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## McGill's new principal on "coming home"

Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, recently met with fellow graduates at McGill Homecoming where she shared her thoughts on the ways in which her alma mater has surprised her since her return to the University.



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## Not your typical art snob

Are you wary of museums? Marc Mayer, BA'84, understands where you're coming from. Still, the jargon-hating high school dropout who runs the National Gallery of Canada is determined to make an art lover out of you all the same.

BY JOHN ALLEMANG



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## A turning point for teaching

Technology is transforming the way courses are taught and MOOCs (massive open online courses) could become the biggest game-changers yet. What will teaching look like at universities in the years ahead?

BY PATRICK McDONAGH



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## Law in the big leagues

McGill's Faculty of Law is a popular recruiting ground for Supreme Court of Canada clerks. What's it like to be fresh out of law school and working for the most powerful judges in the country?

BY JONATHAN MONTPETIT, BA'03

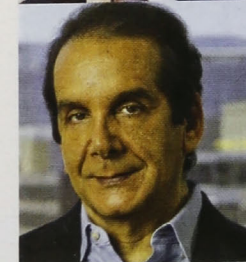


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## Le nouveau chef d'orchestre de la Place des Arts

Nommé président-directeur général de la Société de la Place des Arts en mars 2012, Marc Blondeau (B. Com. 1979) nous parle des défis que présente la gestion de l'important complexe artistique, qui fête cette année ses 50 ans.

PAR DAVID SAVOIE



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## Why politics matter

Charles Krauthammer, BA'70, DLitt'93, is one of the most influential columnists and political commentators in the U.S. While he is quick to acknowledge "the grubbiness" of politics, he says we ignore it at our own peril. When politics go off the rails, the results can be ruinous.

BY DANIEL McCABE, BA'89

McGill News

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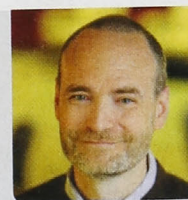
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# A bold new world?



If you're flipping through the pages of this magazine right now, chances are you've mused once or twice over the years about what it might be like to be a McGill student again. That wistful daydreaming probably doesn't last for long. You've got bills to pay, a job to hold down and a lot of you are living a long way from campus at this point in your lives.

Well, regardless of whether you're in Abu Dhabi or Albuquerque, the notion of taking a McGill course might not be so crazy after all.

McGill will launch its first-ever MOOC in January. Massive open online courses are among the hottest of topics at universities right now. The wave of the future, claim some. A fad doomed to fail, mutter others. Provost Anthony Masi is more nuanced in his appraisal. In a recent, thoughtful piece in the *Literary Review of Canada*, Masi acknowledges that most experiments in distance education have offered little more than a "somewhat pale imitation of the campus-based experience." Still, he sees much potential in the more sophisticated MOOC model — though he warrants there are plenty of kinks that universities will need to work out.

Student retention is a big one. Plenty of people sign up for MOOCs, but most of them don't stick it out. Frustrated by drop-out rates as high as 90 per cent, one of the major players in the MOOC world, Udacity, recently declared that it would shift its focus to more vocational and industry-specific offerings.

Masi is aware of the problems, but he'd rather experiment than run the risk of falling behind. "If universities were traded on the futures market, I would only buy stock in those that are seriously addressing the key educational challenges of shifts in digital technology."

McGill's first MOOC looks like a winner. Based on a popular course organized by a trio of award-winning McGill teachers, "Food for Thought," a user-friendly examination of the science behind what we eat, had almost 9,000 students signed up with seven weeks still to go before registration ended. According to David Harpp, one of the teachers, the average age of these students is 34 and they hail from 150 different countries.

Harpp insists that the MOOC isn't just about taking a McGill course that's already good and offering it to the world. He and his colleagues — Joe Schwarcz and Ariel Fenster — are old hands at putting together entertaining content, but they've still learned a thing or two in the process of preparing their MOOC. He likens some of the editing and production techniques brought to bear by McGill's Teaching and Learning Services team to a slick Ken Burns-type documentary — and promises that he'll incorporate some of those methods into his future McGill courses.

Intrigued? You can find out more in Patrick McDonagh's feature story in this issue. To register for "Food for Thought," visit [www.edx.org/course/mcgillx/mcgillx-chem181x-food-thought-1213](http://www.edx.org/course/mcgillx/mcgillx-chem181x-food-thought-1213).

Change is inevitable. Sometimes it's exciting. And sometimes, it's bittersweet.

This will be the last issue in which Diana Grier Ayton's name appears in our masthead. Longtime readers will recall that Diana edited the *McGill News* from 1998 to 2007, leading the publication to 11 national awards.

She was a marvellous mentor and a maddeningly tough act to follow. We all wish her a wonderful retirement. And we'll miss her like crazy.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



THE GIFT OF  
A LIFETIME



## In the Scottish Tradition: An Enduring Legacy

When Kayleigh-Ann Clegg (pictured above with Margaret Cathcart) learned she'd been awarded the Thomson-Cathcart Entrance Bursary, the prospect of going to McGill became an exciting reality. Two years later, the McGill experience proved even more fulfilling than she could have imagined. She wrote to the founder of the bursary, Margaret Cathcart, "I cannot even begin to thank you enough. Every mid-term I write, every lecture I attend, I am thankful for where I am and the people – like you – who have helped me get here."

Back when she was just a child, **Margaret Cathcart**, BA'39 and MEd'73, also came to McGill – albeit under different circumstances. Born in Edinburgh, she immigrated to Montreal with her family, settling in an area she, like many, affectionately refer to as the "McGill ghetto." Back in the 1920s, Margaret lived just a stone's throw away from the University that would play a significant role in her academic life.

McGill is truly in her DNA. "It became our playground. We tobogganed in the hollow next to the Arts Building." Margaret reflects, "Looking back, my parents both contributed their particular talents and wove their own

threads into the Canadian tapestry." That tapestry would have included strands from her family tartan, as Margaret's Scottish roots run deep.

In 2005, Margaret and her (now late) husband, Thomas, established the Thomson-Cathcart Entrance Bursary, which is awarded to a full-time undergraduate student in the Faculty of Arts on the basis of financial need and academic standing. The bursary allowed Kayleigh-Ann to thrive in her academic career; she graduated in 2013 with a BA&Sc in psychology.

Margaret Cathcart continues to seek out ways to support the brightest minds, and to strengthen her McGill and Scottish connections. These ambitions dovetail nicely in another new initiative, a Chair of Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill, toward which funds are currently being sought. Margaret generously bequeathed a gift to support the realization of this new Chair.

Through the years, Mrs. Cathcart's philanthropy has made a real difference in the lives of McGill students, continuing to weave a tapestry for the next generation.



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## IT'S OFFICIAL: SUZANNE FORTIER INSTALLED AS MCGILL'S NEW PRINCIPAL

*Governor General David Johnston (left) and Provost Anthony Masi applaud at the installation ceremony for Principal Suzanne Fortier*



OWEN EGAN

**SUZANNE FORTIER**, BSc'72, PhD'76, had just left the Arts Building as part of the academic procession heading to Redpath Hall where she would be installed as McGill's 17th principal, when a young man shouted out, "Congratulations!"

"Merci!" she called back with a wave and a broad smile, unable to contain her obvious joy as people lining the road to Redpath Hall broke out in spontaneous applause. Once in the hall, Fortier would receive two extended standing ovations before the end of the installation ceremony.

In her installation address, Fortier spoke about her humble beginnings as a child in Saint-Timothée, Quebec, where her family home only had three books, "the Larousse Dictionary, the Bible and the Eaton's catalogue. The world I grew up in was far removed from the world of academia..." After seeing their daughter devour all three reading options, her parents quickly set up an account for her at the local bookstore.

Not surprisingly, on the day she was installed as McGill's first francophone principal and as only the second woman to occupy the role, Fortier emphasized the importance of diversity—be it cultural, intellectual or experiential. "We are at a carrefour, a time of confluence, with many things coming together in many ways," she told the audience. "Our place is at the carrefour of diverse cultural perspectives, diverse disciplines, and different ways of knowing."

And while Fortier admitted that "it can be messy at the carrefour," she stressed that this dynamic environment is essential for a university to remain vital. "We are the great collider," she said. "And even if the collider sometimes overheats, physics tells us that this is where you find the most exotic particles, the new ideas, the new paradigms, the discoveries."

Dignitaries in attendance included Governor General (and principal emeritus) David Johnston, LLD'00, Quebec higher education, research, technology and science minister Pierre Duchesne and representatives from universities and research institutes from across North America.

"I must confess to taking great delight in the fact that you are McGill's first female graduate to hold the office [of principal]," said Honora Shaughnessy, MLS'73, senior executive director of development and alumni relations, who spoke on behalf of the University's administrative and support staff. "It has been enormously heartwarming to hear you speak of your sense of coming home, of how the people you encountered as a student, embraced you, mentored you and opened up for you a world of rich possibilities..."

Fortier is determined to ensure that future generations of McGill students, arriving from a broad range of backgrounds, have access to those same opportunities.

She offered an anecdote about her sister's 11-year-old grandson who, upon walking through McGill's campus recently, boldly declared he would one day come here for his studies.

"His grand-maman challenged him: 'You will have to have very good marks to get in, you know.' He answered, 'That will not be a problem.' And when she added, 'You will have to learn English,' he did not hesitate a second. 'You will see,' he said, 'it will not take me long.' Born to a Brazilian mother and a French-Canadian father, that boy exemplifies the new multicultural, multilingual generation," said Fortier. "He is ready to be challenged. He is ready to embrace other cultures, other languages and other ways of knowing. All he needs is for us to be ready for him."

NEALE MCDEVITT

*For Principal Fortier's thoughts on the things about McGill that have surprised her, turn to page 13.*

## MAC FARM FIRE CONTAINED



NEALE MCDDEVITT

“It could have been a lot worse,” says **PAUL MELDRUM**, manager of the Macdonald Campus Farm. On October 31, a fire broke out in the feed storage area adjacent to the farm’s dairy barn, home to some 135 dairy cows. While the damage was extensive, Meldrum says quick-thinking on the part of farm staff and students helped keep the losses to a minimum.

After realizing he couldn’t put out the fire himself, farm employee Martin Chaumont prevented it from spreading by closing the fire

doors between the food storage area and the dairy barn. Judy Knight quickly untethered the cattle. With the help of members of Macdonald’s woodsmen team, who were at a nearby practice, the cows were escorted away from the smoke, as 60 firefighters worked to contain the blaze.

Meldrum says the fire destroyed more than 80 per cent of the barn’s feed for the cows — including some specialized feed that was needed for research projects which are now delayed. Four of the farm’s hay silos were destroyed and two others might not be salvageable as a result of fire damage. The dairy barn was left in good shape, though, and the cows were able to return.

Local farmers have been quick to help. Ricky Gasser, FMT’05, and David Gasser, FMT’12, for instance, donated about 15 tons of hay and offered to deliver it, all free of charge. “It’s a typical farm community,” says Meldrum. “They come together very quickly.”

The return to everyday operations was quick. The fire began around 6 am and the fire department cleared the cows for a return to their barn at 11 am. By 11:30 am, they were milking, and at 1 pm, the milk truck arrived for pick up.

“We’re stubborn farmers,” says Meldrum, “we keep going.”

Files from NEALE MCDDEVITT and ANNIKA ROBBINS

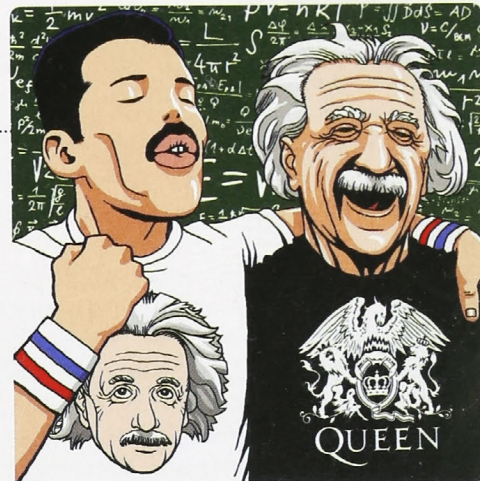
## THE PHYSICS OF FREDDIE MERCURY

If you have an Internet connection, there’s an excellent chance that you’re familiar with the unique musical stylings of **TIM BLAIS**, BSc’11. The McGill graduate student has been steadily winning new fans — some of them famous — with his unorthodox approach to spreading the word about the wonders of physics.

His A Capella Science project posts distinctive cover versions of popular songs, all rewritten to explore physics concepts. “Rolling in the Higgs,” an Adele-inspired track released last year, attracted more than 545,000 YouTube views. His recent offering, “Bohemian Gravity,” is a pitch-perfect take on the classic Queen anthem “Bohemian Rhapsody.” As of this writing, the video for the song has garnered more than two million views on YouTube.

*Star Trek* icon George Takei posted it on Facebook. Russell Crowe tweeted about it. And Queen guitarist Brian May, no slouch at physics himself (he has a PhD in astrophysics), featured it on his own site.

“I was working at my lab on various research [projects], and I was also procrastinating and watching YouTube videos,” says Blais of the genesis of his project. “I thought, ‘You know, there’s something you have that these people don’t have. And that’s a large amount of knowledge about physics.’”



BERNIE MIREAULT

Blais says that the production process for “Bohemian Gravity” was arduous — the video editing alone took the equivalent of about three work weeks — and he did it all while working on his master’s thesis.

His motivation, he says, stemmed partly from wanting to combine his passions for music and science, but also from a sense of artistic responsibility. “I thought, ‘I can’t think of anyone besides me who could make this happen. If I want this to be a thing in the world, I have to make it.’”

GEMMA HOROWITZ, BA’10



## BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

The New York Jets have shown interest. So have the Houston Texans, Tennessee Titans, Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears.

Each team has paid close attention as McGill Redmen captain **LAURENT DUVERNAY-TARDIF** pulverized the competition, maximizing each opportunity to prove himself worthy of playing in the NFL.

The 6-foot-5, 305-pound offensive lineman is a hot commodity. This fall, he was named the top-rated prospect for the 2014 CFL draft, according to rankings compiled by the league's scouting bureau.

A third-year medical student, Duvernay-Tardif might just represent the perfect blend of brains and brawn, as comfortable in hospital scrubs as he is in football gear. He was recently named one of the top eight Academic All-Canadians in the country for his combination of school smarts and sterling athletic ability. And while the Redmen failed to make the playoffs this year, they did enjoy their best season in four years thanks, in part, to Duvernay-Tardif's play.

"I try to lead by example," he says. "I'm quiet in the locker room, but that stops the moment we step on the field. That is when a switch goes on and I become a lion."

If everything goes according to plan, Duvernay-Tardif will become the first McGill medical student to be drafted by a CFL team since 1999, when linebacker Jean-Philippe Darche, BSc'97, was selected by the Toronto Argonauts. Darche ended up playing in the NFL for nine years.

"I've dedicated so much time and energy into football and medicine that I would like to explore both passions," says Duvernay-Tardif. "Why can't I have both?"

GARY FRANCOEUR



ALLEN MCINNIS



## SHE SUFFERS FOR HER ART

**RUTH CHIANG**, BA'06, has been blown up, thrown from buildings and bounced off speeding cars and she's walked away (mostly) unscathed. As a stunt performer and actress, she has carved out a unique career by putting herself in harm's way.

"I don't want my family to worry, so I often tell them that the work looks worse than it is, but the truth is that it is often worse than it looks," says Chiang. "I go into each stunt being cautious and well prepared. It is when someone gets complacent on this job that they tend to get hurt."

She has done stunts for several big Hollywood films, including *Pacific Rim*, *Get Smart* and *The Day After Tomorrow*. She played a flesh-eating zombie in *Warm Bodies*, was decapitated in *Death Race 3000* and has been a regular on the Just for Laughs Gags TV show.

Chiang has trained in a variety of martial arts, putting together the kind of CV Wonder Woman would heartily approve of. Her skills include kickboxing, trapeze, archery and fencing.

Though Chiang has notched her share of bumps and bruises over the years — like the time Will Ferrell accidentally smacked her in the head with a ski on the set of *Blades of Glory* — she has never been seriously injured.

More worrisome than the physical danger, says Chiang, is the unpredictable nature of the entertainment business. Stunting is hardly a nine-to-five gig, so she spends much of her time living out of a suitcase, with last-minute call-ins being part of the routine.

Despite this, Chiang can't imagine doing anything else. "I can't expect my luck to keep going forever, but I plan to ride this out as long as I can."

GARY FRANCOEUR

## FROM FIREFIGHTING TO FASHION



“I’ve always had a keen interest in waste,” says London-based **KRESSE WESLING**, BA’00. Growing up in Saskatchewan, she says, “I loved to go to the dump with my dad on a weekend and my favourite primary school field trips were to recycling centres and sewage treatment plants.”

That might sound like an unlikely preoccupation for a future in fashion. But Elvis & Kresse, a line of trendy accessories made from decommissioned fire hoses that Wesling co-founded, has been making a global sustainable-style splash.

Fire hoses have unique properties, Wesling explains: “Hoses can survive up to 25 years of active service, but when they are too damaged to repair they are scrapped. There is no traditional way to recycle them.” She first came across the hoses in 2005, while encountering staff from the London Fire Brigade on an auditing course. She was instantly smitten. Wesling describes the hoses as “rich, lustrous coils of red, so full of history and still so strong. I knew they could have a second life.”

Belts, bags, wallets — Elvis & Kresse’s unique products have been attracting plenty of attention. Cameron Diaz sported an Elvis & Kresse belt in an issue of *Vogue*. Earlier this fall, the company was named one of Britain’s 25 most ethical businesses by the UK Social Enterprise Awards.

The company’s social conscience goes beyond the production materials it uses. “We donate 50 per cent of our profits to charities,” Wesling says — the principal beneficiary being a British organization that provides rehabilitative and support services to retired firefighters. Elvis & Kresse estimates it has managed to recycle more than 200 tons of materials that were otherwise destined for landfills.

JEAN HANNAH EDELSTEIN, BA’03

## HOW TO WIN A STANLEY CUP

For most NHL vets, earning one Stanley Cup ring would be a once-in-a-lifetime dream. **JAMIE KOMPON**, BEd’89, (pictured) did it twice in row — under very different circumstances.

He was an assistant coach for the Los Angeles Kings when they made their surprising run to the Cup in 2012, and again for the juggernaut Chicago Blackhawks earlier this year.

The two teams were polar opposites: the Kings barely scraping into the playoffs, the Hawks starting off their season with a 24-game undefeated streak. So what, other than a particular member of the coaching staff, was the common element? According to Kompon, the road to the two teams’ path to victory was laid atop a foundation similar to what he learned at McGill as an 18-year-old fresh from Thunder Bay: discipline, attention to detail, and faith in one’s abilities.

Kompon credits the Kings’ ability to “keep it chill” during their championship drive, as their successes piled up, and the stakes grew higher.



Chicago kept their poise as well, battling back from the brink of elimination against the Detroit Red Wings. “There was always a confidence that we were going to win — not a cockiness, but an inner, quiet confidence that we would do it.”

The Hawks then squared off against the Kings in the Western Conference Final, and while Kompon still counts many Kings players among his friends, friendship temporarily goes out the window when the Cup is at stake.

“At the end of the day, they were just a team standing in our way.”

MARK REYNOLDS



## THE INDIVIDUALITY OF PAIN

Why does one person with minimal tissue damage from arthritis suffer debilitating chronic pain, while another with major damage reports very little? The question is a riddle that **LUDA DIATCHENKO**, McGill's new Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Human Pain Genetics, is aiming to solve by pinpointing crucial genetic differences in people's susceptibility to developing chronic pain conditions.

One in five Canadians suffers from chronic pain, but the root causes remain a perplexing puzzle for science and current treatments fail to give most patients effective pain relief. "Pain is the number one reason people consult doctors. But there's no drug we can give that makes chronic pain go away. On a scale of zero to 10, existing treatments reduce the pain by only two to three units and a lot of people don't respond at all," says Diatchenko, a world leader in pain genetics who was formerly at the University of North Carolina. She joined McGill's Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain in September.

Gene studies reveal that about half of our sensitivity to pain is determined by our genetic makeup. Diatchenko's goal is to personalize pain diagnosis and treatment by unlocking the secrets of how specific variations in genes affect an individual's pain perception and sensitivity. The right medications could then be developed and prescribed to more precisely fit the genetic and molecular pain profile of patients.

"If there were five drugs available to treat a particular condition, blood tests with genetic or other molecular markers would predict and help choose which drug will benefit the patient," says Diatchenko, the recipient of McGill's first CERC. Her research program will receive \$10 million in federal funding and over \$20 million in matching funds from private and public partners.

In 2005, Diatchenko uncovered a critical piece of the pain puzzle when she discovered that some people carry a specific variant of a gene, called COMT, which amplifies pain sensitivity. She further found that there were three

commonly occurring variants of the COMT gene, resulting in low, average and high pain sensitivity. Those with the high pain sensitivity variant (HPS) were also more likely to develop chronic pain conditions, such as fibromyalgia and temporomandibular joint disorders, which affect about 10 per cent of Canadians.

Later, in a highly cited paper in *Science*, Diatchenko explained how the ultra-sensitive gene amplifies pain and can trigger a domino effect in chronic pain disorders. Diatchenko found that individuals with the HPS gene variant make smaller amounts of the COMT enzyme, which is crucial for regulating pain processing and signalling because it controls the release of stress hormones — dopamine, norepinephrine and epinephrine (adrenalin). Her study also suggested new possibilities for treating this patient subgroup, using drugs that would selectively target Beta 2 and Beta 3 receptors (proteins that bind to stress hormones like adrenalin).

Diatchenko is now working on developing new personalized treatments that will help chronic pain sufferers who carry the high-pain-sensitivity COMT gene by targeting the underlying pain mechanisms.

She will also team up with other McGill pain specialists to investigate other genetic differences that heighten pain sensitivity and which may contribute to chronic pain disorders — such as low back pain, tension headaches and arthritis — using her COMT studies as a model for translating basic discoveries into personalized treatments. "Our current drugs are extremely inefficient in treating chronic pain. People live with this for years and my goal is to reduce their chronic pain and suffering," she says.

MARK WITTEN



Earlier this year, *Le Devoir* hailed an eclectic, one-of-a-kind performance called *Les Gestes* as “poetic, presenting music that can be seen and dance that can be heard.”

Performers in the “choreography-concert” wore unique instruments that had been nearly two years in the making at McGill’s Input Devices and Music Interaction Lab.

## MUSIC IN MOTION

“Every aspect of the instruments was developed in tandem with the creation of the choreography and the music,” says **IAN HATTWICK**, a doctoral student in music technology, who worked with fellow PhD candidate **JOSEPH MALLOCH**, MA’08, and associate professor **MARCELO WANDERLEY**. “It wasn’t just building something and handing it over.”

The concept crystallized over a series of two-week workshops with dancers. They started out playing around with hand-made prototypes — pieces of foam attached to velcro.

They settled on two designs: a spine, and a curved visor that performers could also wear around their waists as ribs. Hattwick says the overall look was intended to be both organic and futuristic.

The motion of the performers translates into data, which translates

into music. The visors accomplish this with accelerometers — devices that detect acceleration — as well as touch sensors, which allow performers to play them like keyboards. The spines contain clusters of sensors at each end that detect when the dancers bend and twist.

