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ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER
2017/18



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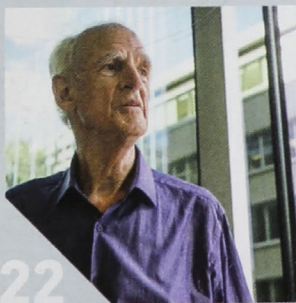


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RISE OF THE MACHINES

Montreal has become a global hotspot for cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence. As AI transforms the world of technology, McGill computer scientists Joëlle Pineau and Doina Precup are playing major roles.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



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A PHILOSOPHER OF THE HERE AND NOW

One of the world's most influential thinkers, Charles Taylor, BA'52, has long been celebrated for his compassionate and clear-eyed approach. As he takes stock of the 21st century, he sees cause for both hope and alarm.

BY LISA FITTERMAN, BA'81



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THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION

With the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission serving as a catalyst, McGill is planning for a future in which many more Indigenous students pursue degrees at the University – almost triple the current number.

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH



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UN TRAVAIL DE MONTRÉALISTES

Pour être membre du Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires en études montréalaises (CRIEM), les chercheurs doivent obligatoirement adhérer au principe du partage des expertises et de la co-construction du savoir avec le milieu.

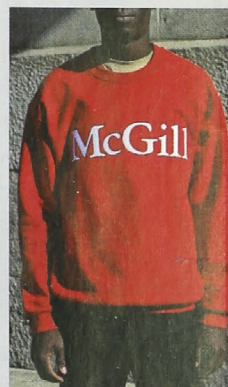
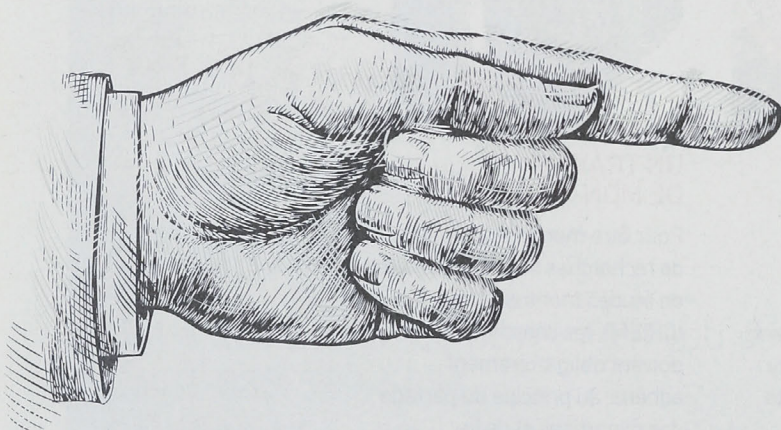
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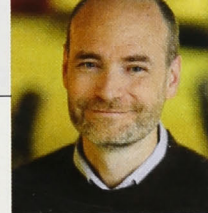


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OWEN EGAN

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A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

The first time I gained a real sense of just how important McGill was to Montreal was when I read *X-Men* #120 back in high school.

At the time, *X-Men* was the best-selling comic book in North America and a pop culture phenomenon — at least among nerdy 15-year-olds like me. What made that issue particularly noteworthy was the introduction of a brand-new Canadian superhero team called Alpha Flight. Among its members was a shaggy orange behemoth named Sasquatch, who, in his civilian identity, was Walter Langkowski, a former NFL player turned physics professor. Langkowski lived in Montreal, where he taught at McGill.

My hometown got a mention in *X-Men*. Because of McGill. That got my attention. (And the notion of a former NFL player becoming a McGill physics professor seems a little less preposterous since McGill medical student Laurent Duvernay-Tardif began taking breaks from his studies to suit up for the Kansas City Chiefs.)

The first time I gained a real sense of just how important Montreal was to me was a few years ago on a train as it approached Windsor Station. I had been encouraged to apply for a job in another city and I was heading back home after an interview for the position. As the train travelled past familiar landmarks, I was caught off-guard by a wrenching sorrow caused by the possibility that I might be moving on. I knew I liked Montreal, but I hadn't fully realized how much I loved Montreal. (I was soon rescued from any further psychic discomfort when the decision was made to hire someone else for that job.)

Montreal is a unique and dynamic city, in part, because it has McGill. McGill consistently attracts talented people, in part, because they want to live in Montreal. It's been a win-win proposition for almost two centuries now. Principal Suzanne Fortier has her own thoughts on the special relationship between her city and her university. You can find them by turning the page.

One of our feature articles this issue focuses on the McGill-led Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal, a consortium of Montreal-based researchers that will be carefully examining the city and its defining characteristics for years to come. CIRM members have already noticed one thing. Montrealers often take some of their city's best qualities — its diversity, for instance — for granted.

Another of our features looks at Montreal's emergence in the flourishing field of artificial intelligence. Publications like *Fortune* and *Fast Company* have taken notice and many of the biggest names in the tech industry are setting up shop in the city and turning to McGill professors and graduates for their expertise. It's another example of McGill benefitting Montreal and Montreal benefitting McGill.

Once you get past the potholes and the construction detours and the long winters and the Canadiens' perpetual inability to find a top-line centre, Montrealers would quickly agree that this is a city with one-of-a-kind charms. The 375th anniversary might be over, but our celebration of Montreal will never end. 🐻

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

Building better body armour

When **FLORA JORDAN**, BEng'12, designed new body armour for the U.S. Marine Corps, she went to unusual lengths to test it out.

To get a sense of what it felt like, she trudged six miles daily, up and down a mountain in California, wearing the protective gear alongside marine instructors.

She also hiked with the new gear through the jungle in Panama during a test event. "That was kind of miserable," laughs Jordan, a body armor engineer with the Marines Corps Systems Command.

That dedication didn't go unnoticed. She was among the U.S. federal workers recently honoured with a 2017 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, known as the "Oscars" of U.S. government service.

Jordan received the Promising Innovations Medal for designing lighter body armour that provides greater mobility, allows for a better fit for men and women of different statures, and offers potential long-term health benefits by reducing the impact on back and shoulders. It's also just as protective as the marines' current gear.

"I've tested a lot of gear and I've tested it all with them," she says of marines. It stems from her belief that to be a good engineer and



JENNIFER A. SEVIER

make good design choices, you have to thoroughly understand how marines operate in the equipment you create for them.

The body armour system Jordan designed is 45 per cent lighter than the armour currently used by marines.

Before setting about her task, she interviewed 600 marines to get their input.

"The fact that I can take their perspective and actually convert it into a physical item that's going to help them do their job better, that's my favourite part" of the work, says Jordan.

BRENDA BRANSWELL

↑ Body armour engineer
Flora Jordan

PREPARING for their RHODES TRIP



NEALE MCDEVITT

McGill's newest Rhodes Scholars, medical student **ALEXANDER LACHAPELLE** and math and computer science student **CLARE LYLE**, will both spend their time at the University of Oxford learning all they can about machine learning.

"I want to study how we can use [machine learning] to improve access to

healthcare," says Lachapelle. He put his McGill medical studies on hold for a year to join an artificial intelligence startup in New York, where he got an up-close look at how machine learning methods could reduce diagnostic errors and improve patient outcomes.

"It was one of the most enriching experiences of my life," Lachapelle says. It convinced him that AI can play a pivotal role in health care. It also showed how introducing new innovations is no easy thing — the regulatory and commercialization challenges alone can be daunting.

Lachapelle was also a liaison officer for the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), an organization that represents 1.3 million medical students from 127 countries.

Lyle will work towards a doctorate in machine learning at Oxford. "I am especially interested in looking at theoretical foundations for machine learning."

Outside of her classes, she has been the web editor for the *McGill Tribune*, the director of HackMcGill, the vice-president academic of McGill's Computer Science Undergraduate Society, and the co-chair of the World University Service Canada, where she helped raise funds for a student refugee program. She is also an avid musician (clarinet, bass, saxophone, cello and piano).

"I do things that I find interesting and meaningful," she says. "I just happen to find a lot of things interesting and meaningful."

McGill has now produced 144 Rhodes Scholars, the highest number for any university in Canada.

NEALE MCDEVITT

↗ McGill's newest Rhodes Scholars
Alexandre Lachapelle and Clare Lyle.



Search engine pioneer now a hall of famer

When **ALAN EMTAGE**, BSc'87, MSc'91, was recently inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame, he wore a bright red McGill tie. It was a tribute to the school where he achieved pioneer status in 1989 when he created Archie, generally regarded as the world's first Internet search engine.

"I don't think of myself as a visionary," says Emtage. "It was just a matter of being at the right place at the right time."

Emtage wasn't the only person working on an Internet search engine in the late eighties, but Archie was the first to be publicly distributed, which is why he's considered an innovator. Today, search engines like Google are ubiquitous, but back then, Emtage's goal was merely to create something simple to make his work at the School of Computer Science a little less tedious.

At the time, modems operated at unfathomably slow speeds and were prone to slowdowns and clogging. Emtage created a system that operated at night, when no one else in the department was using the Internet.

As sophisticated as search engines have become, Emtage says Archie created a basic template that's still being followed today.

"Archie developed the principles that these search engines work on, which is basically go out there, retrieve information, index it and allow people to search through," he explains.

Emtage, now the chief technical officer for Mediapolis, a web development company in New York, enjoyed the opportunity to compare notes with the other hall of famers.

"There were a lot of old timers there, and we were all saying if anyone says they knew [the Internet] would basically revolutionize human life, they're lying."

ERIK LEIJON

↑ Alan Emtage at the 2017 Internet Hall of Fame induction ceremony

KEEPING TORONTO HEALTHY

EILEEN DE VILLA, BSc'91, leads an organization with nearly 2,000 employees, a budget close to \$250 million, and the task of looking after the health of 2.8 million people.

Sound daunting? Clearly not to de Villa, who relishes her new role as Toronto's medical officer of health.

"I think it's the perfect role because it combines everything that I'm interested in and allows me the opportunity to apply my skills and knowledge — I feel — to good use."

