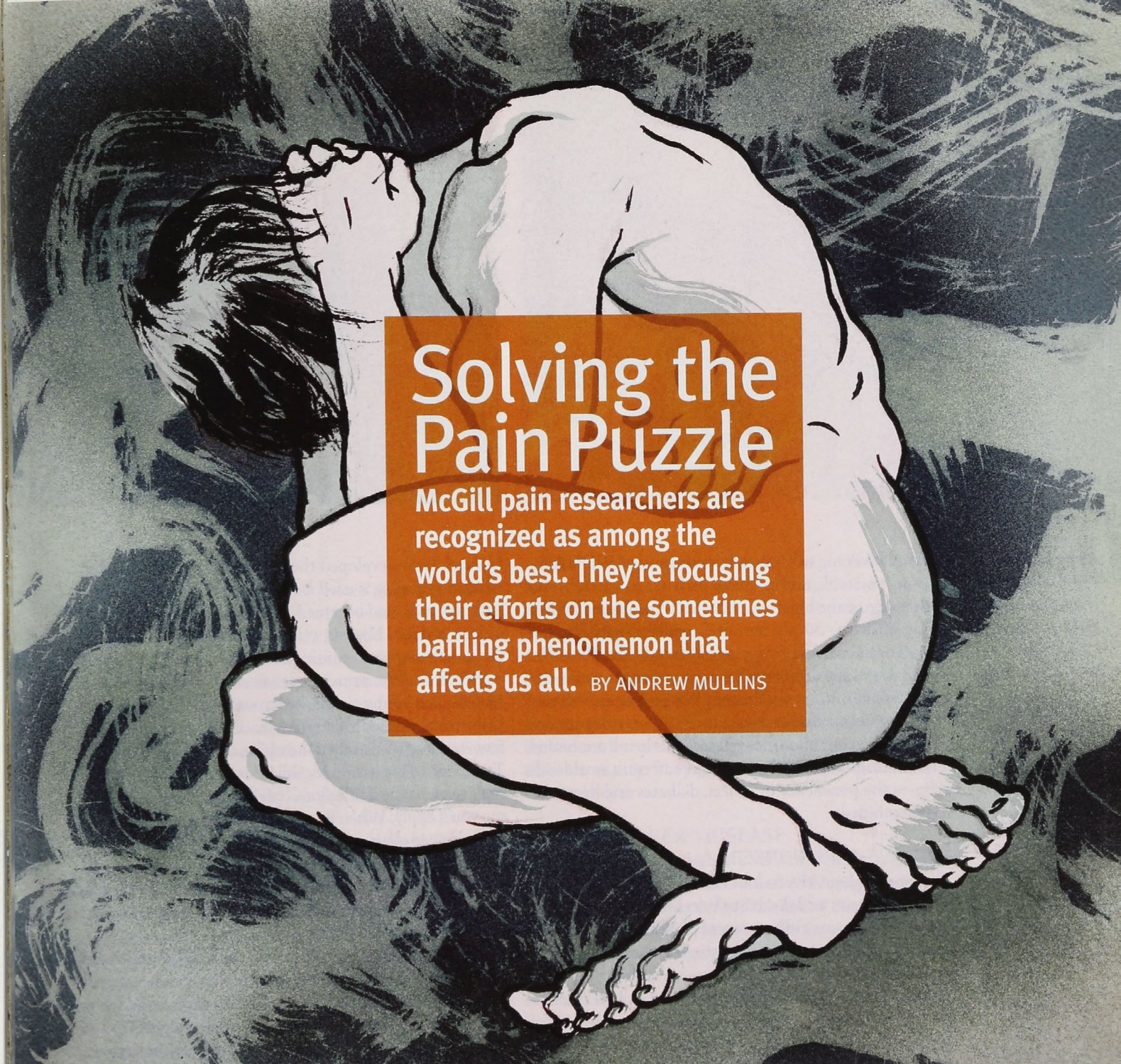
"Interestingly, in this at-risk population, individuals possessed a greater than average knowledge of the disease based on their own personal experiences and the past occurrences of TB in their native communities," says **MARY ELLEN MACDONALD**, BA'94, PhD'04, a professor of oral health and society in the Faculty of Dentistry. "But because of the colonial history, which included isolating Inuit and First Nations TB patients in sanatoriums, sometimes for years, a lot of fear surrounding treatment persists."

The research was led by **PAUL BRASSARD**, MSc'91, a clinical epidemiologist with the McGill University Health Centre, and also involved **KEVIN SCHWARTZMAN**, MDCM'89, and **DICK MENZIES**, MDCM'78, MSc'89, from the Montreal Chest Institute.

Macdonald and Brassard are working with the Native Friendship Centre to determine how the community can best use these findings to improve the health of its members, and to explore other urgent primary health needs.

CYNTHIA LEE



A stylized illustration of a person in a curled, fetal-like position, suggesting intense pain or distress. The person is rendered in white with black outlines, set against a dark, textured background of swirling grey and black brushstrokes. The person's head is buried in their arms, and their feet are visible at the bottom right.

# Solving the Pain Puzzle

McGill pain researchers are recognized as among the world's best. They're focusing their efforts on the sometimes baffling phenomenon that affects us all. BY ANDREW MULLINS

ILLUSTRATION BY MATT FORSYTHE

**C**an a mouse have migraine headaches? Why do placebos work? Can a limb that is no longer there ache? Pain is a mysterious business, and yet it is one of the most basic elements of the human condition.

"Pain happens to all of us," says Dr. Fernando Cervero, "from the moment we are born and inflict pain on our mothers to the moment we die."

Cervero is the director of the Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain at McGill, which brings together more than 150 people from the Faculties of Dentistry,

Medicine and Science to investigate the mystery of physical pain. Researchers in neuroscience, anesthesia, psychology, genetics, physiotherapy and many more fields are scrutinizing pain from the level of a single molecule all the way through to epidemiological profiles of entire populations. The clinical branch of the centre, the Alan Edwards Pain Management Unit, is on the front line, treating those who hurt.

"It is by any standard you can measure the largest and most prestigious pain research centre in the world," says Cervero.





OWEN EGAN



Above left: Fernando Cervero is the director of the Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain

At right: Catherine Bushnell is McGill's Harold Griffith Professor of Anesthesia and the president-elect of the Canadian Pain Society

And it's doing work that is sorely needed. While some pain is inevitable and protects us from danger, chronic pain is one of the biggest public health problems we face today, afflicting 30 per cent of Canadians, with the rate rising to almost half of those aged 55 and older. We suffer back pain, joint pain, pain from cancer, spontaneous neuropathic pain and any number of pain syndromes. Many of these conditions can disable us and drive us to depression. They weaken our immune systems and shrink our brains. The total number of chronic pain sufferers worldwide eclipses the prevalence of cancer, diabetes and heart disease combined.

### MCGILL'S PAIN PIONEERS

"In Canada alone, the cost of chronic pain in treatment, lost work hours and disability benefits is about \$10 billion," says Cervero, citing a report from the Chronic Pain Association of Canada. "It's the single greatest cost to the health care system."

And yet chronic pain is often called the silent epidemic because it goes largely unrecognized. One reason is the enigmatic nature of pain itself. Because it is a product of the brain, pain is very subjective, making it "one of the most complicated problems in all of biomedicine," says McGill psychology professor Jeffrey Mogil, a trailblazer in the genetics of pain. "It would be very different if you could just take out a tumour, put it in a dish and start studying it."

Pain research at the University has come a long way from the days when McGill psychologist Ronald Melzack, BSc'50, MSc'51, PhD'54, revolutionized the field with partner Patrick Wall by publishing the gate control theory of pain in 1965. Till then, pain theory had barely changed from a 300-year-old model dreamed up by René Descartes. Melzack and Wall proposed that pain signals travelled on nerve fibres through a neurological "gate" that could be opened or closed by the brain and spinal pathways.

Melzack later developed the McGill Pain Questionnaire, which to this day is used worldwide for understanding a patient's pain, and became McGill's first E.P. Taylor Chair in Pain Studies. Now an emeritus professor, he is one of the most recognized pain experts in history.

He is also the primary reason Jeffrey Mogil came to McGill. The young psychologist was a rising star at the University of Illinois when Melzack read of his work. "A few weeks later, he called me up," recalls Mogil, "and said 'I'm about to retire and McGill is looking for someone to replace me as the E.P. Taylor Chair in Pain Studies. Promise me you'll apply.' When Ron Melzack tells you to apply for his endowed chair, you do, and when they offer it to you, you take it! But more generally, at Illinois I was the only pain researcher; the chance to join one of the best pain research communities in the world—and now certainly *the best*—was hard to pass up."

With stalwart support from the Louise and Alan Edwards Foundation, McGill has built up a pain research network over the last 15 years that is as diverse as it is unparalleled. Cervero is an authority on the physiology of visceral pain, while Gary Bennett and Terence Coderre are experts in creating animal models of human neuropathic pain conditions to develop new therapies. Catherine Bushnell and Petra Schweinhardt are bringing brain imaging technology to bear on the mechanics and psychology of pain, while Laura Stone is applying new techniques from the field of proteomics to explore how proteins might contribute to lower back pain.

Allan Basbaum, the editor of *Pain*, the leading research journal for pain studies, says the Alan Edwards Centre "is recognized throughout the world as one of the premiere centres for pain research." Gerald Gebhart, director of the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Pain Research, concurs, ranking McGill along with his own unit and Britain's London Pain Consortium as the top three in terms of having "the highest density of internationally recognized pain researchers."



*“A lot of these vague syndromes that doctors thought were not real, now with brain imaging studies, we can show they are real. The patients are not making it up.”*

— CATHERINE BUSHNELL



## PAINFUL REALITY

Melzack and Wall's gate control theory proposed that all kinds of cognitive phenomena influence how we feel pain. Today Catherine Bushnell, McGill's Harold Griffith Professor of Anesthesia, is exploring how psychological states — such as our emotions or attention — can affect pain perception. The founding director of the pain centre, Bushnell, who is also connected to the Faculty of Dentistry and the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, is a pioneer in the use of imaging techniques like MRI and PET scans to understand how the brain processes and modulates pain.

Her lab has conducted experiments using odour to change a subject's mood and alter their pain perception. A good mood generated by a pleasant odour made pain less bothersome. Distraction — having the patient focus on a pleasant odour — reduced the physical intensity of the pain. With the subject in an MRI scanner, Bushnell can peer directly into their brain — by measuring the blood flow to different cortical regions with a technique called functional MRI — and map the circuitry involved. “Different circuits seem to be activated when we change the emotions,” she says, “and other circuits are activated when we change the attention.”

Such imaging techniques reveal more about pain mechanisms, but they can also illuminate the pain felt by real patients. Fibromyalgia patients suffer chronic widespread musculoskeletal pain for which medical testing reveals no source. Much more prevalent in women, the disease is often dismissed by doctors as a psychological problem. But brain imaging done in Bushnell's lab shows these people really are processing pain signals. Using PET scans, researchers can track neurotransmitters such as dopamine. While healthy patients release dopamine in the brain to modulate pain, fibromyalgia patients do not. Imaging also shows the amount of grey matter in their brains is reduced and cognitive functions like memory are disrupted.

“A lot of these vague syndromes that doctors thought were not real, now with brain imaging studies, we can show they are real. The patients are not making it up or exaggerating.”

That concrete evidence has a positive effect on patients' attitudes to treatment, according to Bushnell. If patients can see their pain in MRI images, they can also be trained to manage it. “If they go into cognitive behavioural therapy, they're much more willing to work on it, because they see there's a reality. They're not being told to get therapy because they're crazy.”

## TREATING A “NEW” DISEASE

Managing pain is the daily business of Dr. Yoram Shir, the director of McGill's Alan Edwards Pain Management Unit at the Montreal General Hospital, one of the world's first pain clinics. The clinic's patients suffer from musculoskeletal pain, pain from cancer or trauma, neuropathic pain — and their conditions often have no real name. “People hate it. They come to me and say, ‘I want to know what I have.’ So I say, ‘You have a disease. It's called chronic pain.’”

The Pain Management Unit is an innovative example of the multidisciplinary approach to pain treatment, calling on a team of 25 physicians, physiotherapists, psychologists, nurses and other specialists. The clinic operates beyond its capacity and its waiting list can stretch to over a year. It's a testament to the growing problem of chronic pain in an aging population and, says Shir, that “as a rule, physicians do not know how to treat pain.” Staff work as a group helping people manage their pain through a wide range of approaches, from physiotherapy and medication to group therapy and even complementary and alternative medicine.

The latter is a label Shir dislikes. Some “alternative” medicines may simply require more proof. “There are good studies, for instance, showing that acupuncture or some type of chiropractic approach could really help patients with chronic pain.” The unit's research director, Mark Ware,

*Yoram Shir is the director of the Alan Edwards Pain Management Unit*





CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

Jeffrey Mogil is McGill's E.P. Taylor Chair in Pain Studies and the Canada Research Chair in the Genetics of Pain

has attracted worldwide interest for his work on the medical use of marijuana, while Shir himself is examining the effects of diet. One current study is looking at whether omega-3 acids can reduce pain in fibromyalgia patients. Another will examine the use of soy protein in women with breast cancer requiring surgery.

"A number of women develop persistent or chronic pain after this surgery, and we are looking at whether exposing them to a soy-rich diet beforehand could decrease the prevalence of chronic post-surgical pain."

Compared to the serious side effects of many medications, these are very innocent and safe interventions. "To eat a bit more soy—maybe it could do the trick. Or omega-3, it's healthy, anyway."

## DEVELOPING DRUGS

Nature has historically trumped synthetic compounds when it comes to pain. Our standard painkillers could not be much older: early use of willow bark, precursor to aspirin, easily dates back to Hippocrates himself, while the opium poppy, from which we derive codeine and morphine, was in use for pain relief thousands of years ago. Some more modern treatments, like the use of the anti-epileptic drug gabapentin for neuropathic pain, have been discovered by accident. But pain researchers admit that not a lot has changed in the world of analgesics.

Gary Bennett, a professor of anesthesia and dentistry, knows that developing new drug therapies is a slow, costly process, shaped by the will of government to support research, the business realities of the pharmaceutical industry and the stubbornness of the pain mystery itself. Bennett is a decorated veteran in the battle against pain—a standard animal model used by researchers today is named "the Bennett model." Such animal models using lab rats or mice help us understand how pain works, but equally important, says Bennett, is that "they are immediately useful to test new drugs."

*"Every gene we identify gives the drug companies another idea of what to work on. The bad news is that only a portion of these are under serious study at any one time."*

— JEFFREY MOGIL

He is currently looking at drugs that may relieve neuropathic pain triggered by chemotherapy. Chemotherapy drugs have well-known side effects like hair loss, but they can also cause nerve damage. "One doesn't hear about it all that often," Bennett says, yet he estimates a fifth of patients are affected. Some develop numbness in their hands or feet, but others develop spontaneous pain with no apparent cause, and even pain in which a gentle touch or cool breeze can hurt. As the number of cancer survivors increases dramatically, so, too, does the number whose cancer is replaced with debilitating neuropathic pain.

Bennett's team has recently mimicked this condition in lab rats. He suspects that the common chemotherapy drugs he's working with have a toxic effect not just on the cancer cells they're supposed to fight, but on nerve cells—specifically on the mitochondria, the parts of cells that generate energy for them to function. He is testing two drugs that can protect and repair mitochondria: olesoxime, originally developed to treat ALS, and acetyl-L-carnitine, a common dietary supplement in some countries. The results are extremely promising.

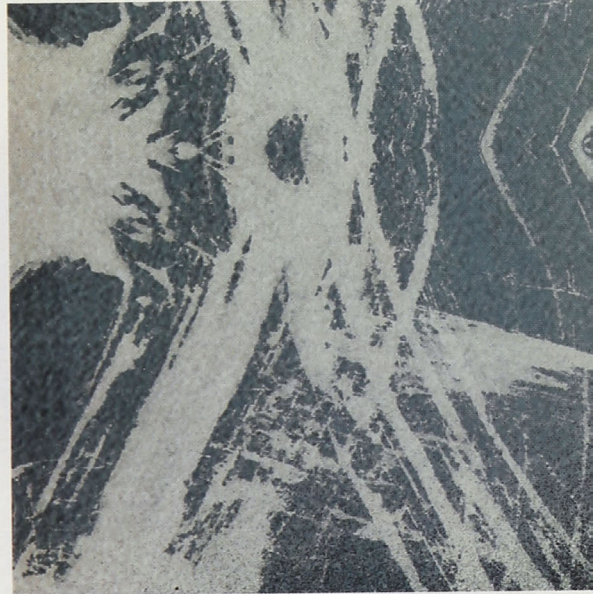
"We can not only reverse the chemotherapy pain, but we can prevent it by giving these drugs at the same time as the chemotherapeutic. We're anxious to see if we can do that in people, but there's one more problem. Will those mitochondrial protective drugs also protect the tumour cells?"

Preliminary data from France looking at cancer cells in a petri dish suggest they don't, Bennett says cautiously. "But a petri dish is one thing and a cancer patient is another. We have to wait and see."

## OF MICE AND MEN

Jeffrey Mogil has spent much of his career focused on the genetics of pain. His groundbreaking work has identified clear differences in the pain perception of men and women. We seem to interpret pain through completely different neural circuits and genes, perhaps even different anatomy.





OWEN EGAN

The differences raise the possibility of one day developing a pill or other analgesic treatment that works in one sex and not in the other. “And that would be amazing,” he says, “because there are almost no examples of that in biomedicine today.”