The final pieces are made of seven kinds of plastic, shaped with a laser cutter. A 3D printer was used to fashion the mounting system. The team was able to test and alter new iterations quickly — adjusting the shapes and curves of the instruments to improve the way they fit the performers.

“We’re not just tracking the motion of dancers,” says Hattwick. “The instruments actually become extensions of their bodies.”

SHANNON PALUS, BSc’13

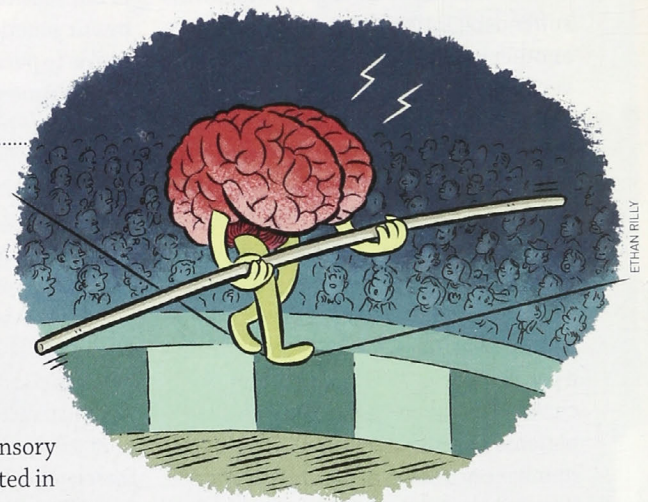
## A BRAINY BALANCING ACT

Hundreds of times a day, a little cluster of neurons deep in your brain helps you keep your balance. If you slip on some ice or stumble over a crack in the sidewalk, these brain cells quickly complete a calculation: total body motion, minus intended motion, equals motion due to an external cause.

“It’s a beautiful computation,” says physiology professor **KATHLEEN CULLEN**. It’s also precise, lightning-fast, and, surprisingly, measurable. Cullen and her team reported in *Current Biology* that they had discovered, and been able to observe, the portion of the brain where this unique bit of algebra unfolds thanks to the efforts of a specific group of neurons.

The calculation occurs in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls motion. When unexpected motion occurs during a routine action — while stepping onto a wobbly boat, for instance — this causes a sensory conflict. Cullen was interested in exactly how the cerebellum sorts out the conflict.

Together with former doctoral student **JESS BROOKS**, BSc’04, PhD’12, Cullen devised an experiment that placed macaque monkeys inside a device similar to a flight-simulator. The researchers monitored the brain activity of their test subjects as they coped with unexpected movement. They discovered that activity from one specific cluster in the cerebellum



ETHAN RILLY

reflected the unanticipated motion that they were creating with the simulator.

Next, Cullen is exploring how the brain formulates the other part of the computation — specifically, how the brain knows what motion to anticipate during routine actions.

SHANNON PALUS, BSc’13

# AT RISK FOR ALCOHOLISM

Soon, it'll be the season for office holiday parties and New Year's Eve bashes. Moderation is key when drinking, but for some who find themselves craving more alcohol, the problem might be neurological. Recent McGill research indicates that the brains of those at risk of developing alcoholism behave differently.

A study of 26 healthy social drinkers found that people at risk for the addiction exhibited a more pronounced dopamine response in the brain pathway that controls desire for rewards.

"We have been searching for differences in the brain that might influence this differential susceptibility," says psychiatry professor and lead researcher **MARCO LEYTON**, who published the findings in *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*.

The 18 men and eight women who took part in the study were screened for alcoholism risk based on personality traits and how quickly they felt drunk after imbibing. They underwent two PET brain scan exams after drinking either juice or alcohol in a 15-minute period. Those who were considered more susceptible to alcoholism showed an unusually large dopamine response when they drank.

"Different dopamine responses to alcohol seem to be associated with impulsive, reward- and sensation-seeking personality traits, a family history of substance use problems, and a tendency to experience lower sedative responses when drinking," says Leyton.

Exactly why these brains act differently is unclear. The results will have to be replicated and the research expanded.

"One of the most important implications is that we might be able to identify at-risk people before they develop a substance use problem. By obtaining a better understanding of why they are at elevated risk, it might be possible to develop strategies that help prevent them from becoming addicted."

TIM HORNIAK, BA'95



MATT FORSYTHE

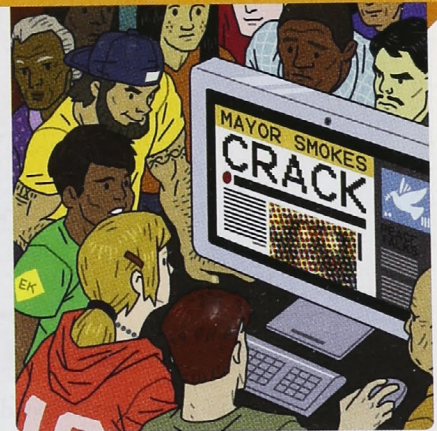
## THE ALLURE OF BAD NEWS

Negativity! Untruths! Politics! According to associate professor of political science **STUART SOROKA**, that opening sentence alone means that you are more likely to read this story than, say, an adjacent one about an alumnus devoting themselves to alleviating global poverty.

"When you ask people directly, they say 'Yeah, I think media should be less negative.' But there is this strange divergence, where you have people saying they want the media to be more positive, but then you have the media systematically using negative information to get their audience," says Soroka.

Soroka set out to explain the discrepancy. He enrolled volunteers for a study requiring a purported "eye tracking" test. They were told that to calibrate the eye tracking software they had to browse a series of pre-selected articles on Canadian politics featuring headlines balanced to be either positive or negative in tone.

Respondents were more likely to read negative news stories, no matter their stated preference for positive ones. And, says Soroka, such a result might not be a bad thing.

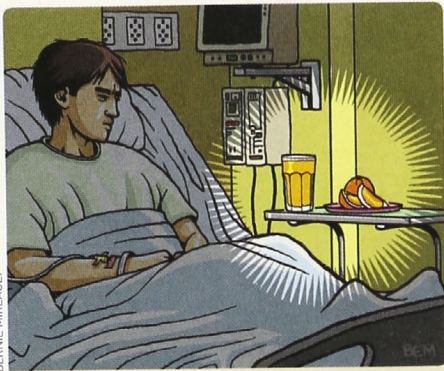


EDWARD KWONG

Soroka, who has a forthcoming book on the subject (*Negativity in Democratic Politics*, University of Cambridge Press) points out that our entire political system is built on negatives — official oppositions check the government, the Senate checks the Commons, the courts check Parliament. The media fit right in: "When you look at the role of media in democracy, it is to monitor and identify error. It is to be a watchdog," says Soroka.

People aren't irredeemable pessimists or cynics, according to Soroka: "We pay attention to what is furthest from our expectations, and humans tend to think optimistically. We expect things to be at least marginally positive, and that means that negativity is farther from our expectations."

MARK REYNOLDS



BERNIE MIREAULT

Every year, Canadian hospitals admit more than two million acute-care patients. What with the unfamiliar surroundings, the disruption of routine and concerns over their health, patients understandably find even short stays stressful. While medical staff strive to optimize patient well-being, medical issues take priority.

But mind and body are not conveniently compartmentalized. Studies

## VITAMIN C TO THE RESCUE

have shown that recovery time shrinks when patients' stress levels drop, yet, according to **JOHN HOFFER**, BSc'71, MDCM'75, scant clinical attention has been paid to the effect of nutrition — specifically, vitamins — on mood.

A professor of medicine and an associate professor of dietetics and human nutrition, Hoffer led a study exploring the links between mood and vitamins that was recently published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. Hoffer's team tested 52 patients before and after giving them vitamins C and D, as supplements, in a double-blind experiment. Using the 65-question "Profile of Mood States" as a guide, Hoffer noted a rapid

50 per cent improvement in the mood of research subjects as their serum vitamin C levels rose.

No comparable benefit could be attributed to vitamin D, likely due to the brevity of the study, and the small amounts given.

While vitamin C deficiencies have long been associated with fatigue and mood disorders, Hoffer and his collaborators suspect that doctors in hospitals often overlook these links.

In the introduction to their study, they note, "Because this information has been restricted almost entirely to nutrition journals, it remains unknown to most physicians."

LOUISE FABIANI, BSc'80

## WHEN ANIMAL RESEARCH GOES AWRY

Canadian pharmaceutical companies spend more than \$1 billion on R&D every year, but only 11 per cent of the drugs tested in clinical trials end up getting approved by the government. One of the reasons could be that many of the preliminary animal studies that lead to the clinical trials contain inherent flaws, according to a recent study led by associate professor **JONATHAN KIMMELMAN** and doctoral student **VALERIE HENDERSON**, MSc'12, of McGill's Biomedical Ethics Unit.

"No one learns anything from a negative clinical trial if the preceding animal study was 'positive' because of an obvious flaw in study design," says Kimmelman. "For example, a drug designed to treat the chronic phase of disease might only have been tested in the acute phase of disease in animals, or animal studies might terminate before researchers can evaluate the drug's long-term efficacy."

One of the consequences of this pattern is higher drug prices, notes Kimmelman. When faulty research practices drive up the overall expense of doing research, the costs are passed onto consumers.

Reporting in the journal *PLOS Medicine*, Kimmelman and his collaborators underlined no fewer than 55 recommendations that have already been made by scientists about how preclinical animal studies can be improved for greater pharmaceutical potential.

"We think implementation of these practices for experiments that are specifically designed to launch trials would go a long way to improving decision-making in drug development," says Kimmelman.

TIM HORNIAK, BA'95



## McGill's new principal on "coming home"



NICOLAS MORIN

..... **PRINCIPAL SUZANNE FORTIER**, BSc'72, PhD'76, was a very visible presence at McGill Homecoming this year, attending a wide variety of dinners and events. One event in particular — a "Meet the Principal" Q & A session with **DEREK CASSOFF**, the director of communications for development and alumni relations — offered graduates the opportunity get better acquainted with McGill's new leader. She shared her thoughts about returning to her alma mater and on what surprises her about McGill today.

*How does it feel to come back as the principal to the university where you were once a student?*

There are so many feelings. Of course, joy is the biggest one. It is very special to be coming back home.

There is gratitude, because you realize that the opportunities that have been presented to you are there because so many people have helped you, from the day you were a student to all through your career.

There's also a sense of humility. There are so many great people who have been at this University, who have occupied the job I'm in now. You feel humbled by all of their accomplishments, but that also gives you energy. You know the bar is high and you have to work hard and give it your best.

I think the strongest feeling for me is a sense of responsibility. My education opened so many doors. I have to make sure that students today have the same opportunities that I was given.

*Can you share a little bit about how you've been spending your time so far on campus?*

I've spent much of my time meeting people, particularly the students. They are the most important people in this University. We're here to make sure they get a great education, an education that matters in our world today. I've shadowed two students, and I've been to classes. I've been to many events organized by students, and I must say that what I discovered is very inspiring. Our students are really plugged into the [broader] community. They use their intelligence and their talent, not only for themselves, but for others.



*Is that different from when you were a student at McGill?*

My sense is that they are more engaged than we were. When I was a student here, we didn't worry about the environment as much as they do. We didn't worry about sustainability and they do. Nutrition, that's another area that our students are so involved in. They care about living next to people who don't have enough to eat. They care about people who are down and out in the community. One of the clubs that I was very impressed with is called Making Waves. They teach children who are disabled how to swim. These children need one-on-one training and our students provide that. It's amazing to me that more than half of the clubs that students have initiated here are focused on issues that matter to society: sustainability, giving back to the community, leadership building.

*You've been going to classes. How are the professors?*

They are so good that it's been difficult for me to accept that I can't continue in the course. And I do mean that seriously. I went to a course in water resource management that was just fantastic, and I did a field trip in the cornfields looking at new techniques of irrigation. I went to a class about tax law. If you're starting a small business that involves, in this case, buying land, a tractor, seeds, when can you claim your tax credit? You might think this would be boring, but it was exciting and the students were so into it. They couldn't wait to run to the blackboard and add their piece to the puzzle. A class on anthropology—again, fantastic. I'm going to continue to attend classes when I have the time. It's one of the privileges we have on this campus.

*What has surprised you the most about McGill today?*

Three things. First, the engagement of our students. That was a very inspiring surprise for me.

The second thing is that at this University, the professors are in the classrooms. And that's not true of many universities because of budget constraints and what-not. Here, the people who are teaching in our classrooms are our professors. That's very important.

The third thing, and it's been a very big surprise to me, is how little I've been able to speak to people in English here. I am not kidding you — at least two-thirds of the people I meet want to speak French to me. And I feel that the quality of my English might be diminishing a little because of that, so I'm being careful. Imagine the headline in the paper: "New principal loses her English at McGill!"



“Wherever I’ve been, when I mention McGill, people want to talk to me. McGill is a huge celebrity.”



NICOLAS MORIN

*McGill has been ranked among the top 25 universities in the world for nine years running now. I’ve heard you suggest that you’d like to see McGill become a top 10 global university. Do you have any sense of what we need to do to achieve that?*

Well, let me say first of all how incredible it is that we can be in the top 25, because when you look at who else is in that class, you start to realize how productive we have been and how well we use the resources that we have. How devoted the people are in this University, to be able to be where we are.

I was looking at some of the top 10 universities, and what helps them be in the top 10 is the amount of resources they have — particularly the resources for students. Princeton University, for instance. It has 8,000 students, and it has an endowment of 18 billion dollars. McGill has 38,700 students and it has an endowment of one billion dollars.

*What role do you think alumni support can play in McGill’s success in the future?*

When we look at our neighbours to the south, you see that all of the top universities in the U.S. have enjoyed a lot of support from their alumni. I was at Yale University for the installation of their new president, and the commitment that they have from their alumni is so visible. You need that virtuous circle — alumni being generous to their universities because they are grateful for the role that these universities played in their success.

*Are \$2,000-a-year tuition fees a sustainable model?*

Well, it is sustainable of course, but you get what you pay for. So is \$2,000 sustainable to get a very high quality education? The answer is no, it isn’t.

*As someone who is not only a McGill alumna, but who has travelled extensively across Canada and around the world, what is the perception of McGill out there?*

It’s an incredible brand. Over the summer, I was in the U.K., attending meetings with some of the top scientists in the country. When I introduced myself, their reaction was instantaneous. They’d all say, “Wow! You’re going to be the principal of McGill? That is fantastic!”

When I was at Yale, I sat next to a Yale alumna, and after the lunch she said, “Oh, I’m going to tell my daughters that I sat next to a celebrity for lunch.” I said, “I’m not a celebrity.” Of course she knows that, she didn’t even know my name. So who is the celebrity here? It’s McGill. Wherever I’ve been, when I mention McGill, people want to talk to me, they want to give me their business card, they tell me they want to come to Montreal. McGill is a huge celebrity. 🐦



JESSICA DEEKS



# Not your *typical* art snob

He is one of the most influential figures in the Canadian art world, but the road that Marc Mayer took to get there was certainly off the beaten track. *by John Allemang*

Marc Mayer, BA'84, has something he wants to get off his chest.

"It's my dirty little secret," says the director of the National Gallery, sounding nothing like a man who's inclined to be secretive.

Mayer is in the attention-getting business. Since 2009, he's run the country's premier art museum with a look-at-me style that makes no concession to the traditions of public-servant reticence.

When the onetime high-school dropout describes his career trajectory, he talks about chasing tips as a Toronto waiter and haunting the eighties Berlin disco scene as if those were key incubators of Ottawa officialdom. The well-travelled veteran of the contemporary art scene doesn't think twice about characterizing his preferred milieu as "a snob magnet." Free speech is in his blood. ➤

*Photo: National Gallery of Canada director Marc Mayer with The Vessel by David Altmejd*

“We take labels off the wall if they’re incomprehensible and we replace them with labels that can be understood.”

So what’s left to confess?

“I’m an aesthete,” says the Sudbury, Ontario, native in his best conspiratorial voice. “I live for beauty and its pleasures.”

If anyone is going to win over Ottawa to rampant hedonism, it’s this animated 57-year-old who found his way to the McGill art history program as a self-taught mature student. His own life bears witness to the power of conversion: because Marc Mayer turned himself into an aesthete, you too can do the same.

### JARGON IS THE ENEMY

“My goal is to create art lovers,” he says, almost as if that were an unusual priority in a museum director. “It’s not obvious to people how that can happen to you. You’re not born an art lover—I certainly don’t think I was—but it does happen to you at some point. So we have to find ways to attract people to this building, not just to talk to them about art history and point to these objects, but to give them many different reasons, social reasons, to come to the gallery. And once we get new people using the museum, we’re going to start making advocates for the art, and people are going to start falling in love with these objects.”

The gallery as hangout—it doesn’t sound like the strategy of an aesthete, but Mayer’s reversed understanding of artistic discovery is that it can begin with basic human needs. Create a gallery bar where people feel happy talking, and the art around them will become part of their comfort zone. Culture, even official culture, doesn’t happen in isolation, and it doesn’t need elaborate interpretation by curatorial high priests to reach the people it was meant for.

“We take labels off the wall if they’re incomprehensible,” Mayer says about his plain-speaking regime, “and we replace them with labels that can be understood. I like the French term, *vulgarisateur*, meaning someone who can take complex ideas and simplify them without denaturing them, without lessening their import by oversimplification. That’s a skill curators need to have more and more.”

The populist approach could be seen to suit a Conservative government that’s uncomfortable with notions of cultural elitism—particularly if his dreams of a smart gallery bar (and restaurant and bookstore) can generate income and take some pressure off the public purse. But Mayer isn’t playing to the political crowd so much as appealing to his own artistic instincts.

“I’ve been looking at art since I was a child, and at some point I started reading less and looking more. I was scared away by discourse and jargon; I thought, I’m never going to be an art lover if I have to read this stuff and understand it.”

The esoteric, exclusionary side of the art world has always bothered him. “I came to art differently,” he says, “and so I take a different approach.”

Mayer’s approach certainly caught the attention of Ottawa’s mandarin class when he took over the gallery’s directorship from the aloof Pierre Theberge in 2009. “Marc began with some of the style and verve of an enfant terrible, speaking brashly with quick and loud laughter,” says Victor Rabinovitch, BA’68, the former CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization who now chairs the board of Ottawa’s Opera Lyra. “He projected a watch-me message, saying that he would liven up the NGC from its seemingly quiet, academically rooted ways.”

SEAN KILPATRICK / CANADIAN PRESS



Above: *Eco* by Omero Leyva was part of the acclaimed exhibition “Sakahàn.” At right: The National Gallery’s entrance hall.



NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA

*Designed by Moshe Safdie, BArch'61, LLD'82, the National Gallery is a familiar part of the Ottawa skyline*



NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA

## THE DROPOUT FINDS HIS PASSION

He came by that style honestly, since his first intense aesthetic explorations took place not in some hallowed gallery, but in Toronto's vast modern reference library. "I was a very frustrated, intellectually ambitious high-school dropout who wanted to know how the world worked," Mayer recalls. The library for him was a sort of prototype for his notion of the cultural hangout — a social centre with resources that could be life-changing for those who exercised their curiosity.

His education to that point had been highly imperfect. He'd skipped a grade and then been held back in primary school, never successfully learned to tell time until he was a teenager, remade himself into the class clown as a way to deal with the daily boredom of the classroom and was eventually felled by his extramural social distractions: "Sex, drugs, rock and roll, etc.," as he enumerates them.

He dropped out and started over as a waiter in Toronto. He found the work highly satisfying, and it remains a formative part of his world view. "You develop a certain sang-froid and a dedication to service. At the end of the day you've got a pocketful of money because you've earned all these tips. But the thing you feel most rewarded by is that you've fed all these people."

In his free time, he explored the library, systematically working his way through photography and history magazines, reading madly in all directions. A friend decided to channel his enthusiasm and pointed him toward a university program for adult dropouts. The winning sales pitch, Mayer says, was "you're no longer the child, you're the client." Client-based education delighted the intellectually ambitious autodidact, and he eventually worked his way to Montreal and McGill.

"McGill was a wonderful experience for me," he says. "I love the fact that in those days they took the classical approach. You had to read the Bible and the Iliad to get through art history, you had to study foreign languages — I learned German and Italian."

He actually set out to be a pure historian, but then got a taste of art history and found himself torn. Professor Winthrop Judkins, who'd established the rigorous art history program three decades earlier, took on the role of decider.

"I was one of his last students," Mayer recalls. "He just looked at me and said, 'You're so good, stick with us. Don't be a jack of all trades, and master of none; you'll be a terrific art historian.' And he was right: I was much more interested in objects that remained from the past than documents from the past. I'm more a looker than a reader."

## OLD AND NEW

Mayer's career has been so predisposed to the present — with stints at the Albright-Knox in Buffalo, the Power Plant in Toronto, the Brooklyn Museum, the Musée d'art contemporain in Montreal — that his intense devotion to the past may come as a surprise. In the cerebral gallery world, there's generally a friction between contemporary and historical, but Mayer's pleasure-driven aesthetic has made him a unifying force.

"My cast of mind is such that I'm always trying to make connections, trying to understand material culture and humanity through art. Art is history and it's also information. I find I'm a little unusual among the curators I've worked with in that I'm very passionate about Old Masters, I love African art, I love Chinese ceramics. Material culture to me is an endless cornucopia of fascination. But contemporary art is the most meaningful because I can actually know the creators, I can affect their thinking through our friendship."

It was at McGill that he came to realize the boundlessness of art history. His passion was the Italian Baroque and his hero was a 17th-century polymath from Turin named Guarino Guarini — architect, playwright, philosopher, monk, master of geometry. "He made the most complex buildings you could imagine," Mayer says. "Art historians ignored them because they were too complex to describe."

The degree of difficulty intrigued him. "I decided that I was the guy to explain Guarini and the Italian Baroque by chaos theory and fractals," he says, both amused and fascinated by the intense academic boldness of his younger self.

And then a new world opened up. The young historian liked to spend free time challenging himself at the Musée d'art contemporain, staring at everything, understanding nothing. He came across a painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat, a fellow high school dropout whose graffiti-inspired work was the subject of an exhibition Mayer later curated at the Brooklyn Museum.

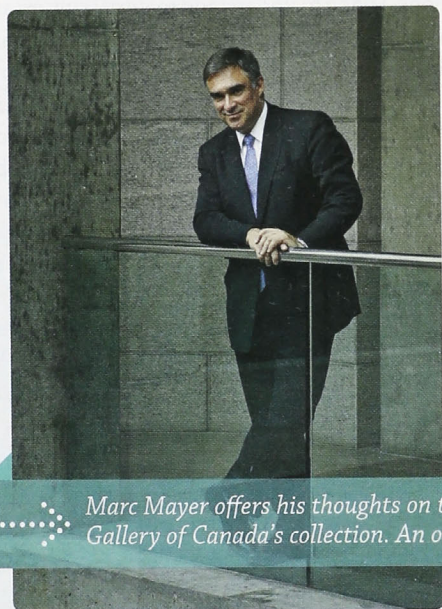
"Here was someone who was world-famous and he was actually younger than me. It was the moment when I realized that a painting hanging in a museum could be something being made today by someone who's living and experiencing the same world you're experiencing."