It's an incredible platform, she adds, to advance public health goals and set the pace for Toronto, and arguably further afield, about what improves the health status of populations.

Deciding to become a doctor took her a bit of time, says de Villa, recalling how she had many interests when she graduated from McGill.

"Actually trying to narrow down, to say 'this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life,' I found very challenging."

She decided she might be able to accomplish meaningful things within international or public health if she became a physician. In addition to becoming a doctor, she also earned an MBA.

De Villa began her new job last March and in the summer called for a public discussion on decriminalizing drugs. The current enforcement approach meant to discourage drug use "doesn't seem to be effective," she says, citing the opioid crisis facing Canadian communities.

Chronic disease is another preoccupation. She says much can be done at a population level to prevent or delay the onset of chronic diseases. The better public health is at doing that, "the more sustainable we're making the health care system."

BRENDA BRANSWELL

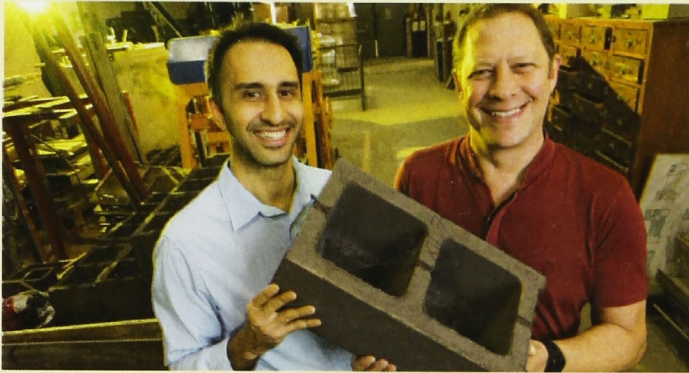


Eileen de Villa is the medical officer of health for Toronto

PHOTO: TSUTSUMIDA PICTURES/INTERNET SOCIETY

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE / TORONTO STAR

A cheaper, greener way to make concrete



OWEN EGAN

A team of McGill graduates vying for a \$7.5 million grand prize in a global competition will learn in February if they've made it to the final round.

If they scale that hurdle, the Montreal-based **CARBICRETE** team will be in the homestretch, so to speak, of the 54-month NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE. Winners will be announced in March 2020.

Teams compete to develop breakthrough technologies that convert carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and oil and gas facilities into valuable products.

In Carbicrete's case, that's cement-free, carbon-negative concrete. Cement production accounts for five per cent of global CO₂ emissions, notes team leader **MEHRDAD MAHOUTIAN**, PhD'14.

Carbicrete's concrete method uses steel slag, a by-product from steel factories that mostly ends up in landfill sites, says Mahoutian. Carbicrete's process also involves injecting CO₂ into wet concrete, which strengthens it. By permanently sequestering the CO₂ in the concrete, the company says products made with its patented technology are carbon-negative.

"We've basically figured out that we can make concrete for a lower cost than regular concrete based on today's pricing materials," says co-founder **CHRIS STERN**, BEng'94. "And we believe that in the future there's also added benefit from sequestering carbon dioxide, which will have a value."

YURI MYTKO, BA'99, and **MARIO VENDITTI**, BEng'93, MBA'07, round out the team.

Up to five teams will be picked for the final round from each of the two tracks in the competition sponsored by U.S. power company NRG and COSIA, Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance.

While the competition goes on, Carbicrete is forging ahead as a business. Stern believes their approach is "game-changing" and Carbicrete will be delivering that message to concrete makers — its target market.

BRENDA BRANSWELL

↑ Carbicrete co-founders Mehرداد Mahoutian and Chris Stern



A CANADIAN HERO FINALLY GETS HIS DUE

He may be the country's greatest war hero, but most Canadians had never heard of **JAMES CAMPBELL CLOUSTON**.

The onetime McGill engineering student played a decisive role in one of the most remarkable events of the Second World War: Operation Dynamo — the 1940 evacuation of some 400,000 British and Allied troops from the beach at Dunkirk. Christopher Nolan's recent blockbuster *Dunkirk* rekindled interest in this epic event, and in the essential role that a Canadian played in the dramatic rescue.

The massive evacuation seemed doomed to fail. Since the waters off the beach were too shallow for warships, a flotilla of some 700 civilian boats was put into service. In the film, a blonde Kenneth Branagh portrays Commander Bolton, the Royal Navy officer tasked with overseeing the operation. But the piermaster on the eastern breakwater at Dunkirk was actually a dark-haired Canadian whose purposeful leadership and engineer's approach to solving problems helped save the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

After working around the clock for five days, an exhausted Clouston was sent back to England. But a day later, he volunteered to return to Dunkirk to help with the evacuation of French troops. His boat was attacked by German bombers and he was killed.

"Commander Clouston was an essential character in the Dunkirk evacuation, but because he died before the operation ended, his role is poorly documented," says Jeffrey Street, an Ottawa-based war historian who is writing a book about Clouston.

This past summer, Street helped organize an elaborate ceremony at the Lachine Canal Historic Site, attended by family members, Canadian Armed Forces senior officers and local dignitaries, where Clouston was officially commemorated as a Hometown Hero.

LINDA SUTHERLAND

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SHAKING THINGS UP IN RIVERDALE

As a writer, **ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA**, MA'97, takes pride in his ability to craft a good plot twist. But even he would be hard-pressed to come up with a narrative as unlikely as the one that has seen him become a key player in the revitalization of Archie Comics. The company once viewed him in the worst possible light. And it all started at McGill.

While pursuing his master's in English, Aguirre-Sacasa took part in the McGill Drama Festival, a competition involving one-act plays written by students. A longtime Archie fan, Aguirre-Sacasa included the affable redhead and his Riverdale pals in a play that also involved the notorious young murderers Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb (the inspirations for Hitchcock's *Rope*). The idea, in part, was to contrast the amorality of the killers with the sweetness of the Archie characters.

The play did well and Aguirre-Sacasa developed it further. Eventually, he received a cease-and-desist letter from attorneys representing Archie Comics.

"I talked to the lawyer at Archie Comics and said, 'I understand you're upset, but really, this is coming from a deep and abiding love for these characters and it's my dream to one day work on these characters properly,'" says Aguirre-Sacasa. "And the guy basically said, 'Over my dead body.'"

Today, Aguirre-Sacasa is the chief creative officer for Archie Comics and the person most responsible for the TV series *Riverdale*.

Riverdale has been described more than once as "*Dawson's Creek* meets *Twin Peaks*" and the show involves some steamy (and surprising) couplings as well as a jarring murder or two.

An unexpectedly dark exploration of the Archie characters? That sounds... familiar.

"Some of my friends watch *Riverdale* and say, 'You're still writing that play you wrote about the Archie characters 20 years ago,'" says Aguirre-Sacasa. "My first response was, no, this is totally different, and then I realized, no, this is

➤ **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa** is the chief creative officer for Archie Comics



JESSICA ANTOLA

exactly what I did. The particulars aren't quite the same, but the idea of taking the Archie characters and putting them in a very different situation — that is what I did with my play all those years ago."

When Jon Goldwater took over as the new CEO of Archie in 2009, he felt the company could use its characters in more imaginative ways. He looked for people to help him shake things up. Soon, Aguirre-Sacasa, now a successful TV writer (*Big Love*, *Glee*), was again on Archie's radar.

A big part of Aguirre-Sacasa's current job involves finding opportunities to use the Archie characters on TV or in films and that led to *Riverdale*.

"I really like the idea of taking these characters and putting them in some version of a genre. Season one was a murder mystery. Season two is more of a thriller. The other thing that I really enjoy is the way that this is a show [largely] about friendship. I like writing about these friendships and relationships."

While Aguirre-Sacasa enjoys using the Archie characters in unexpected ways, he says it's important to respect their core identities.

"For Archie, it's a fundamental core of goodness. It's a fundamental desire to help his family and his friends. For Betty, the archetype is the mythical girl next door. She's smart, resourceful, tenacious.

"Jughead [has] a slightly skewed view of the world and a different perspective than all his friends — and perhaps [is] a little bit wiser than his friends. Veronica is fighting to be more than her stereotype — the shallow rich girl who only cares about appearances and money."

His favourite character? Betty.

"I always liked her spunk. I always liked that she was a little bit of a tomboy. I just wanted her to be my friend." 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



NEW AUTISM RESEARCH CENTRE HAS AMBITIOUS AIMS

“The timing for this is just right,” says Montreal Neurological Institute director Guy Rouleau. He is talking about the Neuro’s new **AZRIELI CENTRE FOR AUTISM RESEARCH (ACAR)**. “Ten years ago, autism was much more mysterious. We’ve made a lot of inroads. We’ve identified some of the genetic causes for autism” — [Rouleau himself has played an important role on that front] — “and that opens doors. We think we’re at a point where there are going to be some important advances made and we think [ACAR] puts us in a good position to make our own contributions to those advances.”

The Neuro has long been known for nurturing tight links between the research that goes on in its labs and the clinical care it offers its patients. “It is our model,” says Rouleau. The new centre will adopt that approach as well.

Mayada Elsabbagh, BSc’98, an assistant professor of psychiatry and one of the McGill researchers affiliated with ACAR, says that early interventions can have a profound impact on the lives of individuals with autism and their families, so it’s vital to make quick use of important new findings. Recent research “is already leading to changes in how care is being delivered, whether through diagnostics using genetic testing, or new intervention approaches that we’re able to directly test in clinical trials.”

ACAR will use a range of approaches, including genetic techniques and brain imaging, to identify the genes and other risk factors that are associated with the disorder. The centre will forge close links with patients and their families to provide swifter access to new treatments and programs. ACAR will also focus on training new generations of autism specialists.

The Azrieli Foundation is supporting the new centre with \$16 million in funding.

“We are really interested in [ACAR’s] comprehensive approach,” says Naomi Azrieli, the chair and CEO of the Azrieli Foundation. “Supporting the very early stages of research, finding ways to integrate that research into treatments and better outcomes, training new specialists, providing support for patients

and their families — the Neuro is uniquely positioned to bring all of these elements together.”