But such differences also point to one of several problems Mogil sees with the science of pain research. The majority of pain patients are women, and yet scientists working with mice and rats overwhelmingly use males only. “Why? Inertia,” he says. “It’s always been done that way.” Mogil not only uses females in his lab, but he is now turning some of his attention away from the DNA sequencers and stock-in-trade of molecular biology to go back to basics and create new models for pain studies.

“We now have a few animal models in our lab that we’re very excited about. We have a mouse that we are convinced is having migraine headaches, for example, and we are developing animal models of syndromes far more common than the syndromes that have been studied so far.”

Mogil is also retesting the analgesics recommended by animal research protocols and working on new ways to measure pain. He recently developed a scale for gauging pain in mice, tracking a “pain face” using digital video of the lab animals. “It turns out that when animals are in pain, they grimace, just like people do.”

This new method for tracking pain in rodents should give researchers a better sense of the efficacy of new analgesics, says Mogil. It should also help prevent unnecessary suffering for the mice.

The rationale behind such time-consuming new models and measures, he explains, is that while a lot has been learned about pain in the lab, less has been translated back into the clinical environment. “We may need to take a step back to take two steps forward.”

## PUSHING THE FRONTIER

While the genomics revolution and other scientific advances are changing the face of pain research, ambiguity is still a daily

fact of life in the field. Mogil suspects there are at least 300 genes involved in the pain process, and perhaps several times more. “Every gene we identify gives the drug companies another idea of what to work on. The bad news is that only a portion of these are under serious study at any one time.” Pain research can be a case of the more you know, the less you know.

There are still domains like the environment that remain largely unexplored in pain studies as well, Yoram Shir points out. “Every patient who comes into this clinic asks about the effect of weather. The soil, the water we drink, the air we breathe—there are good indications that there are toxins surrounding us that can increase pain. These things should be investigated.”

New research territory and people are certainly on the mind of Fernando Cervero. “The excellence of this pain centre requires a constant influx of young people. If the research centre ages, then it disappears as well.” Pain study is already a poor cousin in terms of education and research dollars. Shir says veterinary school students have four times more exposure to pain education than students in medical school. And Cervero notes, “If you compare in Canada the amount of money that goes into research on cancer to the amount that goes into pain, the latest statistic is something like 40 times more.”

He hopes to raise support for five new assistant professors in the early stages of their careers. And through the Canada Excellence Research Chairs program, Cervero intends to recruit a new senior pain scientist, adding another large team of researchers and graduate students. “This will guarantee the continuation of the centre for the next 25 years,” an investment he considers crucial. “Multidisciplinary pain clinics may be as helpful as a new drug—or more. We need worldwide education, and we need to lead the way.”

*Andrew Mullins is a Montreal-based freelance writer, editor and translator, and the former associate editor of the McGill News Alumni Magazine.*

*Gary Bennett, McGill’s Canada Senior Research Chair in the Department of Anesthesia and the Faculty of Dentistry, was recently awarded the American Pain Society’s Elizabeth Narcessian Award for outstanding educational achievements in the field of pain*





# PINOCCHIO

*Little*



## According to McGill's Victoria Talwar, young children are much better at lying than their parents often realize. But kids also know how to tell the truth when it matters the most.

BY JOEL YANOFSKY, BA'77, MA'81

**L**ying is a complicated business. At least if you're doing it well; and, as it turns out, most of us are. There's a simple explanation for this: we've had lots of time to practise.

"Children start lying at three or four years of age," says Victoria Talwar, an associate professor of educational and counselling psychology and a leading expert on how children learn to fudge the truth. "It's an important milestone," says Talwar, "a normal part of a child's cognitive development."

Even so, lie-telling behaviour in children has often been overlooked and understudied. Real research into this subject matter didn't start until the eighties and even then Talwar can only remember seeing one 1989 paper on the subject when she became interested in it almost a decade later. It was an academic rarity — an open field. Of course, admitted Talwar, that's what appealed to her in the first place. "I stumbled onto an area of research that was very rich. There were lots of things to study, but no one had been willing to go and do it."

Talwar understands the reluctance. Lying is, after all, a private, concealing behaviour: you can't just pull up a seat in your lab and easily observe it. Critical analysis was never going to be enough to solve the problem, Talwar acknowledged. It required creativity. So she got creative.

As a graduate student at Queen's University in 1998, Talwar, who came to McGill in 2004, set up what's called a temptation-resistance paradigm. Typically, in such studies,

children were asked to lie. Or lied with their parents present. It wasn't an ideal set-up. Kids didn't really react naturally under those circumstances.

Talwar modified the paradigm, reimagined it really, by setting up a situation in which children could be self-motivated to lie. Basically, she used a peeking experiment. Subjects were left alone in a room, monitored by hidden cameras, and told not to look at a toy; then were asked if they had. If a child lied — in Talwar's study 82 per cent peeked and 74 per cent lied about it — they would be doing it entirely on their own, without prompting or pressure not to.

The result was a breakthrough in evaluating how and why children lie, which is to say *really* lie. "People thought it would be too difficult to induce children to lie out of their own volition," says psychology professor Kang Lee, Talwar's supervisor at Queen's at the time. "We got around this by capitalizing on naturalistic situations. We were not doing anything above and beyond what the child was experiencing at home or in school."

Lee, who now directs the Institute of Child Study at the University of Toronto, continues to collaborate with Talwar on research projects. He attributes his former student's success to her enthusiasm for her research and her ability to work with kids. "Victoria is amazing in terms of making them comfortable. That's what made it possible to do these studies," Lee adds.



*Above: A mock courtroom will be used by McGill researchers to gauge the ability of children to provide accurate testimony*





KATE HUTCHINSON

Associate professor  
of educational  
and counselling  
psychology  
Victoria Talwar

"I didn't know it at the time, but I not only had a study, I had the beginning of my research career," Talwar says.

What she also didn't know at the time was that studying lie-telling behaviour in this naturalistic way would lead as well to a reassessment of children's capacity for telling the truth, specifically in court. Or that her theoretical pursuits would end up having a practical impact on reforms in Canadian law.



Talwar's research lab takes up several rooms in McGill's Duggan House on McTavish and Pine. One is set aside for a mock courtroom. With a judge's bench and a witness stand, the room resembles a mini-movie set. In fact, it's being read-

ied for a new project which will examine children's ability to provide accurate testimony in court.

This will be a continuation of more than a decade of studying lie- and truth-telling behaviour in children, research that Talwar and Lee, along with Queen's law professor Nicholas Bala, were invited to present as a brief to the Canadian parliament in 2005. Their findings—dubbed the Child Witness Project—proved instrumental in changing the way the testimony of children is judged in Canadian courts.

*Voir dire* was one example. A kind of pre-trial trial, *voir dire* was routinely used to determine the competency of children as witnesses. A qualifying process, it can end up disqualifying children unnecessarily. This included cases—from custody to abuse—where the child's testimony was key.

*Voir dire* just proved too onerous for young children, according to Talwar. "The court was asking six-year-olds questions that really have no utility. Questions like, 'Do you know what the truth is?' Ask an adult the same thing and their eyes go up in the air. They consider all the philosophical answers they could give. These were hard questions," Talwar says.

Talwar was also able to show that if you simply asked children to promise to tell the truth, there was a demonstrable effect. "Even more so than if you ask adults," she says. "Children, especially young children, take this promise quite seriously. Now they are no longer asked the difference between truth and lies. Instead, they are just asked to promise to tell the truth."

Section 16 of the Criminal Act became Canadian law in 2006 and it reflects a dramatic, fact-based change of attitude when it comes to child witness testimony. The new reforms presume that children are competent to testify where the opposite was true in the past. Now, the burden on proving the capacity of a child to tell the truth in court is on those who challenge that capacity. *Voir dire*, for instance, is no longer required to determine whether a child can testify.

"McGill's gain is Queen's loss. Victoria is a wonderful scholar," says Nicholas Bala, who first suggested to Talwar her research into lie-telling behaviour might be more than theoretical.

"Victoria and Kang Lee were looking at this from a developmental and moral point of view. But I also thought they could make this apply to the law. As it turned out, it took very little work on their part to think, 'Oh yes, we could make this apply.' Victoria had the ability to test the stereotypes inherent in the old law and make them into propositions that could be tested in a lab setting," Bala says.

Lee remains surprised that this research has had such an impact. "We were just concerned about these theories as they applied to child development. I would never in a million years imagine that our work would change policy and legal practice."

For her part, Talwar is gratified her research has made a difference. "As I've looked more and more into child



witness testimony I've realized how important it is," she says. "Still, it's unsettling when I come across people with misguided ideas about children and what they can do."

...

Evan, a cute, bright four-year-old, isn't sitting so much as bouncing on a tiny chair in another one of the rooms in Duggan House set aside for Talwar's research. He is clearly making life difficult for the young woman — one of the 20 or so research assistants and McGill students Talwar works with — who is trying to get him to answer her questions. Evan's preferred subject is dinosaurs. Meanwhile, I watch him on a computer screen from the next room. If I hadn't known this was serious research, I would think I had stumbled upon an episode of *America's Funniest Home Videos*.

Shanna Williams, a master's student working with Talwar, explains what was going to happen next. The research assistant was going to leave the room, first telling

child is going to lie. "For instance, if they bring in more than one child, a parent will say, 'I think this one will lie and this one won't.' They aren't always right," Talwar says.

But Talwar's studies also introduce parents to some good news about children's lie-telling behaviour. Like the fact that it can be beneficial in social situations — lying to be polite, for example. Or that it can be an early indicator of empathy as well as a sign of intelligence.

"Lying is hard to really do successfully," Talwar explains. "Think about it: you have to work memory load and remember what you say. You have to inhibit your expressions. Maybe even simulate expressions. You have to take the perspective of the other person. 'Would they expect me to know this or not know this?' You have to be tactical.

"That's probably why we say, 'Oh, what a tangled web we weave.' Lying can get very complicated."

In large part, Talwar's research has been dedicated to untangling the web — not of the lies children tell but of

*"The court was asking six-year-olds questions like, 'Do you know what the truth is?' Ask an adult the same thing and their eyes go up in the air."*

Evan to turn around, cover his eyes and not look at the toy she was leaving on the table. Once she is gone, Evan resists for a few long seconds, then peeks. Williams looks at me and I volunteer a guess. There is no way this sweet little guy was going to lie.

A few moments later, when the research assistant returns and asks him if he had peeked, Evan's first reaction is to change the subject. "I'm trying to think of something else," he says. But when asked again, he lies. Like a natural. Like an adult, that is.

From the outset, this has been one of the more important and surprising findings from Talwar's research. When it comes to lying, children don't fit our usual characterizations of them as either little devils or little angels. They lie to get what they want, to avoid negative consequences, to make themselves look good. For the same reasons, Talwar points out, that adults do.

...

Parents participate in Talwar's studies for a variety of reasons. Some are interested in childhood development. Some have been involved in other studies. And some want to introduce their children to the university. "I've heard them say to their children, 'This is McGill. You may want to go here one day,'" Talwar says.

Others think it will be fun. It can be; it can also be an education. Parents are often a little startled to see how frequently and skillfully their children lie. They also learn that they aren't particularly adept at predicting whether their

how and why they tell them. Her research, which has changed the way the legal system treats children testifying in court, also has obvious implications for the way parents deal with children in everyday life.

In fact, the same principle that applies in court — children who promise to tell the truth are more likely to do so — applies in daily life. Talwar advises parents to put the emphasis on positive consequences of truth-telling rather than the negative consequences of lie-telling.

"Let's say your child breaks your vase but they tell you about it, then give them recognition for telling the truth," Talwar says. "You want them to know that even though you may not like what they're telling you, you would rather be told than not be. Also, if you do this in childhood, it will be reinforced later on. This becomes especially important with teenagers who may be indulging in risky behaviour. They might just tell you what they're up to."

In one area, at least, Talwar's groundbreaking research doesn't exactly break new ground. That's because it's something most parents already know. Still, it doesn't hurt to have Talwar and her research as a reminder that children learn to lie from their parents. "Model good behaviour," Talwar says. "There's no point telling a child about truth telling and then have them catch you lying" 🐦

*Joel Yanofsky is a Montreal-based writer whose work has appeared in several publications, including the Village Voice, Canadian Geographic, the Globe and Mail and Reader's Digest.*





# Lettres

# mo

Fondé en 1853, le Département de langue et littérature françaises de McGill s'est considérablement transformé au fil des décennies. Plus que jamais, ses acteurs contribuent à façonner le paysage littéraire québécois. PAR JULIE FORTIER

La dernière année a été particulièrement faste pour le Département de langue et littérature françaises (DLLF) de McGill. Parmi les finalistes des Prix du Gouverneur général, en 2009, trois des cinq auteures sélectionnées dans la catégorie romans/nouvelles étaient des diplômées du département: Nadine Bismuth (B.A. 1997, M.A. 1999) pour *Êtes-vous mariée à un psychopathe?* (voir *La romantique*, p. 26), Dominique Fortier (Ph. D. 2003) pour *Du bon usage des étoiles* et Julie Mazzieri (Ph. D. 2005), qui l'emportera finalement avec *Le Discours sur la tombe de l'idiot*. Presqu'en même temps, Olivia Tapiero (voir *La recrue*, p. 28), étudiante en première année de baccalauréat devenait, à 19 ans, la plus jeune auteure à remporter le Prix Robert-Cliche pour un premier roman avec *Les murs*.

« Il y a un dynamisme dans notre département qui s'est particulièrement illustré au cours des vingt dernières années », souligne François Ricard (M.A. 1968) qui a lui-même accumulé les honneurs au fil des ans, dont le Prix André-Laurendeau de l'Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS) en 2005 et le prestigieux Prix Killam du Conseil des Arts du Canada, en 2009.

Comptant parmi ses piliers des figures marquantes du monde des lettres québécoises telles que François Ricard,

le romancier Yvon Rivard (M.A. 1968) et l'historien Yvan Lamonde, il n'est pas étonnant que le DLLF soit devenu une véritable pépinière de romanciers, d'essayistes ou d'éditeurs. Myriam Beaudoin (M.A. 2001), Ying Chen (M.A. 1991), Ook Chung (M.A. 1992, Ph. D. 1998), Judith Lavoie (Ph. D. 1998), Hélène Robitaille (M.A. 1991), Alain Roy (B.A. 1988, M.A. 1990, Ph. D. 1996), Mauricio Segura (Ph. D. 2002), Mélanie Vincelette (B.A. 1997, M.A. 2000) (voir *L'entrepreneure*, p. 26): autant de diplômés mcgillois qui redéfinissent le paysage littéraire actuel.

## UNE ÉVOLUTION FRUCTUEUSE

Incontestablement, un important élément catalyseur du développement du DLLF aura été la mise en place, par Yvon Rivard, en 1985, du programme de création littéraire (voir *L'École Yvon-Rivard*, p. 27). Les ateliers de celui qui demeure le mentor de nombreux romanciers ont été extrêmement populaires.

Il reste que le DLLF demeure un secret bien gardé et l'une des clés de son succès est justement sa petite taille. Avec une centaine d'étudiants au premier cycle, une centaine aux deuxième et troisième cycles et 14 professeurs, la possibilité de discuter littérature en petits groupes est sans contredit un attrait important.

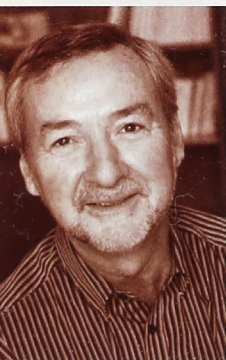


PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

François Ricard





# derniers

« C'est une taille qui nous va bien, estime Isabelle Daunais (B.A. 1986, M.A. 1988, Ph. D. 1992), qui a fait tout son parcours académique à McGill et dirige aujourd'hui les études de premier cycle au DLLF. Il se crée au département une véritable communauté qui offre un milieu très encadrant pour les étudiants. Ils se connaissent et sont unis par un fort sentiment d'appartenance. »

François Ricard, qui enseigne à McGill depuis près de 40 ans et a dirigé le DLLF de 2001 à 2005, a connu un département tout autre à son arrivée et a été témoin de sa transformation. Alors qu'à l'époque une partie importante des activités étaient consacrées à l'enseignement de la langue (aujourd'hui offert par le Centre d'enseignement du français et de l'anglais), le DLLF se consacre aujourd'hui à la littérature et à la traduction.

« Le département est beaucoup plus petit qu'il ne l'était alors, mais combien plus dynamique. Nos professeurs sont très présents dans la vie littéraire et intellectuelle québécoise ainsi que dans la vie universitaire », souligne François Ricard.

Autrefois considéré comme une sorte de « ghetto dans le ghetto qu'était McGill », le DLLF s'est peu à peu défait de cette image en se rapprochant de la Faculté des arts, dont il relève. Selon François Ricard, le succès de cette intégration (qui s'est concrétisée davantage par le déménagement

des bureaux du département, en 2007, du Pavillon Peterson à l'emblématique Pavillon des arts) n'aurait été possible sans le soutien des doyens Carman Miller et John Hall.

« Ils ont vu nos forces et cru au potentiel du département, souligne-t-il. Ils nous ont donné les moyens de nous développer en nous accordant des chaires de recherche. Nous avons pu développer davantage nos programmes de 2<sup>e</sup> et 3<sup>e</sup> cycles et avons mis beaucoup d'énergie dans la recherche. »

Aujourd'hui en pleine période charnière, le département a dû composer, au cours des deux dernières années, avec le départ à la retraite des professeurs Rivard, Lamonde et Ricard, bien que ce dernier continue de participer aux activités du département. D'ailleurs, François Ricard ne tarit pas d'éloges sur l'équipe actuelle. Le directeur actuel du programme, Michel Biron, entouré d'Isabelle Daunais au premier cycle et de Frédéric Charbonneau aux études supérieures, est appuyé par une équipe solide, dont Alain Farah, qui a pris la relève d'Yvon Rivard à la création littéraire.