The power of that personal discovery remains with him at the National Gallery. When he goes hunting for art to acquire, he says immodestly, "I'm looking for that key work in the artist's corpus that's going to open a whole new world for you and your life."

Given his background, he has a soft spot for the kind of contemporary art likely to win over traditionalists who insist the only good art is old art. He points proudly to such acquisitions as Sophie Ristelhueber's 71 large-format photographs of the aftermath of the First Gulf War, Yang Fudong's five-part film *Seven Intellectuals in a Bamboo Forest* ("probably the most famous Chinese video art") and Vancouver artist Geoffrey Farmer's 120-foot long *Leaves of Grass*, which features 16,000 images cut out from old editions of *Life* magazine, mounted on grass sticks.

When calculating what to acquire, he starts with his gut instinct, that nagging feeling of desire that "makes you wake up, sit bolt upright in the middle of the night and say, 'Oh my God, we've got to buy that.'" The aesthetic rush is paramount — curatorial justification comes later.

He had that feeling with Farmer's work. But he also had it with a more conventional painting by the French artist Pierre-Paul Prud'hon. It's an unfinished erotic work that was commissioned by the Empress Josephine just before she was divorced by Napoleon and bears the winning title *Love Seduces Innocence, Pleasure Entraps, Remorse Follows* — "the story of everyone's life," Mayer notes.



Marc Mayer offers his thoughts on two of his favourite items in the National Gallery of Canada's collection. An online exclusive at [www.mcgill.ca/news](http://www.mcgill.ca/news).

## A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK

The gallery under his leadership has drawn crowds with blockbuster collaborations on Van Gogh and Caravaggio, but he and his team have received the most kudos for "Sakahàn," an exhibition of contemporary indigenous art from Canada and 15 other countries. "It was an immensely high-minded endeavour to undertake," says *Globe and Mail* art critic Sarah Milroy, BA'79, "really bold and expensive and risky. I don't know that shows like that get huge foot traffic, but there's no denying they're the right thing to do."

Indeed, the 2013 summer show drew barely 60,000 visitors compared to the 230,000 who attended the previous year's Van Gogh event. "Marc has encountered the hard financial realities of popular shows versus important shows," Rabinovitch observes. Contemporary art remains a hard sell — at least in Ottawa, in tourist season.

"It's a challenge," admits Mayer. "This is a museum that's two or three times bigger than a city the size of Ottawa would support if it wasn't a museum meant to serve the whole country. It's the toughest of nuts to crack: How do you serve the whole country from Ottawa and still be very appealing to the people who live here?"

Partnerships with regional Canadian galleries have become part of the solution. But money, lots of it, remains the best way to solve the National Gallery's awkward problems of scale. "These are tough times for art museums," Mayer acknowledges, and the generally bleak economic climate during his tenure has been exacerbated by the need to reconstruct the gallery's aging Great Hall — responding to the recession and the need to modernize, he has chosen to cut jobs in education, library services, communications, security and IT.

But Mayer is at heart an optimist and an enthusiast, not a man who likes to bear bad news with a long face. Others might take issue with the federal government's commitment to the finer arts, but he happily says, "I'm not frustrated by politics in Ottawa."

His funding has held steady, there's been no interference on the artistic side, and when he wants to share his anxieties about, say, the fragile tourism market in Ottawa, he finds a willing ear in Heritage Minister Shelly Glover.

In return, he looks for ways to make a venerable cultural institution more responsive to contemporary needs and desires.

"The thing that's important to me and in line with the thinking in Ottawa," he says, "is that the gallery has to pull its own weight as much as possible." Hence his hopeful thoughts about repositioning the gallery as a place to have a beautiful meal and a brilliant conversation — and his willingness, bordering on eagerness, to court wealthy donors.

"I'm much more involved in fundraising than my predecessor was," he says. "I actually enjoy it."

As the man said, he lives for pleasure. 🐦

John Allemang is a feature writer for the *Globe and Mail*.



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

## A daughter's determination

Being the child of an imprisoned Chinese dissident is not for the faint of heart. At age 24, **TI-ANNA WANG**, BA'12, already has more than 10 years of human rights advocacy under her belt. She has lobbied politicians worldwide and overcome her fear of public speaking in the hopes that her efforts will one day free her father.

When Wang Bingzhang, PhD'82, completed his doctoral studies at McGill in coronary-arterial research, he was one of the first Chinese nationals to obtain a graduate degree from a Western university since the founding of the People's Republic of China. Soon afterwards, he renounced his career in medicine to dedicate his life to pro-democracy activism.

Named for the victims of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, Ti-Anna Wang grew up in Montreal's Mile End area. She loved to bake and hoped to become a pastry chef. Her father was absent.

"I don't have any resentment; my mother explained that my father didn't abandon us because he didn't love us. She made sure we realized that some people have to make the ultimate sacrifice and that my father was one of them," explains Wang.

Just after Wang's 13th birthday, her father was arrested in Vietnam, charged with terrorism and espionage and tried behind closed doors. He was sentenced to life in a Chinese prison; he has been in solitary confinement ever since.

At 14, Wang presided at her first press conference in Ottawa. At 15, she travelled to China for the first time to see her father in captivity. At 19, she deferred her university studies and moved to Washington to advocate on her father's behalf.

"There was a lot of attention on me as his youngest daughter; people were curious to speak to me about my father's case. It seemed like an effective angle for my advocacy work," recalls Wang.

Wang's impassioned op-ed, "Fighting for my father's freedom," ran in the *Washington Post* in 2009 and caught

the attention of the paper's editorial page writer, Fred Hiatt. With Wang's blessing, he wrote a young adult novel, *Nine Days*, based on her story.

"It's nothing short of magical to have your life fictionalized into a novel, and until I went to DC in April for the launch, I could never have anticipated how this would elevate my father's case in the public consciousness," says Wang, who graduated from McGill in East Asian studies before spending a year studying Mandarin in Taipei.

Despite calls for Dr. Wang's release coming from the U.S., Canada, Taiwan, the European Union, the United Nations and Amnesty International, his situation remains unchanged. His health is deteriorating. Wang has not been allowed to visit her father in five years.

"With any kind of human rights work, if you focus too much on an end goal, it's quite depressing," she says. "You have to think about it as a never-ending process."

During a recent TEDx talk in Toronto, Wang admitted to feeling frustrated, but she will continue to speak out.

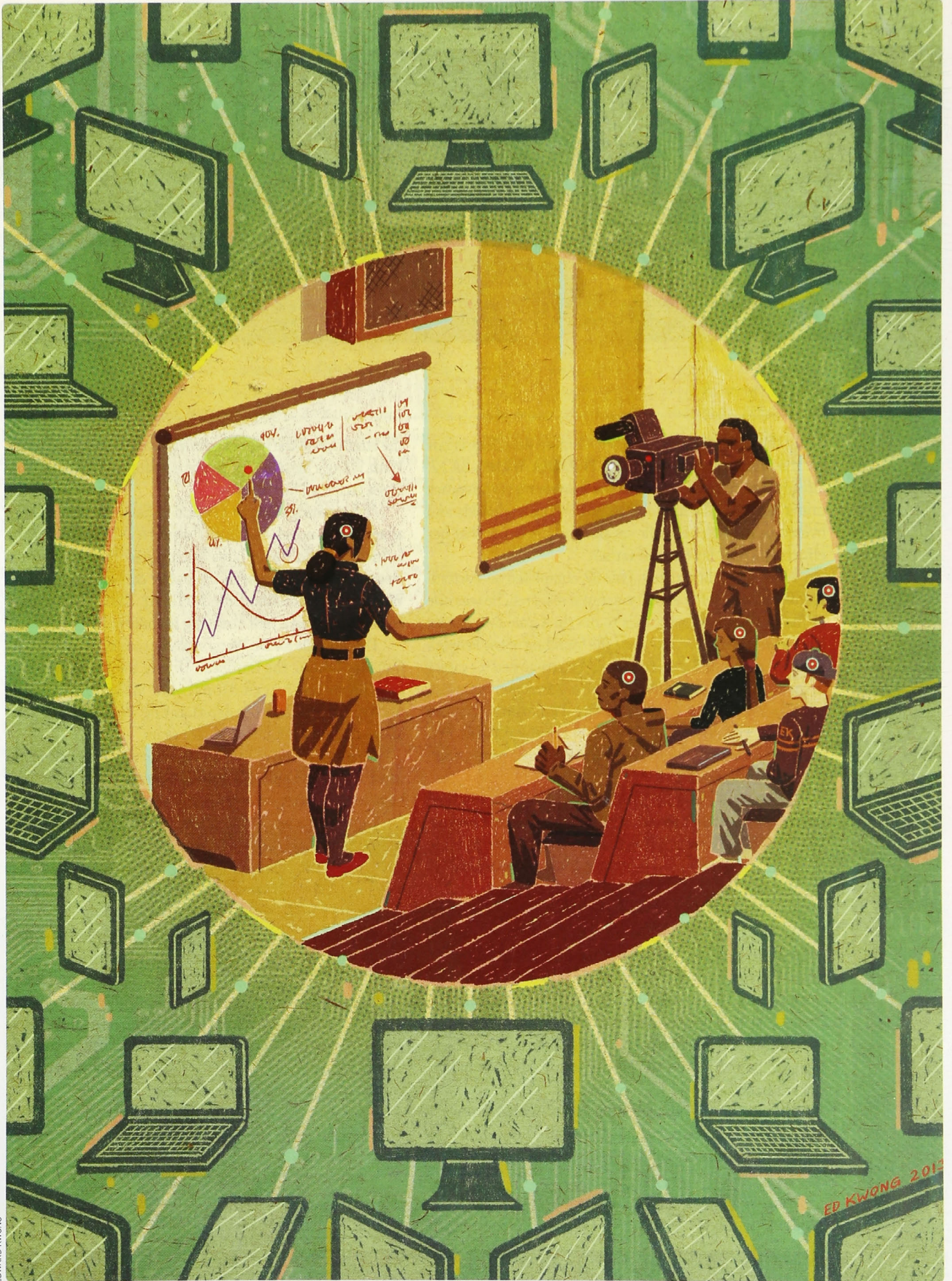
"I'm embracing the fact that what I'm doing is not just for my father," she says. "Speaking for other prisoners of conscience and their families is a big motivator."

Wang's most difficult challenge? Balancing her devotion to her father's cause with building a life for herself.

"When I was at McGill, I didn't want too many professors to know what I was doing; I wanted to separate that from my life," she says. "But a few — like Johanna Ransmeier, who teaches Chinese history and also used to work in Chinese human rights — knew about my father's fate, and were very encouraging.

"I can't imagine ever just totally walking away from this cause," says Wang. "This work makes my life incredibly rich." 🐦

WENDY HELFENBAUM



EDWARD KWONG

ED KWONG 2013



# A TURNING POINT FOR

# TEACHING

Increasingly, students are listening to their course lectures on their laptops, far from campus. The emergence of MOOCs (massive open online courses) looks to be a game-changer. What does this all mean for the future of university teaching?

by Patrick McDonagh

McDonald Professor of Chemistry David Harpp was impressed. One of his students had managed to score the top marks in two of Harpp's courses, each of them with enrolments of about 500 students. Harpp approached the young man to congratulate him on his remarkable feat.

"When I asked him how he did so well, he looked nervous, shuffled his feet a bit, and then admitted that he hadn't attended a single class in either course," recalls Harpp. "[He] had relied entirely on the recorded lectures we had posted online. He watched the classes on his computer, took notes, and reviewed the material he didn't understand."

Harpp is a pioneer of advanced teaching technologies at McGill, having recorded all of his course lectures for the past 13 years. His story illustrates one of the changes facing university teachers, as technology transforms the traditional classroom.

## A NEW DYNAMIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Today, McGill has 300 classrooms equipped with a Lecture Recording System (LRS) that can record lectures and post them online. The recordings allow students to review the course material at their own pace — possibly without attending class at all.

Other recent innovations include "clickers" that allow students to respond en masse to questions posed by professors — enabling a teacher to assess on the fly how well students are comprehending the material being presented — and "flipped classrooms," in which students listen to recorded lectures beforehand, so that class time can be freed up for more intellectually stimulating exchanges.

But what impact might these changes have on the qualities that define a good teacher? After all, one respected model of an effective learning environment hasn't altered since Socrates gathered together some bright Athenian youth at the agora: a teacher, some students, and lively discussion.

Harpp, who holds the Tomlinson Chair in Science Education, has won pretty much every major teaching award available at McGill, including the University's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning. His teaching abilities have also been widely recognized outside McGill. His many awards include a 3M Teaching Fellowship, Canada's top prize for university teaching. While Harpp might have been an early proponent of using technology in classrooms, he insists the key ingredient to good teaching isn't something you can download onto a laptop.

"You need empathy for students. As a teacher, I ask myself if I would want to be in a class I'm teaching," he says. "If I got 95 per cent in every course I took, I might not fathom why students couldn't understand triple integrals and calculus and so forth. But I didn't get those grades."

## STUDENT-DRIVEN LEARNING

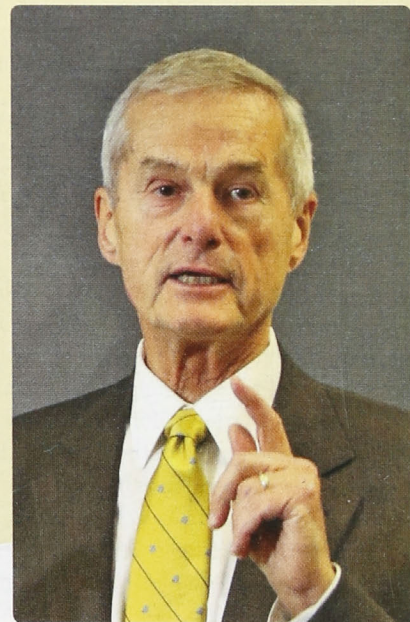
Teaching is never a one-way dynamic. Students must be engaged in their own intellectual growth. "The learner needs to have control over the learning process, and the teacher's job is to support them as they gain that control," says Anila Asghar, an associate professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education and the winner of the Faculty of Education's 2013 Heather Reisman and Gerald Schwartz Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Asghar's students are training to become science teachers, so her work has a ripple effect. "If I ask them to build a speakerphone, they have to investigate engineering principles. So, instead of me teaching them content, they must discover what they don't know and what they need to know. Content learning still comes in, but is student-driven."

The process can be time-consuming. "You have to be patient and flexible in working with [the students], and give them the space to make mistakes, while supporting them so they eventually achieve the skills you want them to achieve."



Psychology professor John Lydon doesn't believe large classes need to be an obstruction to learning.  
(Below left) Associate professor of integrated studies in education Anila Asghar chats with a student.  
(Below right) Macdonald Professor of Chemistry David Harpp



PHOTOS BY OWEN EGAN

“Our students are digital natives. They’re used to these technologies being part of their environment, and we have to deal with it.”

A similar approach is endorsed by George McCourt, MSc(Agr)'94, a faculty lecturer with the McGill School of Environment, and the winner of multiple teaching awards, including the 2013 Macdonald Campus Award for Teaching Excellence. Some of the courses that McCourt teaches probe multidisciplinary terrain. “I’m not [always] an expert in these fields, so when students ask me to supervise projects, I say, ‘Fine, you do the research and be the teacher, and I’m going to be the student.’ I pose questions about why they are pursuing a particular line of investigation, but I facilitate more than teach,” he says. “I’m a huge believer in applied student-centred research.”

### BIG DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BAD

Large, introductory courses involving hundreds of students have a reputation for being tough on both teachers and students. Still, psychology professor John Lydon, the 2013 winner of the Faculty of Science’s Leo Yaffe Award for Excellence in Teaching, refuses to accept the notion that meaningful connections can’t occur in classes with large enrolments. “I don’t make the assumption that a room of more than 50 people has a wall to communication.”

Lydon currently teaches “Introduction to Social Psychology” to a class of 650 students, but he regularly shrinks the classroom by strolling through the lecture hall with a wireless mike — an approach that has prompted comparisons to former TV talk show host Phil Donahue.

His lectures also feature out-of-the-ordinary demonstrations involving students. “I was teaching a three-hour evening class that finished at 8:30 pm, and when I arrived home, one of my daughters confronted me and asked, ‘Dad, what did you do tonight?’”

Lydon had set up a demonstration involving a test of gender differences — one that was rigged so that the male student would do better than the female one. “It ended with me standing on the desk holding up this stick and saying, ‘Men are superior!’ And my daughter received a photo of me caught in the act.”

Indeed, the image circulated through the cell phones and inboxes of many students who had never set foot in a Lydon lecture. But in the classroom, after the laughter subsided, the real lesson began. Lydon asked his students why they seemed so unconvinced by his declaration; they then identified a host of flaws that gave the man an unfair advantage. “I wanted them to understand the kind of critical assessment they need when looking at gender biases in research,” he explains. The demonstration was instrumental in getting students engaged with the topic.

### THE RISE OF THE MOOCS

Today’s students come into the University fluent in the ways of digital communication. “Our students are digital natives. They’re used to these technologies being part of their environment, and we have to deal with it,” says Provost Anthony Masi. That being said, Masi acknowledges that “we just don’t know what impact [these

new technologies] have on how students learn.” The research on this phenomenon is still in its early days.

The most buzzed-about IT innovation in university pedagogy, the massive open online course (or, as it’s more commonly known, the MOOC), may provide some answers.

MOOCs are new: The first one was offered in 2008 by two professors who designed a University of Manitoba course on learning and connectivity. They taught a small seminar on campus and then offered it online to anyone wanting to audit it. The idea quickly caught fire. A scant five years later, three major consortia — Coursera, Udacity and edX — are offering a plethora of online university courses, dealing with everything from introductory paleontology to contemporary literature. McGill formally entered the world of MOOCs in April when it joined edX, a consortium founded by Harvard and MIT in 2012.

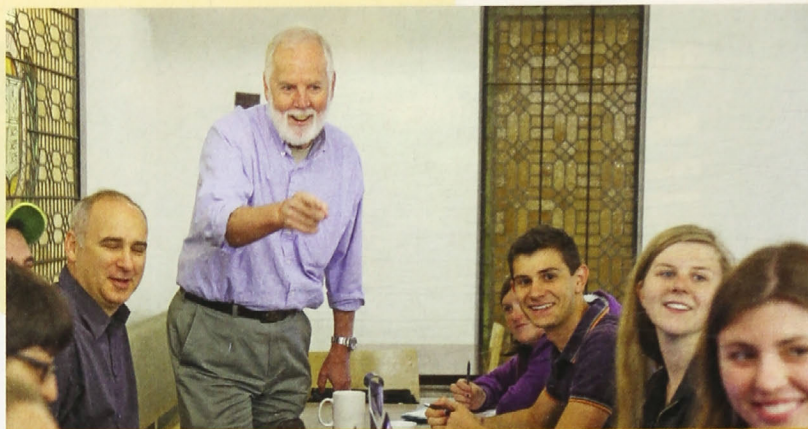
While some educational experts suspect that the appeal of MOOCs will be short-lived (in a report prepared for the British Columbia Institute of Technology, an award-winning BCIT teacher with experience in online education predicts that MOOCs will be “a flash in the pan”), there is ample evidence to suggest that there is no shortage of prospective students interested in a MOOC experience. The total number of students enrolled in Harvard courses on edX recently topped 500,000.

MOOCs represent a comprehensive experiment in digital education, and one of edX’s aims is to gather information to better understand how students function in a completely digital environment. Those findings can be applied to classes at McGill, says Masi. “With the right data and analysis, we will be able to learn how information technologies are affecting the face-to-face education that takes place in our bricks-and-mortar environment. With edX, we have access to tools developed by people who have been thinking about these things in ways we haven’t yet.”

### MCGILL-MADE MOOCS

“We are excited about the possibility of learning from the MOOC experience things we can transfer to the campus environment,” stresses Laura Winer, the associate director of Teaching and Learning Services at McGill. Winer heads the team that is managing McGill’s initial MOOC offerings. Each course will run for about 13 weeks, like most regular McGill classes. All McGill MOOCs are expected to meet the same academic standards as regular McGill courses.

January will see McGill launch its first MOOC, a “World of Chemistry” course on food taught by Harpp and his Office for Science and Society colleagues Ariel Fenster, PhD’73, and Joe Schwarcz, BSc’69, PhD’74 — McGill’s uploaded course veterans. But all involved insist that an uploaded course is not a MOOC. “The distinction between McGill’s uploaded courses and the MOOC is analogous to that of a filmed play and a movie, and the uploaded format of the



*George McCourt, a faculty lecturer with the McGill School of Environment, leads a class discussion*

format of ['Food for Thought'] is like a filmed play. We plan to make the movie of the course," explains Winer. "Ultimately, we aim to develop outstanding resources that can also be used by professors and students on campus as well."

Two more MOOCs will follow later in spring 2014, with "Rebalancing Society," taught by Henry Mintzberg, BEng'61, and Leslie Breitner from the Desautels Faculty of Management, and "Natural Disasters," taught by earth and planetary sciences professor John Stix and atmospheric and oceanic sciences professor John Gyakum. Another MOOC or two are planned for the fall of 2014.

"I would have been disappointed not to have tried to develop a MOOC version of this course," says Stix, a leading authority on volcanoes. "I would have seen it as a missed opportunity."

Gyakum, an expert on cyclones, agrees. "MOOCs are a very interesting pedagogical experiment. They could provide a way of sharing knowledge and expertise with others who can use it — for people in parts of the world where they really are the natural constituency for a course on natural disasters."

The two have already collaborated on an on-campus version of the course, taught to 650 students. They acknowledge that transforming the class into a MOOC format will present fresh challenges. "It's important that each student feels engaged with the class, no matter how many are enrolled," says Gyakum.

For all the excitement that surrounds MOOCs, their long-term economic viability is still open for debate. The costs involved in producing MOOCs are considerably higher than those associated with conventional courses. Udacity and Coursera are funded by venture capitalists, while edX is supported by philanthropy.

"I don't think any university right now has fully thought through the economics," says Masi. "Perhaps a consortium can give away the course, but if the student wants special attention and tutoring, he or she has to pay; or if students want some formal credentials, they pay. But these ways of generating revenue haven't been tested in the marketplace.

"Right now I'm hedging McGill's bets," says Masi. "We're in the edX consortium because I really believe we couldn't not be there. MOOCs may be a game-changer, or they may not be, but if we're not seen to be playing in this game, we'll be left behind."

Another issue concerns the way MOOCs will shift the relationships between professors and students. "I want to be able to

see people's faces and have a class discussion," says McCourt. "My worry with MOOCs is that the form is impersonal. We need active, engaged learners."

Indeed, student participation is a concern. As Lydon points out, "When I teach, students raise their hands and ask interesting questions, request clarifications, and make comments. If everyone is at home online, no one is making those points in class, and everyone misses out."

MOOC developers are giving those issues careful thought — edX, for instance, has organized in-person study groups for some of its courses, offering MOOC participants living in the same city the opportunity to come together to compare notes.

Management professor Henry Mintzberg imagines a similar dynamic for the MOOC that he is preparing with his Desautels colleague Leslie Breitner on community action and social initiatives. Mintzberg is well-known for his work on innovative programs like McGill's International Masters for Health Leadership — programs in which the students often learn as much from one another's varied backgrounds as they do from their teachers.