Elsabbagh says that ACAR’s emphasis on training will be critical. “One of the major challenges is that a lot of the existing research and knowledge [around autism] has not been translated yet into practice [because] we lack training programs for highly qualified professionals. We still see the old ways of thinking about interventions that are one-size-fits-all.” Autism manifests itself in different individuals in very different ways, she says. “Our vision for the future is that services and interventions are directly tailored and personalized to the needs of individual children and families, considering their context.”

Recent research by scientists at the Neuro and the Ludmer Centre for Bioinformatics and Mental Health discovered that some of the abnormalities in the brain that are associated with autism can be seen in children as young as six to 12 months of age. Elsabbagh, whose own research examines the root causes of autism, says such research is essential. “That period of time where the brain is still in its early stages of development is key.”

Rouleau, who will serve as ACAR’s first director, says that while the new centre will be housed at the Neuro, autism researchers and programs throughout the city can expect to benefit from ACAR’s existence.

“In fact, it will involve all of Montreal. There are certain components of this donation that are for training purposes and that is going to be open to everybody. We will fund some work done outside of McGill. Most of the money will be spent at McGill — mostly at the Neuro, but also at the McGill University Health Centre and the Douglas Mental Health University Institute. And there are other sites in Montreal that are involved in this.”

“There is a remarkable amount of expertise here in very different disciplines — including experts who haven’t traditionally been engaged in autism, but who are focused on extremely relevant areas in the neurosciences,” says Elsabbagh. “I see this centre as a place where autism meets neuroscience at its best.”

DANIEL MCCABE, BA’89

↑ From left (back row): Neuro director Guy Rouleau, Chancellor Michael Meighen, Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine David Eidelman, Neuro Advisory Board chair Jacques Bougie. Front row (from left): Assistant professor Mayada Elsabbagh, Azrieli Foundation members Sharon Azrieli, Stephanie Azrieli, Naomi Azrieli, Principal Suzanne Fortier, Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services Gaétan Barrette.

SEIZING THE 'SAW' FROM MICROBES

Give microbes enough time and they'll build condos for themselves. Strawberries left in the fridge for too long get grey fuzz. Soda residue on teeth leads to plaque. And if your immune system doesn't deal with microbial invaders quickly enough, they'll give you a chronic infection.

The structures that microbial residents live in are called biofilms, and they're great at keeping out antibiotics. "If you can't get your drug through the cement to the target, it isn't going to work," says **DON SHEPPARD**, MedResident'99, a professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology. So he's designed a way to tear the biofilms down.

"We started teasing apart the methods by which the bugs make this cement," says Sheppard. He and his team took note of a critical component: sugar chains, which make the biofilm stick together.

Microbes use enzymes like little saws to cut these sugar chains and build their biofilms. They keep these crucial tools carefully stashed, on the inside of the biofilms.

Sheppard's team zeroed in on that enzymatic "saw"—duplicating it to turn it against the biofilms. "We've converted that very nicely controlled saw into a completely uncontrolled saw." The researchers have used this approach on microbial biofilms inside mice—slicing up the biofilms to create a path for drug treatments that can restore the mice to health.

It'll be a few years before the treatment can be tested out on humans. Someday, Sheppard hopes the biofilm destroyer can be sprayed on devices like knee replacements—a common biofilm construction site—to prevent microbes from building their biofilm armour in the first place.

SHANNON PALUS, BSC'13

▢ The fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* (in red) produces a sticky sugar molecule (in green) in order to make its biofilm.



Alzheimer's finding passes the sniff test

A McGill study has shown a correlation between Alzheimer's disease (AD) and difficulty identifying odours—potentially providing an important early warning sign.

Nearly 300 test subjects, who share AD risk factors including a family history of the disease, were asked to take scratch-and-sniff tests to identify various scents. The ones having the most difficulty doing so also had the highest levels of AD-related proteins in their cerebrospinal fluid.

The study is part of the dissertation project of **MARIE-ELYSE LAFAILLE-MAGNAN**, BSc'08, a doctoral student in McGill's Integrated Program for Neuroscience. She chose the project in part because post-mortem examinations of AD patients commonly show damage to the areas of the brain which regulate the sense of smell.

"From my review of the literature, I believe this is the first study to show a correlation between AD and odour identification difficulties in volunteers who have not been diagnosed, but are at increased risk of developing AD," says Lafaille-Magnan.

The correlation was also strongly proportional.

"The more that people made mistakes in odour identification, the more they had biomarkers for AD."

"The main importance of this finding is to help us better understand the unfolding of the disease pathology in its early stages, before the onset of symptoms," says **JOHN BREITNER**, director of the Centre for Studies on Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease and a co-author of the study.

SYLVAIN COMEAU

PHOTO: BRENDAN SNARR/RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE MUHC

Rethinking pain treatments



The most widely prescribed drug for heart medication is Aspirin — a headache pill. Viagra, originally developed to mediate blood pressure, is chiefly employed for activities in the bedroom. Now, McGill researchers have identified a cancer-fighting drug that not only is effective in treating pain, but may well have opened up a whole new understanding of pain in the body.

Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) blockers — which mediate the genes that control the expression of a protein necessary for growth in certain types of cancer — have been part of chemotherapy treatments for a long time.

“It was known to be important for the growth of tumours, but nobody would expect EGFR to be involved in pain,” says **LUDA DIATCHENKO** (pictured), a professor of dentistry and anesthesia. She and her collaborators (including psychology professor **JEFFREY MOGIL**) identified EGFR as being a potential target for pain medication when they did a genomic screen in search of genes implicated in mediating pain, mood and inflammation. EGFR — which has a role in the inflammatory response — turned out to be a strong candidate.

While there was no obvious biological reason to suspect EGFR-blockers would work against pain, cancer patients treated with the drug had reported suffering less from their illness. The effect was typically ascribed to the drug reducing the tumour.

In fact, Diatchenko says that EGFR blockers appear to be as effective as morphine in mouse models of chronic and inflammatory pain. While the team is beginning the process of performing clinical trials, Diatchenko is highly optimistic about the clinical potential for EGFR blockers.

“The beauty of this target is that it already exists, and its negative side effects and toxicity in humans is well known,” says Diatchenko. Her hope is that the work will lead to new pain treatments “without the drug dependence side effects of opioids.”

MARK REYNOLDS

{ THE SCIENCE OF BETTER BEER }

Do you ever find yourself fretting about barley proteins? If you are an aficionada of fine beer, you ought to.

JASWINDER SINGH, an associate professor of plant science at Macdonald Campus, has identified a protein in barley that will allow brewers to reduce the viscosity of wort — a by-product of the malting process — which should improve brewing efficiency and the quality of the final product.

The protein in question — known as TLP8 — acts on a fiber called beta-glucan. Beta-glucan, if not broken down properly, is capable of ruining entire batches of beer. Singh and his team, particularly lab member **SURINDER SINGH**, PhD’15, and postdoctoral fellow **RAJIV TRIPATHI**, were able to show that TLP8 is a biological moderator of the fiber.

“It’s not only in the plant itself,” says Singh, “When we produced TLP8 as a purified protein, we found it was binding to beta-glucan very nicely.”

Singh believes that this means brewers will be able to add a small amount of purified TLP8 to the malt during the brewing process, to



sequester beta-glucan out of the mixture and improve its quality.

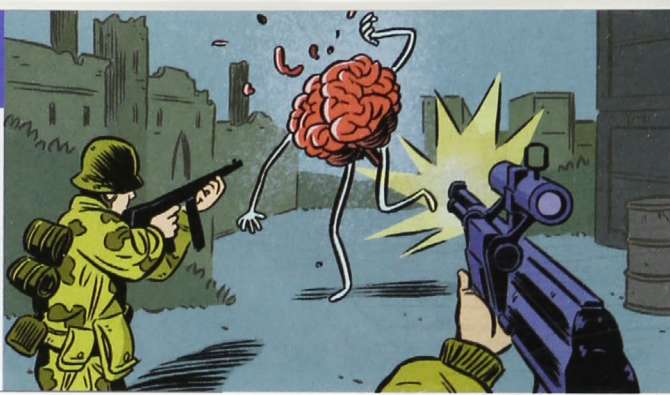
While brewing is the most immediate application of the discovery, Singh says that tippers are not its only potential beneficiaries. Beta-glucan has been identified as a dietary fiber with health benefits pertaining to cholesterol reduction. Science does not understand much about how dietary fibers are regulated on a genetic level.

As we gain a better understanding of the properties of beta-glucan, Singh suggests we might be able to “enhance dietary fiber, and perhaps make healthier foods.”

Who would not raise a glass to that?

MARK REYNOLDS

The case for cutting back on *Call of Duty*



ETHAN RILLY

Many people might think twice before handing a child a first-person shooter game for one simple reason: they're awfully violent. But associate professor of psychiatry **VÉRONIQUE BOHBOT**, BA'90, has uncovered a more subtle reason to treat those games like drugs or alcohol. Too much *Call of Duty* shrinks a part of the brain called the hippocampus, putting frequent players at an increased risk for a suite of psychiatric disorders.

Shooter games tend to have a built-in GPS to help players navigate through the virtual world. This encourages players to rely on stimulus response to make their

way around — the same way you might find yourself automatically turning left at the corner with the yellow house on your way home from work, as opposed to determining where you are based on spatial clues.

The hippocampus is exercised in spatial navigation, and when Bohbot scanned the brains of those who frequently played shooter games a few years ago, she found that the hippocampus region was smaller compared to that in non-gamers.

"We thought, 'Wow, this is serious,'" says Bohbot. A smaller hippocampus means that the brain could be more vulnerable to depression, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, and other disorders.

She and her team followed up by inviting 100 people who didn't play video games to spend 90 hours playing non-shooter games like *Super Mario 64*, or first person shooter games. She scanned their brains before and after.