« Nous avons eu la main heureuse lors de nos récentes embauches », dit François Ricard, qui ne semble nullement s'inquiéter de l'avenir du département.



## LA ROMANTIQUE

Au moment de notre entretien, Nadine Bismuth termine un premier congé de maternité et se remet tranquillement au travail. Elle coécrit le scénario d'un film basé sur *Passion*, une nouvelle d'Alice Munro. Celle qui a aussi scénarisé un épisode de la populaire télésérie *Les hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin*, notamment, souligne que la scénarisation, en dépit de certaines contraintes qu'elle comporte, lui plaît beaucoup.

« Il y a évidemment certains paramètres dont nous devons tenir compte. Par exemple, on essaie de conclure le segment précédant une pause publicitaire sur un 'punch'. Ou, selon le budget, on tente d'éviter les scènes extérieures. Bien que je ne retrouve pas la même liberté que lorsque j'écris un roman, j'aime l'écriture dramatique tout autant. »

Les lecteurs québécois ont vite adopté Nadine Bismuth lors de la parution de son premier recueil de nouvelles, *Les gens fidèles ne font pas les nouvelles* (Prix des libraires et Prix Adrienne-Choquette, 2000). Les critiques ont salué le ton ironique et la justesse des observations de la jeune auteure, alors étudiante à la maîtrise à McGill. Son roman *Scrapbook* (2004) et son deuxième recueil de nouvelles, *Êtes-vous mariée à un psychopathe?* (finaliste, Prix du Gouverneur général, 2009), ont connu autant de succès, tant populaire que critique, et son œuvre a depuis été traduite en plusieurs langues.

De toute évidence, les lecteurs apprécient le regard doux-amer qu'elle porte sur les relations amoureuses, son sujet de prédilection. « Les modèles traditionnels ont connu de profonds bouleversements. En théorie, nous continuons de croire au couple, mais en pratique, les choses ne sont pas si simples », souligne-t-elle.

Entre l'écriture de deux ouvrages, la jeune romancière a découvert l'univers de Mordecai Richler. « Ça a été un véritable coup de foudre. Je connaissais le personnage, mais pas ses romans », dit-elle. Déçue de la traduction française des romans de Richler (traduits en France) et afin de faire connaître aux lecteurs québécois le romancier au-delà de sa réputation de polémiste, elle a conçu, avec l'auteure Dominique Fortier, un projet de traduction d'essais de l'écrivain montréalais. Paru en 2007, *Un certain sens du ridicule* présente des textes choisis par Nadine Bismuth et traduits par Dominique Fortier.

Les deux auteures se sont connues pendant leurs études à McGill, une époque que Nadine Bismuth évoque d'ailleurs dans *Scrapbook*. De ses années d'université, elle se rappelle des professeurs marquants : François Ricard, Diane Desrosiers-Bonin, qui a dirigé sa thèse de maîtrise et l'a aidée à « structurer sa pensée », et Yvon Rivard, « un excellent guide pour un jeune écrivain », qui demeure l'un de ses premiers lecteurs.

Dix ans après la parution de son premier recueil, on ne peut s'empêcher de demander à Nadine Bismuth si, à 34 ans et nouvelle maman, son regard sur le couple et la famille a changé. « Difficile à dire pour l'instant, mais puisque je me remets à l'écriture, je le saurai bien assez vite. »



PHOTO : DOMINIQUE THIBODEAU

## Nadine Bismuth

### L'ENTREPRENEURE

Mélanie Vincelette a toujours su qu'elle voulait diriger sa propre entreprise. Enfant, elle fabriquait divers objets et les vendait au bazar de l'église ou sur le bord de la rue. « Mes amis et moi confectionnions des fanzines. Je réunissais nos textes et nos dessins, me rendais au dépanneur du coin pour les photocopier et les agrafais. J'étais déjà dans l'édition! lance-t-elle à la blague.

En 2001, alors aux études à McGill, elle fonde sa propre maison d'édition, Marchand de feuilles. Sans ressources ni main d'œuvre, mais animée de la volonté de créer quelque chose de différent. En misant sur les jeunes auteurs, Mélanie Vincelette est convaincue que Marchand de feuilles a sa place. Dans le même objectif, celui d'offrir un « laboratoire pour la littérature de demain », elle lancera la revue *Zinc* en 2003. « Aujourd'hui, toutes les grandes maisons ont une collection 'jeunes auteurs' mais à l'époque, il était très difficile pour un écrivain de percer le marché. »

L'initiative lui permet à la fois de publier son premier recueil de nouvelles, *Petites géographies orientales*, en 2001. Elle préférera laisser à d'autres maisons le soin de publier ses ouvrages subséquents, *Qui a tué Magellan* (2004) et *Crimes horticoles* (2005), son premier roman salué par la critique au Québec comme en France et qui lui vaudra le Prix Anne-Hébert en 2007.



## L'ÉCOLE YVON-RIVARD

En lançant le programme de création littéraire du Département de langue et littératures françaises de McGill, en 1985, le romancier Yvon Rivard, professeur au département de 1973 à 2008, a contribué à lancer toute une génération d'auteurs.

« Yvon Rivard a été extrêmement déterminant dans ma vie », lance Nadine Bismuth, qui estime que c'est à lui qu'elle doit la publication de son premier recueil de nouvelles, *Les gens fidèles ne font pas les nouvelles*, paru en 1999, alors qu'elle était toujours étudiante à McGill.

Nadine Bismuth a été finaliste en 2009 pour le Prix du Gouverneur général dans la catégorie romans/nouvelles, aux côtés de Dominique Fortier et Julie Mazzieri, également issues de ce que l'on peut appeler « l'École Yvon-Rivard ». Pourtant, les trois auteures ont développé des styles et des univers complètement différents.

Sans imposer un style, la force du professeur réside justement dans sa capacité à accompagner un jeune

auteur dans le développement de son univers littéraire. Comment s'y prend-il?

« L'étudiant doit d'abord tomber amoureux d'un auteur, explique Yvon Rivard. Lorsqu'il se découvre une affinité avec un auteur, une partie du cheminement est faite, car cela lui donne une indication de sa propre voix. »

Dans chaque texte qu'on lui remet, poursuit-il, son travail consiste à identifier « l'os », ou le noyau du texte. « Ce n'est pas toujours évident pour la personne qui écrit d'identifier elle-même ce noyau. »

Lauréat d'un prix du Gouverneur général (*Les Silences du corbeau*, 1986) et du Grand Prix du livre de Montréal à deux reprises (*Le Milieu du jour*, 1995; *Le Siècle de Jeanne*, 2005), Yvon Rivard a officiellement pris sa retraite de McGill en 2008, mais continue de recevoir et de lire les manuscrits de ses anciens étudiants. « Ils deviennent un peu comme mes enfants. Je me sens lié à eux », lance-t-il.

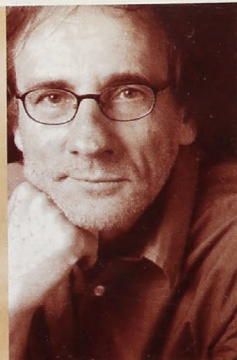


PHOTO - DOMINIQUE THIBODEAU

« Les premières années de Marchand de feuilles ont été très difficiles. Je ne savais rien du monde de l'édition. Je n'avais que mon amour des livres pour me guider. Je ne sais pas si j'aurais l'audace de recommencer aujourd'hui », raconte-t-elle. Yvon Rivard, alors professeur de création littéraire à McGill, a eu une influence déterminante sur la décision de la jeune auteure de se lancer dans cette aventure. « Lorsqu'on aime les lettres, nos rêves nous semblent atteignables. Yvon Rivard nous donne la foi. Il nous dit que si l'on veut quelque chose dans la vie, il nous est possible de l'obtenir! »

Aujourd'hui, Marchand de feuilles est bien établie dans le marché québécois de l'édition. La jeune maison affiche quelque 60 titres et vient de lancer une collection d'albums pour enfants. Mélanie Vincelette avoue avoir refusé des offres d'achat de grandes maisons. « J'aime la taille actuelle de Marchand de feuilles. Nous travaillons de près avec chaque auteur et sur chaque livre. Je crois que ce ne serait pas nous rendre service que de nous joindre à une plus grosse entreprise. J'aurais peur de perdre ce contrôle. » Il faut dire que Mélanie Vincelette compte aussi sur Marchand de feuilles pour ne jamais prendre sa retraite et continuer de faire ce qu'elle aime, jusqu'à la fin de ses jours.



PHOTO - ALEXANDRA BOLDUC

# Mélanie Vincelette



## LA RECRUE

Olivia Tapiero a fait une entrée remarquée dans le monde littéraire québécois, à la fin de 2009, en devenant la plus jeune auteure à remporter le Prix Robert-Cliche du premier roman. « Lorsque j'ai appris la nouvelle, ce fut le choc total. J'étais euphorique, je ne m'en rappelle presque plus », raconte l'étudiante de 19 ans, en plein milieu d'un tourbillon médiatique à la suite de l'annonce. Le prix lui a valu d'être nommée Personnalité de la semaine par *La Presse*/Radio-Canada, puis de figurer dans la liste des 28 femmes de l'année de la revue *Elle Québec*.

Son roman, *Les murs*, plonge le lecteur dans l'univers sombre d'une jeune fille anorexique et suicidaire, qui vient d'être hospitalisée. Emmurée dans sa douleur, la narratrice ne pense qu'à sa prochaine tentative de suicide.

L'auteure, étudiante au Département de langue et littérature françaises depuis septembre 2009, nous assure que l'univers de son héroïne n'a rien à voir avec le cadre familial qu'elle a connu, des plus normaux et paisibles. Elle a plutôt voulu exprimer son questionnement face aux rapports humains contemporains. « Notre mode de vie actuel nous fait perdre un peu de notre humanité dans nos rapports avec les autres. C'est dévastateur pour l'individu. Les problèmes liés à l'identité me préoccupent beaucoup. Mon personnage se mutile, ce n'est pas pour rien. La peau est

notre lien avec le monde », explique la jeune femme.

Née à Montréal, Olivia a fréquenté le Collège Marie de France, pour se diriger ensuite vers la création littéraire au Cégep du Vieux-Montréal, puis à McGill, qu'elle a choisie notamment en raison de « la petite taille des classes ». Elle a su très jeune qu'elle voulait devenir écrivain, mais considère *Les murs* comme son premier véritable projet d'écriture. Elle a rédigé la première version du roman en trois mois et l'a retravaillé pendant deux ans.

La musique occupe également une partie importante dans la vie de la jeune auteure, qui s'est mise au piano dès l'âge de cinq ans et apprécie de pouvoir « laisser reposer le langage » en jouant une pièce de musique. C'est d'ailleurs son professeur de piano qui l'a encouragée à soumettre son

manuscrit pour le prix Robert-Cliche. La reconnaissance qu'a obtenue *Les murs* n'a fait que l'encourager à poursuivre dans cette voie. « Même avant que le roman ne soit publié, je savais que c'était ce que je voulais faire dans la vie, souligne-t-elle. Qu'il soit reconnu et accepté, c'est comme si la vie me disait "allez, vas-y." »



PHOTO - OWEN EGAN

# Olivia Tapiero

## On the write track

BY JULIE FORTIER

TRANSLATION BY CH-KAY TRANSLATIONS

Last fall was an especially memorable one for McGill's Department of French Language and Literature. Among the five finalists for the 2009 Governor General's Literary Award, arguably Canada's top prize for French fiction, three were graduates of the department—Nadine Bismuth, BA'97, MA'99 (for *Êtes-vous mariée à un psychopathe?*), Dominique Fortier, PhD'03 (for *Du bon usage des étoiles*), and the eventual winner, Julie Mazzieri, PhD'05 (for *Le Discours sur la tombe de l'idiote*).

At almost exactly the same time, Olivia Tapiero, a first-year undergraduate in the department, became, at 19, the youngest author ever to win the Prix Robert-Cliche for best first novel for her debut, *Les murs*.

"There's a vitality in our department that's been particularly remarkable over the past 20 years," says Professor François Ricard, MA'68, himself a recent recipient of the Canada Council for the Arts' prestigious Killam Prize.

The department has become a veritable incubator for many of Quebec's most talented novelists, essayists and editors, including Myriam Beaudoin, MA'01, Ying Chen, MA'91, Ook Chung, MA'92, PhD'98, Judith Lavoie, PhD'99, Hélène Robitaille, MA'99, Mauricio Segura, PhD'02, and Alain Roy, BA'88, MA'90, PhD'96.

Though the department has served as home to some of Quebec's most influential intellectuals, including Ricard, novelist Yvon Rivard and historian Yvan Lamonde, it is still a fairly small and close-knit unit. Isabelle Daunais, BA'86, MA'88, PhD'92, the director of undergraduate studies in the department, believes that's one of the keys to its success. "Our department has a real community feel and offers an environment that fosters students. The students know each other and there's a strong sense of belonging."

Much of the credit for the department's ability to nurture so many successful writers goes to Rivard, who established its creative writing program. Though officially retired from McGill, he continues to receive and read manuscripts sent to him by former students. As he puts it, "They're a bit like my children. I feel tied to them."

Mélanie Vincelette, BA'97, MA'00, is one of those former students. She earned the Prix Anne-Hébert in 2007 for her first novel, *Crimes horticoles*, and started her own publishing firm, Marchand de feuilles, while still studying at McGill. "Yvon Rivard gives us faith," she says of her mentor's impact on her and other writers. "He tells us that if we want something in life, it is always within our reach!"

Though the department has lost some of its most prominent professors to retirement in recent years, Ricard says the high quality of the faculty in place ensures a bright future.

"More than ever, our professors are very involved in Quebec's literary and intellectual life and in the University's life."



This is one of two untitled paintings by celebrated Montreal artist **JEAN MCEWEN** on display in the Nahum Gelber Law Library. Known for his mastery of texture and his bold use of colour, McEwen was a protégé of abstract artist Paul-Émile Borduas, one of the most influential figures in Canadian art history. Fittingly, McEwen was awarded Quebec's highest honour for achievement in visual arts — the Prix Paul-Émile Borduas — in 1998.

# A feast for the EYES

Stroll through the downtown campus and you'll have the opportunity to drink in works of art by some of Quebec's top talents and some of the world's most influential masters.

TEXT BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89  
PHOTOS BY CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS



Over the course of its long history, McGill has quietly put together one of the largest and most eclectic collections of artwork in Montreal, ranging from course-based sketches and watercolours by generations of architecture students, to seminal works by members of the fabled Group of Seven. The University boasts an overall collection of about 1,800 works, dozens of which are on public display.

While McGill regularly commemorates the contributions of each principal, chancellor and board of governors' chair with a commissioned portrait, "we haven't been able to secure a significant budget for the acquisition of other forms of art," says David Covo, BSc(Arch)'71, BArch'74, an associate professor of architecture and the chair of McGill's visual arts committee. "And yet, the University has managed over time to put together a very impressive collection."

Most of the works in McGill's collection have been the product of generous and often unexpected donations. In more recent years, a Quebec government program promoting public art has augmented the collection by sponsoring the creation of new works to enrich the public spaces of buildings

constructed with government support. *Ondes*, Marie-France Brière's black marble rendering of a sound wave that sits outside the New Music Building on Sherbrooke Street, is one of the works acquired by McGill in this manner.

Covo is fond of the 80 or so sculptures in McGill's collection. Some of these pieces have become beloved campus icons. "There is always something going on around the James McGill statue," notes Covo, whether it's red balloons being attached to his wrist to mark Valentine's Day, or newly minted graduates lining up to have their photos taken with the University's founder during convocation.

Not every piece is uniformly admired. Covo has heard his share of criticisms about several works—one colleague offered to blow up a particular piece that irked him. Strong reactions to the works don't faze Covo. "That's the nature of art. I'm more concerned when a new installation fails to inspire any sort of reaction at all," he says. "A significant work encourages you to spend a little time with it and challenges you to understand it; it invites you to read your surroundings in a different light."





Did Paul Bunyan drop his keys? This work, by Montreal sculptor **JACEK JARNUSZKIEWICZ**, adorns the staircase to the M.H. Wong Building, home to the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Mining and Metallurgical Engineering. Constructed of brass, copper and stainless steel (all materials of interest to the researchers inside the building), the work represents the keys to knowledge and the serrated edge along one key evokes the streetscapes of Plateau Mont-Royal. Other works by Jarnuszkiewicz are located at Atwater Market, the Pointe-à-Calliere museum in Old Montreal and the Cartier metro station.

British sculptor **BARBARA HEPWORTH** was a major figure in the modernist movement and her work is displayed at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the University of Oxford's St. Catherine's College, and Britain's Tate Gallery. Her bronze piece *Square Forms and Circles* will be one of four works highlighted in a new sculpture garden, an initiative of former vice-principal (administration and finance) François Roy. Another work that will be included in the new James Square, which will be officially opened at the end of May near the James Administration Building, is *Fenêtres sur l'avenir*, by Marcel Barbeau, one of the leaders of Quebec's highly influential automatistes, a group of abstract artists that also included Paul-Émile Borduas and Jean Paul Riopelle.





Enter the atrium of the Francesco Bellini Life Sciences Building, and there is no way you can miss **STÉPHANIE BÉLIVEAU**'s stark *Des soleils et des cellules*, a work that manages to evoke both stars being born and cells coming under assault. A visual artist and illustrator, Béliveau received the City of Montreal's Prix Pierre-Ayot for outstanding young artists in 1997.