In the proposal he prepared for his MOOC, Mintzberg suggests that his and Breitner's students "will be encouraged to participate in groups — either existing ones (for example, several colleagues from an NGO), or to team up as they go along." What he envisions aren't scattered and isolated learners staring anonymously at their screens, but "a group MOOC if you like, or a GROOC."

In Asghar's view, such approaches will be essential if MOOCs are to prosper. "To be successful, MOOCs must create effective online learning spaces where students can collaborate and engage in problem solving. But it is exciting; I am interested in seeing how they might do that." 🐦

*Patrick McDonagh is a Montreal-based writer. He is the author of Idiocy: A Cultural History, and has written for The Walrus, the Globe and Mail and Chatelaine.*

## Remembrance Day



..... Last year, McGill's downtown campus became the permanent site for the Royal Canadian Legion's official Remembrance Day ceremony in Montreal. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Canadians pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who perished while representing their country in military conflicts. Thousands of Montrealers came to campus this year to mark the occasion, which featured pipe and brass bands, a flypast by a solo fighter jet and a 21-gun salute by cannons stationed near the Arts Building.

OWEN EGAN

# BIG LEAGUES LAW IN THE

**McGill's Faculty of Law produces more Supreme Court clerks than any other law school in the country. For the students who receive that invitation to Ottawa, it's a life-changer.**

*by Jonathan Montpetit, BA'03*

**E**very spring, a handful of McGill law students get a phone call from a blocked number. On the other end of the line is a Supreme Court justice, offering them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Some students are dumbstruck, some fight back tears. Then they hang up and wonder if it was all just a dream.

The prospect of being offered a clerkship at the highest court in the country is indeed the stuff dreams are made of. Only 27 law students from across Canada are selected each year, and the competition is stiff. But in the past decade, McGill law students have received more of these fateful phone calls than the students of any other law school. Since 2002, more than 60 McGill law graduates have secured clerkships, close to one-fifth of all the available positions.

Yet for those who pine for these prestigious posts, nothing can quite prepare them for the shock that comes with receiving the longed-for call. Marc-André Roy, BCL/LLB'13, was at home, immersed in a class assignment, when his BlackBerry rang around noon one day last March. "Hey, this is Justice [Thomas] Cromwell," pronounced the voice on the other line. "Are you still looking for a job?" Roy was incredulous. "Wait. Who is this?" he responded.



Recent McGill law graduates clerking at the Supreme Court (l to r): Katherine Webber, BCL/LLB'13, Laura Scheim, BA'08, BCL/LLB'13, Guillaume Laganière, LLM'13, Ilana Ludwin, BCL/LLB'13 and Malcolm Lavoie, BCL/LLB'12.

JESSICA DEEKS

Roy was one of six McGill law students chosen earlier this year in the annual clerkship competition. He gave Cromwell an emphatic 'yes,' and will start his one-year stint in 2014. But even now Roy admits that, after hanging up, he couldn't help but wonder, "Did that really just happen?"

Ilana Ludwin, BCL/LLB'13, who began her clerkship at the court in September, has a similar memory of her phone call. "It feels very surreal," she recalls. "You wonder if it was an illusion. Was that actually a justice calling me?"

These 'legends of the call' are really only a half-way point in a longer story. On the one hand, the phone calls mark the culmination of years of studying. They are the outcome of a rigorous application process that includes a one-on-one grilling by a Supreme Court justice. On the other hand, the calls also mark the start of what, for many, turns out to be a varied and distinguished legal career. For some, that has meant private practice, arguing cases before the very

judges they once worked with. For others, it has meant working for the government, helping to draft legislation or provide policy advice. Academe frequently beckons as well.

Benjamin Perrin, LLM'07, did his clerkship with former Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps, LLM'83. In the years since, he has become a tenured law professor at the University of British Columbia, a best-selling author and international expert on human trafficking, and, until recently, legal counsel to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He credits his McGill education for giving him the appetite to tackle major social issues, and the prestige of the clerkship for affording a certain flexibility in pursuing his ambitions. "It was really pivotal for me," Perrin says. "It was during my clerkship that I decided to become a law professor."

The clerkships tend to appeal to a particular kind of law student, those who have a fondness for research, for example, and an appetite for discussing the broader implications of the law. More than a few former Supreme Court clerks have ended up back at McGill as law professors, helping to ready the next generation.



### THE MCGILL ADVANTAGE

Among them is Robert Leckey, BCL'02, LLB'02, an associate professor and William Dawson Scholar in the Faculty of Law. Leckey was working in the offices of the *McGill Law Journal* back in 2001 when Supreme Court Justice Michel Bastarache called to offer him a clerkship. It was a formative experience for Leckey, who went on to do doctoral studies at the University of Toronto before embarking on an award-winning academic career. "It allowed me to have a mentor, and in that way it was very special for me," he says.

Author and UBC associate professor of law Benjamin Perrin. (Below l to r): Associate professor of law Robert Leckey, Former Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps.



LYSANNE LAROSE



“McGill attracts very well-rounded students, they have an openness to the world that is attractive to the judges.”

Leckey is among the more than 15 members of the law faculty who have served as Supreme Court clerks, part of a network of resources in place for current students interested in the positions. In the past Leckey and, more recently, associate professor of law Hoi Kong, BA'95, MA'98, BCL'02, LLB'02, have offered guidance to applicants. Leckey insists this help is only a small factor in the overall success McGill students have enjoyed in securing the clerkships.

A bigger reason, he suggests, has to do with McGill's unique pedagogical approach, which teaches both common law and the civil law system used in Quebec. A functional level of bilingualism is also a requirement for entry into the McGill program. Taken together, this gives McGill students an immediate edge, as each justice might be expected to reserve one of their three clerkships for someone able to read and understand decisions in French, notably those from Quebec courts.

But there are also the intangibles. Grades are only one part of what the judges are looking for; a high GPA, while helpful, is no guarantee. Questions of character and judgment also loom large in the application process, especially at the interview stage. “McGill attracts very well-rounded students,” says Leckey. “They have an openness to the world that is attractive to the judges.”

There are certainly some extra-curricular activities that would seem obvious assets for any aspiring Supreme Court clerks. Roy served as the French executive editor of the *McGill Law Journal*. Laura Scheim, BA'08, BCL/LLB'13, who began her clerkship in September, worked at the McGill International Criminal Justice Clinic.

Other activities, though, offer less obvious professional benefits. Ludwin, an avid flutist, admits that she initially got involved with McGill's Savoy Society to “keep myself sane” amid a hectic study schedule. She was surprised to discover that Gilbert and Sullivan musicals have a big following within the legal community. “My advice to undergrads is to do what interests you, do what you enjoy, as opposed to asking yourself, ‘What do I need to fill in my CV?’” she says. “That's what worked for me.”

### AN INTIMIDATING INTERVIEW

The final selection process is unscientific, says Leckey. The justices each have their own distinct criteria for what makes a good clerk. The decision is thought to come down to how applicants perform in a nerve-testing interview. A select few are called to Ottawa where they meet alone with each justice who might be interested in hiring them.

As part of her clerkship application, Ludwin indicated an interest in tax law. A few weeks later, she found herself sitting across from Justice Marshall Rothstein, answering questions from the man many consider to be the foremost tax law specialist in the country. She remembers thinking to herself, “Please don't let me say something stupid.”

In preparing for her interviews, current law student Nicola Langille, who will be clerking for the Supreme Court next year, readied herself to criticize some of the court's past decisions. It was a good idea in theory, a way to demonstrate an independence of mind. But on the day of her interviews she was a ball of nerves. It turns out that telling Supreme Court justices that you disagree with some of their decisions is a much harder thing to do in person. Nevertheless, Langille stuck to her plan. “The judges appeared to truly want to get a sense of our views on judgments, and our ability to defend those views,” she says.

As intimidating as the situation can be, Roy notes that “it only takes about 15 seconds before you realize they're real people too.” In the end, he says, many of the questions didn't revolve around the law at all, and wouldn't have been out of place in a job interview for any other entry-level position. “They wanted to know why I wanted to work there,” says Roy.

### A JOB LIKE NO OTHER

What, exactly, the clerks are supposed to do once in Ottawa is somewhat shrouded in mystery. Past clerks are not expected to boast about the arguments they contributed to particular judgments, nor are they expected to gossip about the court's inner workings. They won't even reveal who wears what underneath those red robes. It has led to complaints about the opacity of the legal process, and some have wondered if the clerks have too much influence on Supreme Court decisions.

The court has gradually become more transparent in recent years, and its justices have, slowly, offered more details about the role their clerks play in crafting the final version of important judgments. Among the most ardent defenders of the clerkship program is Deschamps, who, shortly after leaving the court last spring, gave McGill law students some insight into what makes a valuable clerk.

“What we expect of clerks is that they go beyond the case,” said Deschamps in April, as she joined the Faculty of Law as a faculty researcher. “The judge doesn't need to have the facts of the case rehashed and generally expects the clerk to have an original view of the legal questions at hand.”

The standard way a clerk is asked to contribute is through the preparation of bench memoranda, documents that outline the basic facts and legal arguments of a case being appealed before the court. It is in these memos that clerks can offer an initial sense of how they would resolve the particular issues at hand. According to Leckey, the justices might rely on their clerks to expose them to different kinds of legal arguments, to offer them fresh perspectives of the law. But there is also a great deal of variety in the relationships that different justices have with their clerks. For some, the clerks play mainly a research and analysis role. For others, the clerks are expected to argue vigorously with the judges to help them toughen the logic behind their decisions.

“I knew going in that I would have an incredible opportunity to work on some of the most interesting legal issues facing Canadians today and I have not been disappointed.”

When Annamaria Enenajor, BCL/LLB'12, began her clerkship in 2012, she didn't know what to expect. The justice who had hired her, Deschamps, was stepping down and her replacement (who turned out to be Richard Wagner) had yet to be named. Before her first day, she wondered to herself, “Am I going to be able to do this?” It is one thing to study law in school, it's another to find oneself called upon by a Supreme Court justice to interpret the most complex and fundamental legal questions facing the country.

While the heavy sense of responsibility never quite goes away, Enenajor says she was comforted by the trust Wagner displayed in her efforts. “Having my research valued by my judge really contributed to me overcoming any anxiety I had about whether or not I could do the job,” she says.

As much as the justices do encourage a frank exchange of ideas, past clerks suggest the newcomers carry a healthy dose of humility into their roles. “It's a very diplomatic form of language that you develop as a Supreme Court clerk,” Perrin says, only half-jokingly. It is, after all, the justices who must make the final decision. During Leckey's time at the court, it wasn't uncommon for judges to veer off in a direction very different from what their clerks had suggested in their bench memos. “It was a constant reminder that the judges are independent and that people with 30 years of experience tend to see the law differently,” says Leckey.

One of the things that Enenajor remembers most from her clerkship was watching Wagner toil over the decisions he was making. There were no ready-made rulings, no matter what the case law suggested. “Seeing that process unfold was so interesting, so inspiring.”

Ludwin, whose clerkship began in September, says the court wasted little time putting her to work. “From day one I was conducting research and discussing cases with Justice Rothstein and my co-clerks.”

Scheim says the experience is measuring up to her expectations so far. “I knew going in that I would have an incredible opportunity to work on some of the most interesting legal issues facing Canadians today and I have not been disappointed.”

Perrin advises those heading into a clerkship to keep an open mind. “The clerkship experience is a new chapter for them,” he says. “They pretty much have an opportunity to go wherever they want to afterwards. It's an opportunity to decide what they want to do with their lives.”

*Jonathan Montpetit is a former Canadian Press journalist currently pursuing a PhD in political science at McGill. He recently won a National Magazine Award for his reporting from Afghanistan.*



Law student Nicola Langille



ALYSSA BISTONATH

## Director's short works pack a big punch

**WENDY MORGAN**, BA'98, screwed up her courage one night in a Vancouver hip-hop club and transformed her life.

At the time, she was working as a production assistant on a string of third-rate movies, spending her days filling out tax forms for abrasive producers. Showbiz wasn't proving to be quite as exciting as she had hoped.

Deciding to try her hand at being a director herself, she spotted Moka Only, a rising young hip-hop artist, in the club that night. Morgan nervously offered to shoot a video for him on the cheap.

The partnership proved to be fruitful. Two years later, Morgan's video for the song "Fuel Injected," featuring Moka and Swollen Members, netted four MuchMusic Video Awards, including one for Best Director.

Today, Morgan is recognized as one of the finest directors of videos and commercials around, someone with a unique sense of humour and a keen eye for capturing dance in a vibrant way. Her clients have included Adidas, Ford, Ikea and Toshiba. Her videos for artists like Bloc Party, C2C, Dragonette, Laura Mvula and Yael Naïm have been watched by several million YouTube viewers. *Time* described her video for Gnarl's Barkley's "Going On" as "a sucker punch of joy" and listed it as one of the 30 best music videos of all time.

"Production can be really tough. My job is to make it all look nice and smooth," says Morgan. "Going On" features an energetic young dance troupe marching down a deserted Jamaican street. "What you don't see are the 80 people hiding behind corners, because we begged them to stay out of the frame. What you don't see is me, sitting in the back of a pickup truck [during filming], while a generator keeps blowing smoke in my face."

Morgan makes it clear that there are projects she wouldn't work on.

"I have zero interest in doing videos about girls in skimpy bikinis," she says. "The 'I'm so scandalous' approach, hoping to titillate people — to me, that's the most boring, most old-school approach you could imagine.

"That's one of the reasons I enjoy working with Janelle Monáe so much," says Morgan, who has teamed up with the six-time Grammy nominee for three videos (including "Tightrope," which has garnered more than 12 million views on YouTube) and a CoverGirl commercial.

"She has these futuristic ideas and she really cares about sending a positive message to the world. She's intelligent, she's strong and she's surrounded by a very special group of producers and collaborators. And they actually do wear their tuxedos every day."

One thing that commercials and videos have in common is brevity. There is no time for a slow build-up. Directors have to grab eyeballs right away.

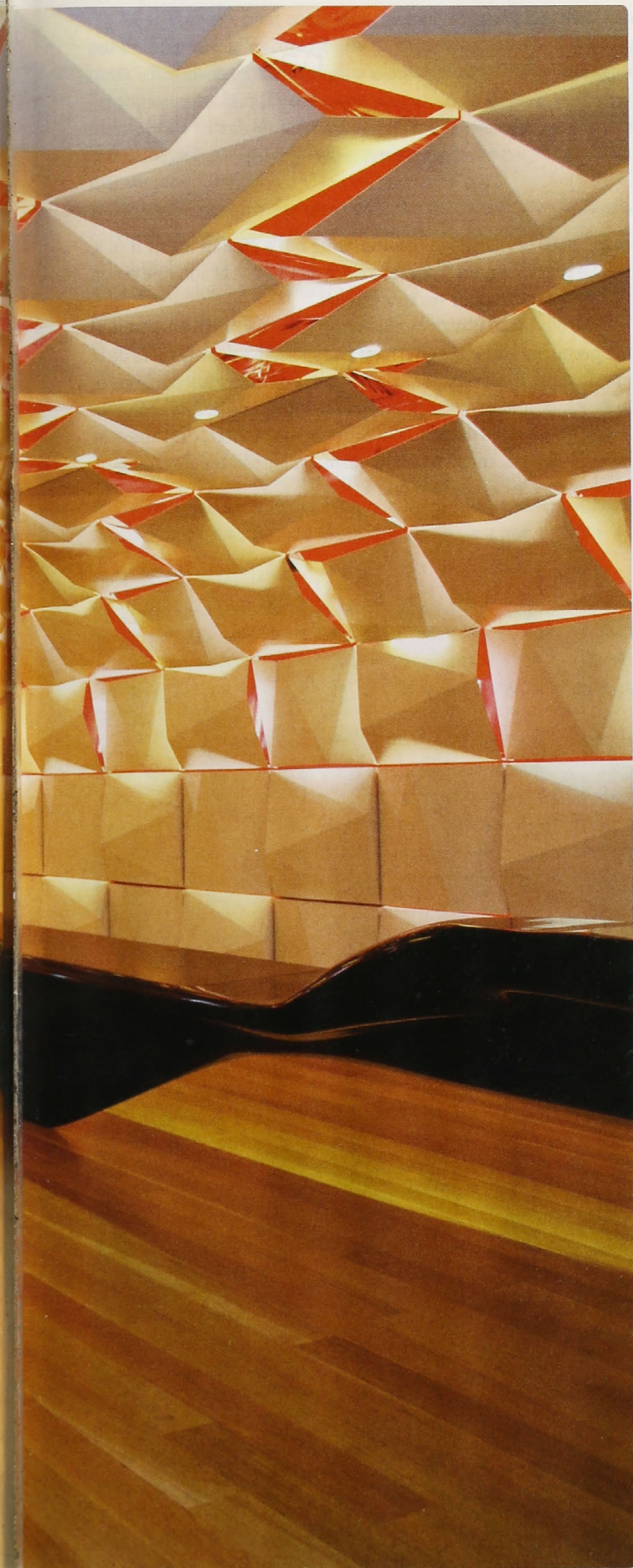
"You need an idea that's immediately compelling," says Morgan. "It has to be something that doesn't feel like the same old thing, something that's not obvious. When I watch videos, I'll give up after 20 seconds if I'm not engaged. The challenge is always to find a way to tell a story that feels fresh to me."

Morgan studied art history at McGill (she initially planned to be a curator). "When people ask for advice on how to get started, I tell them that the best place to learn [how to make videos] is on a set, doing it. But I also tell them that you should try to become a learned person. The things I studied at university, I'm always referencing them in my work in some way." 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



SARAH MONGEAU-BIRKETT



## Le nouveau chef d'orchestre de la **PLACE DES ARTS**

Gestionnaire bien connu du domaine des médias et des communications, Marc Blondeau est arrivé à la tête de la Place des Arts il y a un peu plus d'un an et demi. *McGill News* l'a rencontré à l'occasion du cinquantenaire du plus important complexe des arts de la scène au Canada.

*Par David Savoie*

**L**ouise Forestier interprète les paroles de Claude Lévêillé dans l'ambiance feutrée de la salle qui porte désormais le nom du chansonnier (l'ancien Studio-théâtre). L'inauguration a lieu en compagnie d'une quarantaine d'invités — politiciens, administrateurs et artistes — et s'inscrit dans une série d'activités prévues au cours de l'année pour célébrer les 50 ans de la Place des Arts (PdA). Moment emballant et fébrile pour Marc Blondeau qui, avant de laisser place à la musique, souligne l'importance des bons partenariats.

En mars 2012, Marc Blondeau (B. Com. 1979) est entré en fonction à titre de président-directeur général de la Société de la Place des Arts. Les célébrations entourant le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la PdA approchant alors à grands pas, il a dû faire vite pour en apprendre les rouages. La Place des Arts est aujourd'hui un carrefour important, composé de six salles de spectacles et reliant plusieurs édifices et commerces souterrains; bref, un quadrilatère incontournable du centre-ville de Montréal. Les activités qui ont eu lieu le 21 septembre — jour du 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire — ont témoigné du rôle de ce lieu, tant pour la ville et ses artistes que pour le public. « Pour savoir où on va, il faut savoir un peu d'où on vient », de dire le P.-D.G.

« J'arrive avec mes propres espadrilles, je ne mets pas les baskets de quelqu'un d'autre, mais j'essaie de m'inspirer de ce qui a été fait avant moi. »

« Les gens n'oublient pas le premier spectacle qu'ils ont vu à la PdA », raconte Marc Blondeau, dont le discours est parsemé du mot *expérience*. « On veut être en immersion, en contact. Les gens ont soif d'authenticité et de créativité », fait-il remarquer. Pour lui, c'est la clé du succès. « On espère que le spectateur repart avec quelque chose. Que ce soit après un bref spectacle pour enfants dont le billet coûte huit dollars ou un concert à 125 dollars, les gens souhaitent passer un moment agréable, vivre une belle expérience. » Parmi ses souvenirs : des spectacles de Julien Clerc, sa remise de diplôme de l'Université McGill en 1979, sans compter le passage d'une de ses filles (la comédienne Magalie Lépine-Blondeau) sur les planches de la PdA.

### ENTRÉE EN SCÈNE

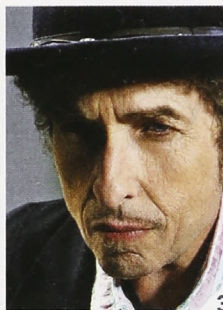
Le président-directeur général de la Place des Arts est désigné par le gouvernement du Québec. À son arrivée, Marc Blondeau succédait à Marie Lavigne, qui avait été en poste pendant 10 ans. « J'arrive avec mes propres espadrilles, je ne mets pas les baskets de quelqu'un

d'autre, mais j'essaie de m'inspirer de ce qui a été fait avant moi », dit-il. Ce poste, c'est une course à relais, ajoute-t-il, et son rôle est de préparer le terrain pour ses successeurs.

Marc Blondeau n'avait jamais songé à occuper cette fonction. Il est le premier à admettre qu'il n'est pas spécialisé dans les arts de la scène, mais qu'il sait néanmoins s'adapter à de nouveaux environnements. Alors, lorsque cette possibilité s'est présentée, il l'a acceptée. « Je suis un spectateur assidu. Au cours de ma carrière, c'est souvent mon expérience de consommateur qui m'a guidé comme gestionnaire, et c'est encore le cas aujourd'hui. »

## DÉBUTS DIFFICILES

Au départ, la Place des Arts n'avait pas l'aval de l'ensemble de la population. En 1963, quand le maire de l'époque — Jean Drapeau — lance le projet, ce dernier est largement critiqué, jugé élitiste. La Place des Arts n'était alors destinée qu'à servir de salle de concert pour l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. Le Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale manifeste contre son ouverture et l'Union des artistes la boycotte pendant un certain temps. Aujourd'hui, la Place des Arts est le plus grand centre des arts de la scène au Canada. Depuis son ouverture, la PdA a accueilli de nombreux artistes québécois, notamment Yvon Deschamps, Jean Lapointe et Ginette Reno (1), et des vedettes et des groupes de calibre international comme Maria Callas (2), Juliette Greco, Luciano Pavarotti, Bob Dylan (3) et Radiohead.



Une exposition réunissant témoignages et rappels d'événements importants qui ont marqué l'histoire de la PdA a été présentée dans le cadre des festivités entourant son 50e anniversaire.



Le P.-D.G. est bien conscient qu'il est responsable d'un bien public, financé par les contribuables, et ce, depuis plusieurs générations. « En raison de mon parcours dans le domaine de l'information, j'ai toujours eu la notion du service public. Et là, je la vis pleinement. Mais il faut en même temps déployer le dynamisme et la souplesse de l'entreprise privée et tenir compte des exigences élevées du spectateur. »

Marc Blondeau vient du monde des médias. Il a commencé sa carrière comme journaliste à la station de radio CKAC, avant d'y être rapidement promu à la direction. Il passe ensuite au Groupe TVA en 1993, où il demeurera jusqu'en 2000, alors qu'il entre aux éditions Rogers. Il sera notamment éditeur du magazine *L'actualité* et assurera la présidence des Éditions Rogers-Québec. Il admet que son approche est influencée par son parcours dans le domaine de l'information. « Je suis de ceux qui pensent qu'aujourd'hui, toute organisation est un média. Elles ont de l'information à transmettre et des publics cibles. Un des défis que nous avons ici à la Place des Arts, c'est d'assurer le virage numérique en saisissant les possibilités de communication qui en découlent. Ce qui passe notamment par une présence sur les réseaux sociaux, et ce n'est que le début. »

### DÉFIS FINANCIERS

En poste depuis moins de deux ans, Marc Blondeau a déjà dû faire face à des défis importants. En 2012, les quelque 1 000 représentations qui se sont tenues à la PdA ont attiré plus de 890 000 spectateurs. Or, c'est près de 70 000 spectateurs de moins que l'année précédente.