The action game group had smaller hippocampi than when they started. This doesn't mean you should never play *Call of Duty*, says Bohbot — but you'd be wise to cap play at a couple of hours a week.

SHANNON PALUS, BSC '13

A UNIQUE RECORD of SLAVERY

When a slave named Ireland escaped, his American owner sent word north in the hopes of recapturing him. Canadians steeped in Heritage Minutes celebrating our role as the terminus of the Underground Railway might conclude the owner — William Gilliland — was trying to apprehend Ireland before he crossed the border to freedom.

Not so, says art history professor **CHARMAINE NELSON**. Ireland escaped in 1777, long before slavery was abolished in the British Empire, and Gilliland placed his ad in the *Quebec Gazette*, offering a reward for Ireland's re-capture.

"The bulk of the information [in these ads] was visual," says Nelson. Unlike slave auction and sale ads, which invariably described slaves as healthy and obedient, fugitive advertisements often supplied clues about where slaves originally came from — descriptions of hairstyles or traditional "scarification."

The ads might also describe limps, bruises or missing appendages that spoke



GUILAUME SIMONEAU

to the cruelty they suffered in their bondage. The ads were rare records of individuals who did not legally exist as human beings.

"These were unauthorized — and very dubious portraits," says Nelson. But collectively, the ads might help paint a portrait of "Creolization" — the process by which African cultures forced into slave societies became something new and uniquely North American.

"Was Creolization visible? Can I tell if this person is African-American, African-Caribbean or African, by how they dress, or whether they wrap their head or by scarification? I am trying to answer whether a visible African-Canadian culture emerged at a certain point."

Nelson's research on slavery in Canada — and particularly on what ads like Gilliland's reveal about the practice and perception of slavery — will be the prime focus of her work as the 2017-18 William Lyon McKenzie Chair in Canadian Studies at Harvard.

MARK REYNOLDS

TRAINING TOMORROW'S POLICY LEADERS



Think of public policy as the unsung hero of a stable and successful society.

In today's world of Twitter declarations, political polarization and growing gaps between rich and poor, the policies which govern our day-to-day lives desperately require innovative approaches taking into account such factors as partisan politics, practical (rather than theoretical) issues and the importance of effective communication with policymakers and the general public.

That's the role envisioned for McGill's **MAX BELL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**. The new school, headquartered in the Faculty of Arts, was created thanks to a \$10-million donation from Max Bell Foundation.

"I would like to thank Max Bell Foundation for this generous gift," said Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, at the November 7 launch of the school in Montreal, which was attended by representatives of Max Bell Foundation, McGill leaders and one of the new school's advisory board co-chairs, former Conservative Party of Canada interim leader Rona Ambrose.

"There has never been a more important time for McGill to contribute its full voice to the public conversation about the most critical issues affecting the future of Canadians, and all citizens around the world," said Fortier.

"Max Bell Foundation is proud to be associated with the creation of a school of public policy at McGill and its potential to benefit Canada and Canadians by mobilizing expert, policy-oriented research, and providing a forum for debate on key public policy issues," said the foundation's president, Allan Northcott.

Under the leadership of inaugural director **CHRISTOPHER RAGAN**, the school's flagship teaching program will be a one-year graduate program in public policy that combines courses on theory and quantitative analysis with those examining the real-world processes by which policy is designed and implemented. There will also be a suite of executive teaching programs, taught by professors of practice with expertise in the practical aspects of specific policy areas.

"The policy challenges we face are difficult," said Ragan, an associate professor of economics at McGill and chair of Canada's Ecofiscal Commission. "Whether we're talking about climate change or urban sprawl, there are complexities we need to face."

Ragan said McGill's true potential to excel in the field of public policy lies in its ability to effectively bring together and draw upon its wide range of interdisciplinary expertise. He summarized the University's unique qualifications with three key messages.

"Public policy matters. Good public policy doesn't just happen and McGill is an awesome place to do this," he said. At the launch event, Ragan also announced two additional gifts in support of the school: a \$1-million donation from the McConnell Foundation and a \$2-million gift from an anonymous donor.

The school will be supported by an advisory board made up of Canadian leaders from the fields of politics and business, including three co-chairs: Ambrose, currently a NAFTA Council member and a visiting fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Dominic Barton, global managing partner of McKinsey & Company and chair of the federal minister of finance's Advisory Council on Economic Growth; and Michael Sabia, president and CEO of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

"In 13 years of public life, I have always been passionate about public policy," said Ambrose at the school's launch. Ambrose cited climate change, the future of work, the environment, energy and the issue of guaranteed annual income as just some of the future policy challenges on the horizon. She said she was looking forward to seeing McGill's Max Bell School of Public Policy push the envelope and engage and communicate in different ways.

"The policy challenges we face are vast," she added.

ANDREW MAHON

↑ Former interim leader of the Conservative Party of Canada Rona Ambrose with Christopher Ragan, the director of McGill's new Max Bell School of Public Policy



FACEDBOOK

RISE OF THE

MONTREAL HAS BECOME A GLOBAL HOTSPOT FOR CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. AS AI TRANSFORMS THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY, MCGILL COMPUTER SCIENTISTS ARE PLAYING A LEADING ROLE.

by Daniel McCabe, BA'89

The announcements kept coming all through the fall. Key members of McGill's Reasoning and Learning Lab, which has built up an international reputation for its contributions to machine learning, were taking on important roles for big-name companies in the burgeoning area of artificial intelligence (AI).

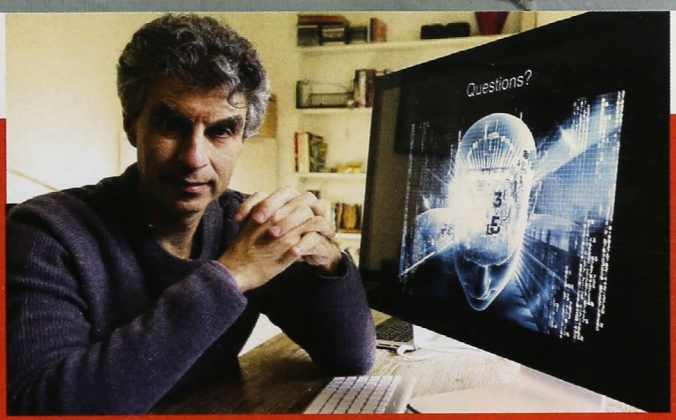
The first announcement, in September, involved Joëlle Pineau. With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, BA'94, in attendance, Pineau was named the head of Facebook's first-ever AI research lab in Canada. It's a part-time position, one that will allow Pineau to remain at McGill as an associate professor of computer science and a co-director of the RL Lab.

Next up, in October, was Doina Precup. Also a co-director of the RL Lab, Precup was named as the head of another brand new AI research lab in Montreal, this time for the Google-owned DeepMind. Like Pineau's, the position is part-time — enabling Precup to continue as an associate professor of computer science at McGill.

In November, yet another announcement involving yet another co-director of the RL Lab. Assistant professor of computer science Jackie Chi Kit Cheung will serve as the academic adviser for — you guessed it — a new AI research lab in Montreal. The Borealis AI lab is being created by the Royal Bank of Canada.



OWEN EGAN



GRAHAM HUGHES / CANADIAN PRESS

MACHINES

Samsung, Microsoft and the Thales Group (a Paris-based industrial giant specializing in aerospace and defense) all recently chose Montreal for their own new AI labs — all of them affiliated in some way with Yoshua Bengio, BEng'86, MSc'88, PhD'91, a professor of computer science and operations research at the Université de Montréal.

All that interest hasn't escaped the notice of the Quebec government, which pledged \$100 million towards further developing the province's emergence as an AI powerhouse. Some of that money will go towards attracting and retaining talented AI specialists. Some will go towards the support of home-grown AI startups. The government also created an advisory committee to develop a strategic plan for spending that money effectively.

Martha Crago, BA'68, MSc(A)'70, PhD'88, McGill's vice principal (research and innovation), sits on that committee (Bengio and Precup are both involved as official observers). "The government clearly recognizes that there is something special happening here," says Crago.

The federal government has also been playing an important role. In 2016, the government's Canada First Research Excellence Fund granted a combined \$213 million to major initiatives at Montreal universities, including McGill's Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (HBHL) project, that were all related to AI and machine learning. In the case of HBHL, Precup is the project's associate scientific director and HBHL will be using machine learning techniques to tackle mysteries related to mental illnesses and neurological disorders.

MONTREAL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

At the Facebook press conference for Pineau, Yann LeCun, the company's director of artificial intelligence, made it plain that it's no accident that the company decided to plant roots in Montreal. "Facebook chooses locations because of talent, we are attracted by talent."

In a recent interview with The Canadian Press about the new Borealis AI lab, RBC chief science officer Foteini Agrafioti made the same point. "[Montreal] is absolutely one of the hottest places [for AI] not only in Canada but on earth right now."

A lot of that has to do with McGill's RL Lab, where Pineau and Precup in particular have emerged as leading experts in a branch of AI known as reinforcement learning.

↑ From left to right: Associate professors of computer science Joëlle Pineau and Doina Precup, and Yoshua Bengio, director of the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms



OWEN EGAN

“It’s been a whirlwind,” says Precup of all the recent attention that has been focused on Montreal’s thriving AI sector. “The last year has been pretty miraculous as far as I’m concerned. And it’s interesting because people often say, ‘Oh, there is all this new stuff in [AI].’ From my point of view, the type of research that I’m doing hasn’t really changed all that much in the last five years. But now people realize that these methods actually work.”

So what did change? In short, the technology caught up with the theory. The most promising new AI methods require huge amounts of data and a computing infrastructure that’s powerful enough to pore through all that data quickly and draw conclusions from it.

And thanks to these advances in technology, a bold new era of AI is upon us. “We’ve seen an incredible improvement in the performance of image recognition systems, video analysis systems, speech recognition systems, text translation — all of those systems use deep learning,” said LeCun in October when he was the featured attraction at a McGill event organized by the University’s Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management.