Montreal-born, France-based sculptor **ROBERT ROUSSIL**'s *La Danse de paix* was originally commissioned in 1953 by architect Fred Lebensold (a co-founder of ARCO, one of Canada's leading architectural firms, Lebensold co-designed Place des Arts and the National Arts Centre) for the exterior of his Westmount home. The work eventually made its way to McGill where the stainless steel, copper and tin creation—one of the first large-scale outdoor murals in Canada—is now on display inside the Brown Student Services Building.





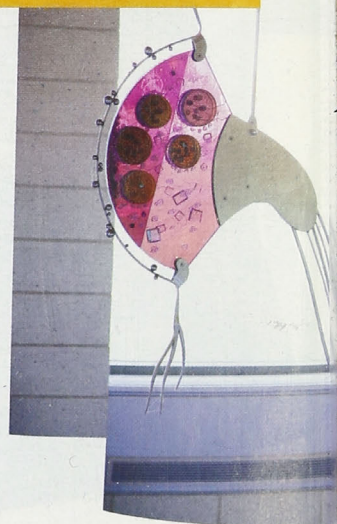
One of the giants of the pop art movement that both celebrated and satirized pop culture, **ROY LICHTENSTEIN** was among the most prominent American artists of the 20th century. Many of his most vivid works drew their inspiration from comic books and advertising. Lichtenstein's tapestry **Abstraction** is located on the ground floor of the Arts Building, close to where it intersects with the Stephen Leacock Building. The work was a gift from Regina Slatkin, BA'29, an art dealer and collector who also donated several other significant works to McGill, including another tapestry by master minimalist Frank Stella.



The statue of **QUEEN VICTORIA** that maintains its majestic vigil in front of the Strathcona Music Building has a royal pedigree that extends beyond its subject matter. Unveiled in 1900 at what was then the Royal Victoria College residence for female students, the work was created by **PRINCESS LOUISE**, Victoria's daughter and, for a brief period, a resident of Rideau Hall when her husband served as Canada's governor general (Alberta's Lake Louise is named in her honour as is the province itself—her full name was Louisa Caroline Alberta). Another of her sculptures, also of Victoria, is prominently displayed on the grounds of Kensington Palace.



**MARY FILER**, BFA'50, is an award-winning glass sculptor with a unique connection to the Montreal Neurological Institute where her work, **Neuressence**, co-created with Marcus Sabathil, is exhibited inside the Brain Tumour Research Centre. Having been a Neuro nurse for several years, Filer has firsthand knowledge of the work that goes on there. She was still nursing when she first took up art seriously under the tutelage of the Group of Seven's Arthur Lismer in the forties. Today her glass works and paintings are included in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Simon Fraser University. A mural by Filer, depicting the history of neurology, hangs in the Neuro's main boardroom.





Abitibi artist **LUC BOYER's** *Le Retour* is located outside the Cancer Research Building, home to the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Centre. The rusted finish and the organic forms refer to both the disease and the treatments under study by the researchers inside the building, says Covo. "It's a very powerful piece, even aggressive," says Covo, something that he finds entirely appropriate given the subject matter. The work's strong verticality is an expression of optimism and develops a nice fit with the tress on site and the nearby woods of Mount Royal.

There are always plenty of reasons to visit McGill's Redpath Museum, where you'll find everything from mummies to meteorite fragments. One of the more unusual residents of the museum can be spotted soaring near the ceiling—an *origami pteranodon* with a 16-foot wingspan. Created from a single 4.5 m x 4.5 m sheet of paper, the pteranodon is the work of American physicist **ROBERT LANG**, a pioneer in computational origami, whose creations have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and featured in the *New Yorker* and *Wired*.



To see more works from McGill's collection, read a fuller version of this article on the McGill News website at <http://publications.mcgill.ca/mcgillnews>.



# Conversion: Ben's Version

One might define an editor as someone who can turn any circumstance into a story. And when that circumstance involves a witty WASP agnostic converting for his Jewish girlfriend, **BENJAMIN ERRETT**'s editor's instinct didn't err.

"I knew I had an interesting story," says Errett, BSc'01, the managing editor for features at the *National Post*, "just based on the number of questions I had, like 'How does this work?' 'How does one go about formally switching religions?'" After a little soul searching and a lot of Hebrew classes, the former *McGill Daily* editor converted his year-long journey into his first book, *Jew and Improved: How Choosing to Be Chosen Made Me a Better Man*.

Errett actually approached his goy-meets-girl tale with a "vaguely scholarly" tack in mind. "I definitely wanted to write it in a humorous tone," he says, but he was drawing inspiration from neo-atheist books like Christopher Hitchens' *God Is Not Great*. He soon scaled back his ambitions. "I quickly realized I was no expert in Judaism, and that this was a particular story."

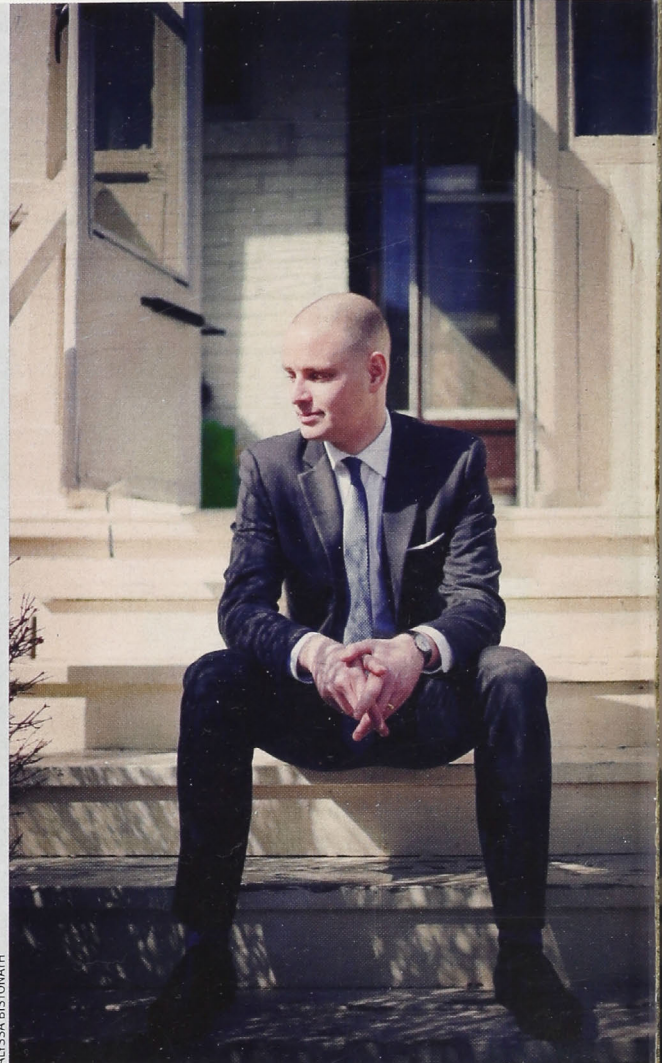
Indeed, Errett embarks upon conversion a *bissel* naïve. A few things, such as the historical unpopularity of Jews with other peoples, he forgot to consider. He writes in the book: "As a heterosexual, white, vaguely Christian male, I'd never faced discrimination of any sort. I hadn't had strong opinions on the Middle East, other than that they should all just knock it off." Factors that weigh into his choice of Toronto temple to "frequent" include its proximity to Costco.

But with this attitude, why convert? Pressure from the family of his beloved Sarah Lazarovic, whom he met at McGill, was non-existent; several future rela-

tives-in-law even tried to talk him out of it, one cousin quipping, "Anyone can eat bagels these days." And about God, both Ben and Sarah were indifferent, he admits in Chapter 3, "Religion, Shmeligion." In a way, explains Errett, that was part of Judaism's appeal for him.

"Judaism puts an emphasis on action over belief," he says. "At my *shul*, there's a sizable contingent of atheists who are members." It was the tests of faith that drove Errett away from his Christian upbringing, he says. In contrast, "I'm glad that Judaism says, 'Okay, you know what? You can believe what you want, but let's move on!'"

But without worship, what's left? "It's easy to lose religion from your life," he says, "because you see extreme sides of it in the news and think it's outdated." But the self-proclaimed "proponent of the à la carte model of religion" finds plenty beyond faith to admire—for example, Judaism's guidelines for living, which cover "everything from what you eat with your eggs in the morning to how to bury your dead." That these traditions have been tested over thousands of years gives Errett comfort. The book is infused with the author's curiosity, pragmatism and willingness to struggle with the details—"which Judaism encourages," he says—making the author seem a natural, if neither a born nor religious, Jew. Over the course of *Jew and Improved*, through all the



AVUSSA BISTONATH

First-time author Ben Errett chronicles his decision to convert to Judaism in *Jew and Improved: How Choosing to Be Chosen Made Me a Better Man*.

classes and conversion rites, Errett realizes it was his desire to belong, not believe, that drove him to pursue conversion.

He and Sarah still attend *shul* regularly, and he gets more out of it every time, just as everyone said he would. "Now, as I say in the book, you could say that for any activity you do repeatedly—except for maybe hitting yourself in the head with a mallet," he jokes. "But the music is beautiful, and the prayers have a rhythm to them, as with any religious service."

And hey, editors have found readers for *those* stories for millennia.

JAKE BRENNAN, BA'97



## GLOBAL WARRING: HOW ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISES WILL REDRAW THE WORLD MAP

by Cleo Paskal, BA'90

While countries fret about climate change, squabbling over whether scientists are dissembling and balking at mustering the political will—and money—to find real solutions, events are overtaking us. In *Global Warring* author Cleo Paskal outlines the geopolitical shifts under way as ice melts, oceans rise and extreme weather proliferates.

"Environmental change," says Paskal, "is a sustained and pervasive attack on the status quo" affecting everything from food and water supply, global transportation, borders and international law to economic stability and infrastructure. "As it stands, no country is prepared."

The U.S., with major population and economic centres in low-lying coastal areas like New York, New Jersey and California, is vulnerable. Melting Arctic ice will soon reveal the long-sought Northwest Passage and wrangling over sovereignty in Canada's north has begun. China will face difficulties maintaining its obsessive focus on central control within, while simultaneously reaching across the world, buying influence along with food and fuel sources in developing nations. Europe, mired in internal disputes over EU treaties, can only watch as its former colonies resist the advances of their one-time oppressors.

None of the major powers fully "gets" the problems environmental change will cause, insists Paskal, who ties together history, climatology, geography and politics into a compelling, brilliantly argued big picture. "They are unknowingly racing each other through a minefield," risking "sudden and explosive disaster."

DIANA GRIER AYTON

## A HISTORY OF MARRIAGE

by Elizabeth Abbott, MA'66, PhD'71

Anybody longing for the good old days, when marriages were supposedly built to last, should read Elizabeth Abbott's

*A History of Marriage*. Those "good old days" were often anything but, Abbott bluntly reminds us, especially if you were a woman.

Until fairly recently, for instance, women had little legal recourse if their husbands badly mistreated them. The very notion that love was essential to a successful marriage only firmly took hold in the 18th century. In fact, Abbott tells us, "love was disparaged as unseemly, equated with lust, and believed to corrode good marriages."

The history of marriage is a complex tale and Abbott proves to be an instructive guide. She makes it clear that marriage has been shaped by the ebb and flow of a variety of powerful social, economic and religious influences. And, as was the case with Abbott's previous books on the histories of mistresses and celibacy (the author refers to her trilogy as the "sweeping story of how men and women have related to each other over the centuries"), she has a sharp eye for the telling anecdote, introducing us to a variety of personalities, some famous, some not, whose stories shed light on how marriage has evolved over time.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

## SPIN

by Catherine McKenzie, BA'95, BCL/LLB'99

In *Spin*, Kate Sandford faces a dilemma that has been a trusty plot point of literature from *Doctor Faustus* to *Harry Potter*—how far are you willing to go to get what you desire, and how much of yourself are you willing to sacrifice to do it?

All music journalist Kate wants is her dream job at one of the world's most respected music magazines. Unfortunately, she arrives at her interview still drunk from prematurely celebrating the night before.

Not surprisingly, Kate doesn't get the job, but she is given a second chance. If she follows the latest celebrity train-wreck into rehab and writes a stinging exposé, the powers-that-be may reconsider her application. What ensues is a story of self-exploration and personal



identity. Having forged real and meaningful friendships in rehab, and confronting the possibility that she herself may have a substance abuse problem, Kate is faced with some tough choices. Just what is she willing to sacrifice for that dream job, after all?

In *Spin*, author Catherine McKenzie has created a damaged yet lovable character who you hope will succeed despite her sometimes less than admirable qualities. *Spin* provides a touching glimpse into the world of rehabilitation, and a funny and poignant look at society's obsession with fame and celebrity. It's a perfect rainy Sunday afternoon read.

EMMA LANZA, BA'04

## Soundcheck

### HEAVY FALLS THE NIGHT

By Elizabeth Shepherd, BMus'04



Two-time Juno nominee for her jazz-infused albums, Elizabeth Shepherd decided to take a different approach on her latest CD, *Heavy Falls The Night*. The singer-songwriter-pianist hasn't abandoned jazz on her new effort so much as embraced a wider range of styles. Shepherd incorporates elements of funk, pop and R&B to fuel her evocative story-driven compositions. Her collaborators on the album include a Japanese DJ, an Afrobeat producer and Canadian poet James Strecker.

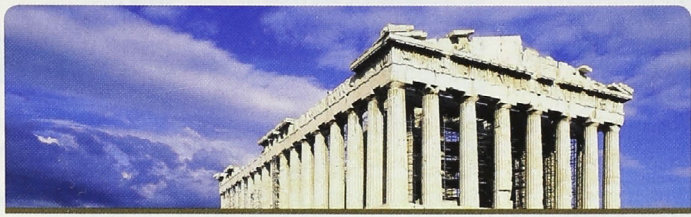
Her confident, distinctive vocals, seasoned with a hint of breathy swagger, continue to command attention. This is never truer than on Shepherd's soulful reworking of Anne Murray's seventies-era hit "Danny's Boy," giving the song a gorgeous earthiness.

DM



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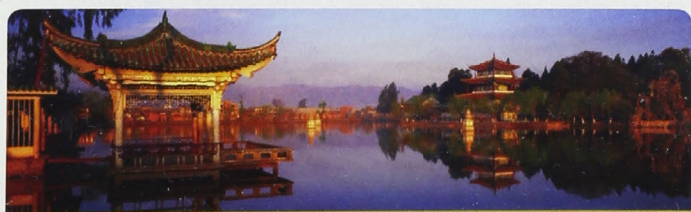
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## Remembering Gavin

When many McGill alumni think of their alma mater, they conjure up images of the Roddick Gates or the Arts Building in their mind's eye. For plenty of graduates though, the craggy face and playful grin of Gavin Ross were just as representative of the University. Ross, one of McGill's all-time great friend-raisers (a term he helped popularize), passed away on April 17 after a long battle with heart disease. From 1983 to 1996, Ross served as the executive director of the McGill Alumni Association (it was known as the McGill Graduates' Society when he began the job). Before that, he worked

for almost eight years as McGill's director of annual giving.

A winner of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's Carol and Stephen Herbert Distinguished Service Award, Ross is remembered for his enthusiastic support of many student initiatives—the McGill Jazz Band's triumphant tour of Ireland and England in the early nineties was largely a product of his efforts.

When Ross retired in 1996 he declared he was leaving "the best job at McGill," but he continued to be involved with the University. He was the longtime honorary president of the McGill Redmen hockey team, the founding president of Friends of McGill Jazz and a fundraiser for both the Redmen rugby squad and the McGill Debating Union. His memory lives on at McGill through the Gavin Ross Student Award which provides assistance to students facing financial challenges.



## West Coast update

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Vice Principal (Development & Alumni Relations) Marc Weinstein, BA'85, BCL'91, LLB'91, met with Vancouver-area graduates and McGill supporters at the Telus Centre on March 12, bringing them up to speed on recent developments at the University and on Campaign McGill's progress.

*Alumni Association of Vancouver president Brandi Sundby, BA'04, branch vice-president Danielle Pretto, BCom'05, Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and branch member-at-large Craig Pretto, BCom'05*



*Barry Campbell addresses the audience while fellow panelists Roslyn Levine and Toby Heaps take in his remarks.*

*Below: Certificate of appreciation presented to the McGill Alumni Association of New York by the Northport Historical Society*



*Above: McGill Alumni Association of New York president Ron LeVine, BSc'69, and Janice Hanlon, a descendant of some of the individuals buried in the Middleville Cemetery, take part in the rededication ceremony for the cemetery.*

## Networking in Toronto

Dozens of Toronto-area alumni turned up for a networking event on April 13 organized by the Toronto Young Alumni. Graduates learned about the career path of several prominent McGill graduates in attendance, including government relations consultant Barry Campbell, BA'71, LLB'75, BCL'76, *Corporate Knights* editor Toby Heaps, BA'00, CTV medical expert Marla Shapiro, MDCM'79, Superior Court of Ontario executive legal officer Roslyn Levine, BA'72, BCL'75, LLB'76, and Deloitte & Touche deputy chief executive Bruce Richmond, BCom'68.

## Historic cemetery restored

For seven years, members of the McGill Alumni Association of New York volunteered their time to restoring the Middleville Cemetery, a graveyard in Long Island that dates back to the late 1700s. Collaborating with town officials and local community groups, the McGill crew spent many weekend hours clearing away briars and vines, rebuilding gates and fences, repairing damaged grave stones, hauling away fallen trees, planting new flowers and documenting the information on the grave markers. The work, led by project coordinator Anton Angelich, BSc(FSc)'73, inspired a local exhibition about the cemetery's historical significance. The New York branch regularly takes on volunteer service projects—their previous efforts include volunteering in Brooklyn with Habitat for Humanity and restoring the Williamsbridge Oval Park in the Bronx.