La Société de la Place des Arts est une société d'État, sensible aux changements de gouvernement et aux compressions budgétaires. Un peu moins de 15 pour cent de son budget est de source gouvernementale, et le reste est issu de revenus et de partenariats. « Les gens ont l'impression que la Place des Arts est fortement subventionnée. Ce n'est pas le cas pour son fonctionnement », explique son P.-D.G.

Le déménagement de l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal à la Maison symphonique a aussi laissé des traces et entraîné un manque à gagner important, en raison de la baisse d'occupation de certaines salles autrefois utilisées par l'orchestre — un écart qui demeure difficile à combler.

Depuis deux ans, l'organisation accuse un déficit annuel d'environ 250 000 dollars, qui pourrait se répéter deux autres années. Bien que sa santé financière ne soit pas menacée, l'équilibre de la PdA demeure précaire et exige beaucoup d'effort de la part de l'organisation. « Nous sommes à la fois dans la production à grand déploiement et la résidence d'artiste, ou encore la présentation de la première prestation d'un artiste, livrée gratuitement », de dire Marc Blondeau.

Maka Kotto, ministre québécois de la Culture et des Communications, qualifie le président-directeur général de la Place des Arts de « grand gestionnaire ». « Humble, talentueux, il exprime également énormément de passion dans son investissement et ses engagements. C'est à bras-le-corps qu'il s'est saisi, à son arrivée, il y a peu de temps, de ces lieux qu'il faut redresser. Je pense que nous devons tous lui souhaiter une santé de fer trempé pour la suite du monde. »

*Journaliste montréalais, David Savoie a notamment collaboré à La Presse, Les Affaires, la radio de Radio-Canada et CBC.*



CAROLINE BERGERON

## TAKING THE PULSE OF PLACE DES ARTS

It's never easy to take over as the new head of a complex institution that plays a pivotal role in the cultural life of a city. But doing it in the midst of whirlwind planning for a 50th anniversary? That poses a few extra challenges.

More than twenty-one months ago, **MARC BLONDEAU**, BCom '79, was appointed as the president and chief executive officer of the Société de la Place des Arts, the organization that oversees the operations of one of Montreal's most essential sites for artistic activity. He says the anniversary celebrations offered him a unique opportunity to take stock of the past. "To understand where we are headed, we have to know a little about where we come from."

Over the years, the PDA has played host to many artists — Quebec icons like Yvon Deschamps, Jean Lapointe and Ginette Reno, as well as international stars like Maria Callas, Bob Dylan and Radiohead.

The largest cultural centre for the performing arts in Canada, Place des Arts includes six performance halls. The Opéra de Montréal, the Jean-Duceppe theatrical company and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens all call the PDA home. Virtually every Montrealer has experienced the PDA in some way — whether at a performance of the annual Nutcracker ballet or a concert by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

That's true for Blondeau as well. He can recall shows by Julien Clerc, his PDA-based McGill graduation ceremony in 1979 and performances by his own daughter, an actress.

"Whether the people who come here have paid eight dollars for a short children's show or \$125 for a major concert, they have the right to expect a pleasant, memorable experience," he says.

A veteran of the media industry — he has worked at one point or another for Télémedia, TVA and Rogers — Blondeau believes his experience might allow him to view some of the centre's activities in a fresh way. "There is a certain energy in the private sector," he says, "a responsiveness to what audiences are demanding."

"I am one of those people who thinks that every organization today is a media organization," says Blondeau. "They have information to transmit and target audiences to reach."

"He belongs in the pantheon of great managers," says Quebec minister of culture and communications Maka Kotto. "[Blondeau] is humble and talented. He is tackling the challenges facing the PDA and addressing them head-on."

## Why politics matter

It is said that U.S. president Barack Obama regularly reads **CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER's** weekly column in the *Washington Post*. It can't be something that Obama looks forward to with much enthusiasm. Krauthammer, BA'70, DLitt'93, is one of the president's most pointed and persistent critics — he has been particularly scathing in recent weeks about the wobbly launch of Obamacare.

Krauthammer is also a regular contributor to Fox News, and though many of his colleagues there are routinely ridiculed by the left as empty-headed blowhards (see pretty much any episode of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* for ample evidence), Krauthammer himself earns grudging respect, even from those who tend to be in his line of fire.

In a recent profile in the influential publication *Politico*, Krauthammer is described with admiration as “the closest thing the factionalized [Republican Party] could have to... a de-facto opposition leader for the thinking right.”

A Pulitzer Prize winner for his newspaper writing, Krauthammer is also a best-selling author. *Things That Matter*,

a new collection drawn from three decades of *Post* columns and other sources, recently topped the *New York Times* list for best-selling works of non-fiction.

Krauthammer's initial impulse was to steer clear of politics in the book. And, indeed, some of the book's most memorable pieces deal with the good-naturedness of dogs, the allure of chess and the remarkable life of an eccentric mathematical genius.

“I realized, though, that I couldn't leave out the political stuff,” Krauthammer says. “All the wonderful things in life that I enjoy — the quirky, the transcendent — they all depend on getting the politics right. What happens if you get the politics wrong? You end up with Germany in 1933. You end up with the spiritual and material desolation of the Soviet Union. These are not episodes from the distant past.

“Despite the pettiness and the day-to-day grubbiness [of politics], we can't afford not to pay attention. The outcome is too important.”

A former psychiatrist, Krauthammer abandoned his medical career for writing. “There is a mystique about psychiatry,”

he recently explained in an NPR interview, “that people think that you have some kind of a magical lens... Superman's X-ray vision into the soul. One of the reasons I left psychiatry is that I didn't believe that.”

He has no regrets about the medical training he received, however.

“The people in medical school tend to be people who have had success all through their youth,” says Krauthammer. “Well, there is nothing like spending a few years in a hospital, in a sea of human suffering, sometimes succeeding in making a difference and sometimes failing, to have the callousness of youth beaten out of you. It teaches you humility.”

While some bemoan the current state of politics in the U.S., saying that partisanship has gone too far and that political discourse has become too mean-spirited, Krauthammer says he isn't overly concerned.

“Every generation believes that the politics [of its period] is far too uncivil,” he says. “I counsel people to read some of the newspaper articles that were published when Adams ran against Jefferson for the presidency in 1800. The politics of those days were far more vitriolic.”

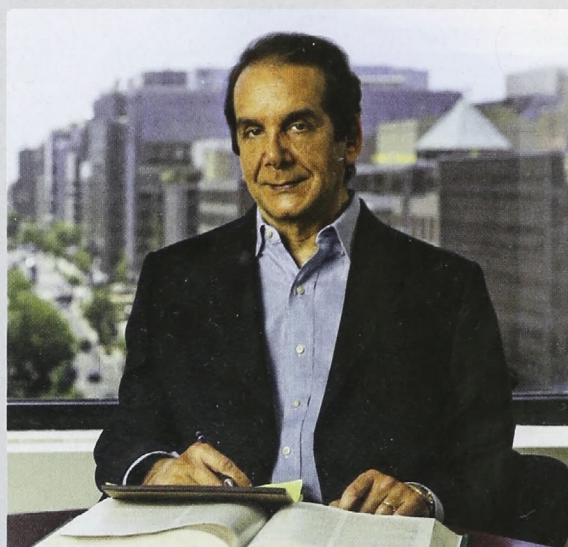
A former member of the President's Council on Bioethics, Krauthammer is much more worried about humanity's ability to marshal scientific progress judiciously.

“We've been around for 200,000 years and within a mere 17 years of discovering atomic power, we were brought to the brink of annihilation,” says Krauthammer, referring to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

“On the one hand, there is technology's progress, on the other, there's our ability to control and temper that progress. The things that are conceivable today — embryonic cloning, the development of new forms of biological and chemical weapons — are deeply unsettling.

“We'd better learn to get the politics right.”

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



FRANK LONGHITANO

Columnist and commentator Charles Krauthammer is one of the most influential voices in American politics



## ROAD ENDS

by Mary Lawson, BA'68

There is an overarching air of sorrow that permeates Mary Lawson's new book *Road Ends*. The members of the family she follows have had to deal with more than their share of trauma, the details of which slowly trickle out.

And yet, it's never a difficult read, thanks to Lawson's delicate touch and her tremendous empathy for her characters — even when they are so self-absorbed as to be oblivious to the chaos consuming those around them. Lawson has a particular knack for sifting through the psyches of damaged, taciturn men.

The book is told from the perspectives of three members of the Cartwright clan and Lawson expertly crafts distinct voices for each of them. Megan, the heretofore selfless daughter, throws the Cartwrights into upheaval when she tires of being the glue that keeps her family from unraveling. At 21, she takes everyone by surprise by announcing her plans to travel abroad to London, a city she sets out to conquer with her own unique blend of feistiness and practicality.

The snowy, small-town northern Ontario setting of *Road Ends* will be familiar to readers of Lawson's earlier works, and longtime fans will be delighted with the opportunity to become reacquainted with a pair of siblings they first met in her best-selling debut novel *Crow Lake*.

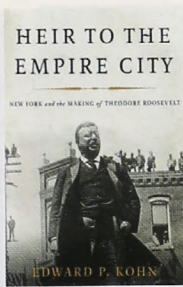
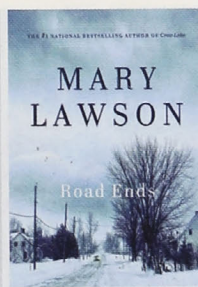
DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

## HEIR TO THE EMPIRE CITY

by Edward P. Kohn, PhD'00

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th American president, has a lingering reputation as an outdoorsman and a symbol of the pioneer values of the Western frontier, propelled, in large part, by "Roosevelt's Rough Riders": the ragtag band of volunteers he assembled to fight in the Spanish-American War.

Edward P. Kohn, the assistant director of American history at Bilkent University in Turkey, urges us to see Roosevelt from another perspective. In *Heir to the Empire City*, Kohn looks behind the cowboy mythology and finds



a savvy Roosevelt, whose patrician connections, political guile and progressive social values were the result of his deep roots in New York, where he served as a state assemblyman and then as the police commissioner.

Using anecdotes drawn from Roosevelt's personal and public life, Kohn makes a convincing case that the skill required to navigate the corrupt plutocracy of Tammany Hall, along with a compassion developed by seeing first-hand the appalling conditions suffered by New York's poor, gave Roosevelt the tools he needed to win over all factions of the Republican Party, and advance a progressive social agenda that would be key to the party's future success.

Along the way, Kohn paints a lively picture of how turn-of-the-century New York felt, smelled and sounded in an era before organized policing and regular public garbage collection became commonplace.

DIANNE FAGAN

## INFIDELITY

by Stacey May Fowles, BA'02

Sharp-tongued Ronnie believes she has finally turned the page on some questionable conduct on her part from the past. But has she? Yes, Ronnie has left some of her troubles behind, but she underestimates — and scarcely understands — the source of her original disillusionment. Stacy May Fowles poses an intriguing question with her latest novel: What remains of us *after* we seemingly choose the road to redemption?

In Ronnie's case, she finds herself playing out a set of roles without much conviction: (dutiful) daughter, (cool) hairdresser, (happy) bride-to-be to a "living in the now" Tony Robbins-type.

She is a performer who isn't quite buying her own performance.

She promptly veers off the right path by entering into a reckless affair with an anxiety-ridden author, cheating her way back into the comfort zone of self-destruction. Ronnie is a new-age Emma Bovary, looking outside herself for some kind of a moral compass and validation.

While the principal male characters — both the cuckold and the seducer — are a little thinly drawn, in Ronnie, Fowles presents us with a flawed, but deeply sympathetic protagonist whose humorous voice is tinged with a cynicism beyond her years. Fowles' debut novel, *Be Good*, was concerned with questions of dishonesty among friends and peers. *Infidelity* turns the inquiry inward.

JENNIFER NAULT

## HABITAT

by the Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra

Jazz composer and saxophonist Christine Jensen's last album won a Juno Award, but her latest, *Habitat*, might be even better. The reviews have been uniformly glowing. The *Ottawa Citizen* calls it "strikingly vivid" and the *Winnipeg Free Press* says it "should be on any Canadian jazz fan's shelf."

The new CD marks her second collaboration with the Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra, a group of mostly Montreal-based musicians that Jensen, BMus'94, MMus'06, describes as "little diamonds scattered about this city." The 19-piece ensemble features several graduates and instructors from the Schulich School of Music's jazz program, including tenor saxophonist Chet Doxas, BMus'04, MMus'08, whose stellar work on the stirring "Nishiyuu," is a particular highpoint.

DM

# MCGILL HOMECOMING 2013

The University's 92nd Homecoming Weekend was heralded by gorgeous weather as close to 4,000 alumni descended on campus to celebrate their anniversaries. Scores of events were organized by the McGill Alumni Association as well as by individual classes, departments, faculties, and schools. Students played music and football for the delight of visitors, and professors were entertainingly erudite at Classes Without Quizzes.

One alumna was a special attraction this year: McGill's brand new principal, Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, introduced herself to graduates and friends at events all weekend. Professor Fortier, who previously headed the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council in Ottawa, is the first woman graduate to hold McGill's top job.

Planning is already underway for the 93rd edition of Homecoming next year from October 16 to 19. To see more photos of Homecoming as well as other alumni events throughout the year, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/mcgillalumni/collections](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mcgillalumni/collections).



## PLAID PIPER

Head table guests are piped into place at the sold-out Leacock Luncheon, one of Homecoming's longest-running and largest events. Guest lecturer Dan Needles, a former winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, and moderator Derek Drummond, BArch'62, did the event's namesake proud.



## THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Honora Shaughnessy, MLS'73, the senior executive director of alumni relations, shares a laugh with Mary Webster, BA'38, at the Red & White Dinner, an event for alums celebrating their 50th to 75th anniversaries. Webster was the oldest graduate to attend Homecoming this year.



## SMILES ALL AROUND

Students wait eagerly for speakers at the second annual Scarlet Key Leadership Conference. Close to 100 students heard three alumni from very different fields talk about their life experiences before and after leaving McGill.



## KEY SPEAKERS

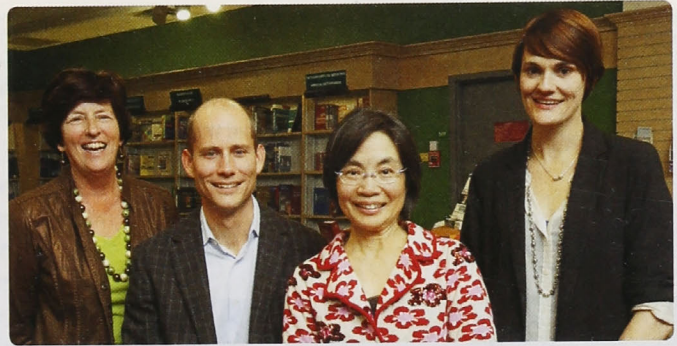
Former Rhodes Scholar Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, BA'96, spoke to the audience about maintaining an open mind in a diverse community such as McGill's. The other presenters at the Scarlet Key event were cardiologist Gordon Crelinsten, BSc'68, MDCM'70, and eyewear entrepreneur Sophie Boulanger, BCom'03.



NICOLAS MORIN

### CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Professor Suzanne Fortier, officially installed as McGill's 17th principal on November 5, greets alumni, parents and friends at a reception following a "Meet the Principal" event at Moyse Hall, where she talked about her happy memories of McGill, her passion for learning and universities in the 21st century.



NICOLAS MORIN

### PAGE TURNERS

*Lunch et Livres* welcomed an impressive trio of McGill authors to discuss their recent works. From left to right are Morna Consedine, BEd'77, MEd'85 (the event's moderator), associate professor of languages, literatures and cultures Andrew Piper (*Book Was There*), Jan Wong, BA'74 (*Out of the Blue*), and Katrina Onstad, BA'94 (*Everybody Has Everything*).



SAM REYNOLDS

### HOMECOMING QUEEN

Maruxa Campo, BEng'98, MEng'02, this year's Homecoming Chair, is pictured with athletics director Drew Love as a keen crowd awaits the start of the football game against Université de Montréal. Maruxa executed a dainty 15-yard kick to get the show on the road.



SAM REYNOLDS

### FLYING HIGH

A fierce-looking Marty the Martlet cheers on the Redmen at Molson Stadium. Marty was first introduced as McGill's mascot at the 2005 Homecoming football game, and has been a mainstay of athletic events ever since.



NICOLAS MORIN

### BRAIN FOOD

Dr. Joe Schwarcz, BSc'69, PhD'74, leads his Classes Without Quizzes lecture "Eating Right: Is There a Solution to the Confusion?" Other topics this year included the mystery of the Redpath murders, with Professor Annmarie Adams, and new research into the aging process, taught by Professor Russell Hepple.



### MAC 'N' TREES

Macdonald Campus is the perfect place for leaf-peepers to enjoy the autumn colours. Morgan Arboretum director and natural resource sciences professor Jim Fyles led a tour of the 245-hectare arboretum, one of the University's treasures.

## Hall of Fame talents

Synchronized swimmers and Olympic silver medalists Penny Vilagos, BCom '86, and Vicky Vilagos, BCom '86, former McGill volleyball star Wendy Whelan, BSc(OT) '98, and three-time CIS track athlete-of-the-year Sarah Ali-Khan, PhD '06, were all inducted into the McGill Sports Hall of Fame during Homecoming this year. Also inducted was the 1982 national champion Redmen soccer team.



DINEN EGAN

## Funny, they don't look scared

Members of the McGill Young Alumni marked the Halloween season by taking part in a ghost tour of Old Montreal, learning about some of the spookiest and most sinister events in the city's long history and visiting some sites said to be popular with poltergeists.



ALEKSEY DERGACHEV

## Forging new ties

Vice-Principal (Development & Alumni Relations) Marc Weinstein, BA '85, BCL '91, LLB '91 (far left), represented McGill at the First Canada-Greece/Cyprus University Partnership Event in Athens in September. Hosted by Robert W. Peck, Canada's ambassador to the Hellenic Republic and the high commissioner of Canada in the Republic of Cyprus (he's wearing a purple tie at the centre of the photo), the event promoted institution-to-institution partnerships between universities in Greece, Cyprus and Canada. Weinstein was one of 42 McGill alums at the event, the most from any Canadian university.



## Long live the Geotechnical Research Centre

Retired McGill professor Raymond Yong, the longtime director of the University's former Geotechnical Research Centre, earned many honours over the course of his career, including a Killam Prize. He also earned the affection of the many students and colleagues who collaborated with him at McGill. Nineteen of them paid him a visit at Vancouver Island for a reunion weekend. Each gave a presentation on their current activities (many are academics or consultants and one is a general in the Japanese army). Yong himself continues to be active in research. He is examining ways for dealing with the radioactive fallout from the Fukushima disaster, among other projects.



(Front) Prapote Boonsinsuk, PhD '79, Pat McQuatty, CertEdTech '87, Paul Janiga, BEng '67, MEng '70, Eduardo Turcott, MEng '80, PhD '92, Bing Wang, MEng '84, PhD '90, Cynthia Coles, BEng '77, MEng '93, PhD '98, (Middle) Catherine Mulligan, BEng '83, MEng '85, PhD '98, Ralph Ludwig, BEng '78, MEng '83, PhD '88, Amar Sethi, Raymond Yong, Stephen Ng, Patrick Wong, BEng '80, MEng '82, (Back) Michael Mathioudakis, MEng '88, Masami Ohtsubo, Kazue Tazaki, Malak Elzahabi, PhD '00, Maria Elektorowicz, Diana Mourato-Benedek, BSc '81, MSc '83, PhD '90, Fumiharu Eiyu, PhD '89.

## AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**EBY NOROOZI**, MSc'78, the laboratory coordinator and lab supervisor for the Department of Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry at Macdonald Campus, was inducted into McGill's Quarter Century Club last fall for 25 years of service as an employee of the University. He recently received full certification as a food scientist from the International Food Science Certification Commission. He earned the McGill Safety Ambassador Award in 2012 for contributions to health and safety at the University.

**DANIEL DUBREUIL**, BSc(Agr)'79, was elected president of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists for 2013-2014. The society has more than 500 members and is interested in all aspects of fundamental and applied microbiology. The next annual CSM meeting will be held in Montreal from July 27 to August 1, 2014.

**CHARLES VINCENT**, MSc'80, PhD'83, received the "Distinction entomologique" from the Société d'entomologie du Québec last November for career achievement. In December 2012, he was elected as a foreign member of the Académie d'Agriculture de France, section Cultures, systèmes de production et produits végétaux. He was awarded the L.O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award by the Entomological Society of America (Eastern Branch) in March. He is the co-author of *Arthropod Management in Vineyards: Pests, Approaches, and Future Directions*, which was published in 2012 by Springer in Dordrecht (The Netherlands). Charles is an adjunct professor in McGill's Department of Natural Resource Sciences.

## ARCHITECTURE

**BLANCHE LEMCO VAN GINKEL**, BArch'45, was one of 10 Montrealers honoured this spring by the Château Ramezay Historic Site and Museum and by the Heritage Montreal Foundation for making important contributions to the promotion, conservation and development of Montreal's heritage. Among the others who were honoured were **MAURICE DESNOYERS**, BArch'54, **JULIA GERSOVITZ**, BSc(Arch)'75, BArch'75, and **BRUCE MCNIVEN**, BCL'79. An issue of *Architecture Quebec* was devoted to the work of Blanche and her partner, Sandy van Ginkel.

**GAIL LAMB**, BArch'59, was recently honoured by the Ontario Association of Architects for being an active member for 50 years. In accepting her certificate, Gail noted that her first drawings were ink on linen and the National Building Code was once a 5" x 7" book that was half an inch thick. Drawing is now done on computers and the Ontario Building Code is in two large binders. In 1959, she was one of only two or three women in the Faculty of Engineering, while today, roughly 30 per cent of architecture students are women. She has a small, but active architectural practice in southwestern Ontario based in Lucan (near London) specializing in long-term care facilities.