↑ Facebook’s Yann LeCun (right), one of the pioneers of deep learning, took part in a Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management event along with assistant professor of organizational behaviour Matissa Hollister

“THE MOST EXCITING AREAS”

Both deep learning and reinforcement learning are geared towards building machine systems that are capable of developing a certain degree of autonomy in how they go about executing their tasks and making determinations about the data they deal with. “These two subfields [of AI] are probably the most exciting areas to be working in right now,” says Pineau.

Pineau describes deep learning as “a show-and-tell approach to AI.” Instead of constantly issuing and refining instructions to a machine system, the idea is to “show the machine how something is done. With deep learning, I can show the machine images of cats and dogs, I can tell the machine what is on these images and how to tell the differences between a cat and a dog. Then, by presenting it with thousands or even millions of images of cats and dogs, it will learn to recognize patterns on its own and it will make accurate assessments.”

Bengio is internationally recognized as a seminal figure in deep learning. *Wired* magazine referred to him as “one of the original musketeers of deep learning” along with LeCun and the University of Toronto’s Geoffrey Hinton (the three frequent collaborators had their own nickname for themselves — “the deep learning conspiracy”).

Deep learning relies on multiple layers of processing and an artificial neural network that roughly mimics the functioning of the human brain’s enormous network of neurons.

“From my point of view, the type of research that I’m doing hasn’t really changed all that much in the last five years. But now people realize that these methods actually work.”

Reinforcement learning operates a little differently. “It is about training a system for, essentially, good behaviour,” explains Pineau. Carefully crafted algorithms compel a machine system to pursue certain “rewards” and the system evolves and adapts in pursuit of those rewards. “If we’re building a computer system to play chess or to play a game of Go, the reward is to win the game,” explains Pineau. “After a while, the system will notice that a certain sequence of actions is more likely to lead to winning the game.”

Reinforcement learning techniques played a vital role, for instance, in AlphaGo’s stunning win in 2016 over leading human Go player Lee Sedol — a victory for machine over man that has been widely compared to the triumph of IBM’s Watson super-computer in *Jeopardy!* Two members of DeepMind’s AlphaGo team were McGill computer science graduates — Marc Lanctot, BSc’03, MSc’05, and Arthur Guez, BSc’09, MSc’10.

“Reinforcement learning is about [the machine] learning from interaction, rather than always being told what to do,” says Precup. “So you have programs that train by being put in an environment, then interacting with it and exploring different possible actions. [The program] will make some mistakes along the way, but it will learn from those mistakes.”

The two approaches are often complementary. “I will use deep learning to understand complex information and I will use reinforcement learning to adapt the behaviour [of a machine system],” says Pineau. Combining the two, says Precup, has “already led to a lot of interesting things in the areas of robotics and automotive control. It applies to finance, it applies to medicine — things like patient monitoring. It applies to drug treatment design. It applies to the control of power plants.”

One of the reasons why Montreal is attracting so much attention in the world of AI is that the city is home to leading experts in both approaches — and that makes Montreal unique.

“We have some of the best expertise in the world in deep learning at Université de Montréal with Yoshua Bengio and his team, and we have some of the best expertise in the world in reinforcement learning at McGill with our group,” says Pineau. “There are places that have one or the other. Toronto is very strong in deep learning. There is a group in Edmonton that’s very strong in reinforcement learning. But there is no other place in the world that has the same concentration in both these areas.”

Bengio says that many of the most promising advances in artificial intelligence right now are the result of combining deep learning and reinforcement learning. The AI teams at McGill and U de M have forged a close relationship, he adds. “The synergy between the two groups is very important.”

Bengio is a driving force behind much of that synergy. He is the director of the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms, a leading centre for machine learning research based at U de M (Pineau, Precup and Cheung are all associate members). He is also the co-founder of Element AI, an incubator of sorts that fosters collaborations between businesses and many of the city’s top AI researchers (Pineau, Precup, Cheung and their departmental colleague Gregory Dudek, a leading robotics expert, are all part of Element AI’s faculty fellow network). Element AI recently attracted more than \$135 million from Microsoft, Intel and other investors.

→ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (second from right) attended the announcement that Pineau (first from right) would be leading Facebook’s first Canadian AI research lab



“The students coming out of our labs today, many of the best ones, are staying in Canada. That just wasn’t happening a few years ago.”

If it seems that Bengio has his fingers in many pies, that’s largely by design. In interviews, he has expressed concerns over the prospect of having only one or two major tech companies play too dominant a role in the evolution of AI. “I want to remain a neutral agent,” he told *Wired*.

BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM

For her part, Precup sees the arrival in Montreal of Facebook, Google and some of the other leading tech companies as an exciting development. “We need the ecosystem here to have lots of different players and I think part of the reason why Montreal is flourishing is precisely because some of the big names have come in. That sends a very strong signal that Montreal is a place to be and that we have a lot of talent in the city.

“Some of the people who are attracted here because of the big companies will eventually [create] startups,” adds Precup. “Ideally, what you want to see are a lot of choices. You want the big companies here, you want a positive environment for startups, you want universities to play important roles. People appreciate having a lot of options and that’s one of the things that makes Silicon Valley special. We’re starting to see that in Montreal. If you want to do [AI] research here, you can do it in a variety of different environments.”

Sometimes, having all those options presents its own set of challenges. “It can be more difficult to keep [students] focused on their thesis work,” Precup says with a laugh. “It’s like a buffet right now — all these interesting things you can try.”

It’s a big change from the way things used to be not so long ago, says Pineau. “Almost every one of my PhD students and post-docs would leave Canada and maybe two-thirds of my master’s students too. The students coming out of our labs today, many of the best ones, are staying in Canada. They’ll come into my office and talk about applying for different things in Montreal. That just wasn’t happening a few years ago.”

Bengio, the recent recipient of the Prix Marie-Victorin, Quebec’s top prize for research in pure or applied sciences, spent quite a bit of time in McGill classrooms and labs himself, earning three degrees from the University on his way to becoming, in the words of the host of Quebec’s popular TV show *Tout le monde en parle*, “un méga rock star!”

“My undergraduate degree in electrical and computer engineering provided a rather good mathematical basis for the kind of research done with machine learning,” he says. “I actually discovered artificial neural networks when I was looking for my [master’s topic], discovering a passion that continues to this day.”

LeCun believes that many major universities were slow in responding to recent developments in AI. “Some of the more conservative schools completely missed the boat on this,” he told his Montreal audience in October. “Some of the best-known names in the U.S. are falling behind a little bit. They’re trying to catch up now.” The universities that are currently excelling in AI “are the ones that took a chance and invested in this area — that includes the Université de Montréal, that includes McGill.”

One of the hottest areas in AI research right now is natural language processing (NLP), which uses AI methods to help machines master the nuances of human language. It’s a focus for much of Jackie Chi Kit Cheung’s research and one of the reasons why RBC Borealis AI was keen on bringing him on board. While NLP has come a long way — think Siri or Alexa — it still has its limitations.

“My work on natural language processing focuses on trying to connect the structure of language to the structure of the world around us,” says Cheung. It’s one thing for a computer system to absorb all the intricate rules of a language’s grammar and quite another for it to use that language in a real world fashion where context can be tricky.

“You can think of it as giving [the machine] some kind of common sense knowledge to fill in more of the blanks that people just assume that other people know,” says Cheung. “But you can’t see [common sense usage] directly in the text that we deal with. Instead, it has to be inferred. And that’s a big challenge.”

Much of the research pursued by both Pineau and Precup relates to health care.

Pineau’s SmartWheeler project, which involves partners from U de M and three rehabilitation centres, is developing a robotic wheelchair that uses deep learning and reinforcement learning methods to achieve an end result that’s somewhat similar to self-driving cars.

“The wheelchair has a lot of sensors,” says Pineau. “It has lasers that give the position of all the obstacles around it. It has GPS. We’re particularly interested in the problem of driving through crowds. If there are a lot of people moving around, how do you get the wheelchair to choose a [safe] path?”



OWEN EGAN

Operating a wheelchair is often no easy task, says Pineau. “It can be a burden in terms of fatigue. It can be a burden in terms of achieving very precise maneuvering in tight spaces. Whereas, if the AI system takes over and you’re just being driven around, you can have a lovely chat with whoever is accompanying you.”

Precup collaborates with neurology and neurosurgery professor Douglas Arnold, BSc’72, and electrical and computer engineering professor Tal Arbel, BEng’92, MEng’95, PhD’00, on a project that uses medical image analysis to detect and track the progression of biomarkers related to multiple sclerosis. “It’s using deep learning methods for analyzing brain imaging data,” says Precup.

Precup is also partnering in a project with McGill University Health Centre researchers that examines one of the most delicate and difficult decisions that needs to be made involving premature babies in neonatal intensive care units — when to extubate and allow the babies to breathe without mechanical assistance.

↑ **Martin Gerdzhev, a computer science doctoral student, is part of a research team creating an AI-enhanced robotic wheelchair**

If you do it too soon, you end up having to reinsert the tube — and that’s not a pleasant procedure. But leaving the tube in place for too long carries risks of its own. “We’re looking at all the cardiorespiratory data and all the clinical variables that are recorded in the babies’ charts. We’re collecting this data [to come up with] temporal models that can predict the probability of a baby succeeding if they were extubated,” says Precup.

For all the progress that has recently been made in AI, Bengio says he is wary of some of the sci-fi hype that surrounds his field.

“AI is not magic,” says Bengio. “We are very far away from human-level AI and Terminator scenarios are not grounded in the current science of AI.” Speaking to his McGill audience in the fall, Facebook’s LeCun concurred. “We don’t even have the basic principles to build machines that are as smart as a rat, let alone a human.”