Jessalyn Gilsig in a scene from *Glee* with Matthew Morrison, who plays her character's estranged husband.

## Grateful for a *Gleeful* gig

Will the Gleeks inherit the Earth? You could certainly be forgiven for drawing that conclusion.

Since its pilot episode debuted last May, *Glee*, a TV show about a high school glee club in Ohio, has become an improbable pop culture phenomenon, winning awards and attracting a fiercely loyal corps of fans (the aforementioned Gleeks). A-list celebrities are queuing for guest appearances (among them, reportedly, Jennifer Lopez, Julia Roberts and Lady Gaga), 25 of the show's songs cracked the Billboard Hot 100 last year (the only act to do better in a single year? The Beatles) and Oprah herself devoted an entire episode to the wonders of *Glee*.

"The nicest thing about it is that I'm a fan of the show too," says **JESSALYN GILSIG**, BA'93, who portrays *Glee*'s manipulative Terri Schuester. "If this was happening with a series that I didn't really like, it wouldn't be anywhere near as much fun."

Gilsig, along with her cast-mates, recently earned a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

"I think the timing was just right for the show," she says. "People were ready for something that had a little bit of hope in it. Everybody wants to find love and acceptance. *Glee* taps into a universal feeling."

Noting that *Glee* creator Ryan Murphy's last show was the much more sinister *Nip/Tuck*, she adds, "Ryan makes sure [*Glee*] still has a subversive edge. There are some dark elements there. It keeps everything grounded."

Gilsig herself isn't afraid to venture into darker terrain when it comes to the roles she chooses. Apart from Terri, Gilsig has also portrayed thorny women in *Nip/Tuck* and *Heroes*.

"I really like the challenge of that," she says. "You learn early on as an actor that you have to let go of the

concept of likeability if you're going to get anywhere. You can't worry about your public persona. My job is to serve the script."

Gilsig says an upcoming *Glee* episode will explore why Terri is the way she is and she thinks audiences might form a more nuanced opinion of the character. "We get a glimpse of how, over time, she became this tightly wound, untrusting person."

Gilsig has been acting since she was 12, but she says she really decided to make it her life's work while minoring in theatre studies at McGill. "I remember staring at a sign-up sheet for auditions for a theatrical version of *Wuthering Heights*. I was so scared, but I finally signed up. It was my first production at McGill. I played Nelly. We were in Morrice Hall and the stage was lit with lanterns."

It's not a career for everybody, she counsels. "There is so much rejection and it becomes a daily part of your life. Most people have to deal with job interviews every few years. Actors could do seven of them in a week and you probably won't get any of those jobs." Even though *Glee* is a smash hit and she now has an established track record, Gilsig says she still worries about the future. "Even to this day I feel I need a back-up plan. You never feel secure in this profession."

A hallmark of *Glee* is its elaborate musical numbers. During the interview, Gilsig mentions that she'll finally be taking part in one herself. Given that her co-stars include award-winning Broadway musical vets like Matthew Morrison and Lea Michelle, Gilsig acknowledges that the prospect of singing and dancing on the show is daunting.

"Do I find it a little intimidating? Absolutely. But that's the fun of it. You're always a little bit scared doing these things. A little bit of fear can be a good thing."

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89





Jade Raymond (foreground) with members of her *Assassin's Creed* team

## She's got game – and plenty of it

Forget the stereotype of gamers being pasty, anti-social nerds holed up in their parents' basements. Video games have gone mainstream, with software sales in the United States alone exceeding \$19-billion in 2009—that's more than double the amount that the American theatrical box office brought in last year.

As one of the creative forces behind the blockbuster *Assassin's Creed* games, **JADE RAYMOND**, BSc'98, has carved out a spot as one of the top producers in the booming industry. Her meteoric rise in a field dominated by men, where few women hold important roles, has earned her an enduring place in the hearts of many gamers, some of whom now call themselves members of the "Jade Empire." But don't tell Raymond that her achievements are anything extraordinary—her career has been driven by a simple desire to do what she loves most: make video games.

Born in Montreal, Raymond's love affair with video games started at a young age, but truly blossomed when she was 14 and spent a summer visiting her uncle in San Francisco. She remembers spending most of her three-month stay playing video games. "One day it clicked that there were people who made these games, and I wanted to be one of them," she says.

Enchanted by the harmony of arts, mathematics and science that goes into making video games, Raymond completed a bachelor's degree in computer science at McGill, which she credits with giving her the background and skills to break into the competitive field. Within days of graduating, Raymond packed her suitcases and moved to New York City to start a job as a game programmer with Sony, where she later helped establish Sony Online's first research and development group. Building on this success, she landed a position with Electronic Arts to serve as the producer for *The Sims Online*, an immensely popular game

that allows players to create and control characters and interact with other players online.

After more than six years away, Raymond returned to her hometown in 2004 to work for Ubisoft, where she was quickly appointed the lead producer of *Assassin's Creed*. She and her team worked tirelessly for more than two years to develop the action-adventure game, based in 12th-century Jerusalem.

Since its release in 2007, the wildly popular game has sold more than eight million copies, which prompted a sequel that Raymond headed as executive producer. For this version, she and her team enlisted the help of historians to ensure the realism of the customs, clothing and buildings of the game's different cities.

"We set the bar really high," she explains. "We researched city layouts and recreated real buildings and cities, we made sure the plot is tied to actual historical events, and we created a character that has over 1,000 distinct moves and can interact with everything in the environment."

But Raymond was apparently not busy enough—she signed on as co-host of *The Electric Playground*, a popular TV show that previews upcoming video games and reports the latest industry news, and until recently, she sat on the Quebec board of directors for Leave Out Violence (LOVE), a non-profit organization established by McGill grad Sheila "Twinkle" Rudberg, BA'56, to help curb youth violence in Canada.

Raymond is now preparing to undertake her greatest challenge yet: she will head up Ubisoft's new development studio in Toronto. "I'm motivated by new experiences and I put myself in situations where I have to tackle new challenges," she says. "I'm always trying to look ahead."

GARY FRANCOEUR



## ARCHITECTURE

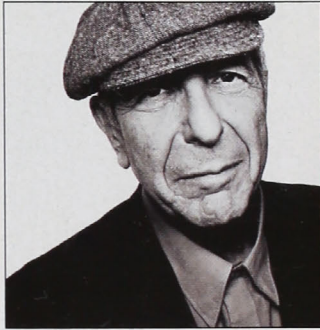
**DAVID FOX**, BArch'80, is a senior associate in the healthcare design studio of Hord Coplan Macht, a 100-person architecture and landscape architecture firm in Baltimore, Maryland. David is the architect for the first stand-alone emergency department building in Maryland, which is currently under construction in Queen Anne's County.

## ARTS

**IRVING MASSEY**, BA'44, is a professor of English and comparative literature at the State University of New York's University at Buffalo. The author of nine books, his most recent is *The Neural Imagination: Aesthetic and Neuroscientific Approaches to the Arts* (University of Texas Press). The book examines neuroesthetics, a new field that combines neuroscience with aesthetics. He hopes to allay the fear that brain science might "explain away" the arts, while exploring how neuroscience can enhance our understanding of certain features of art.

**JOAN CLARK**, BA'50, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2008. Joan, a prominent patent lawyer, has served as the first woman president of several national and international professional associations in the field of intellectual property and was a major force behind the creation and implementation of a groundbreaking animal protection law in Quebec. Formerly senior partner and now counsel to the law firm Ogilvy Renault, she has previously received the Ordre du mérite of the Bar of Quebec and in 2007 was awarded the distinction of *Advocatus Emeritus* by the Quebec Bar.

**GORDON L. NOSEWORTHY**, BA'62, attended Moray House College of Education



**LEONARD COHEN**, BA'55, DLitt'92, received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in January. One of the most influential singer-songwriters of his era, he will also be inducted into the New York-based Songwriters Hall of Fame this year. His concert tour of Europe, originally scheduled to begin in March, has been delayed until September while he recovers from a back injury.

in Edinburgh, Scotland, after graduating from McGill. He went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Gordon worked for 41 years in public education before retiring as superintendent of schools for the Silver Lake Regional School District (South Shore, Massachusetts). He and his wife, Mary Ann (née Cleghorn) live in Northampton and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

**MICHAEL SCHLEIFER**, BA'64, PhD'71, has co-written *Science and Religion in Education* (Temeron Press, 2009) with McGill associate professor of educational and counselling psychology Victoria Talwar and Paul Harris, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Their book has also been published in French (*Presses Universitaires du Québec*). Michael's earlier book, *Talking about Values and Feelings with Children* (Temeron Press, 2006), has been translated into French, Spanish and Persian (Farsi).

**IAN ROSS ROBERTSON**, BA'65, MA'68, a professor emeritus of history at the University of Toronto at Scarborough, recently published a biography of **SIR ANDREW MACPHAIL**, BA1888, MD1891, the first professor of the history of medicine at McGill (1907-1937), and a

prolific author on many non-medical subjects. *Sir Andrew Macphail: The Life and Legacy of a Canadian Man of Letters* is available from McGill-Queen's University Press. Ian was the 2009 recipient of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation's Award of Honour.

**ALICE BECKER LEHRER**, BA'68, BSc(OT)'70, is the author of *If We Could Hear Them Now: Encounters with Legendary Jewish Heroines*, published by Urim Fiction. In this book, historical Jewish heroines retell their stories from a personal point of view in an interview format, reminding readers of the "timelessness" of the Jewish heroines' teachings. Alice teaches at the David Weissman Institute of the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre in Montreal and has held senior positions in the Montreal Jewish community for many years.

**LEIGHTON J. REYNOLDS**, BA'70, is the author of *From the Other Side of the Moon*, the first novel in the Seaville Wildfire Trilogy, published by iUniverse. The thriller follows a psychoanalyst's attempts to hunt down a serial arsonist. The author, who lives in wildfire-prone Southern California, has doctoral degrees in both psychoanalysis and neuroscience and recently published what he believes is the first psychoanalytic paper ever written on the psychodynamics of the serial arsonist. The book is available through Amazon.com.

**JOY PARR**, BA'71, has written a new book entitled *Sensing Changes: Technologies, Environments, and the Everyday, 1953-2003* (UBC Press). The book explores the notion that our bodies are archives of sensory knowledge and laboratories in which to retool our senses and practices in response to changing circumstances. The book examines how state-driven megaprojects and regulatory and environmental changes force people to cope with radical transformations in their work and home environments. The book is partnered with a website,



**KAREN KONING ABUZAYD**, MA'71, retired from her position as deputy commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency earlier this year. From the UNRWA's base in Gaza, she helped oversee education, health, social services and microfinance programs for 4.6 million Palestinian refugees. Shortly before she stepped down from the UNRWA, she urged everyone interested in forging a lasting peace in the Middle East "to acknowledge, in their rhetoric and their policies, the need to address Palestinian dispossession," calling it "a necessity, an international obligation and a humanitarian imperative."





**GAIL SIMMONS, BA'98**, is one of the regular judges on *Top Chef*, a popular television series on Bravo (U.S.) and the Food Network (Canada) that features aspiring chefs competing for a shot at culinary stardom. Gail is also in charge of special projects for the epicurean magazine *Food & Wine*. She received her formal culinary training at what is now the Institute of Culinary Education in New York. She began her career writing food articles for *Toronto Life* and the *National Post*.

<http://megaprojects.uwo.ca>, which augments *Sensing Changes*. Joy is a professor and Canada Research Chair in Technology, Culture, and Risk in the University of Western Ontario's geography department.

**MARILYN MCNEIL, MA'74**, will serve as the chair of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee during the 2010-11 academic year. Her term officially begins on September 1, 2010. Marilyn is currently vice president and director of athletics at Monmouth University in New Jersey. She is also a former member of the NCAA Division I Committee on Women's Athletics and served as president of the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA).

**GARY S. WIHL, BA'76, MA'78**, was installed as the Hortense and Tobia Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) on September 16, 2009. Gary joined WUSTL as dean of the faculty of arts and sciences on July 1, 2009, leaving his previous post as dean of Rice University's school of humanities.

**RICHARD WESTLEY, MA'84**, is the author of *B League Champs*, a coming-of-age

novel set in Chicago during the sixties. Published by the Leder Press, the book is now available through Amazon.com in Amazon's Kindle ebook format. It's also available in Googlebooks format. In 2006, Richard published an article in *Literary and Linguistic Computing* that applied computer analysis to a question of authorial identity in connection with Robert Greene's *Groatsworth of Wit*, a pamphlet renowned for attacking Shakespeare as a playwright and actor.

**LICIA CANTON, BA'85, MA'86**, is a writer, editor and communications consultant. She is the author of *Almond Wine and Fertility* (2008), a collection of short stories, and the editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*—a national publication for Italian Canadians and lovers of all things Italian. She holds a PhD from Université de Montréal. Licia lives in Montreal with her husband and three children. She would love to hear from old friends and can be reached at [lcanton@accenti.ca](mailto:lcanton@accenti.ca).

**JAMES SIMON, BA'85**, was recently named one of the top 10 faculty members at George Brown College in Toronto. He is in his 10th year as artistic director of the George Brown College Theatre School. After

leaving McGill, James obtained a master's degree in drama from the University of Alberta. His professional directing credits include productions at the National Arts Centre, Citadel Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Blyth Festival, Buddies in Bad Times, Stage West, Carousel Players and Theatre on the Move. James joined the teaching staff at George Brown in 1997.

**DAVID A. B. MURRAY, BA'86**, is an associate professor of anthropology at York University and the editor of the recently published book *Homophobias: Lust and Loathing Across Time and Space* (Duke University Press). The book examines, among other things, the cultural, political and economic forces that contribute to the development of new forms of homophobia.

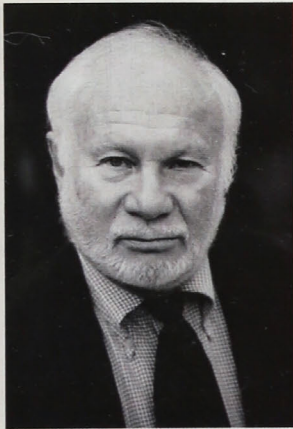
**DAVID RUMSEY, BA'87**, has been elected to the American Translators Association's (ATA) board of directors for the 2009-2010 term. The ATA is the largest organization in the U.S. for translators and interpreters. David operates North Country Translations from both Seattle, Washington, and Salt Spring Island, B.C. He specializes in translating technical, commercial and medical documentation from German and the Scandinavian languages.

**KRISTEL SMENTEK, BA'91**, an assistant professor of art history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was awarded the 2009 Council of Graduate Schools/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Humanities and Fine Arts. She earned the prize for her PhD thesis, which she completed at the University of Delaware, entitled "Art, Commerce and Scholarship in the Age of Enlightenment: Pierre-Jean Mariette and the Making of Art History."

**ADAM DODEK, BA'92**, and Daniel Jutras have edited a new book entitled *The Sacred Fire: The Legacy of Antonio Lamer (Chief Justice of Canada)/Le feu sacré: l'héritage d'Antonio Lamer (juge en chef du Canada)*, published by Lexis Nexis. Adam is an associate professor of law at the University of Ottawa and Daniel is the dean of law at McGill.

**PATRICK JAMES BOUCHER, BA'93**, was appointed as a justice of the Ontario Court of Justice on October 14, 2009. As a practicing lawyer, he represented clients in child protection, custody, access and support matters, and as an agent of the Office of the Children's Lawyer, he represented the interests of children in numerous family law





JOYCE BAVIO

**LIONEL TIGER, BA'57, MA'60**, the Charles Darwin Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University, is the co-author of *God's Brain*, a new book that examines religion's role in human society with a focus on evolutionary biology and brain science. His co-author is neuroscientist Michael McGuire. The book explores perennial questions about religion: What is its purpose? How did it arise? Why does every known culture have some form of it? Lionel is the author of previous bestsellers, including *Men in Groups*, *The Pursuit of Pleasure* and *The Decline of Males*.

matters. He represented clients in criminal matters in both the Ontario and Superior Courts of Justice. He has also served as director of Clinique Juridique Grand-Nord Legal Clinic, a community-based legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario.

**LISA GRUSHCOW, BA'96**, and Andrea Myers celebrated the birth of Alice Emerson Myers, sister to Ariella, on Dec. 27, 2009.

**ROBIN VOSE, BA'96**, has a new book published, entitled *Dominicans, Muslims and Jews in the Medieval Crown of Aragon*, available from Cambridge University Press. She is currently teaching at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

**LUCIANO D'IORIO, BA'99**, has been appointed president and CEO of Terramont Real Estate Services in Montreal. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of Terramont, Luciano works with corporations looking to renegotiate their leases, acquire new premises or dispose of their existing locations. Since graduation, he has continued his involvement in the community, including having been elected school commissioner for the English Montreal School Board (2003-2007) and serving on McGill's Young Alumni Association. Luciano lives with his wife and two sons in Montreal. He can be contacted at [ld@terramont.com](mailto:ld@terramont.com).

**MATTHEW BERNSTEIN, BA'00**, and **CRISTINA BLESANO NOVATI, BSc'00**, were married in 2006, and are pleased to announce that their first child, Isabel, was born in June 2009. Matthew, who completed his BEd and MEd at OISE (University of Toronto), works for the York Region District School Board as an elementary school teacher, while Cristina works for Ryerson University as an editor/production coordinator.