## ARTS

**GEORGE ELLENBOGEN**, BA'55, is a poet and memoirist whose latest book, *A Stone in My Shoe*, explores the Montreal ghetto he grew up in, with its tight-knit sense of community and daily Yiddish news-

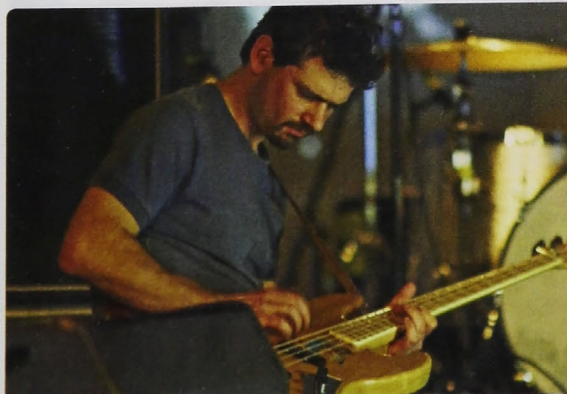


PAUL COUVRETTE

**ANN DALE**, PhD'99, received the Molson Prize for the Social Sciences earlier this year. The \$50,000 award, presented by the Canada Council for the Arts, recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements and ongoing contributions to the cultural and intellectual life of Canada. The selection committee described her as "one of Canada's foremost academics in sustainable community development, an activist within the environmental movement, and an innovator in environmental education and civic engagement." She is the Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Community Development at Royal Roads University.

papers. He now lives in Boston, where his book was officially launched at the Canadian consulate on October 2.

**RANDAL MARLIN**, MA'61, has published a second edition of his 2002 book *Propaganda and the Ethics of Persuasion* (Broadview Press). The second edition includes some new revelations about historical incidents that illuminate contemporary deceptions by government, corporations and the media. The *Ottawa Business Journal* described the first edi-



**MAURO PEZZENTE**, MSc'97, is a bass player for, and the co-founder of, the Montreal band Godspeed You! Black Emperor, which received the 2013 Polaris Music Prize for their album *Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!* The band, known for its independent-minded and nonconformist approach, reacted to the announcement with a mixture of gratitude and scorn (GYBE denounced the corporate sponsorship behind the event, adding that "organizing a gala just so musicians can compete against each other for a novelty-sized cheque doesn't serve the cause of righteous music at all"). GYBE will be donating the \$30,000 prize money to support music programs in Quebec prisons.

GARY WOLSTENHOLME



RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST

**JOHN MCCALL MACBAIN**, BA'80, and his wife, Marcy McCall MacBain, recently attracted international headlines when the McCall MacBain Foundation, a grant-making organization they established, donated \$120 million to the Rhodes Scholarships Trust, to help fund the scholarships and to aid in the expansion of the program to Brazil, China, Japan and Russia. He received a Rhodes scholarship after completing his studies at McGill, where he served as the president of the Student's Society. He is the founder and former CEO of Trader Classified Media, the world's leading classified advertising company.

tion as "eminently readable, well written, packed with fascinating information." Randal is a professor of philosophy at Carleton University in Ottawa.

**GORDON LLOYD**, BA'63, is a professor of public policy at the School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University. He is the co-author of a new book, *The New Deal and Modern American Conservatism: A Defining Rivalry*, that explores how the roots of today's debates between liberals and conservatives in the U.S. grew out of the debates between Franklin Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover in the thirties.

**MARTIN RUDNER**, BA'63, MA'65, a distinguished research professor emeritus at Carleton University, recently co-authored *Assessing Cyber Threats to Canadian Infrastructure*, a study commissioned by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Co-authored with Angela Gendron, the publication is accessible online at [www.csis.gc.ca/pblctns/cdmctrch/CyberThreats\\_AO\\_Booklet\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.csis.gc.ca/pblctns/cdmctrch/CyberThreats_AO_Booklet_ENG.pdf).

**JAMES ARCHIBALD**, BA'67, was appointed to the Conseil supérieur de la langue française, a council that advises the Quebec government on matters related to language policy. He is the associate dean (academic) of McGill's School of Continuing Studies and the director of the school's Department of Translation and Written Communication.

**BARBARA MILLER**, BA'68, PhD'73, is a recent recipient of the Massachusetts School Psychologists Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. She worked in the state's public school system as a school psychologist for 34 years and also served for many years as a field supervisor for

graduate students in school psychology. She is a past president of the MSPA.

**RONA ALTROWS**, BA'69, BCL'78, LLB'79, is an author and essayist whose first short story collection, *A Run On Hose*, won the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. She is the co-editor of *Shy: An Anthology* (University of Alberta Press), a collection of personal essays and poems by writers who have been labelled by the world — teachers, parents and peers — as shy.

**SHERILL GRACE**, MA'70, PhD'74, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, an award that recognizes significant contributions by Canadians and permanent residents to Canada. She is a University Killam Professor at the University of British Columbia. In 2012, she published *Bearing Witness: Perspectives on War and Peace from the Arts and Humanities* (McGill-Queen's University Press), a book she co-edited with Patrick Imbert and Tiffany Johnstone.

**GORDON ROBACK**, BA'74, was one of the recipients of a first-place gold medal prize from the World Poetry Movement's Best Poets and Poems of 2012 Interna-

tional Amateur Poetry Contest, earning the prize for his poem "All The Same." His book of poetry, *When I Think of You — and other poems*, is available through Amazon.com. He earned MFA and PhD degrees from the University of Southern California and is hard at work on a new screenplay, "Young Lawyers in Heat," in Vancouver.

**MARION ETHEL**, BA'75, is the director of *Womanish Ways*, a film about the women's suffrage movement in the Bahamas, which was screened at the Africa World Documentary Film Festival earlier this year. A published author and poet, she served as the chief judge this year for the poetry category of the annual Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. She read law at Cambridge University and has been a practising attorney since 1986.

**ROBERT J. LEWIS**, MLS'76, MA'77, is the editor of *Arts & Opinion*, an arts/culture/politics e-zine dedicated to giving "greater exposure to undervalued, underappreciated deserving men and women in the arts" and to providing "a forum for debate on the burning issues of our time." To find out more, visit [www.artsandopinion.com](http://www.artsandopinion.com).



**CHRIS ALEXANDER**, BA'89, joined the federal cabinet as Canada's minister of citizenship and immigration in July. First elected to the House of Commons in 2011, he previously served as parliamentary secretary to the minister of national defence. A former diplomat, he was Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan before serving as the UN deputy special representative in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2009. He wrote about his experiences there in his book, *The Long Way Back: Afghanistan's Quest for Peace*.

**LOUIS ARMANTIER**, (B.A. 1977, Ph. D. 1983) a publié *Le balancier. Indochine-Viêt Nam, Le temps des souvenirs*, dans lequel il explore l'Indochine à la fin des années 1930 et au début au milieu des années 1940. L'ouvrage de monsieur Armantier, adolescent à l'époque, se penche sur les conséquences de l'invasion japonaise de 1940 et sur la tragique nuit du 9 mars 1945, au cours de laquelle les troupes nipponnes se déchaînèrent contre les maigres garnisons françaises d'Indochine, entraînant massacres et décapitations.

**STEPHEN STOBER**, BA'77, exhibited a series of his photographs, "Hotel Tropicoco and the Cuban Revolution," at the Toronto Public Library's north district branch in November.

**PHILIP WILSON**, BA'79, began a two-year term in May as the chair of the Human Resources Professionals Association, the largest HR association in the country. Phil has 30 years of business experience, specializing in the HR field, and has worked in senior global leadership roles at various companies, including CIBC, Nortel/BNR,



SYLVIE TRÉPANIÉR

**MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET**, BA'71, PhD'77, was named the 2013 Woman of Outstanding Achievement by the Fondation Y des femmes in Montreal. She was Quebec's minister of finance from 2007 to 2009 and the president of the Quebec Treasury Board from 2003 to 2008. More recently, she has been the co-chair of a government-appointed work group looking at ways to increase the presence of women in positions of authority at major Quebec companies.

Corel Corporation and CAE Electronics. In 2006, he was selected as one of 5 Stars of HR Innovation in Canada by the magazine *HR Professional* and received the Human Resource Professional Leadership Award in 2005. He has been a guest lecturer at York and Carleton universities.

**HEATHER JOAN MARINOS**, BA'81, is pleased to announce the release of her book, *Casualties of the (Recession) Depression*. In a mince-no-words style, Heather argues that American economic activity has not returned to close to normal levels. The book examines the lives of some of those who have been adversely affected

by the long economic downturn. Heather lives in the eclectic South Florida village of Coconut Grove with her husband, Nick. Visit [heatherjoanmarinos.com](http://heatherjoanmarinos.com) and [heatherfromthegrove.wordpress.com](http://heatherfromthegrove.wordpress.com) for more information.

**ADAM KRAVITZ**, BA'85, has joined the corporate law practice group of Becker & Poliakoff's office in Miami. Adam was the founding director and general counsel of Spark Networks, which runs online dating websites, including JDate.com and ChristianMingle.com. He also served as the CEO of eVoter, Inc., a voter information website that he co-founded in 2009.

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**MICHÈLE STEPHENSON**, BA'87, is a documentary filmmaker whose work has appeared on PBS, Showtime and MTV. She co-produced and co-directed *American Promise* (pictured), an account, filmed over 12 years, of the experiences of two middle-class African-American boys (one of them her son) who entered a prestigious — and historically white — private school on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The winner of a Special Jury Award at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, the film examines issues of race, class and opportunity. *American Promise* will be broadcast on the PBS series *POV* in 2014.

The site attracted more than 1.2 million voters in six states and forged strategic partnerships with Yahoo! and NBC Local Media.

**ANNE BURLEY**, BA'87, has published her first e-novel. *The Command* recounts the tale of a modern-day haunting inspired by true events. She also draws and paints (watercolor and acrylic), selling at shows and on commission. *The Command* is available through Amazon.com and you can find more information about Anne at [www.amazon.com/Anne-E.-Burley/e/BOOFSCYEYI](http://www.amazon.com/Anne-E.-Burley/e/BOOFSCYEYI).

**MICHEL LÉVESQUE**, MA'87, is the author of *Histoire du Parti libéral du Québec: La nébuleuse politique 1867-1960* (Éditions du Septentrion). The book examines the relationship between the federal and the provincial wings of the Liberal Party in

Quebec, the origins and evolution of Liberal clubs such as the Montreal Reform Club, the organization of the electoral machine, the liberal newspapers and the finances of the party.

**ROBERT ROSENTHAL**, BA'88, a lawyer with Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2014 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Robert is a trial lawyer specializing in labour, employment, and business litigation. He is in charge of his firm's Las Vegas office's labour and employment group.

**S. LOCHLANN JAIN**, BA'89, is an associate professor of anthropology at Stanford University whose research is primarily concerned with the ways in which stories get told about injuries, how they are thought to be caused, and how that matters. Her new book, *Malignant: How Cancer Becomes Us*, explores why cancer remains so confounding, despite the billions of dollars spent in the search for a cure. She argues that cancer must be addressed, not just as a scientific problem, but as a social one as well.

**ANDREW STEINMETZ**, BA'89, was a finalist for the 2013 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction for his book *This Great Escape*, a portrait of Michael Paryla, a distant relative, a refugee from Nazi Germany who portrayed a Gestapo agent in an uncredited 57-second appearance in the iconic 1963 film *The Great Escape*. Andrew is the founding editor of Esplanade Books, the fiction imprint at Véhicule Press.

**JAN UNDERWOOD**, MA'89, recently published her second novel. *Utterly Heartless* is a tongue-in-cheek murder mystery and academic satire set on a fictitious college campus in the Pacific Northwest and in Hades.

**GABRIELLE COLLU**, BA'91, is the director of communications for the Quebec Liberal Party and oversees strategic communications, internal communications and media relations for the party. She previously headed her own firm, Collu Communications.

**LAURA HOEXTER**, BA'90, a lawyer with Helsell Fetterman LLP, was selected by

her peers for inclusion in the 2014 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. She was recognized for her legal expertise in closely held companies and family businesses.

**BRENDA LEFRANÇOIS**, BA'91, is the co-editor of *Mad Matters: A Critical Reader in Canadian Mad Studies*. The book presents diverse critical voices that convey the lived experiences of the psychiatrized and challenges dominant understandings of "mental illness." Brenda is an associate professor of social work at Memorial University in Newfoundland.

**CHRIS MCKHOOL**, BA'91, is a violinist and the leader of the Sultans of String, which recently released their world-jazz-classical crossover CD *Symphony!* The Juno-nominated group is known for its distinctive sound — an intimate and playful relationship between violin and guitar that incorporates far-ranging influences. Their new CD features an impressive cast of guest artists, including musicians from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the Canadian Ballet Orchestra, as well as Paddy Moloney from the legendary Irish group, the Chieftains.

**DANIEL E. MURPHY**, BA'91, married **ELANA K. MELCHIONDO**, BA'94, last winter in Syracuse, NY, after reuniting at the Molson Hall "Kev Pub XXV" 25th anniversary celebration in Montreal in August 2012.

**CLAUDE BEAUCHAMP**, MA'92, is the director of the 911 Institute at La Cité collégiale in Ottawa, a centre for emergency services training. From 2006 to 2013, Claude was the director of operations at the Quebec National Fire Academy. He was recently certified as the first international chief training officer (CTO) designee by the Commission on Professional Credentialing. The CTO program recognizes administrators of training and educational programs in emergency services who have demonstrated outstanding achievement throughout their careers.

**ADAM DODEK**, BA'92, is the vice-dean research at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law where he is also an associate professor. His recent book,



*The Canadian Constitution* (Dundurn), offers readers a short history of the Constitution, a timeline of important constitutional events and some insights into how the Supreme Court of Canada works. The book was inspired by the time he spent as a student of McGill's dean of arts, Christopher Manfredi.

**JAMES GORMAN**, MA'92, is the new president and chief executive officer of the Council of Forest Industries. In his previous position, he was the deputy minister of advanced education for the British Columbia government.

**JONATHAN HAYES**, BA'93, MA'96, is a filmmaker whose latest movie, *Algonquin*, was screened at the 2013 Montreal World Film Festival. The film, which stars Nicholas Campbell, Mark Rendall and Sheila McCarthy, examines how an unhappy school teacher's life is upended when his roguish father talks him into collaborating on a book about Algonquin Park. This is Jonathan's first feature-length film. He wrote *Algonquin's* script and directed the movie.



REMY BOILY

**MARGUERITE MENDELL**, PhD'83, was one of the 2013 recipients of the Prix du Québec, the Quebec government's top award for exceptional contributions to culture and science. The director of Concordia University's Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, she is an expert on the social economy in Quebec and co-founded the first microfinance organization in Canada. She was awarded the Prix Marie-Andrée-Bertrand.

**RACHEL MOORE**, BA'94, is a spokesperson for OneFamily Fund, an organization that offers a range of services and programs to support the victims of terror attacks in Israel.

**ADAM BRADLEY**, BA'95, is a filmmaker now based in New York. His first feature film, *Cubicle Warriors*, premiered at Cinefest Sudbury in September. His second feature, *Yesterday last year*, is currently in post-production and will be released in early 2014.

**GUYLAINE DESCHÈNES**, BA'96, recently published her first book, *Harmoniser sa*

*vie: L'Art de concilier le travail et la vie personnelle* (Éditions Québec-Livres).

**RICHARD HARRIS**, BA'96, has published a new novel. *A Father's Son* chronicles the relationship between a teenage hockey phenom and his estranged father and how they try to find common ground through a shared love of Canada's national game.

**NAOMI ZENER**, BA'99, recently published her first novel. *Deathbed Dimes*, published by Iguana Books, focuses on a young attorney, the daughter of Hollywood royalty, who is determined to build a successful life for herself without

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**MIKE BABCOCK**, BEd'86, will be the head coach of the Canadian Olympic men's hockey team at the Sochi Games in 2014. He coached the men's team to a gold medal win at the Vancouver Games in 2010. He led the Detroit Red Wings to a Stanley Cup victory in 2008 and coached Canadian squads to gold medal triumphs at the International Ice Hockey Federation world championships (2004) and the IIHF world junior championships (1994). He received an honorary degree from McGill this fall.

her family's help. You can visit Naomi's author page at [www.facebook.com/NaomiElanaZener](http://www.facebook.com/NaomiElanaZener).

**MAX SPRINGER**, BA'02, is a Los Angeles-based artist who collaborates with Lauren Cherry. *Plaza*, their interactive sculpture installation, was recently exhibited at the Good Weather Gallery in Little Rock, Arkansas. You can learn more about Max's work at [maxspringer.net](http://maxspringer.net).

**STEVEN A. USITALO**, PhD'03, chairs the Department of History at Northern State University and recently published *The Invention of Mikhail Lomonosov: A Russian National Myth* (Academic Studies Press).

**JACLYN GORDON**, BA'04, went on to graduate from Nova University South Eastern Dental School in Florida, followed by a one-year multidisciplinary program at the Lutheran Medical Center in New York City. She has joined Dr. Gerald Rudick, DDS'66, and associates, where she practises general dentistry and has received certification as a provider of the Invisalign orthodontic technique.

**ARNAV MANCHANDA**, BA'05, MA'07, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II

Diamond Jubilee Medal, became a Canadian citizen and was appointed director of business development at SecDev Group, an Ottawa-based analytics and technology firm.

**ANDREW LADD**, BA'06, will publish his new novel, *What Ends*, in early 2014. The book, described as "poignant and touching" by *Publishers Weekly*, received the AWP Prize for the Novel from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. Andrew lives in Brooklyn and is the blog editor for *Ploughshares*.

**JESSICA PALMER**, BA'06, has joined the Bridgewater, N.J.-based law firm of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. as an associate. She will focus primarily on commercial and employment litigation. She received her law degree from the American University's Washington College of Law, where she served on the editorial board of the *American University International Law Review* and earned the Don Monroe Casto Constitutional Law Award.

**JAMIE BOYD**, BA'09, was one of 17 individuals to receive Action Canada Fellowships in 2013. The fellowships are intended to help nurture a new generation of emerging Canadian leaders. Jamie is an economist at the Department of Finance in Ottawa and the founder and director of Unu Design Workshop, a fair trade clothing company in Peru.

**DREW NELLES**, BA'09, has joined the editorial staff of *The Walrus* as one of the magazine's senior editors. Drew was the editor-in-chief of the Montreal-based *Maisonneuve* when the publication was named Magazine of the Year at the National Magazine Awards in 2012.

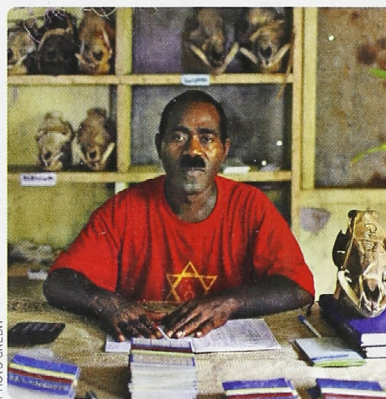


PHOTO CREDIT

**CHRIS BARILLARO**, BA'10, was the musical director of a recent production of the Tony Award-winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the Segal Centre in Montreal.

**MARIA BENNETT**, BA'13, began training in Cameroon as a Peace Corps environmental education volunteer in September. She will live and work in the country for two years, promoting sustainable natural resource management and planning techniques and fostering environmental awareness.

## DENTISTRY

**DONALD BEAUPRIE**, BSc'51, DDS'56, is the author of *Destination Algonquin Park: Tracks to Cache Lake and the Highland Inn*, a book that recounts the tale of lumber baron J.R. Booth and the construction of a railway that connected the Great Lakes to the eastern seaboard, resulting in an influx of tourism to Algonquin Park. The book was shortlisted for the Ontario Legislature's 2012 Speaker's Book Award.

**OSKAR SYKORA**, DDS'59, was invited to take part in a special reception on May 23, 2012, celebrating the Dalhousie Dentistry Centennial. He was kept busy signing copies of his book, *Maritime Dental College and Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry: A History*, which was described by former *Canadian Dental Association Journal* editor Ralph Crawford as "the most comprehensive history yet published on any of the country's 10 dental faculties, and [one that] should appeal to any reader interested in the history of dental education."

**HERB BORSUK**, DDS'72, is the recent recipient of the Faculty of Dentistry Outstanding Alumnus Award, the sixth award

**KITRA CAHANA**, BA'09, is the recipient of the International Center of Photography's 2013 Infinity Award for Young Photographer. Her work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *Colors* and the *New York Times*. She is also a 2013 TED Fellow, participating in TED conferences and pre-conference programs. The photo featured here was taken for the "Colors of Money" exhibition organized by Fabrica in 2009.

that he has received from McGill. His previous prizes include the W.W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Education, the Howard Katz Award for Excellence in Teaching and the McGill Alumni Association's E.P. Taylor Award. He maintains a private endodontic practice in Montreal.

**NORMAN MILLER**, DDS'74, is the driving force behind a mentoring program created for students in McGill's Faculty of Dentistry. Officially launched in May, the program was created through his financial support, as well as matching funds supplied by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. He is an assistant professor and a faculty adviser at the Faculty of Dentistry, where he has been teaching since 1975.

**MARIO MARCONE**, BSc'78, DDS'82, received the Academy of General Dentistry's Mastership Award during the AGD 2013 Annual Meeting & Exhibits held in June, 2013. The Mastership Award is the highest AGD honor available and one of the most respected designations within the profession. He has also received fellowship awards from the Misch International Implant Institute (in 2009) and the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (in 2007). His dental practice is in Montreal. He has degrees in the Korean martial art of tae kwon do, under the training of grand master Chong Lee, receiving first dan and second dan black belt certifications. He and his wife Maria have one daughter, Sonia, who is pursuing a doctoral degree in neuropsychology in Montreal.

## EDUCATION

**DAVID SMITH**, BEd'58, MA'61, and **CHRIS MILLIGAN**, DipEd'70, MEd'73, have published *Check Mate!* a story for young adults. Set in the year 1697, it relates the experiences of two ship boys — one English, the other French — who are on different sides in the life-and-death struggle for control of the Hudson Bay fur trade. For more details, please visit [checkmatebook.com](http://checkmatebook.com).

**ERIK SLUTSKY**, MEd'92, is a painter. His recent exhibition, "The Early Years/ Les Années '80 et '90," was held at Espace Pop in Montreal. The exhibition featured

works on paper from the eighties and nineties. His next show, featuring recent oils on canvas, will be held at Montreal's Galerie D in September, 2014.

**MARC DESJARDINS**, BEd'99, recently published his first book, *La Grotte mystérieuse*. The book was published by Aventures Éditions, which came up with the concept of personalized novels that are directly addressed to the reader. Children receive a chapter as a letter for 10 consecutive weeks. For more information, visit [aventuresedition.com](http://aventuresedition.com) or [unelettrestepourtoi.com](http://unelettrestepourtoi.com).

**M. AYAZ NASEEM**, PhD'04, was recently selected as the first Georg Arnhold Visiting Professor on Educating for Sustainable Peace at the Georg Eckert Institute in Braunschweig, Germany. He is an associate professor in the Department of Education at Concordia University and the department's graduate program director of educational studies. He carried out research examining social media as a space for sustainable peace at the Georg Eckert Institute from May to August of this year and will return to the institute next summer.