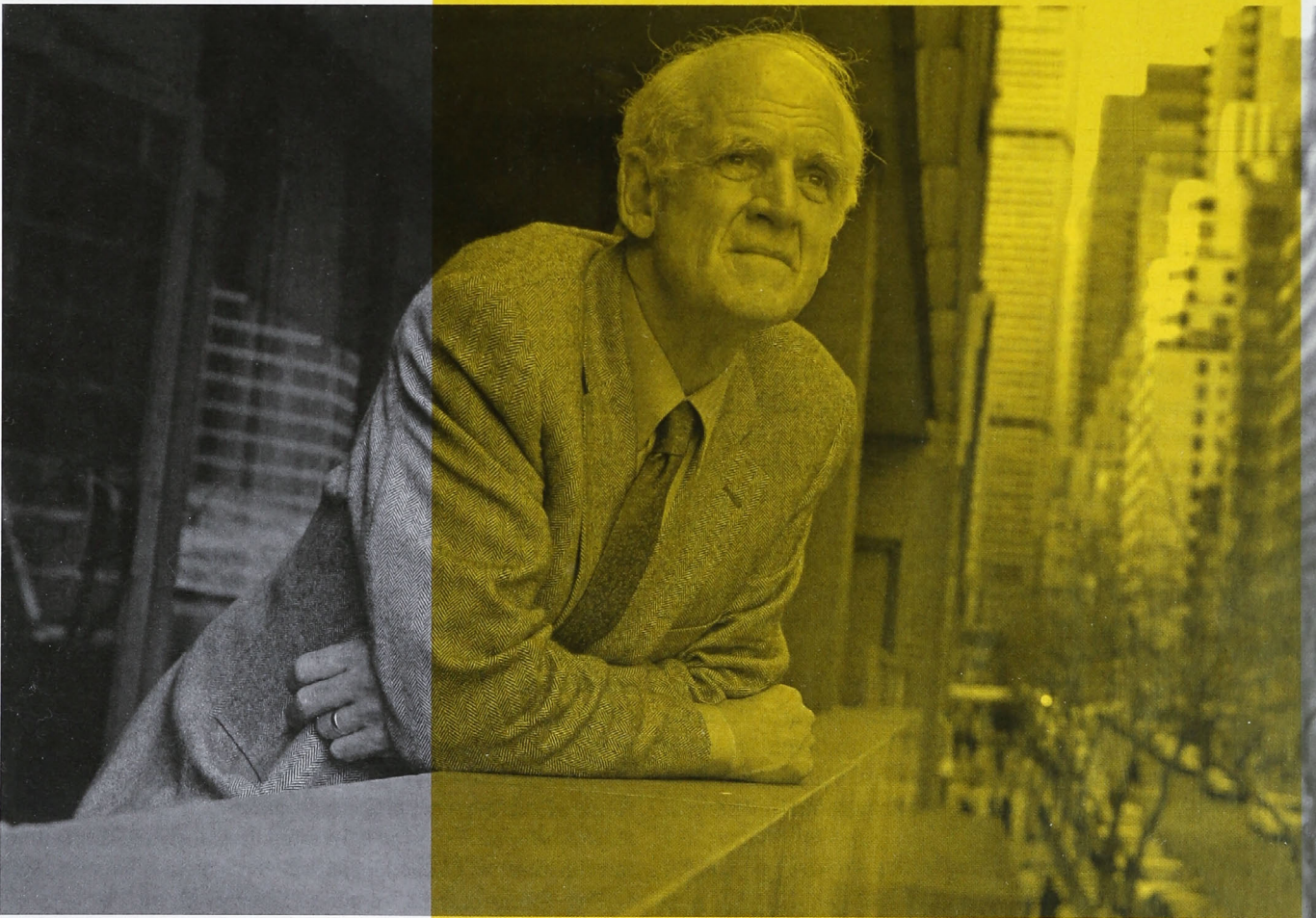
Still, there is no disguising the fact that AI has already begun to transform the technological landscape.

“Some companies have invested massively in AI research, but the majority of good ideas still come from academia,” said LeCun. “Many of them from here, from Montreal.”

A PHILOSOPHER

— OF THE —

HERE AND NOW



NEVILLE ELDER / GETTY IMAGES

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL THINKERS, CHARLES TAYLOR HAS LONG BEEN CELEBRATED FOR HIS COMPASSIONATE AND CLEAR-EYED APPROACH. AS HE TAKES STOCK OF THE 21ST CENTURY, HE SEES CAUSE FOR BOTH HOPE AND ALARM.

by Lisa Fitterman, BA'81

“Which Charles Taylor do you want to talk about?” The question comes from Ed Broadbent, the political scientist and former leader of the New Democratic Party. It is the start of a conversation about his multifaceted, world-renowned philosopher friend whom he calls ‘Chuck’ in everyday parlance.

“The thing about Charles Taylor is that he’s such a rich personality in terms of his accomplishments,” Broadbent says. “If anyone has something useful and imaginative to say about the state of the world, of Canada, of Quebec, of anything, it would be him, because he not only has the intellectual resources of a deeply serious thinker, but also experience and engagement in the messy and complicated details of a living democracy.”

Broadbent could speak about the Taylor whose writings, including *The Sources of the Self*, the 1989 book that presented a history of the modern identity in all its richness and complexity, have been translated into 20 languages. Or the activist New Democrat who, while thwarted in four attempts to win a seat in Parliament, came to Ottawa to eloquently speak in defence of the Meech Lake Accord and how it could have a great and lasting impact, not only in his beloved home province, but in the rest of Canada.

Or, he could speak of the humane philosopher who co-chaired Quebec’s Bouchard-Taylor Commission into reasonable accommodation for religious and cultural differences and recently reacted to the passage of Bill 62, Quebec’s controversial ban on face-coverings, by exhorting the province’s residents to demonstrate the ‘openness and generosity of spirit’ they should always have toward minorities.

Or the internationally acclaimed thinker whose honours over the years include Japan’s Kyoto Prize for arts and philosophy, and, in 2016, the inaugural Berggruen Prize, a \$1 million award that recognizes humanistic thinkers whose ideas have helped shape our understanding in a rapidly transforming world.

In the end, Broadbent sums up his friend like this: “He has never been the lofty, disengaged academic that so many worthwhile academics are. Instead, he always circled back and sought in his life answers as to how to deal with the problems of his country and where he lived in Quebec, particularly in its relationship to Canada.”

“A PERPETUAL STRUGGLE”

No matter how bleak the world may seem, no matter how dangerous or protectionist the pronouncements of politicians, or how alienated middle and working-class people feel, Taylor, BA’52, manages to find hope, for he knows that to be human is to navigate a path filled with both ups and downs.

“There is no escalator of history inevitably pushing us towards more rational thought,” says Taylor in a wide-ranging interview on the day he is to deliver the Beatty Memorial Lecture to a packed concert hall during McGill Homecoming.

“Democracy has inherent dangers and pitfalls built into it. It’s a perpetual struggle to keep what we have and maybe advance a few more inches — and if non-elites play less and less of a role in society, democracy is vulnerable to regression.”

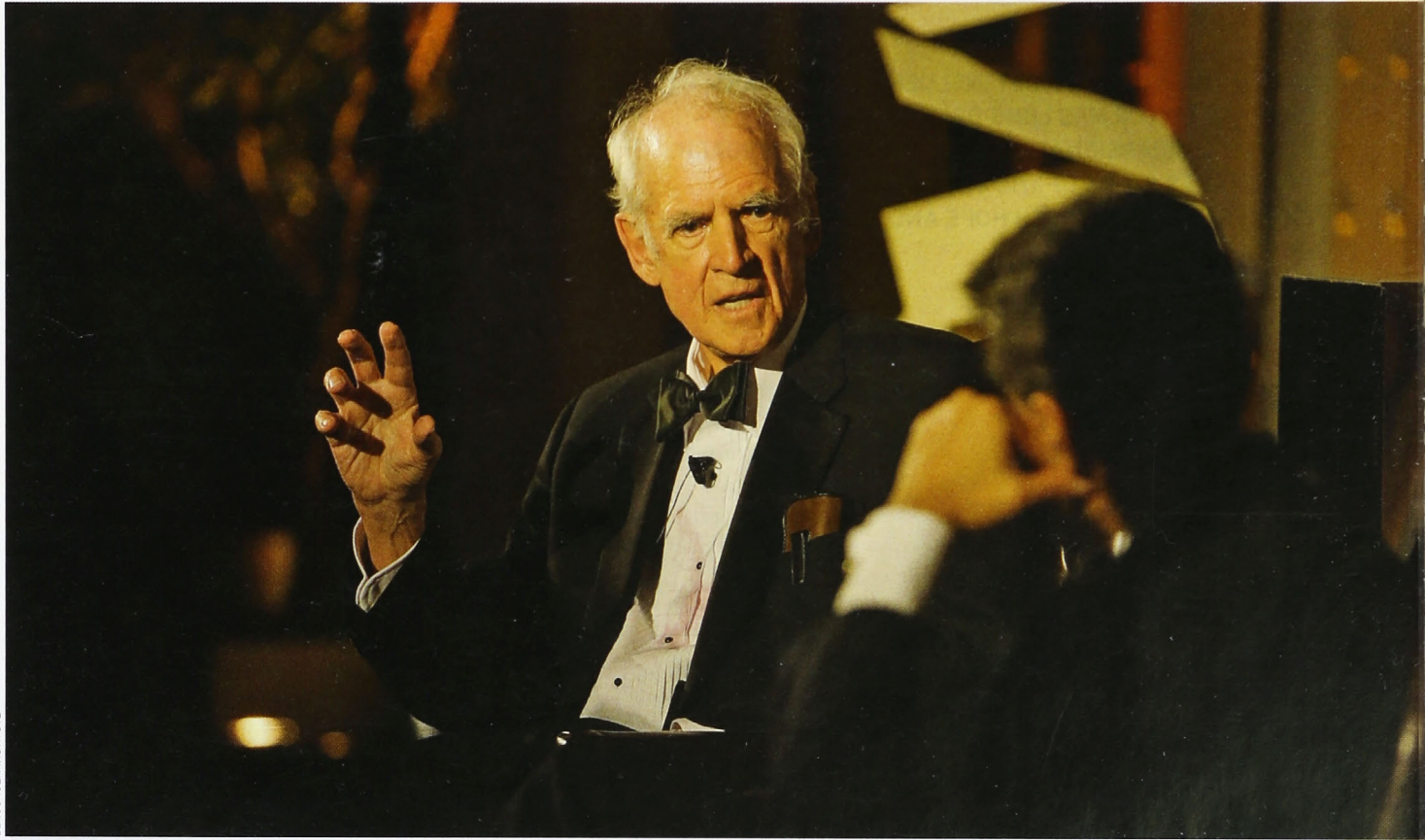
In ancient Greek, Taylor notes that ‘demos’ means the ‘common people,’ the non-elites that democracies need on side to survive and thrive. And one ignores the ‘demos’ at democracy’s peril.