**JERRY FIELDEN, BA'00, MLIS'02**, and his band AraPacis released their sophomore

album, *Consequences of Dreams* (available at [www.arapacis.com](http://www.arapacis.com)), on October 5, 2009. Jerry, a guitarist and songwriter with over 40 years of experience, features metal, progressive rock and blues rock in his new album. In addition to creating music, he has taught the GLIS 633 Multimedia for Librarians course at McGill and is currently finishing a book on the 438th TAC HEL Squadron of the Canadian Air Force.

**NICHOLAS J. BELLEROSE, BA'02**, joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada in 2008.

He is currently an outreach communication officer for the Afghanistan Task Force, responsible for coordinating special events, organizing high-level visits and promoting the outreach on Canada's engagement in Afghanistan. He can be reached at [nicholas.bellerose@international.gc.ca](mailto:nicholas.bellerose@international.gc.ca).

**FRANCIS HALIN (B.A. 2004, M.A. 2008)** occupe le poste de coordonnateur du Regroupement des organismes en francisation du Québec, lequel représente plus de 53 associations communautaires québécoises. Francis a terminé demi-finaliste lors de l'édition 2009 du Festival international de la chanson de Granby.

**DANIELLE METCALFE-CHENAIL, BA'05**, is a writer and historian who had her first book, *For the Love of Flying: The Story of Laurentian Air Services* (Robin Brass Studio), published this year. The book explores the colourful 60-year history of Laurentian Air Services, dealing with everything from back-country air tourism to the mineral and hydro-power boom in Quebec and Newfoundland-Labrador to daring rescue missions. Danielle currently lives in Wyoming and is working on a non-fiction history of aviation in Canada's north and a

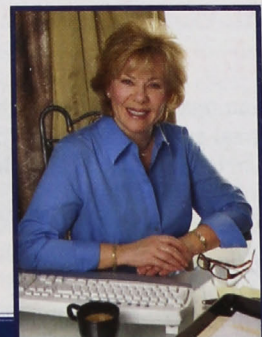
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**JEREMY J. SCHMIDT**, MA'07, is a PhD candidate and Trudeau Scholar in the department of geography at the University of Western Ontario. Jeremy recently collaborated on a book project with Peter Brown, a professor cross-appointed in McGill's departments of natural resource sciences and geography, and in the McGill School of Environment. The result of their partnership is *Water Ethics: Foundational Readings for Students and Professionals* (Island Press). The book contends that all approaches to managing water, no matter how grounded in empirical data, involve value judgments and cultural assumptions.

**JASON TAKEFMAN**, BA'07, is the new general manager of the Vancouver Canadians Baseball Club, the 11th in club history dating back to 1978. Jason has been a part of the Vancouver Canadians organization since 2006.

**AVIVA LEVY**, BA'09, was one of 10 recent Canadian university graduates selected to participate in the Ontario Legislature

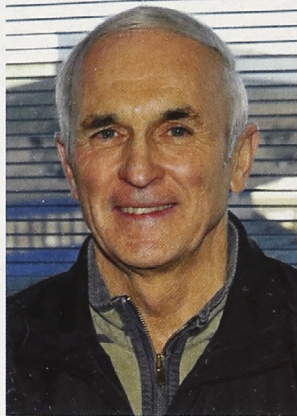


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**WAYNE HALLIWELL**, MA'73, is a professor of kinesiology at the Université de Montréal and a sports psychology consultant who works with B2ten, a non-profit organization that supports elite Canadian athletes. Wayne worked with three key members of Canada's Olympic contingent at the Vancouver Winter Games and all three earned medals—gold medalist Alexandre Bilodeau (freestyle moguls skiing), silver medalist and McGill student **JENN HEIL** (freestyle moguls skiing), and bronze medalist Joannie Rochette (figure skating). Describing his work, Wayne says, "My role is to fine-tune the mental preparation of athletes help them cope with stress and enable them to remain calm so they are in an optimal state in competition."

Internship Programme (OLIP), administered by the Canadian Political Science Association. For a period of 10 months, interns work closely with both a government and an opposition Member of Provincial Parliament, gaining a comprehensive knowledge of the legislative process. Participants also have the opportunity to meet important political players and to attend special events.

### **EDUCATION**

**AMEY DOYLE**, BEd'02, MA'05, interim head coach of the McGill Martlets hockey team, was named coach of the year by the Quebec university women's hockey league. Amey led the Martlets to a perfect 20-0 record in the regular season.

### **ENGINEERING**

**DAVID HACCOUN**, PhD'74, has been elected as a member of the board of governors of the Vehicular Technology Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for a three-year mandate starting in 2009. David is a fellow of the IEEE, a fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, and a member of the board of directors of the Telecommunications Engineering Management Institute of Canada. He is an electrical engineering professor at École Polytechnique de Montréal.

**NATHAN M. STUBINA**, BEng'80, MEng'83, was recently elected president of MetSoc (the Metallurgical Society) of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. He works for Barrick Gold in Toronto and lives in Oakville, Ontario, with his wife, Maureen, and their two children. Last August, Nathan chaired the annual Conference of Metallurgists.

**ELIZABETH EDWARDS**, BEng'83, MEng'85, has been honoured with a 2009 Synergy Award for Innovation from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) in the category of partnerships with a large company. The Synergy Awards celebrate research and development partnerships between university and industry. Elizabeth is a professor of chemical engineering and applied chemistry at the University of Toronto and partners with GeoSyntec Consultants and its subsidiary SiREM in developing effective techniques for using bacteria to clean up contaminated groundwater sites.

**ERIK RYAN**, BEng'87, was appointed chairman of the board of directors for the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal for 2009-2010. The Board of Trade represents the interests of the Greater Montreal business community and promotes the economic development of the metropolitan area. Erik is senior vice-president, communications and external relations, for Rio Tinto Alcan. Previously, Erik was the secretary general of the Sommet de Montréal 2002, overseeing this event which was organized to identify the strategic priorities and initiatives critical to the City of Montreal.

**ARTHUR SWEETMAN**, BEng'88, has been named the new Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources at McMaster University. The newly created position was awarded by the Council of Ontario Universities and is funded by a \$3-million endowment from Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Health. The position was established to help Ontario be a leader in health workforce research and modelling and to continue to steer the system toward evidence-informed planning. Arthur is the former



director of the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University.

**CHRISTIAN DE SERRES**, BEng'89, DipWM&GC'92, joined Nouvelle Autoroute 30 (NA-30) in early 2009 as manager of environment, quality, health and safety. NA-30 is building and designing the new stretch of Highway 30 on the South Shore of Montreal under an agreement with the Quebec Ministry of Transport. Previously, Christian was an environmental consultant with SNC-Lavalin. He and his wife, Sylvie Letendre, VP at SNC-Lavalin, live in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce with their two adopted kids.

**MICHEL PERRIER**, PhD'91, was named the 2009 winner of the D.G. Fisher Award by the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering at the 8th World Congress of Chemical Engineering. The D.G. Fisher Award is given to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the field of systems and control engineering in the areas of theory, practice and education. Michel is a professor of chemical engineering at Polytechnique Montréal.

**IMAD MAALOUF**, BEng'93, and his wife, Rania, welcomed their new twins to their family in December 2009. Imad, a retired skydiver, works on lump sum EPC projects in oil and gas as an engineering manager at Technip USA in Houston, Texas.

**ROBERT ROHLING**, MEng'94, has won a 2009 Synergy Award for Innovation from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) in the category of partnerships with small and medium-sized enterprises. He shares this award with **SEPTIMIU (TIM) SALCUDEAN**, BEng'79, MEng'81. The two UBC engineering professors were honoured along with their industry partner Ultrasonix Medical Corporation for developing new ultrasonic

imaging techniques that could improve cancer diagnosis and treatment while reducing the number of biopsies required.

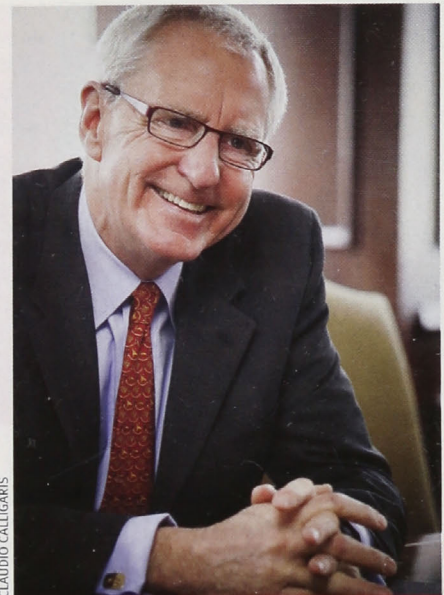
## LAW

**YVES FORTIER**, BCL'58, LLD'05, was one of two Canadian members of the Ad hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), appointed to hear any disputes that might have arisen during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. The CAS selects arbitrators from different countries to serve as members of the Ad hoc Division during the Olympic Games. These arbitrators are required to settle legal disputes relating to such matters as drug testing, qualification and judging, within very short periods of time.

**BARRY M. FISH**, BA'65, BCL'68, LLB'69, has co-authored three books: *The Family Fight: Planning to Avoid It* (2002), *The Family War: Winning the Inheritance Battle* (2006), and *Where There's an Inheritance: Stories from Inside the World of Two Wills Lawyers* (2009), all published by Continental Atlantic Publications Inc. Barry's books can be purchased from Chapters/Indigo, Barnes & Noble, or at [www.familyfight.com](http://www.familyfight.com).

**ALLAN GOLD**, BA'70, BCL'73, is the author of *Estate Document Professor*, the first in a series of life handbooks published by Practitioners' Press Inc. The guide explains how to prepare estates, providing how-to tips on wills, living wills, estate inventories, power of attorney, etc. Allan is an attorney, retirement consultant, lecturer, and a columnist for the *Canadian National Law Review*.

**HERBERT BROWNSTEIN**, BA'79, BCL'82, LLB'83, and **MITCHELL BROWNSTEIN**,



CLAUDIO CALIGARIS

**STUART (KIP) COBBETT**, BA'69, BCL'72, was appointed to a five-year term as the new chair of McGill's board of governors on January 1. A partner with the law firm Stikeman Elliott, where he has also acted as managing partner and chief operating officer, Kip has long served his alma mater in a wide variety of roles, including as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law, as the chair of the Faculty of Arts board of visitors and as the chair of the *McGill News* advisory board.

BCom'83, BCL'87, LLB'87, have been partners in the law firm Brownstein, Brownstein and Associates since 1990, specializing in international business, immigration and citizenship law in Montreal. In November 2009, municipal elections were held throughout Quebec and Herbert was re-elected as city councillor for Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Mitchell was also re-elected councillor to the City of Côte-Saint-Luc.

**SHAWN MCREYNOLDS**, LLB'82, will become the new managing partner of the Toronto office of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP on June 1, 2010. He has been a partner in the law firm's mergers & acquisitions and corporate finance & securities practices for more than 24 years. He is a former chairman of the Securities Advisory Committee to the Ontario Securities Commission and has taught securities law at McGill and Osgoode Hall Law School.

**MOHAMMAD (MOH) FARIS**, BEng'59, MEng'62, and **YULANDA FARIS**, BA'60, were awarded the 2010 Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts during the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards. The prize recognizes outstanding voluntary service that has benefitted the cultural life of Canada. Moh and Yulanda have been an active force in the Vancouver arts community for almost 40 years, donating their time and financial support to a wide range of organizations. Moh was particularly instrumental in establishing the Scotiabank Dance Centre, while Yulanda currently chairs the Vancouver Opera Foundation.



MICHELLE LIBBY





**RICHARD POUND, BCom'62, BCL'67,** was awarded the Foundation for Global Sports Development's 2010 Humanitarian Award. A longtime member of the International Olympic Committee, Richard was also the founding director of the World Anti-Doping Agency. Steven Ungerleider, an executive board member with the foundation, describes Richard as "someone who has changed the face of Olympic competition [through] his promotion of major anti-doping efforts."

Governor General's Award in Video and Media Arts and the Order of Canada. A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Douglas is the recipient of many honours, including the Alden Nowlan Award and the Carlo Betocchi Prize.

## MANAGEMENT

**MARTIN WEBBER, BCom'76,** has co-written a book entitled *Building Competitiveness in Africa's Agriculture* with Patick Labaste. The book was published in October 2009 as part of the World Bank's agriculture and rural development series.

**ANDRÉ J. ROY, BCom'77,** has been managing partner of the Montreal office of Stikeman Elliot, and a member of the firm's partnership board and executive committee since October 1, 2009. His expertise is primarily focused in the areas of private and public financings, cross-border transactions, public and private mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance. He also chairs Stikeman Elliot's business development committee.

**PHILIPPE E. SARFATI, BCom'78,** has been appointed chief risk officer for Coast Capital Savings, Canada's second largest credit union. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day measurement, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of risk across the credit union. Philippe also holds a BSc (Economics) from Collège Stanislas and an MBA from École des Hautes Études Commerciales, Université de Montréal. Coast Capital Savings has more than 400,000 members and 50 branches in the Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island regions of British Columbia. To learn more, visit [www.coastcapitalsavings.com/executive](http://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/executive).

**MICHAEL POLAK, BCL'82, LLB'82,** is now Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Montreal for a five-year term, starting January 26, 2010. Michael is an attorney with Polak & Associates, practicing in Westmount Square since 1983, specializing mostly in corporate and commercial law. Michael has assisted the Dutch government in Montreal regarding Dutch-Quebec contacts on numerous levels and looks forward to strengthening the ties between the Netherlands and Quebec on both business and cultural levels.

**SOPHIE DAGENAIS, BCL'88, LLB'88,** a partner in the law firm of Ballard Spahr LLP, was named one of *SmartCEO* magazine's 2009 Smart Lawyers. Attorneys are chosen for this award based on their leadership, professional success and engagement, and community involvement. Sophie works in Ballard Spahr's real estate and public finance departments, and is a member of the firm's energy and project finance group.

**ERIC P. VOINOT, LLM'93,** has joined Yum! Brands as the chief legal officer and corporate social responsibility director for KFC in France and Spain. Eric is based in Paris, France.

**AXEL BERNABE, BCL'01, LLB'01,** is now a partner in the New York office of the law firm Constantine Cannon. Axel focuses on antitrust litigation and counselling, representing clients in the health services and pharmaceutical industries, as well as in insurance and real estate brokerage.

**PAUL ST-PIERRE PLAMONDON, BCL'01, LLB'01,** recently published *Des jeunes et l'avenir du Québec*, a book that explores political disengagement among young people in Quebec. In spring 2009, he left his job with a major law firm to tour 19 Quebec cities and towns. Along the way, he

met with over 500 Gen-Yers — people between the ages of 20 and 35 — to talk to them about their ideas, worries and hopes for the future.

**LUCIEN BELLEMARE, BCL/LLB'03,** served as a detective for 27 years in the Quebec police force before retiring and attending McGill. After graduating, Lucien opted to renovate his house and travel to Italy, Corsica, Spain, France and China instead of starting a new career in an office. In 2007, he raised \$8,500 for the Arthritis Society by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. In October 2009, Lucien climbed Island Peak (Nepal) for the Centre Loisirs Déficience Intellectuelle, raising \$7,000.

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

**DOUGLAS LOCHHEAD, BLS'51,** published a volume of poetry in September 2009 entitled *Looking into Trees* (Sybertooth). The book is illustrated with paintings by Douglas's brother, the late Kenneth Lochhead, who was one of the Regina Five painters and a recipient of the



**HONORA SHAUGHNESSY, MLS'73,** is McGill's senior executive director of alumni relations. Honora, who has worked at McGill since 1978, recently received the Eleanor Collier Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's District 1 (covering New England, Quebec and the Maritimes). The award recognizes the efforts of outstanding individuals who have reflected honour on CASE, the cause of education and their profession.





**PIERRE MATUSZEWSKI, MBA'79**, has been the chief executive officer for Société Générale (Canada) for the past year and is the first Canadian to hold the position. He has close to 30 years of experience in investment banking. The Paris-based Société Générale is a global retail and corporate/investment bank with assets exceeding \$600 billion. Pierre is a member of the advisory board for the Desautels Faculty of Management's Executive Institute.

**MARIA GONZALEZ, BCom'81, MBA'85**, has recently published *The Mindful Investor: How a Calm Mind Can Bring You Inner Peace and Financial Security*. The book is a guide to mindfulness meditation, techniques used to develop calm, focus and other important skills for sound decision-making in the high-stakes worlds of finance and investing. Maria is the president of Argonauta Strategic Alliances Consulting Inc.

**FRANCE BÉLANGER, BCom'85**, has been named the Byrd Senior Fellow by the Virginia Tech board of visitors. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1997, France is a professor of accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business. Recently, she held an appointment as Visiting Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury.

**STÉFAN DANIS, BCom'85**, CEO of Mandrake and NEXCareer, participated in a six-day, 250-km foot race across the Gobi Desert in an effort to raise funds for the National Advertising Benevolent Society (NABS). He raised over \$41,000 for NABS, which assists advertising and communications professionals facing unemployment and financial hardships. Stéfan's next run was across the Atacama Desert, Chile, in March of 2010.

**GEORGIA KOKOTSIS, BSc'86, MBA'93**, is living in Montreal with her daughter Yasmine, who just started kindergarten. Georgia is planning to re-enter the workforce after an extended maternity leave.

**ANDRÉ FOK KAM, MBA'92**, has published a new book entitled *From Conflict to Trust: How Mutual Funds Manage Conflicts of Interest* (Carswell). The book analyses the conflicts of interest which arise in the operation of a mutual fund and explains how they may be managed, with particular emphasis on

the critical role of the Independent Review Committee.