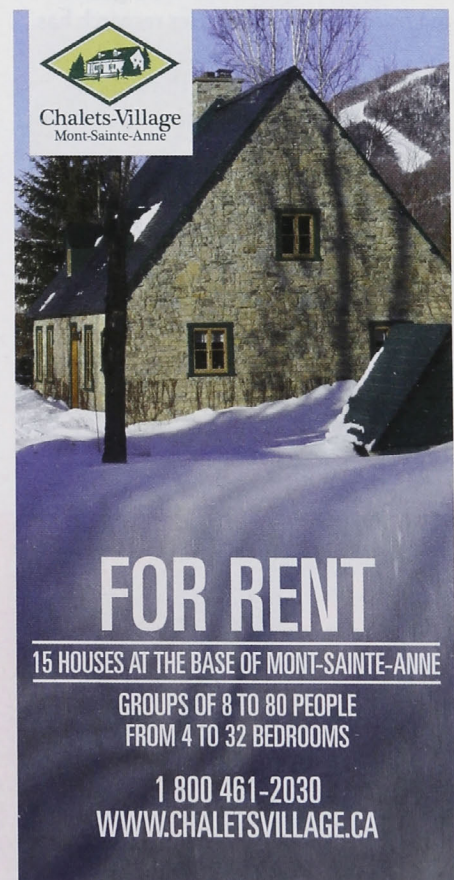
**PATRICK MAYARD**, BSc'05, BEd'05, is a mathematics, physics and robotics teacher at Rosemount High School. He has been involved in robotics competitions and scientific exhibitions for several years and is also the founder of the LMS Centre, which offers tutorial services and summer courses specializing in mathematics and science. He recently published *The Mind & the Science of Success*, a book that explores how "success is a science that can be learned and developed."

## ENGINEERING

**C. GORDON LINDSAY**, BEng'48, was awarded the Canadian Pacific Railway Medal at the May 28 Engineering Institute of Canada Awards Gala in Montreal. The award recognizes individuals who have contributed years of leadership and service to engineering organizations in Canada. Gordon has been an engineer for more than 60 years and his work has taken him to Africa, Saudi Arabia and all across Canada.

**DAVID FUNG**, BEng'70, MEng'72, PhD'79, was appointed to the federal government's new Regulatory Advisory Committee, which will provide the president of the Treasury Board with unvarnished advice on the fairness and reliability of the government's Annual Scorecard. The first edition of the Scorecard, expected this fall, will track the government's progress in cutting red tape for Canadian business. David is the chairman and CEO of the ACDEG Group of companies, a global technology integrator, with business partnerships in forest products, clean technologies, specialty chemicals, renewable energy, agri-foods, marine equipment, OEM parts manufacturing, and packaging wastes recycling in North America, Europe, and Asia.

**MOHAN MUNASINGHE**, PhD'73, received an honorary doctorate at the general convocation of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in September for "his exceptional services to humanity and distinguished contributions towards the advancement of the disciplines of sustainable development, economics, energy



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and environment.” He was the vice-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was a co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

**ROBERT S. RAFUSE**, BEng’74, is the recipient of the Réseau ACTION TI’s first MÉRITIC Award for IT architects. The prize recognizes his accomplishments on more than 100 projects that span 25 years as an IT architect.

**ROBERT VAN DUYNHOVEN**, BEng’88, has been promoted to president at CleanEnergy Developments Corp., a full-service, multidisciplinary company structured to handle all aspects and phases of a thermal energy project — from feasibility and conceptual analysis, through to design, engineering, thermal interface with ground or water, equipment supply and commissioning.

**PAULA WOOD-ADAMS**, MEng’95, PhD’99, is the new dean of graduate studies at Concordia University. She joined Concordia in 2001 as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering and was the graduate program director of mechanical and industrial engineering from 2006 to 2012. Her research has dealt with polymer science and rheology and she was a member of the working group that developed Concordia’s current academic plan.

**ÉDITH BISSON**, BEng’05, is the co-owner of Kangaride, a Montreal-based online ride-sharing service that was recently featured on CBC’s *Dragon’s Den*. By using its site, Kangaride members can post and book rides all over North America. The company, which collaborates with CAA-Quebec, aims to make ride-sharing convenient and inexpensive.

## LAW

**PETER KIRBY**, BCL’83, LLB’85, recently published his second crime novel, *Vigilante Season*. His first book, *The Dead of Winter*, was shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. Peter practices international law with Fasken Martineau, one of Canada’s largest law firms.

**ANDREAS KADLETZ**, LLM’97, recently moved to Stuttgart in Germany with his wife, **JING MEN**, LLM’00, and their two children. Andreas is the general counsel with a German company that recently relocated to Stuttgart. He serves as a board member for several of the firm’s foreign divisions, including for Brazil and China. Jing continues to work as an independent business consultant, helping Western companies in their dealings in China.

**HARRIET SIMAND**, BCL’89, LLB’89, a teacher at the Bishop Strachan School in Toronto, received the 2012 Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence. Before turning to teaching, she worked as a human rights litigator and was a founding member of the Women and Health Protection group. With her mother, Shirley Simand, BA’49, she created DES Action Canada, which spawned related groups across the country and raised awareness about the health risks related to the drug DES (Diethylstilbestrol). She was the subject of a recent feature article in *Professionally Speaking*, the magazine of the Ontario College of Teachers.

**ALAIN OLIVIER**, BA’90, BCL’94, LLB’94, began his work as the new director of the Quebec Government Office in Mumbai on September 1. In that capacity, he will provide assistance to Quebec exporters searching for new business opportunities

in the Indian market. He is the former director of the Quebec Government Office in Washington, D.C.

**JAMES BAILEY**, LLB’00, recently co-founded his own corporate law firm in New York City, Bailey Duquette P.C., with partner Marc Duquette. The two met while playing on a McGill law alumni hockey team in New York. James worked previously as a member of the litigation and antitrust departments of Baker & McKenzie and Coudert Brothers, both based in New York.

## LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES

**LINDA WINKLER**, BA’71, MLS’73, is the 2013 recipient of the Canadian Association of University Teachers Academic Librarians’ Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes outstanding service by an academic librarian who has contributed to the advancement of the status and/or working conditions of academic librarians at Canadian universities and colleges.

**SYLVIA PIGGOTT**, BA’77, MLS’79, has been elected president of the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal and will serve in that role until 2015. She retired from the position of deputy division chief at the International Monetary Fund and was a consultant at the World Bank for Library, Archives and Document Delivery worldwide. Sylvia is a member of the McGill Women’s Alumnae Association board and the World Library and Information Congress and chairs the Black Academic Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to graduate, undergraduate and trade students.

**TOMASZ NEUGEBAUER**, BA’00, MLIS’06, is the researcher in residence for e-Artex, a unique open access digital repository for visual arts documents in Canada. Tomasz played a key role in helping to develop and launch the project. He is a digital projects & systems development librarian at Concordia University and the editor of PhotographyMedia.com.

**CORINNA MACDONALD**, MLIS’08, is the project manager for e-Artex, which provides museums, artist-run centres, art galleries and other publishers/authors a



CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**FRED HEADON**, LLB’96, BCL’96, is the new president of the Canadian Bar Association. He heads Air Canada’s in-house labour and employment law team in Montreal. During his year-long term as CBA president, he will continue to chair the CBA’s Legal Futures Initiative, which is examining how the legal profession is likely to evolve in the years ahead. He will also be focusing on access to justice issues and on expanding the CBA’s membership.



OWEN EGAN

**GREG RICKFORD**, BCL/LLB'05, was appointed Canada's new minister of state (science and technology, and federal economic development initiative for northern Ontario) in July by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. First elected to the House of Commons in 2008, he previously served the Conservative government as a parliamentary secretary for the minister of state (official languages), and as a parliamentary secretary for the minister of Indian affairs and northern development. Before entering politics, he worked as a nurse, a health care consultant and a lawyer.

platform for flexible and simple archiving of their publications — making these works accessible to anyone on the Internet. For more information, visit [e-artexte.ca](http://e-artexte.ca).

## MANAGEMENT

**BERNARD STOTLAND**, BCom'57, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Jewish General Hospital in recognition of the leadership he has provided to the McGill teaching hospital over the course of many years. As the former president of the hospital's board of directors, he played an instrumental role in the successful launch of both the JGH Herzl CRIU Walk-In Centre and the JGH Centre for Child Development and Mental Health and in securing government approval for the hospital's Pavilion K.

**LOUISE ST-PIERRE**, BCom'78, was recently appointed the new president and chief executive officer of Cogeco Cable Canada. She previously worked as Cogeco Cable's senior vice president, residential services. Cogeco Cable Canada is the second-largest cable operator in Ontario and Quebec in terms of the number of basic cable service customers served.

**ISABELLE MÉNARD**, BCom'96, currently employed at TD Bank, was recently appointed vice-president, business banking, responsible for leading the downtown Montreal commercial banking centre and district. Founded in 1855, TD Bank is the second-largest bank in Canada and the sixth-largest in North America. She can be reached at [isabelle.menard@td.com](mailto:isabelle.menard@td.com).

**ZOË BEAUDRY**, BCom'00, is the new director of communications for the

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Zoë previously worked as the director of communications and marketing at La TOHU, the non-profit organization that supports and promotes circus arts in Montreal.

**BRETT HICKEY**, BCom'02, the founder and CEO of Star Mountain Capital, received the Philanthropic Achievement Award in Support of Bereaved Children this summer, an honour recognizing his work on behalf of children who have lost their parents. The prize was presented by A Caring Hand, the Billy Esposito Foundation.

**NANCY BENTO**, BCom'02, is a Montreal-based designer and the founder of Brisa Brasil Swimwear. The idea for the line was sparked by a four-year stay in Brazil during which Nancy studied the fashion business and worked with Brazilian designers. All the pieces are made in Montreal. For more information, visit [www.brisabrasil.ca](http://www.brisabrasil.ca).

**IVAN DIAZ-BARREIRO**, MBA'04, has joined PwC as a partner in the firm's tax and legal services practice group in Mexico City where he will focus on domestic and international tax matters with an emphasis on the transfer pricing aspects of cross-border transactions.

**MARK EISENBERG**, MMgmt'10, a McGill professor of medicine, recently received the Jewish General Hospital Award for Excellence in Clinical Research for his work in cardiology and cardiovascular epidemiology. The award recognizes researchers whose insights and initiatives in clinical research have resulted in unique and significant contributions to patient treatment and care. He was

also recently elected to fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Membership in the academy is considered one of the highest honours in the Canadian health sciences community.

## MEDICINE

**BARRY D. FLETCHER**, MDCM'61, received the Pioneer Award of the Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) in May. The award recognizes the important contributions he made to developing cardiac and oncologic magnetic resonance imaging techniques and his role in establishing imaging research as an important component of clinical trials in pediatric cancer. He was a radiologist at the Montreal Children's Hospital and later at University Hospitals in Cleveland. In 1999, he retired as the ALSAC-endowed chairman of diagnostic imaging at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. He was awarded SPR's highest honour, the Gold Medal, in 2008.

**GREG GEUKJIAN**, BSc'70, MDCM'74, received the 2012 Award of Excellence for Patient Care in a non-urban setting from

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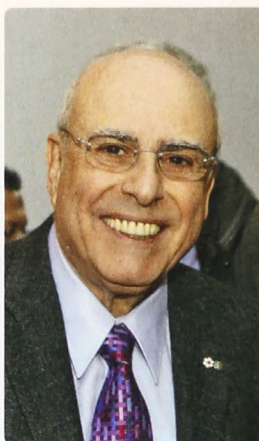
the Quebec College of Family Physicians at a ceremony held in November 2012.

**ROBERT NAGOURNEY**, MDCM'79, is a cancer specialist and the medical and laboratory director of Rational Therapeutics in California. His new book, *Outliving Cancer: The Better, Smarter Way to Treat Your Cancer*, focuses on his own approach to treating cancer and his belief that cancer therapies have often been poorly conceived and badly applied.

**ETHEL RÍOS-ORLANDI**, PhD'88, was appointed interim chancellor for the University of Puerto Rico's flagship campus, UPR-Río Piedras, on May 14. A full professor in the interdisciplinary Department of Physical Sciences, she served previously as dean for graduate studies and research and as assistant dean for academic affairs. She has been a consultant to UNESCO's Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Her academic interests focus on the interaction between science, higher education and sustainable development.

**RAMIN KHORASANI**, MDCM'89, was recently inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology, one of the ACR's highest honours for radiologists, radiation oncologists and medical physicists. He is the vice-chair of radiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

**ANNE PERRAULT**, MSc'89, recently published, with co-author Ann Mitchell, a visual cookbook entitled *Je cuisine avec des images* (Carte blanche). The clear, graphic presentation of each recipe (almost without text) makes meal prepa-



**PHIL GOLD**, BSc'57, MDCM'61, MSc'61, PhD'65, was among the 13 winners of the 2013 Prix du Québec, the Quebec government's top award for exceptional contributions to culture and science. He co-discovered the carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) in 1965 with his colleague, Samuel Freedman, which became the most frequently used blood test in modern oncology. He was awarded the Prix Wilder-Penfield. **MICHEL TREMBLAY**, who led the Rosalind & Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre for 12 years, was also among the Prix du Québec winners, earning the Prix Armand-Frappier.

ration accessible to beginners as well as to persons with reading difficulties or mild intellectual disability. An English version will soon be available.

**SAM J. DANIEL**, MDCM'96, was inducted into the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otolological Society (aka the Triological Society) in a ceremony held in Orlando in April. The Triological Society, founded in 1895, is the most prestigious society in otolaryngology, and attracts the best and brightest in both academic and clinical otolaryngology. He received an honorable mention in the Triological Society's 2013 Clinical Thesis Research Awards for the study, "Outcomes of an Innovative Ambulatory Minimally Invasive Botulinum Toxin Injection Technique in a Cohort of Drooling Children."

**AVRUM SPIRA**, MDCM'96, is the 2013 recipient of the Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Disease. The prize was presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Chest Physi-

cians in October. Avrum is a professor of medicine and the chief of the Division of Computational Biomedicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. He was the first to define the reversibility and permanent effect of cigarette smoke on gene activity in the bronchial airway. Through this research, his lab created a biomarker enabling earlier diagnosis of lung cancer among smokers at risk of developing the disease.

**MUSIC**

**HANK KNOX**, BMus'78, MMus'79, recently released his new CD of keyboard works by J.S. Bach. The recording highlights the range of works that Bach — hugely acclaimed as a keyboard virtuoso — performed over the course of his life. An associate professor at McGill's Schulich School of Music, Hank regularly performs with Arion Baroque Orchestra Tafelmusik, Les Violins du Roy and other ensembles. Visit [www.hankknox.com](http://www.hankknox.com) to find out more.



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**MICHAEL PICTON**, BMus'92, LMus'97, MMus'97, won the Turner Classic Movies Young Composers Competition in 2004, chosen from a field of more than 600 aspiring composers by a jury chaired by legendary Hollywood composer Elmer Bernstein. He moved to Los Angeles to score the 1926 Greta Garbo silent film, *The Temptress*, for broadcast on TCM. In 2006, he was the music composer for the 137th edition of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus, *Bellobration*. His circus-related work includes themes for two currently touring Ringling Bros. shows (*Dragons* and *Built to Amaze*) and the Cirque Mechanics shows *Boom Town* and *Mechanical Circus*. He has also worked on musical scores for films and TV series, including *Bates Motel* on A&E and *Flash Gordon* on ScyFy, as well as network themes for PBS, CNN International, Universal Network, and others.

**TIM RIDEOUT**, BMus'93, co-composed the musical score for the film *Louis Cyr*, based on the life of the legendary Quebec strongman. Tim collaborated with producer Eloi Painchaud and international cello star Jorane, the lead composer. His other musical scoring credits include Radio-Canada and TVO's award-winning series *Jack the Explorer*. He continues to perform with the Celtic-Maritime band *The Life of Riley*.

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**, BMus'85, and her husband Dimitris Ilias are the artistic directors of Chroma Musika, which recently collaborated with Tradewind Books to produce *Time for Flowers*, *Time for Snow*, a children's book and CD. Featuring narration by Monty Python alumnus Terry Jones, *Time for Flowers*, *Time for Snow* recounts the ancient Greek myth of the goddess Demeter, her daughter Persephone and how the seasons came to be. Maria and Dimitris recently received the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec for their contributions to music and their work with children's choirs.

**GREG AMIRALTY**, BMus'91, MMus'98, is a jazz instructor at McGill's Schulich School of Music. He recently released *East of the Sun*, his second CD. He was the recipient of the Grand Prix de Jazz

General Motors award from the Montreal International Jazz Festival in 2000, with the Eduardo Pipman Quartet. He also won a Prix d'Opus for Concert-of-the-Year with the Altsys Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Maria Schneider.

**ANTHONY PRISK**, MMus'98, is the Philadelphia Orchestra's new second trumpet. He was a member of the Houston Symphony for 11 seasons. He has performed internationally with numerous orchestras, such as the Los Angeles and Moscow philharmonics, the Grant Park Festival Orchestra, and the Montreal, Boston, and New World symphonies.

**MARY KAVALAUSKAS**, BMus'09, is a New York-based singer-songwriter who performs under the name Mary Alouette. Mary was named the Washington Area Music Association's New Artist of the Year in 2012. Her new EP, *The Lark*, blends jazz with hip-hop and electronic beats. Mary studied opera at McGill.

**JESSICA GARAND**, BMus'10, created the non-profit Opportunity Music Project which provides free music lessons, instruments and mentoring to underprivileged kids living in New York. After completing her McGill degree, Jessica received a master's degree in music from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Samuel Rhodes of the Juilliard String Quartet. For more information on the Opportunity Music Project, please visit [opportunitymusicproject.org](http://opportunitymusicproject.org).

**STEVE BILODEAU**, BMus'11, is a guitarist and the leader of the Steve Bilodeau Group, a jazz group composed of McGill alumni. The group recently released their first recording. To hear a track from the EP, visit [stevebilodeau.bandcamp.com](http://stevebilodeau.bandcamp.com).

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**MARTIN RUMSCHEIDT**, BA'58, BD'61, STM'63, PhD'67, an ordained United Church minister and a retired professor of theology, was awarded an honorary doctorate this spring from the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, where he taught for 27 years. This was his second honorary degree. He received his first in 2002 from Victoria University in Toronto.



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**FRÉDÉRIQUE VALLIÈRES**, BSc'06, was one of several McGill alumnae recently named as Women of Distinction by the Fondation Y des femmes in Montreal. She is the president of Reach Out to Humanity, a group that collaborates with local governments and NGOs in countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and Peru on infrastructure improvement projects. Frédérique was named the 2013 Young Woman of Distinction. Other McGill graduates named as Women of Distinction were Olympic gold medalist **SYLVIE BERNIER**, MMgmt'11 (sports and wellness), Université du Québec à Montréal sexology professor **MARTINE HÉBERT**, BA'82 (education) and Douglas Mental Health University Institute executive director **LYNNE MCVEY**, BSc'81, MSc(A)'85 (health). **MARIANNA NEWKIRK**, the associate dean of research for McGill's Faculty of Medicine, was named the woman of distinction for science and technology.

**LLOYD "TED" SIVERNS**, PhD'80, is returning to Tainan Theological College and Seminary in Taiwan as a visiting scholar.

## SCIENCE

**MANFRED HOLL**, BSc'50, is enjoying his retirement in Carmel, California, with his wife, Deb. He earned his PhD at UCLA in the mid-fifties during what he describes as the university's "golden age" in meteorology and numerical analysis. He worked as an atmospheric physicist at the Air Force Cambridge Labs in Boston before establishing a weather dynamics program at Stanford Research Institute. He established his own firm, Meteorology International Inc., and led it for 23 years before taking a position with the National Ocean Service in Washington.

**FRANK GUTTMAN**, BSc'52, MA'02, a retired professor of surgery at McGill and the former chief of general pediatric surgery at the Montreal Children's Hospital, is pursuing a second career as a Quebec historian. The French version of his 2007 book about Quebec politician Téléphore-Damien Bouchard, *The Devil from Saint-Hyacinthe*, was recently published by Les Éditions Hurtubise with a preface by former prime minister Jean Chrétien. *Le Diable de Saint-Hyacinthe* was favourably reviewed in *Le Devoir*. His second book, about journalist and former Montreal mayor Honoré Beaugrand, has been submitted for publication.

**JIM LOTZ**, MSc'57, has published 29 books. His most recent one, *Pilgrim Souls: Caring for a Loved One with Dementia*, deals with how he and his late wife, Pat (née Wicks, BLS'59), coped when she

began suffering from Alzheimer's in 2006. The aim of the book is to offer comfort and hope to dementia sufferers and their caregivers and to show that it's possible to live a normal life even as the mind of a loved one slowly fails.

**JERRY PELL**, BSc'63, MSc'65, PhD'70, has retired from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) after 37 years of service. After earning his PhD, Jerry joined the faculty of Rutgers University as an assistant professor of meteorology. Subsequently, he was an environmental consultant, after which he worked for the State of Maryland in the Power Plant Siting Program. Jerry became an American citizen in 1975, and in August of that year was employed as an environmental scientist by DOE. While at DOE, Jerry worked on the (US) Clean Air Act, fossil-fuel issues, international environmental liaison, and on global warming. At the time of his retirement, Jerry was involved with applying the National Environmental Policy Act to the environmental impact

aspects of siting electric power transmission lines. Jerry lives in Maryland with his wife, two daughters, and two granddaughters.

**DONALD SMILLIE**, BSc'67, retired from Capgemini Canada Inc., where he was a vice-president and the Canada-area delivery leader. He spent 44 years working in the information technology field for such companies as Ernst & Young (where he was a partner) and Dome Petroleum, and three years before that as a math and science teacher. In 2002, Don was awarded an honorary bachelor's degree in information systems technology by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in recognition of the contributions he had made to computer technology education through 25 years of participation on the SAIT computer technology advisory committee. Don and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 47th anniversary in August in Calgary, where he fills his days hiking, skiing, gardening, volunteering and playing with grandchildren.



**JOANNE WOLFE**, BSc'85, is the recipient of the 2013 American Cancer Society Pathfinder in Palliative Care Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of the palliative care field. She is the founder of the Pediatric Advanced Care Team at the Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, which has become a model for pediatric palliative care programs in the U.S. and abroad. Her early research on the experiences of children with advanced cancer is credited with launching an entire field of scientific investigation focused on improving care for children with life-threatening illness.



**JAGANNATH WANI**, PhD'67, was officially invested as a new member of the Order of Canada at a ceremony held at Rideau Hall in May. A professor emeritus of statistics and actuarial sciences at the University of Calgary, he was a founding member of the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta. He founded the Maharashtra Seva Samiti Organization in 1984, which has raised almost \$7 million to provide essential services to India's homeless and destitute. He created the Raga Mala Music Society, which has supported more than 200 performances across Canada by musicians and dancers from India.

**CORRIE BROWN**, BSc'73, is the recipient of the American Veterinary Medical Association's 2013 XIIth International Veterinary Congress Prize, an award recognizing her contribution to veterinary medicine. A professor of veterinary pathology at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, she has served on many national and international expert panels about animal health and has conducted workshops on basic field necropsy and diagnostic techniques in 30 countries.

**LUC AMYOTTE**, BSc'76, was awarded the Prix du ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie for his book *Méthodes quantitatives. Applications à la recherche en sciences humaines*, published by Pearson ERPI.

**RICHARD UNGAR**, BA'80, is an award-winning writer and illustrator who has just published his sixth book for children, *Time Trapped*, a middle grade sci-fi travel adventure. The novel is the sequel to his 2012 book, *Time Snatchers*.

**JONATHAN LOURIE**, BSc'82, has joined the corporate practice group of Duane Morris as a partner in the firm's Boston office. Jonathan focuses his practice on representing technology-based companies in commercializing their technologies and bringing their products and services to market.