→ Taylor presented the 2017 Beatty Lecture to a packed concert hall during McGill Homecoming



JONI DUFOR

“Parts of the world may seem to be drifting in the direction of totalitarianism, but I think there are also forces working against this.”



BERGGRUEN INSTITUTE

“Right now, Canada is fairly well off in the western world, one of the least bad of these cases,” Taylor says. “Think of it as having a bad cold that could lead to double pneumonia. The U.S., on the other hand, is in the double pneumonia situation and we should look at what can be done to stop it from getting even worse.”

People cannot get complacent, he stresses. There have been triumphal moments when a surge forward seemed a sure thing; moments such as the end of the First World War in 1918, the defeat of Adolf Hitler in 1945 and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. After each one, democracy was supposed to have struck a decisive victory and life for the ‘demos’ was supposed to get better.

But for each vaunted advance, there has been a retreat. Think of Russia in the nineties, which seemed to be transitioning to a democracy until people like current president Vladimir Putin, once a KGB officer, came along. Think of the fragile democracy in Turkey, which shattered after a coup attempt led President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to repress any form of opposition. Think of the long gone Arab Spring in the Middle East and of Poland, the land of Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa, once a beacon of democracy in a post-Soviet world, now lurching to the extreme right.

And yet.

“It’s a process,” Taylor says. “Parts of the world may seem to be drifting in the direction of totalitarianism, but I think there are also forces working against this. I have been involved in politics all my life and to be involved in politics, you have to believe that changes can be made. You have to manufacture a certain horizon of hope to go on acting.”

FAMILY OF BRIDGE-BUILDERS

Taylor grew up in Outremont, the youngest of three children in a home where, contrary to the practice of the time, they were encouraged to both be seen and heard.

His father was Walter Margrave Taylor, known as 'Dee,' an anglophone Protestant from Toronto and a steel magnate. His mother was Simone Marguerite Beaubien, a francophone Roman Catholic from a voluble, politically engaged Montreal family. The parents drummed into their offspring the importance of commitment and community service; to really listen to what was being said, not only directly to them, but in the world at large.

They read newspapers and debated their contents, be it about war, politics or the two solitudes in Quebec. "A lot of people loved to argue in my family," Taylor recalls. "Rhetoric was very important for my formation."

He uses the word, 'formation,' — French for 'training' or 'education' because there was an ease at switching between the two languages amongst his relatives. It was considered normal. Over the years — centuries, really — there had been lots of intermarriage in his family between Protestants and Catholics, francophones and anglophones; they were builders of bridges at a time when it was not done.

When young 'Chuck' and his siblings and cousins ventured out, they were often perplexed by the hardline positions of many in both linguistic communities. "Everybody seemed to me to be very different, with very different vocations and interests and we still got along," he says. "When I was young, I thought the whole world was like that, but it wasn't. Society was much more monolithic — and in Quebec, it was monolithically Catholic. There were pronouncements rather than a dialogue.

"We found ourselves explaining one culture to the other, intent on removing mistrust," Taylor says. "So much of what was going on in the country, what was being said, was rooted in that misunderstanding — the negative view of Quebec in the rest of Canada, the belief that we were a priest-ridden, backwoods province."

His sister Gretta, the oldest of the siblings, set the pace, excelling in her studies and, after marrying Egan Chambers, a steadfast Tory and onetime MP, juggling responsibilities for five children with careers in translation and journalism. In 1991, she became McGill's first female chancellor, a position she held until 1999.

"She was a great example of determination, hard work and brilliance," says Taylor, his voice at once betraying pride and grief at her death in September at the age of 90.

Like her — and like his older brother, Geoffrey Taylor, who died at the age of 44 in an avalanche while skiing in B.C. — Taylor excelled in his studies. After completing a BA in history at McGill in 1952, he moved to Oxford University, first as a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, where he did an undergraduate degree in philosophy, politics and economics. He received his master's degree in 1960 at Oxford, and his PhD in philosophy the following year. His mentors at Oxford included such formidable figures as Isaiah Berlin and the analytic philosopher G.E.M. (Elizabeth) Anscombe.

After completing his doctorate, Taylor returned to Montreal, first teaching in McGill's political science department, then at the Université de Montréal. In 1976, he was named to the prestigious Chichele Chair of Social and Political Theory at Oxford (the celebrated Berlin had once occupied the same position). He moved back to England.

"ENGAGED ON SO MANY LEVELS"

His nephew Geoffrey Chambers was in his second year at Balliol College when Taylor arrived. Now vice-president of the Quebec Community Groups Network, Chambers recalls his uncle helping him to frame his career path. "I wanted to run for the position of president of the junior common room at Balliol, but was having second thoughts because to do so would take up half my time," Chambers recalls. "He said, 'Don't be an idiot. If you want to do it, do it. It won't shrink your time. It will expand you.'"

His uncle taught him not to focus exclusively on the marks he earned. They weren't the only thing that mattered — everything mattered. "He showed me that you have to pursue who you want to be on a broad front," Chambers says. "That is how he has been in his life, engaged on so many levels."



JOHN STILLWELL

↖ Taylor in conversation with Fareed Zakaria as part of the 2016 Berggruen Prize festivities

← Taylor, with his wife Aube Taylor on hand, received the 2007 Templeton Prize from Prince Philip during a private presentation at Buckingham Palace



Chambers wasn't the only one to learn invaluable life lessons from Taylor. When Taylor was awarded the Templeton Prize in 2007 (subsequent winners have included the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu), Daniel Weinstock, BA'83, MA'86, now the director of McGill's Institute for Health and Social Policy, paid tribute to his former teacher in an essay for the *Montreal Gazette*. "More than any philosopher I have met, Taylor can make ideas and arguments live."

When Gopal Sreenivasan, BA'87, first encountered Taylor in a McGill classroom, Sreenivasan was an economics student readying himself for law school. He credits his former professor "for turning me into a philosopher. Or, perhaps better, for helping me to realize that I was a philosopher already, even though I didn't know what that was." He ended up taking five courses with Taylor in all. Today, Sreenivasan is the Crown Professor of Ethics at Duke University.

After he returned to McGill from Oxford in 1982, Taylor continued to carve out a place as an intellectual who always strived to bridge the gap between abstract philosophical theories and political engagement. Among his publications was *Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition*. When Taylor was awarded the Berggruen Prize, University of Pennsylvania president Amy Gutmann, who served on the selection committee for the award, described the book as "a classic text because it eloquently and succinctly conveyed a profound social message that has never been more essential to our world: Due recognition is not just a courtesy we owe people. It is a vital human need."

Taylor also produced *The Malaise of Modernity*, which was based on the CBC Massey Lecture he gave in 1991 and revolves around the modern concept of self-fulfillment. There is something inherently good in the search for self-fulfillment, he says, but only if one distinguishes the good from what is socially and politically dangerous.

Jacob T. Levy, McGill's Tomlinson Professor of Political Theory, says Taylor, as a follower of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, has the conviction that the things we value in our lives, no matter how different, can all make sense together. "He did a lot to set the research agendas I have spent most of my intellectual career working on—on cultural pluralism in society, on overlapping and partial kinds of identity. His thinking has been a foil for my own."

A 'POST-TRUTH' WORLD

It was no surprise that in the turbulent wake of the 2007 provincial election, where issues of multiculturalism and secularism had starring and divisive roles, Jean Charest, the beleaguered premier at the time, appointed Taylor to co-chair the commission into religious accommodation.

"My first contact with him was in Ottawa during the Meech Lake debate," Charest recalls. "Of all the witnesses we heard, he was in my view one of the most significant. He said something that resonated for me about the identity of Quebecers—that the recognition of the province as a distinct society was for them a bridge to the rest of Canada."

During the commission's research phase, Taylor and Gérard Bouchard, an historian and sociologist, held open-microphone, televised hearings throughout the province. Everyone, and every group, had a chance to publicly air their views, no matter how controversial or offensive.

"You had to have a relatively deep, complex understanding of what drove the fear," explains Taylor. "You got a feeling for the ambivalence and what was really worrying people, which was important because if you don't know what's worrying people, you can't appeal to them to change."

Now, more than nine years after the two men released their report with 37 recommendations on secularism, multiculturalism and religious symbols, we are facing new challenges. Taylor does not mince words. We are living in a "post-truth world," he says, with a deluge of non-facts, fake facts and erroneous interpretations of Islam—and too many people seem comfortable living in isolated bubbles, dealing only with those who think as they do.

"They aren't seeking out alternative opinions," he warns. "It's a much tougher environment. That poor, terrible kid who attacked the mosque in Quebec City was influenced by [U.S. president Donald] Trump and by this Islamophobic nonsense."

But even as he invokes Alexandre Bissonnette, the Quebec City man accused of murder and attempted murder in the bloodbath last January at the Centre Culturel Islamique, as a symptom of the geo-political situation, he notes that many are recoiling from the xenophobic politics that Trump represents. And that had a role in defeating people like Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far right Front National, and Geert Wilders of the equally extremist Party for Freedom in The Netherlands.