**JULIE MARTINEAU (B. Com.1992)** est directrice du Service des communications de l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique. Auparavant, elle a œuvré au sein de l'Association des communicateurs scientifiques du Québec pendant quatre ans, dont deux comme présidente.

**TIM MATTIMOE, MBA'92**, and Christine Mattimoe (née Jacobsen) are happy to announce the birth of their baby boy Jacob on January 4, 2010.

**DANIEL SHTEYN, BCom'92, DPA'94, MBA'01**, was recently appointed to the post of senior director and P&L leader by Enova Financial, a U.S. consumer finance multinational. Daniel's move into consumer finance follows a decade spent on Bay Street in investment banking and equity research. He can be reached through LinkedIn, at <http://linkedin.com/pub/daniel-shteyn/4/600/766>.

**SIMON OLIVIER, MBA'97**, is the general manager, North-East USA & Canada, for General Electric (GE) Energy Infrastructure, Power and Water. His responsibilities

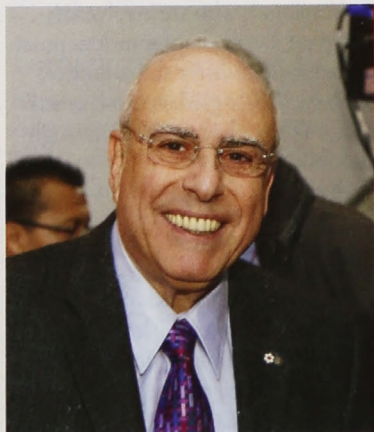
include growing the portfolio of technologies, including renewable ones (wind, solar, bio gas), as well as the conventional ones (gas and steam turbines). Simon is a director of the GE Canada board and also received the "2009 Young Business Leader of Quebec" award.

**MARNIE CONSKY (RABINOVITCH), BCom'98**, recently launched a specialty women's underwear brand called Thigh Society ([www.thighsociety.ca](http://www.thighsociety.ca)), sold online and in specialty boutiques across the Greater Toronto Area and Montreal, with more stores and styles slated for spring 2010. Marnie also currently works as assistant director at the Rotman School of Management's Corporate Connections Centre at the University of Toronto, where she provides career counselling to MBA students and partners with several international strategy consulting firms.

**CLAUDE DAGENAIS, MBA'98**, is enjoying his new life as a photographer and has embarked on a six-month road trip with his wife, starting November 19, 2009. The trip is promoted by iStock, one of Claude's agent companies, and consists of visits with fellow iStock artists wishing to share their experiences. Claude's trip has been covered in *La Presse* and he is maintaining both an English and a French blog chronicling his adventures.

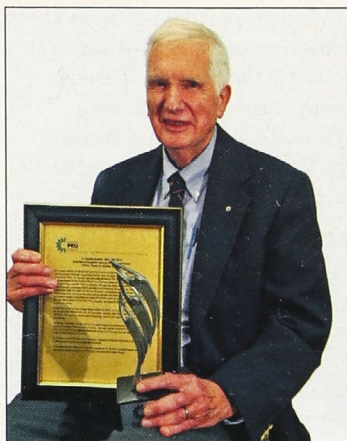
## MEDICINE

**F. VICTOR OGULNIK, BSc'32, MDCM'36**, celebrated his 100th birthday last December. After McGill, he shipped out with the Royal Military Academy of Canada (RMAC) and then practiced medicine in Montreal until his retirement. He and his wife Nanette have been married for 68 years and still live in their home on Belgrave in Westmount.



**PHIL GOLD, BSc'57, MDCM'61, MSc'61, PhD'65**, a McGill professor of medicine, physiology and oncology, was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame on April 13. Among his accomplishments, he co-discovered the carcinoembryonic antigen, the first clinically useful human tumour marker. Also inducted into the hall was **JAMES HOGG, PhD'69**, the founder of a centre for pulmonary and cardiovascular research at the University of British Columbia and a pioneering figure in the study of lung disease.





COURTESY PKU ALLIANCE

**CHARLES SCRIVER, BA'51, MDCM'55, DSc'07**, McGill's Alva Professor Emeritus of Human Genetics, has earned the American Pediatric Society's highest honour, the John Howland Medal. He was also recently named as one of the National PKU Alliance's first PKU Heroes in recognition of his groundbreaking efforts in understanding and treating phenylketonuria (PKU), a genetic disorder which, when left untreated, can cause severe neurological complications.

**RICHARD VALERIOTE, BSc'52, MDCM'57**, recently published *Alice Street: A Memoir* with McGill-Queen's University Press. The book chronicles Richard's difficult childhood on Alice Street in Guelph, Ontario, and his even harder years as a student at McGill, offering a personal perspective on the Great Depression, the Second World War and the racism and ethnic tensions of small-town Ontario. Richard is a retired physician and was formerly a bank board chairman and

regent of Santa Clara University.

**GARY MCCARRAGHER, BSc'82, MDCM'86**, is a hospice physician, college professor and novelist living in Odessa, Florida, with his wife Susan and two children, Erin and James. He recently self-published his first novel, *The Struggle*, available in trade paperback and Kindle through amazon.ca and his webpage [www.garymccarragher.com](http://www.garymccarragher.com). An audio book version, performed by Broadway actor and singer Zachary James, is currently in production. Gary would love to hear from you at [gmccarra@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gmccarra@tampabay.rr.com), through his website, or on Facebook.

**ALINE LEVI, MDCM'84**, was a torch bearer for the 2010 Winter Olympics, running with the Olympic flame on December 6 in Granby, Quebec. Aline and her husband, **RICHARD SWIECA, MDCM'84**, attended their 25th class reunion, where they were delighted to connect with classmates from across North America.

**LUCIE MONTPETIT, BSc(OT)'86**, is the author of *Se libérer de la fatigue persistante*, published by Les Éditions de L'Homme. The book is geared towards people suffering from debilitating persistent fatigue and the health professionals who are involved in their treatment. Every chapter tackles possible contributing factors for the condition and provides self-help guidance and practical exercises. The book is available through most book stores.

**ERIC M. GRIEF, BSc'87, Medical Resident'93**, has authored *Get Diagnosed Fast* (Publish America, Inc.). This is Eric's first book and is geared towards patients and their doctors. Readers will learn how to overcome communication obstacles that occur while at their doctor's office. The book can be purchased online at

[www.publishamerica.net/product88006.html](http://www.publishamerica.net/product88006.html). Eric's blog can be viewed at [www.hubpages.com/hub/getdiagnosedfastbymdrap](http://www.hubpages.com/hub/getdiagnosedfastbymdrap) and he can be contacted at [egrief@aol.com](mailto:egrief@aol.com).

**BILL SWALES, MDCM'88**, an emergency doctor from Peterborough, Ontario, on contract to the Canadian military, was part of an advance team sent into Haiti to assess needs immediately following the recent earthquake in that country. The team went into Port-au-Prince with UN land rovers to rescue injured Canadians since no ambulances were available. Using pieces of plywood as stretchers, Bill and his team brought the injured back to hospitals in Miami and Montreal. Bill has since returned to Haiti for another evacuation mission.

**LISA ANDERMANN, BA'89, MDCM'96**, and Michael Prokaziuk are happy to announce the birth of their son James Isak Gabriel, born on November 14, 2009 in Toronto. Big sister Hannah welcomes her baby brother. Proud grandparents are Drs. Eva and Frederick Andermann at the Montreal Neurological Institute and John and Mary Prokaziuk of Montreal.

**PRAVEEN TIPIRNENI, MDCM'95**, the vice-president, business development, of Cubist Pharmaceuticals in Lexington, Massachusetts, has received the company's Tally Award, Cubist's equivalent of a lifetime achievement prize. In presenting the award, Cubist president and CEO Michael Bonney paid tribute to Praveen, declaring, "During Praveen's seven years with Cubist, he has developed a reputation for contributing in so many areas, both in and outside of his formal job description, that we are sometimes left wondering, 'What does he do exactly?' or maybe more appropriately, 'What doesn't he do?'"

**JONATHAN GATES, MDCM'99**, the assistant chief of medicine at Kent Hospital in Warwick, Rhode Island, was awarded the hospital's 2009 Physician of the Year Award. Jonathan is credited with making vital contributions to the hospital's undergraduate medical education program and to its use of information technology for patient care.

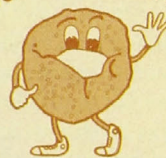
## MUSIC

**LINDA LAROCHE (née Alexander), BMus'67**, is celebrating 20 years as accompanist and rehearsal pianist with the Lyric Theatre Singers, Montreal's award-winning Broadway choral ensemble founded by Bob Bachelor, BMus'76, in 1990. Linda has been involved in Montreal's musical theatre scene

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for more than 40 years now, including 25 seasons with the Arcadians as rehearsal and show pianist, along with stints at numerous other companies. Linda also plays the organ and directs the choir at Greenfield Park United Church, and has served for 19 years as treasurer for the Lyric Theatre Singers. For info on their upcoming concert in June, visit [www.lyrictheatrecompany.com](http://www.lyrictheatrecompany.com) or email [lyrictheatre@linkinternat.com](mailto:lyrictheatre@linkinternat.com).

**BRADLEY MOGGACH**, BMus'77, has been the director of music at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cambridge, Ontario, since 1982. The church celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2009 by holding a recital on November 15 that featured many McGill graduates, including **ALISON CLARK**, MMus'85, **LILLA HALL**, LMus'83, and **CORRINE DUTTON**, MMus'96.

**JANA HANCINSKY-JAST**, BMus'86, BEd'87, is the musical director of the JazzKidz band, which just might be the

**ALLISON GAGNON**, MMus'91, recently produced a new piano reduction of *Poème, op. 25 for Violin and Orchestra* by Ernest Chausson. The reduction illuminates the full range of orchestral textures that characterize the original orchestral work and offers not only playable notation but also labeling of instrumental lines to inspire colorful interpretation. It is available at [www.strstudies.com](http://www.strstudies.com). Allison directs the collaborative piano program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**BESS VASILAKOPOULOS**, BMus'93, has recently been hired as music & development agent for Montreal-based world ensemble OktoEcho. Prior to this post, she founded and ran Promotion d'arts Bess Vass Arts Promotion (2002) and then Gestion d'art bmuse arts management inc (2005), developing all aspects of an international classical/world music agency.



OWEN EGAN

**RICHARD KING**, MMus'91, an associate professor in the Schulich School of Music's sound recording program, engineered five albums that were all recently nominated for Grammy Awards. Two of the albums went on to win Grammys on January 31 — Renee Fleming's *Verismo Arias* (Best Vocal Performance) and Yo-Yo Ma's *Songs of Joy and Peace* (Classical Crossover). Richard's colleague in the McGill sound recording program, adjunct professor **STEVEN EPSTEIN**, was awarded the Grammy for Producer of the Year (Classical).

youngest jazz ensemble in North America. This young group of musicians, ages four to fourteen, performed at the Montreal International Jazz Fest last summer. Jana, a music teacher with more than 20 years of experience, began the group in 2008. For more information, visit [www.jazzkidz.net](http://www.jazzkidz.net).

**SYLVIE BEAUDETTE**, BMus'87, is a pianist who, in collaboration with soprano Eileen Strempel, recently released a new album, *(In)Habitation: Musical Settings of Margaret Atwood Poetry* (Centaur Records). The CD features 19 new songs by six leading female composers, all of whom were commissioned to set Atwood's words to music. Sylvie is an assistant professor of chamber music at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music and the artistic director of Eastman's Women in Music Festival.

To date, she has organized numerous concerts and tours, working with over 30 world-renowned soloists/ensembles/orchestras from Canada and abroad, with media networks, and with granting agencies, including the Canada Council for the Arts.

**PATRICK GRAHAM**, BMus'95, has released his solo album *Rheō*, which was chosen by the CBC Radio 2 show *The Signal* as one of its top 13 picks of 2009. Patrick's album also received positive reviews in *Percussive Notes* magazine and in *Le Devoir*. *Rheō* can be purchased at iTunes and at CDBay.com.

**DARCY JAMES ARGUE**, BMus'97, and his ensemble, Darcy James Argue's Secret Society, were finalists for a 2010 Juno Award in the category Contemporary Jazz



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Album of the Year. The group earned the nomination for their CD *Infernal Machines*.

**YANIV ATTAR**, MMus'05, DMus'08, is the recipient of the 2010 Solti Foundation's Career Development Award, a \$5,000 grant given every two years to conductors 32 years old and younger. Yaniv is the assistant conductor of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and leads the orchestra in a wide variety of educational and community outreach performances.

**KARL SCHWONIK**, BMus'09, is the founder and president of the Wetaskiwin Jazz Society, founder and artistic director of the Wetaskiwin Jazz Camp, and founder and director of the Calgary Jazz Festival's C-Jazz Camp. He is the youngest ever named one of Calgary's 2009 "Top 40 under 40" by *Avenue Magazine*. Karl also won the VSA Arts International Soloist Award and signed a record deal with Chronograph Records (Calgary, Alberta).

## SCIENCE

**GORDON R. FREEMAN**, PhD'55, is a professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Alberta, where he served as the director of the Radiation Research Centre for 30 years. Gordon has had a long-time interest in archaeological sites and in 1980 discovered a 5,000-year-old sun temple in southern Alberta. In his new book, *Canada's Stonehenge: Astounding Archaeological Discoveries in Canada, England and Wales*, he discusses this discovery, along with other archaeological wonders.

**IRWIN SANKOFF**, BSc'57, MSc'63, former sports editor of the *McGill Daily*, is proud to announce that his daughter Irene Carl Sankoff is the co-author (with husband David Hein) of, and an actor in,



**PATRICE SAWYER, PhD'90**, was appointed as Laurentian University's vice-president, research and graduate studies, on December 18, 2009. A professor of mathematics and computer science, Patrice had previously served Laurentian as the chair of his department and as the dean of science and engineering. He has also been active as a board member for a number of research-intensive institutions, including the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) Institute and the Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation (MIRARCO).

the hit musical *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding*, which played to sold-out audiences at both the Toronto Fringe Festival and the Panasonic Theatre in Toronto.

**ALAN BAILES**, BSc'65, has been appointed to the advisory board of VMS Ventures Inc. Alan is a former chief geologist with the Manitoba Geological Survey. VMS Ventures Inc. is focused primarily on acquiring, exploring and developing copper-zinc properties in the Flin Flon-Snow Lake VMS Belt.

**W. BRUCE GILLIS**, BSc'67, has been appointed to the Federal Pension Appeals Tribunal as chairman and a legal member. His son, W. Robert Gillis, has just completed his course requirements for his BA in philosophy and political science and will graduate from McGill at the 2010 Spring Convocation.

**NICK DI PIETRO**, BSc'72, MSc'75, was appointed as project manager in the mining and metallurgical division of SNC-Lavalin (Montreal) in November 2009. He and his wife, **OLGA BISCOTTI**, BA'74, have three sons, one of whom, Alessandro, has been accepted into a dentistry residency program at McGill, starting in July 2010.

**ROLAND HORST**, BSc'74, is the new chief executive officer for Orvana Minerals Corp. He has 35 years of experience in the mining industry as a CEO, investment banker, corporate banker and geologist. Most recently, he was president and CEO of Royal Nickel Corporation.

**STEWART J. COHEN**, BSc'75, is the co-author (with science communicator Melissa Waddell) of *Climate Change in the 21st Century* (McGill-Queen's University Press), a book on the many dimensions of global warming aimed at senior undergraduate and graduate students from any academic background. Stewart based the book on a course he teaches at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where he is an adjunct professor in the department of forest resources management, as well as a senior researcher with Environment Canada.

**MICHEL DAVID**, BSc'75, is the new president and CEO of Radisson Mining Resources. Michel has over 35 years of experience in geology and geophysics, base metal and precious metal exploration and mining. He has managed numerous projects in southern Africa, Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, Korea and throughout North America, with emphasis on the Abitibi gold belt in northwestern Quebec where Radisson's highly prospective O'Brien and Kewagama properties are located.

**LUC HAMELIN**, BSc'83, Dip(OH)'84, MSc(A)'91, is the president-elect of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) for 2009-2010. Luc will officially become IOHA president in 2010-2011. He is the first Canadian since 1987 to be appointed head of this organization. He also serves as director (Quebec) on the Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists.



**VICTORIA KASPI, BSc'89**, was one of eight outstanding researchers from across Canada to be awarded a Killam Research Fellowship, worth \$70,000 a year for two years. Her Killam-funded work will focus on a small group of neutron stars called magnetars, which have the highest magnetic fields known in the universe. Her work will be assisted by the launch of NuSTAR, a new NASA X-ray telescope, in 2011. She is McGill's Lorne Trottier Chair in Astrophysics and Cosmology and a Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics.



**AVRAM WHITEMAN**, BSc'83, has been elected president of the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine ([www.oemac.org](http://www.oemac.org)), an association of physicians with an active interest in occupational and environmental medicine.

**STEPHANIE WRAGG**, BSc'88, MSc'91, is now working for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Washington, D.C. She started in November 2009 as the director for the newly formed Group for Women in Medicine and Science, which seeks to advance the full and successful participation of women in all roles within academic medicine. Stephanie was assistant dean for the medical curriculum and director of faculty development for the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine Regional Campus in Boca Raton from 2006-2009.

**MARIE CHANTAL MESSIER**, BSc(Nut)'94, is joining the World Bank as a senior nutrition specialist in the Health Unit of the Human Development Department, Latin America and Caribbean Region. With most of her time spent doing field work in developing countries, Marie Chantal has amassed expertise in international nutrition while collaborating with international organizations, NGOs, government, private sector and investment firms. Previously, Marie Chantal held the position of senior associate for the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition in Geneva.