**SERGE LEPAGE**, MSc'84, recently retired from Environment Canada after working there for 17 years. His book *Le Livre du Pouvoir* was published last year by



**MAX CYNADER**, BSc'67, the founding director of the Brain Research Centre in Vancouver, was recently inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. His research has provided important insights into the functioning of the cerebral cortex. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the new Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, which will incorporate clinical research into patient care. He is also the University of British Columbia's Canada Research Chair in Brain Development.

Éditions Mots en toile. The novel follows the adventures of fictitious McGill historian Alex Vincent, as he and his collaborators search for an ancient Egyptian manuscript with mystical properties that had once belonged to some of the most powerful conquerors and dictators in history. Serge is hoping to have the book translated into English and is looking for potential collaborators. For more information, visit [www.sergelepage.com](http://www.sergelepage.com).

**SIMON JOHN**, PhD'92, was awarded the 2013 Bressler Prize in Vision Science. A senior staff scientist at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, he has been a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator since 1998. His lab studies the molecular features of complex diseases such as glaucoma, a major cause of blindness.

**PAT YONGPRADIT**, BSc'99, a former high school computer science teacher in Maryland and a 2010 Microsoft Partners in Learning Worldwide Innovative Educator, is one of 50 teachers profiled in Katrina Fried's new book *American Teachers: Heroes in the Classroom*. Pat recently became director of education at Code.org, an online initiative devoted to the promotion of computer science education.

**TOVA PAYNE**, BSc'03, is a registered holistic nutritionist and personal coach. Her new book *Eat, Think & Live Rich: A Guide to Health and Happiness* offers strategies aimed at helping readers to eat in a more nutritious way and to boost their energy levels. The book is available at the McGill Bookstore. For more information, visit [www.tovapayne.com](http://www.tovapayne.com).

## SOCIAL WORK

**ROANNE WEISMAN**, BSW'74, recently published her eighth book, *In Sickness as in Health: Helping Couples Cope with the Complexities of Illness*, co-written with Barbara Kivowitz. Some of her previous books have earned awards from iParenting Media and the National Health Information Awards. As a freelance writer specializing in biomedicine, integrative medicine and health, her work has appeared in such magazines as *Country Living*, *Prevention* and *Body & Soul*.

**MARGE REITSMA-STREET**, MSW'80, a professor at the University of Victoria in B.C., was honoured in 2009 with the Canadian Council on Social Development's Weiler Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions to community and social development in Canada. As the principal investigator of SSHRC-funded projects on women's individual and collective work, she has mentored graduate students and produced publications, including the 2012 book, *Beyond Caring Labour to Provisioning Work*, which she co-authored with Sheila Neysmith, Stephanie Baker Collins and Elaine Porter.

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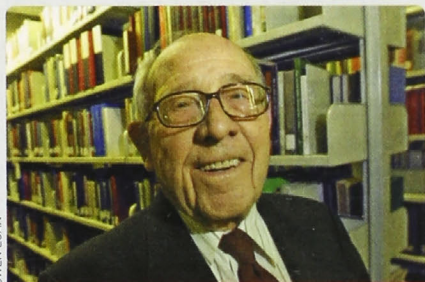
MORAY "JACK" MACPHAIL, MA'34, at Ottawa, on August 12, 2013.

BARBARA MCPHERSON, DipPE'34, at Montreal, on July 28, 2013.

CHARLES FREDERICK B. STEVENS, BSc'34, at Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Que., on June 6, 2013.

RITA DEPIERRO, BA'35, at Montreal, on June 25, 2013.

JOAN L. WRIGHT, BA'37, at Burlington, Ont., on July 7, 2013.



OWEN EGAN

Over the course of his long association with McGill, **STANLEY FROST**, LLD'90, distinguished himself in a variety of roles — as a professor of Old Testament studies, as the dean of the Faculty of Divinity, as the dean of graduate studies and research, and as the vice-principal of administration and professional faculties. At an age when many would be happily planning a quiet retirement, he launched a brand new career, as the founding director of the History of McGill Project, writing a well-regarded two volume history of the University, as well as biographies of James McGill and long-time McGill principal F. Cyril James. Peter McNally, Frost's successor at the History of McGill Project, told the *Globe and Mail*, "Most academics excel at one or maybe two aspects of university life — teaching, research and administration. Stanley was one of that small band who excelled at all three." Frost died in Montreal on July 25 at the age of 100.

GENEVIEVE E. THOMSON, BLS'38, at Ottawa, on May 27, 2013.

PETER WONG, BEng'38, at Piedmont, Calif., on March 22, 2013.

MARGARET HELEN (MACFIE) MEEKS, BA'39, at Kanata, Ont., on June 25, 2013.

1940s

MARIETTA "DIXIE" (CAVERS) MCBRIDE, BA'40, at Montreal, on April 28, 2013.

CYRIL H. POWLES, BA'40, at Vancouver, B.C., on July 26, 2013.

ANNE (SIROTA) SHUGAR, BA'40, MEd'72, at Montreal, on May 28, 2013.

BERNARD J. FINESTONE, BCom'41, at Montreal, on May 22, 2013.

SIDNEY D. KOBERNICK, BSc'41, MDCM'43, MSc'49, PhD'51, at Sarasota, Fla., on October 6, 2013.

DANIEL MACDOUGALL, MSc'41, PhD'44, at Collingwood, Ont., on October 1, 2013.

DOUGLASS HOWARD REILLY, BA'41, MDCM'43, at Montreal, on May 2, 2013.

MARY SCOTT WANG, BA'41, at Kingston, Ont., on July 16, 2013.

MARY PICKUP, DipEd'42, at Toronto, on May 4, 2013.

STANLEY EIDINGER, BA'43, MDCM'49, at Toronto, on December 4, 2012.

BARBARA GILBERT, MDCM'43, at Hanover, N.H., on September 20, 2013.

BELLA LINDEN, BA'43, at New York, N.Y., on May 27, 2013.

KATHLEEN WELLESLEY OLIVER, BA'43, at Ottawa, on August 14, 2013.

LUELLA F. DUNBAR, BSc(HEc)'44, at Oakville, Ont., on May 28, 2013.

FRANCIS L. BROCHU, BSc'45, MDCM'47, MSc'50, at Dallas, Texas, on June 26, 2013.

IRA A. ROWLSON JR., DDS'45, at Huntington Beach, Calif., on June 13, 2013.

W. RITCHIE JOHNSTON, BSc'46, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on August 3, 2013.

ALLAN KNIGHT, BSc'46, MDCM'50, at Toronto on October 8, 2013.

GEORGE MARCUS, BSc'46, at Montreal, on October 3, 2013.

DUNCAN STUART, BA'46, at Calgary, Alta., on August 24, 2013.

PHYLLIS WOOD WHITESTONE, BSc'46, at Fergus, Ont., on February 13, 2013.

NORMAN LUSBY GOODWIN, MDCM'47, at Victoria, B.C., on May 3, 2013.

BURT HALE, BSc'47, MDCM'49, GrapDipMed'57, at Lake Louisa, Que., on June 24, 2013.

JOHN S. HENRY, BSc'47, MDCM'49, DipObstetrics'54, at Charlottetown, PEI, on May 13, 2013.

RHODES HENNIGAR, BSc(Agr)'47 at Kentville, N.S., on July 13, 2013.

SAMUEL HERLICH, BSc'47, at Town of Mount Royal, Que., on August 27, 2013.

F. HUBERT GODIN, BEng'47, at Montreal, on June 1, 2013.

JOHN A. GALBRAITH, BCom'48, MCom'50, PhD'59, at Ottawa, on August 31, 2013.

DONALD D. BEVERIDGE, BCom'48, at Toronto, on June 14, 2013.

ROBERT B. BROWN, BA'48, at Montreal, on May 18, 2013.

ARTHUR J. MARKUS, BSc'48, MDCM'52, at Montreal, on August 19, 2013.

PATRICIA MORRISON, BSW'48, MSW'53, at Fredericton, N.B., on August 22, 2013.

DAVID LEO NASH, BA'48, at Ormstown, Que., on August 4, 2011.

ROSE ANNE (FOYLE) NASH, BA'48, at Ormstown, Que., on January 1, 2013.

JAMES S. PALMER, BA'48, at Calgary, Alta., on August 27, 2013.

LEOPOLD "LEO" ZINKEWICH, BCom'48, at Montreal, on August 21, 2013.

MILES D. BEECH, BCom'49, at Gainesville, Ga., on January 6, 2013.

GORDON L. COOPER, BEng'49, at St. Catharines, Ont., on August 25, 2013.

LOUISE CUTHBERTSON, BA'49, at Toronto on October 11, 2013.

DONALD J. DODDS, Bsc'49, MDCM'53, at Toronto on May 15, 2013.

HAZEL (MOLSON) IVERSEN, BA'49, at Montreal, on September 10, 2013.

MORTIMER DOLMAN, BA'49, BCL'53, at Montreal, on July 12, 2013.

DAVID L. KENDALL, BSc'49, at Farmington, N.M., on August 27, 2013.

MARY (COCKERAM) WATSON, BSW'49, MSW'53, at Burlington, Ont., on June 5, 2013.

## 1950s

WILLIAM "BILL" CHECHIK, BCom'50, at Sweden, on September 18, 2012.

MARVYN KUSSNER, BCom'50, at Montreal, on June 5, 2013.

NORMAN LATSKY, BCom'50, at Montreal, on July 31, 2013.

EDITH (HAWKINS) MINGO, BSW'50, in Halifax, N.S., on May 26, 2013.

JOHN ARTHUR NEAL, BSc'50, at Calgary, Alta., on August 21, 2013.

BERNARD R. PELLETIER, BSc'50, at Nepean, Ont., on May 20, 2013.

M. HARLEY DENNETT, BSc'51, MDCM'55, at San Antonio, Texas, on July 13, 2013.

RUSSELL E. DUCKWORTH, BSc(Agr)'51, at Mississauga, Ont., on October 21, 2013.

MURIEL (TOBESTEIN) GORSKY, BCom'51, at Montreal, on August 28, 2013.

DAPHNE (STETHEM) HAGUE, BA'51, at Waterloo, Ont., on May 22, 2013.

WILLIAM P. KEATING, BCL'51, at Montreal, on October 8, 2013.

HAROLD SHIP, BArch'51, at Westmount, Que., on August 20, 2013.

ALLISON B. STEVENSON, BSc(Agr)'51, at St. Catharines, Ont., on July 6, 2013.

KENNETH M. THOMAS, BEng'51, at Ottawa, on October 7, 2013.

DOUGLAS F. EDWARDS, BSc(Agr)'52, at Ottawa, on June 18, 2013.

RENATO GIROLAMI, BEng'52, MEng'55, DipMan'76, at Sainte-Thérèse, Que., on September 5, 2013.

MARGARET HABERL, BA'52, at Montreal, on May 29, 2013.

LORRAINE JOHNSON, DipNursPH'52, at Calgary, Alta., on June 13, 2013.

VICTOR D. MCLAUGHLIN, MDCM'52, at Riverview, N.B., on February 20, 2013.

PATRICIA "JOAN" (WATSON) WALTON, BA'52, at Victoria, B.C., on June 10, 2013.

DAVID ASHWORTH, BA'53, at Brampton, Ont., on August 4, 2013.

ALBERT JOHNSTON, MDCM'53, at Port Moody, B.C., on July 28, 2013.

BRUCE STIRLING, BSc'53, at Châteauguay, Que., on June 11, 2013.

JEAN (EPSTEIN) WEISER, BA'53, at Montreal, on June 13, 2013.

JACK BERMAN, DDS'54, at Ottawa, on August 2, 2013.

PETER W. BURGESS, MDCM'54, at Berkeley, Calif., on August 21, 2013.

MYRON J. JACOBSON, BSc'54, at Long Island, N.Y., on February 27, 2013.



The former president of Argo Construction, **HUGH HALLWARD**, BA'51, DLitt'92, might have been best-known to Montrealers as the man who, along with his friends Charles Bronfman and Lorne Webster, brought Major League Baseball to Montreal as one of the founding co-owners of the Expos. He chaired McGill's board of governors from 1982 to 1990 and served as the president of the McGill Alumni Association in the early seventies. He played an important behind-the-scenes role in two major McGill fundraising campaigns and contributed his time to other organizations such as the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. "He was the epitome of the selfless volunteer," Honora Shaughnessy, McGill's senior executive director of development and alumni relations, told the *McGill Reporter*. He died in Montreal on August 26.

ASHER KAHN, BA'54, BCL'59, at Toronto, on June 17, 2013.

ROBERT M. ROSS, JR., MDCM'54, at Vintage, Colo., on May 16, 2013.

DAVID C. ANGELL, MDCM'55, at Eau Claire, Wis., on May 21, 2013.

WILLIAM R. FINDLAY, BEng'55, at Almonte, Ont., on August 22, 2013.

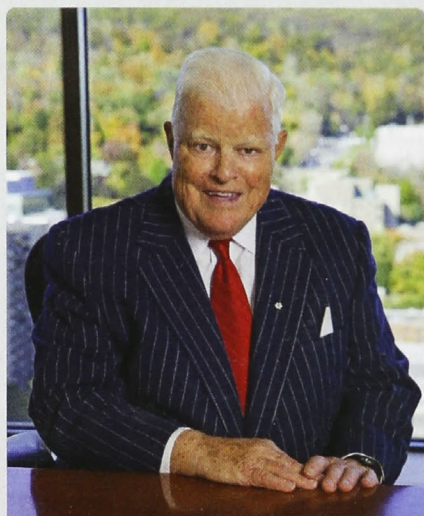
MARY HUGESSEN, BA'55, BCL'58, BSW'77, MSW'82, at Almonte, Ont., on September 15, 2013.

COLIN K. IRVING, BA'55, BCL'58, at Montreal, on June 11, 2013.

FRANCIS E. LYNCH, BEng'55, at Nepean, Ont., on March 10, 2013.

MARGARET MAHOOD, MDCM'55, at Regina, Sask., on May 11, 2013.

ALBERT J. SCHUTZ, DDS'55, on August 26, 2013.



As the founder of the Formula Growth Fund, **JOHN DOBSON**, BCom'49, LLD'96, created one of the country's earliest mutual funds and one which became among the most successful in Canada. He established the Dobson Foundation, in part, to promote entrepreneurship throughout the country. The foundation played a key role in setting up McGill's Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies in 1989 and supported entrepreneurial efforts at organizations such as the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and the Youth Employment Services Foundation of Montreal. The foundation also supported initiatives at other Canadian universities, including Concordia and Dalhousie. He died in Montreal on July 30.

JOHN H. DAWSON, BA'56, BCL'59, at Westmount, Que., on July 1, 2013.

RACHEL KERNERMAN, BA'56, at Toronto, on May 21, 2013.

JOHN D. JACKSON, BCom'56, at Leeds, England, on February 24, 2013.

E. STEWART LEE, BEng'56, MEng'58 at Orillia, Ont., on October 15th, 2013.

EDWARD L. PARSONS, MDCM'56, at Canaan, N.Y., on July 12, 2013.

JOHN SINANIS, BEng'56, at Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., on June 4, 2013.

RAYNALD THIBAUT, DDS'56, at Quebec City, on March 2, 2013.

EDUARD A. KOCH, MDCM'57, at Edmonton, Alta., on August 15, 2013.

FRANKLIN TSAO, BEng'57, at Hong Kong, on February 12, 2013.

SHELDON "BUD" MANARY, BEng'58, at Ottawa, on June 28, 2013.

FINN SANDSTA, BA'58, at Ottawa, on June 20, 2012.

ROBERT LEVY, BSc'59, PhD'65, at Delray Beach, Fla., on August 18, 2013.

ANNE REDPATH, BSc'59, at Toronto, on August 9, 2013.

FRANK A. WALKER, MDCM'59, at Louisville, Ky., on May 1, 2013.

1960s

MOSHE ANISFELD, MA'60, PhD'63, at Newton, Mass., on October 6, 2013.

ELIZABETH (BETTY) ANNE BOYD, DipOTh'60, BOTh'67, at Ottawa, on March 12, 2013.

PIERRE GLOUTNEY, BA'61, at Saskatoon, Sask., on September 21, 2013.

CLARA MAY LENNIE, BN'61, at Edmonton, Alta., on July 12, 2013.

THOMAS F. RICHARDS, BArch'61, at Port Lambton, Ont., on February 16th, 2013.

MARGARET STEAD, DipNursT&S'61, BN'66, at Montreal, on July 11, 2013.

GEORGE E. MALONE, BEng'62, DipMan'69, MBA'70, at Kirkland, Que., on September 5, 2013.

ROBERT W. GARDNER, MDCM'63, at Eureka, Calif., in June, 2013.

EDWARD IWASIW, BSc'65, DDS'69, at Windsor, Ont., on August 7, 2013.

RENA RACHEL SCHWARTZ, BSc'65, at Montreal West, Que., on May 2, 2012.

DALIA GOLDSCHMIDT-SHEFF, BSc'66, at Santa Rosa, Calif., on May 1, 2013.

MELDON WOLFGANG, BA'67, at Danvers, Mass., on July 5, 2013.

GERALD BAREICH, BEng'68, at Amherstburg, Ont., on May 21, 2013.

BARBARA WALKER, MED'69, at Halifax, N.S., on August 14, 2013.

1970s

VYDAS GUREKAS, BSc'71, MDCM'75, at Témiscaming, Que., on July 17, 2013.

DAVID MULHALL, MA'71, PhD'79, at Kelowna, B.C., on July 20, 2013.

ROBERT B. NAGY, MA'71, at Delmar, N.Y., on September 10, 2013.

JANE A. (MACLENNAN) DUTTON, BComm'72, at Victoria, B.C., on October 16, 2013.

MARY A. SANCTON, MSW'72, at Westmount, Que., on June 10, 2013.

VIKEN BABOUDJIAN, BEng'73, at Montreal, on October 12, 2013.

ANTHONY CHARLTON GRUNER, MEng'74, at Toronto, on October 13, 2013.

ROBERT L. BERTRAND, MDCM'75, at Valparaiso, Ind., on August 6, 2013.

ALAN MALCOLM SELBY, BSc'75, MSc'79, PhD'83, at Montreal, on August 3, 2013.

MAXWELL FINESTONE, BA'77, at Toronto, September 2, 2013.



Much of what we know about the workings of the visual cortex stems from the research of Nobel laureate **DAVID HUBEL**, BSc'47, MDCM'51, DSc'78. Together with his long-time collaborator Torsten Wiesel, Hubel mapped the brain's visual system, demonstrating how individual brain cells pass along the visual information that enables us to see. They also offered evidence that sensory deprivation early in life can permanently alter the brain's ability to process images — a finding that had a major clinical impact. Described by the *Guardian* as "one of the greats of neuroscience," Hubel met his wife, Ruth Izzard, BA'50, through the McGill Choral Society. They were married for almost 60 years before her death last year. He died in Boston on September 22. Writing in *Scientific American*, Susana Martinez-Conde, one of his many protégés, noted, "his loss leaves every vision neuroscientist an orphan."

**GRANT MCCONNELL**, BCom'77, at New York, N.Y., on Sunday, July 7, 2013.

**DOROTHY MACLEAN**, BEd'78, at Montreal, on September 30, 2013.

**STEPHEN VOSKO**, LLB'78, at Houston, Texas, on August 17, 2013.

### 1980s

**STACEY ANN SCHWARTZ**, MDCM'87, at Halifax, N.S., on September 13, 2013.

**LUCE BOISVERT**, DPA'88, at Hong Kong, on October 6, 2013.

**MICHAEL ZAHN**, MEng'89, at Montreal, on June 13, 2013.

### 1990s

**PAULINE PATERSON**, MED'91, at Stittsville, Ont., on July 10, 2013.

**ROGER NASSEF**, PhD'92, at Montreal, on October 2, 2013.

**GERARD DERBESY**, PhD'94, at Dainfern, South Africa, on August 28, 2013.

### 2010s

**STEPHEN BARRANS**, BEng'13, on June 1, 2013.

### STUDENTS

**KALE LAVIOLETTE**, Department of Chemistry, at Montreal, on July 31, 2013.

**CLAUDIA MACEDO**, Department of Mining & Materials Engineering, at James Bay, Que., on September 28, 2013.

### FACULTY & STAFF

**PHILIP BROMAGE**, former chair, Department of Anesthesia, at Williston, Vt., on June 7, 2013.

**ROBERT CULLEY**, professor emeritus, Faculty of Religious Studies, at Kirkland, Que., on June 14, 2013.

**RUDI DALLENBACH**, former farm manager, Macdonald Campus, at Senneville, Que., on July 3, 2013.

**DOMENICO D'ERAMO**, former manager of custodial services, at Prezza, Italy, on August 23, 2013.

**JEAN-PIERRE FARANT**, retired professor, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, at Cantley, Que., on September 9, 2013.

**R.D. CLARKE FORBES**, professor emeritus, Department of Pathology, at Toronto, on July 17, 2013.

**CONSTANCE FORGET**, MSc(A)'99, faculty lecturer, Ingram School of Nursing, at Montreal, on August 16, 2013.

**HAROLD FRANK**, MSc'63, emeritus professor, Faculty of Medicine, at Hampstead, Que., on August 1, 2013.

**NORMAN KEESAL**, former faculty member, Desautels Faculty of Management, at Montreal, on July 23, 2013.

**ESTHER LAMOUREUX**, former director of the McGill Pathology Program, at Montreal, on September 28, 2013.

**PETER LEONARD**, former director, School of Social Work, at Ottawa, on September 30, 2013.

**ROBERT ANGUS MACLEOD**, professor emeritus, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, at Calgary, Alta., on May 6, 2013.

**JOAN MARSHALL**, BA'63, PhD'91, faculty lecturer, McGill School of Environment, at Hudson, Que., on July 15, 2013.

**PETER MCCRACKEN**, MDCM'70, former division director of geriatric medicine, at Edmonton, Alta., on June 24, 2013.

**GRAHAM NEIL**, BEd'62, MA'63, retired professor, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, at Montreal, on June 9, 2013.

**HEREWARD SENIOR**, BA'48, MA'51, PhD'59, retired professor, Department of History, at Montreal, on June 21, 2013.

**LARS TROIDE**, retired professor, Department of English, at Cornwall, Ont., on September 10, 2013.

**HAVELOCK "HACK" YATES**, BSc'48, PhD'52, former associate dean, Faculty of Engineering, at Toronto, on September 14, 2013.

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LUKE FONTANA

**TAKING THE SCENIC ROUTE TO MR. RIGHT**

They say you have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince. In her recent memoir, comedian **OPHIRA EISENBERG**, BA'95, recounts how she did a lot more than just kissing.



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SARAH MCNEILL

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**THE MAN BEHIND THE POPPIES**

During the First World War, a day after the burial of a close friend, McGill pathology instructor **JOHN MCCRAE** sat on the step of an ambulance wagon and composed the world's most famous war memorial poem.



MICHELLE VALBERG

**HAS CANADA LOST ITS WAY?**

In his new book, former prime minister **JOE CLARK**, a professor of practice for public-private sector partnerships at McGill's Institute for the Study of International Development, raises thorny questions about the country's recent foreign policy track record.



WILL LEVY

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