**MATT DOBBS**, BSc'97, McGill's Canada Research Chair in Astro-particle Physics, has earned a 2010 Sloan Research Fellowship worth \$50,000. Sloan fellowships are awarded to "early-career scientists and scholars of outstanding promise." The aim of his research is to improve our understanding of the fundamental constituents of the universe — including its origin, history, and fate — as well as



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

**HARVEY WEINGARTEN**, BSc'74, has been named the next president of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. He is leaving the University of Calgary, where he had served as the president and vice-chancellor since 2001, overseeing the institution's \$1.5-billion capital expansion during that period. The Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario is an arm's-length agency of the Ontario government dedicated to ensuring the continued improvement of the postsecondary education system.

providing new insight into the early universe, where the laws of particle physics and cosmology intersect.

**JOSHUA ROEBKE**, MSc'04, is the author of an essay about quantum mechanics that was included in the 2009 edition of *The Best American Science and Nature Writing*, which is now available at bookstores. Joshua is a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is at work on his first book: a social and cultural history of physics in the 20th century, entitled *The Invisible World*.

### SOCIAL WORK

**DENISE BREND**, BSW'99, MSW'00, is the author of the *English-French Guide to Human Services Terminology*. This book is an extensive resource for human service terms and vocabulary in French and English — an important tool for the social services field and classroom, especially in Quebec.

**GOLAM MATHBOR**, MSW'95, was elected vice president of planning and operations of the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) from 2009 to 2013. The ICSD is a non-profit international association of institutions, scholars,

practitioners and students joined in the common pursuit of social development. Golam is a professor and associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Monmouth University.

### URBAN PLANNING

**PIERRE MALO** (M. Urb. 1991) s'est joint à la firme montréalaise Samcon à titre de directeur du développement pour la mise en œuvre de projets de redéveloppement urbain, en collaboration avec les professionnels de la société. Après avoir entrepris une carrière dans les milieux municipal et privé, il intègre en 1998 l'équipe de planification de la Commission de la capitale nationale à Ottawa chargée d'élaborer le concept du cœur de la capitale du Canada. En 2000, il s'attaque à de nouveaux défis au sein de la Ville de Montréal en s'associant à la Direction de l'aménagement urbain. En 2003, il intègre la Société du Havre de Montréal comme chargé de projet. À ce titre, il est appelé à mobiliser l'ensemble des partenaires autour d'une vision concertée sur l'avenir du Havre. En 2007, au sein de la même société, il est nommé directeur du projet Bonaventure et est alors responsable de coordonner l'ensemble des études du réaménagement de cette autoroute.

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**1920s**

**EDGAR FAY**, BA'29, at London, England, on November 14, 2009.

**1930s**

**MAXWELL M. KALMAN**, BArch'31, at Montreal, on November 27, 2009.

**ISABEL (TOWNSEND) WILSON**, BA'32, at Victoria, B.C., on December 15, 2009.

**GEORGE H. TOMLINSON**, PhD'35, at Hanover, N.H., on March 16, 2010.

**ELIZABETH STOWE WALES**, BA'35, at Montreal, on July 18, 2009.

**MAURICE H. FLEISHMAN**, BArch'36, at Beverly Hills, Calif., on September 11, 2009.

**FRANCE (ROYER) MOINEAU**, BCom'36, BA'37, MA'43, at Reims, France, on January 24, 2009.

**SARAH (MENDELSON) KORENBERG**, BSc'37, MSc'44, MEd'88, at Montreal, on July 21, 2009.

**KENNETH G. MCKAY**, BSc'38, MSc'39, at New York, N.Y., on March 5, 2010.

**LESLIE J. ORR**, BEng'38, at Toronto, on August 28, 2009.

**MURIEL A. FLOWER**, BA'39, at Kingston, Ont., on September 8, 2009.

**LORNA JEAN IRVING**, BHS'39, at Sherbrooke, Que., on August 10, 2009.

**1940s**

**HARRIET (BLOOMFIELD) JOSEPH**, BA'41, at Scarsdale, N.Y., on July 14, 2009.

**MARY ESTHER (MACFARLANE) ARTON**, BHS'42, at Bermuda, on November 18, 2009.

**BROCK FRANCIS CLARKE**, BCL'42, at Westmount, Que., on August 29, 2009.

**LYMAN BAXTER HARVEY**, MDCM'42, at Windsor, N.S., on August 29, 2009.

**OWEN BRUCE LOBLEY**, BCom'42, at Prince Albert, Sask., on June 28, 2008.

**IRVING A. SIRKEN**, BA'42, MA'43, at Washington, D.C., on March 21, 2009.

**ANGUS M. MACQUEEN**, DDS'44, at Gouverneur, N.Y., on July 4, 2009.

**BERNICE NORA BALLANTYNE**, BA'45, BLS'46, at Westmount, Que., on July 27, 2009.

**WILLIAM R. DORSEY**, MDCM'45, at Beverly, Mass., on September 16, 2009.

**CLIFFORD GOLDEN**, BSc'46, MDCM'50, DipPsych'71, at Montreal, on September 20, 2009.

**NORMA HELEN (MORRIS) HATCHER**, BSc'46, MSc'68, at Ottawa, on November 4, 2009.

**LEO BREITMAN**, BSc'47, PhD'52, at Sarnia, Ont., on October 1, 2009.

**WILBUR ROTHWELL PATTERSON**, BA'47, BCL'50, at Montreal, on November 14, 2009.

**JAMES V. POAPST**, BCom'47, MCom'50, at Toronto, on September 16, 2009.

**DOUGLAS P. WHITING**, BSc'47, at Hudson, Que., on May 15, 2009.

**ROBERT D. COLLIER**, BEng'48, at Lebanon, N.H., on August 14, 2009.

**BARBARA MILLAR**, BSc'48, at Chicago, Ill., on November 11, 2009.

**JARED WILLIAM SMITH**, BSc(Agr)'48, at Kentville, N.S., on October 5, 2009.

**DONALD H. CAMPBELL**, BSc'49, at Mississauga, Ont., on February 25, 2010.

**PAUL JOSEPH CARTEN**, BCom'49, at Vancouver, B.C., on November 10, 2009.

**LOUIS J. COULOMBE**, MSc'49, PhD'56, at Beloeil, Que., on July 19, 2008.

**J. CONRAD MACKENZIE**, MDCM'49, at Richmond, B.C., on January 14, 2010.

**1950s**

**WILLIAM P. KENNEDY**, MDCM'50, at London, England, on July 2, 2008.

**WILLIAM T. LAMBERT**, BEng'50, at Ottawa, on December 15, 2008.

**DOUGLAS CHARLES POLLARD**, BA'50, at Cobalt, Ont., on November 25, 2009.

**DONALD B. WILLIAMSON**, BEng'50, at Ottawa, on January 12, 2010.

**ROBERT CASSIDY**, BArch'52, at Truro, N.S., on January 8, 2010.

**JEAN NAOMI (BURNELL) DEMIANYK**, BSW'52, MSW'53, at Winnipeg, Man., on September 13, 2009.

**THOMAS EGAN**, MDCM'52, at Toronto, on August 16, 2008.

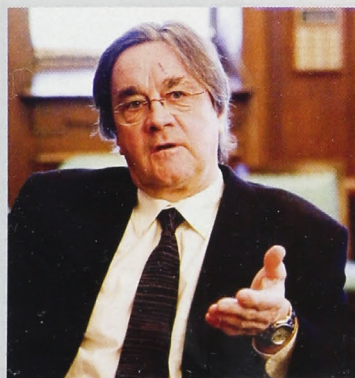
**GEORGE W. FLUMERFELT**, BEng'52, at Surrey, B.C., on May 31, 2009.

**ARNOLD A. HILTZ**, PhD'52, at Media, Pa., on August 31, 2009.

**IAN A. HODSON**, BLS'52, at Kingston, Ont., on January 20, 2010.

**GORDON F. IRWIN**, MDCM'52, at Sun City West, Ariz., on June 11, 2009.

**HELEN MAHUT**, MA'52, PhD'55, at Boston, Mass., on March 7, 2010.



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

To say that **JAMES LUND** arrived at McGill at a crucial moment in the history of the Faculty of Dentistry might qualify as an understatement—the faculty had come perilously close to being shut down just a few years earlier. Lund served as the dean of dentistry from 1995 to 2008 and, under his leadership, the faculty underwent an impressive revitalization, particularly on the research front. Lund played a leading role in the establishment of several multidisciplinary centres at McGill, including the Centre for Bone and Periodontal Research, the Centre for Biorecognition and Biosensors and the Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain. “Jim was the motor behind the recruitment of many world-class faculty members at McGill,” says dentistry professor Catherine Bushnell. Lund died on December 8, 2009.





**JEANNE WOLFE, MA'61**, left a lasting mark on McGill's School of Urban Planning, where she served as director from 1988 to 1999. Wolfe joined the school as a faculty member in 1973, developing courses in the history, theory and practice of urban planning. An accomplished researcher, Wolfe produced classic reviews of Canadian planning history and housing policy and contributed her expertise as a commissioner for both the 1986 Parizeau Commission on the Future of Municipalities and the 1987 commission for the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal. Her work earned her the Prix Jean-Claude La Haye from the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec and the President's Award from the Canadian Institute of Planners. Wolfe passed away on December 20, 2009.

**CLARE BRAIS, BSc(PE)'53, BA'79**, at Cobourg, Ont., on February 11, 2010.

**ROBERT (BOB) W. HESLOP, BSc(Agr)'53**, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on September 22, 2009.

**GORDON (BUD) G. LOTT, MDCM'53**, at Victoria, B.C., on September 24, 2009.

**JOYCE ESTHER MAYO, BSc(HEc)'53**, at Grand Manan, N.B., on August 8, 2009.

**ROBERT G. ROMCKE, DDS'53**, at Charlottetown, P.E.I., on January 28, 2010.

**MYRON B. RUSK, BA'53**, at Ottawa, on September 28, 2009.

**ADAM DICKIE, BCom'54**, at Ottawa, on July 4, 2009.

**ARNOLD L. HOLLINGER, BCom'54**, at Montreal, on September 30, 2009.

**CARL M. GLOS, BEng'56**, at Windsor, Ont., on December 9, 2009.

**ROGER KELLY, PhD'58**, at Povo, Italy, on April 2, 2009.

## 1960s

**SARINA (ALTMAN) KATZ, BArch'60**, at Montreal, on September 8, 2009.

**JOHN E. WELSTED, MSc'60**, at Victoria, B.C., on September 21, 2009.

**G.N. JOHN CATTO, BEng'61**, at Victoria, B.C., on August 21, 2009.

**L. JOANNE GREENE, BN'63**, at Winnipeg, Man., on June 2, 2009.

**PETER JAMES LORIMER, PhD'63**, in New Zealand, on February 7, 2010.

**BARBARA MARION SIEGRIST, BEd'63**, at Gloucester, Ont., on September 1, 2009.

**EDWARD ALAN HOPKINS, BArch'64**, at Ottawa, on November 2, 2009.

**DAVID P. PETRIE, MDCM'64**, at Halifax, N.S., on August 15, 2009.

**JACQUES A. S. DE CHAMPLAIN, PhD'65**, at Outremont, Que., on July 15, 2009.

**RAGNVALD OKKENHAUG, BSc'65, MDCM'70**, at Oslo, Norway, on September 18, 2009.

**G. PATRICK H. BLAKE, BMus'66, LMus'66**, at Montreal, on August 16, 2009.

**YVONNE CHIU, BSc'66**, at Toronto, on September 27, 2009.

**WARREN R. BRECKENRIDGE, PhD'68**, at Kandy, Sri Lanka, on September 6, 2009.

**RICHARD J. LEITCH, BCom'68**, at Ottawa, on November 4, 2009.

**WENDIE (ROST) MILLER, BA'68**, at Toronto, on August 12, 2009.

**RONALD P. NAYLOR, MLS'68**, at Soddy Daisy, Tenn., on June 27, 2009.

**STANLEY SPEVACK, BSc'68, MDCM'70**, at Mattapoisett, Mass., on December 28, 2009.

**JACK WASSERMAN, BA'68**, at Montreal, on August 14, 2009.

**BARBARA A. KINNEAR-DUBUC, BA'69**, at Toronto, on September 22, 2009.

## 1970s

**E. ANN (REDFERN) SUTHERLAND-AMIT, PhD'73**, at Lunenburg, N.S., on September 29, 2009.

**MARC CASAVANT, BA'76, BCL'79**, at Montreal, on July 16, 2009.

**GUILLAUME (WILCZEK) SIEMIENSKI, BA'76**, at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on January 12, 2010.

## 1980s

**DENNIS MICHAEL O'TOOLE, BA'80**, at Salt Spring Island, B.C., on August 31, 2009.

**SONJA A. SKARSTEDT, BA'82**, at Montreal, on July 31, 2009.

**JOHN DENNIS FLOOD, BCL'85**, at Kenora, Ont., on September 8, 2009.

**HERON PETERKIN, BEng'86**, at Mansfield, Mass., on July 25, 2009.

## 1990s

**PATRICK M. DORAN, MDCM'92, Medical Resident'96**, at Montreal, on September 21, 2009.

**DOUGLAS BRIAN McDONALD, BA'93, MA'99**, at Chicago, Ill., on March 18, 2010.

## 2000s

**ANI-RAPHAËLLE RODRIGUE-VINET, MDCM'08**, at Surrey, B.C., on August 5, 2009.

## FACULTY/STAFF

**ANN CIHELKA**, former director of planned giving, Development and Alumni Relations, at Montreal, on December 21, 2009.

**GUY MEHUYS**, associate professor, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, at Montreal, on February 6, 2010.

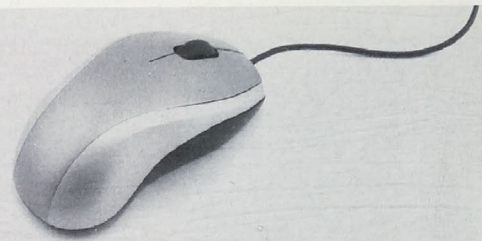
**ERNST MEYER, PhD'80**, assistant professor, Montreal Neurological Institute, at Montreal, on February 5, 2010.

**KATHERINE PEACOCK-HENOPHY**, administrative & student affairs coordinator, Department of Translation Studies, in Montreal, on April 9, 2010.

**ALAN G. THOMPSON, MDCM'43**, former chair, Department of Surgery, at Ste-Agathe des Monts, Que., on January 19, 2010.



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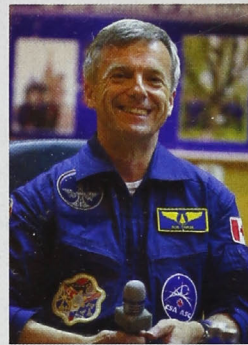


BERNIE MIREAULT

**MAKE-BELIEVE MCGILLIES**

Some of the University's most remarkable graduates—daring doctors, stellar scientists and international adventurers—never actually existed. From the auburn-haired French-Canadian banking whiz who captured Jason Bourne's heart, to the grumpy India-based military officer who sure looked an awful lot like Gary Cooper,

find out more about the fictitious McGill alumni who have appeared in films, on TV and in books.



CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY

**THE SIX-MONTH SPACEMAN**

**ROBERT THIRSK**, MDCM'82, one of Canada's first astronauts, recently spent a record-setting half-year aboard the International Space Station. Thirsk credits the Canadian space program and its associated research breakthroughs with helping to instill a vital "can-do attitude" amongst Canada's scientists and engineers. As for the future, Thirsk expects to see a lunar base and a possible exploratory mission to Mars within his lifetime. Visit our "Questions & Answers" section.

Visit our "Questions & Answers" section.



**ELIZABETH SHEPHERD**

On her latest album, two-time Juno Award nominee **ELIZABETH SHEPHERD's** focus is on story-driven songs that address, among other things, homelessness and suicide. Sound like a downer? Not if Canadian music critics are to be believed. Shepherd's new CD, *Heavy Falls The Night*, is earning some of her best reviews yet. Want to win a copy?

Visit our "Listen Up" section to read our interview with Shepherd and tell us what group her musician-father performed for. Send your answer to [news.alumni@mcgill.ca](mailto:news.alumni@mcgill.ca).



BRIGITTE BOUILLOT

**COOKING WITH CAMERON**

Actor Don McKellar came to a surprising realization while shooting his recent film, *Cooking With Stella*. The on-set food stylist who was giving McKellar (pictured left with co-star Seema Biswas) invaluable pointers about how to properly portray a chef, was actually the same guy that McKellar's character was patterned after. The fellow in question is Rideau Hall chef **CAMERON STAUCH**, BCom'97, and *Cooking With Stella* is loosely based on the time he spent in New Delhi with his diplomat wife, **AYESHA REKHI**, BA'96. See "Behind the Scenes."

is loosely based on the time he spent in New Delhi with his diplomat wife, **AYESHA REKHI**, BA'96. See "Behind the Scenes."



CHRISTOPHER FARBER

**DOOMSDAY FOR DELIS?**

In his recent book, *Save the Deli* (which began its existence as a McGill term paper), author **DAVID SAX**, BA'02, extols the many charms of the humble Jewish delicatessen, while sounding an alarm about its worrisome decline. Visit our "Reviews" section to find out more.



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**CURRIE'S QUEST**

When Sir Arthur Currie, a renowned First World War general, arrived at McGill as principal, he was startled to learn that McGill was the only university in Canada without a proper gymnasium. To find out what Currie did to rectify the situation, read "Yesterday's News" on our site, which highlights some of the contents from our Fall 1931 edition.

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