"What we need now is dialogue," he says. "We need people to reach out from their respective bubbles to each other, to realize that we're all human beings. If only we can talk to each other, we'd learn that." 🐦

✦ Taylor and Gérard Bouchard co-chaired a commission on reasonable accommodation of cultural communities in Quebec

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— THE ROAD TO —

RECONCILIATION

PROMPTED BY THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION'S CALLS TO ACTION, MCGILL IS REEXAMINING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHILE PLANNING TO ALMOST TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY.

by Patrick McDonagh

ABOVE PHOTO:
MCCORD MUSEUM
(ME960.2.5)

"Without First Peoples' House I would have
there was no one else like me here,
which would have been extremely isolating."

The Hochelaga Rock sits prominently on McGill's lower campus, across from the statue of the University's founder James McGill. A monument commemorating the Iroquois village of Hochelaga, whose longhouses once stood where McGill students now gather, the rock is a potent symbol of the Indigenous presence at McGill — past, present and future.

But until it was relocated in the summer of 2016, the Hochelaga Rock had been hidden in an obscure corner of campus. Moving the rock was a recognition of Indigeneity at McGill — and it foreshadowed another, far-reaching initiative: in September 2016, the rock was, appropriately, the site of the official launch of the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education.

The report was largely prompted by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, itself a response to the calamities associated with the residential school system and the suffering endured by scores of Indigenous youth who were torn away from their families and communities. "Education is what got us into this mess," said commission chair Murray Sinclair in one interview, "but education is the key to reconciliation."

"The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report, released in 2015, included many calls for action directed at universities," says McGill provost Chris Manfredi. "And since my time as dean of arts, I have been interested in how we could better serve and promote Indigenous students and faculty."

With the TRC report serving as a catalyst, the task force set out first to identify what McGill was already doing. "Many fantastic initiatives were operating behind a veil, and with unsustainable funding," says Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Priorities) Angela Campbell, BA'95, BCL'99, LLC'99, who co-chaired the task force with former First Peoples' House coordinator Paige Isaac, BSc'08 (a Mi'kmaq woman from Listuguj First Nation), and associate professor of political science Hudson Meadwell. "One immediate impact of the task force has been to raise awareness of these initiatives, so we can build on what exists."

But the task force's impact will extend much further. The final report, released in summer 2017, includes 52 "calls to action" focusing on several main concerns: recruiting and retaining Indigenous students, staff and faculty; ensuring the symbolic recognition and physical representation of the Indigenous presence at the University; incorporating Indigenous perspectives into academic and research programs; and engaging in reciprocally productive relations with Indigenous communities.

A DRAMATIC INCREASE

One thousand Indigenous students enrolled by 2022: that is the magic number in Call for Action #1, and it marks a significant jump from the 385 Indigenous students currently on the books.

"The number is very challenging," agrees Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Ollivier Dyens. "It's

one thing to bring these students to campus, but it's another to keep them here through to graduation, and it's even harder to make sure they have a positive experience at McGill."

Kakwiranó:ron Cook, recently appointed as the special advisor on Indigenous initiatives in the Office of the Provost, is creating an Office for Indigenous Strategy (OIS). It will be his job to monitor McGill's progress in following up on the task force's recommendations. The recruitment of Indigenous students will be one of the key areas he focuses on.

Cook identifies one change that will immediately increase the number of Indigenous students on campus. "Currently, students in Canada can self-identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis, but Indigenous students in the United States have no means to identify themselves as Native Americans, Hawaiians or Alaskans," says Cook, a member of both the Mohawk Nation of Akwesasne, straddling the Quebec-Ontario-New York border, and the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. "Our data needs to reflect the diversity among Indigenous peoples in North America."

Beyond that, he notes, "We're looking at a long-term recruitment strategy, which will involve being more present in Indigenous communities across Quebec." Two members of McGill's student recruitment team will focus on encouraging



▮ The Hochelaga Rock was established by Parks Canada to commemorate the Iroquois settlement of Hochelaga that once existed on the land where McGill sits today



↑ McGill's First People's House (FPH) is an essential resource for Indigenous students at the University

PHOTO: ALEX TRAN

← Hudson Meadwell, Paige Isaac and Angela Campbell co-chaired the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

→ Social work professor and activist Cindy Blackstock



The Hochberg Rock was established by First Nations in connection with the historic settlement of Hochberg. What was once a site of the land where we live today.

“Without First Peoples’ House I would have thought there was no one else like me here, which would have been extremely isolating.”

Indigenous students in communities around Quebec, Canada and the U.S. to consider McGill as a viable option for their future studies.

These efforts will complement established initiatives such as the Eagle Spirit Camp, launched in 2006 through the First Peoples’ House and now led by the Faculty of Medicine’s recently created Indigenous Health Professions Program (which supports McGill’s Indigenous students in the health professions). Designed for Indigenous high school students, the camp emphasizes health and science while encouraging participants to continue their studies and enabling them to meet peers from across Canada. “Our goal is to promote McGill, but also post-secondary education generally,” says Cook.

But interest and awareness are only part of the puzzle – as the task force report observes, the University also needs to develop a financial support system for potential students. “I’ve been a recruiter for McGill for more than seven years, and I’ve seen the University lose a lot of Indigenous students to other universities offering far better financial incentives,” Cook says.

Also, he notes, many Indigenous students not only come from small, remote communities, but are also the first generation of their families to pursue post-secondary education – Montreal and McGill can both be intimidating environments for them. “So once students are here, we will need dedicated Indigenous staff, helping students with their needs: whether it be finding housing, providing tutoring, navigating McGill’s bureaucracy or planning their careers.”

CREATING COMMUNITY

As a crucial home away from home for many of McGill’s Indigenous students, First Peoples’ House (FPH) provides many of these critical services.

“First Peoples’ House allowed me to connect with students who have similar lived experiences and who understand things in a way my other friends wouldn’t,” says Victoria Gagné, a Métis management student from Regina. “The Indigenous population at McGill is incredibly small, so without First Peoples’ House

I would have thought there was no one else like me here, which would have been extremely isolating.”

Upon arriving at McGill, Gagné sought support from the FPH’s Cousins Indigenous Student peer mentoring program, an experience she describes as “extremely important” in her transition to the University; in subsequent years, she acted as a mentor to new students, in addition to getting involved with McGill’s Indigenous Student Alliance, eventually serving as co-president.

Law student André Moreau, a Métis from Penetanguishene, Ontario, reinforces the importance of FPH, noting that it reaches out to incoming students with introductory emails even before they arrive on campus. “Having others to connect with has been crucial. It also creates the opportunity for older students, like myself, who have already earned a degree, to help guide and encourage other students, easing their stress a bit,” he says. “First Peoples House has a nice looking-after-each-other feel that is unique on campus.”

Creating community is a fundamental goal of FPH, says Allan Vicaire, who hails from the Mi’kmaq community of Listuguj, Quebec and this fall took over from Paige Isaac as the new associate director for FPH. “We have lots of ways of doing this – we provide one-on-one support, organize trips, invite elders to campus, host an annual Indigenous Awareness Week and an annual pow-wow, and have weekly home-cooked soup-and-bannock lunches,” he says. “The cultural part of our program is what makes First Peoples’ House special.

“Indigenous students come from different life experiences compared to most McGill students. Belonging to a community that honours their ways of knowing is vital for their well-being and their success at McGill. It is important that we ensure that our services to support students are culturally relevant and guided by our knowledges,” says Vicaire. In November he hosted a weekend retreat with Indigenous students in Ottawa to discuss what supports will be needed for the anticipated increase in students. “We’re looking in a new direction following the task force,” he says. “There is change coming, and at First Peoples’ House students are going to guide that change.”



▮ Allan Vicaire is the associate director for FPH

PHOTO: ALEX TRAN

"Without First Peoples' House I would have thought there was no one else like me here, which would have been extremely isolating."

A SHIFT IN CONSCIOUSNESS

McGill launched a minor in Indigenous studies in 2014, and classes in the program have been consistently filled to their maximum. "Across the University, and the country, there is a shift in consciousness about Indigenous topics, knowledge, and political relations," says the program's director, assistant professor of history Allan Downey, who is Dakelh from the Nak'azdli First Nation in central British Columbia.

"Seeing the support for this program from students, staff, and faculty has been fantastic. But there's a learning process for the University to understand what Indigenous studies is," says Downey. "It's not simply about Indigenous content — it's about the engagement with Indigenous knowledge, with its distinct methodology, norms, and expectations."

The program currently can't meet demand, with Downey as the only permanent faculty member. "We'd like to offer more, such as giving students opportunities to go on internships, have field experience, and really give back to the community," he says, noting that Indigenous studies majors have proven successful at many other Canadian universities.

"It's great to be having success, but we're realistic. We're a small, upstart program still trying to secure funding." Still, the program has garnered attention, and the task force report has recommended developing it further as a major program, with the intent of eventually establishing an Institute of Indigenous Studies and Community Engagement.

Currently Downey is one of only a handful of Indigenous tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Another is social work professor Cindy Blackstock, of the Gitksan First Nation, who joined McGill in 2016. "I think it critical that McGill reflects the society we live in, which includes recruiting Indigenous faculty and students, but you have to tackle the bones of the institution, which are colonial, and see how they could be reimagined to be more welcoming not only to the ontologies and epistemologies of Indigenous peoples, but to an increasingly diverse Canada itself," she says. "And then Indigenous students and faculty will choose to come."



Indeed, Blackstock chose to come when the University recognized the importance of her non-academic work in addition to her many scholarly contributions. As executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Blackstock led a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case against the federal government on inequitable funding for First Nations child welfare, successfully arguing that this chronic underfunding was racial discrimination. The current government (after much lobbying by Blackstock and others) pledged to address the underfunding in its 2018 budget.

"I couldn't abandon my work attacking racial discrimination in federal fiscal policy, leaving behind the 165,000 kids represented in the tribunal, to take an academic position. But I am also at a stage in my career where I see a value in mentoring a new generation of social workers to continue this work," she says. "So we were able to craft a position where I didn't have to make that choice, but could do both at the same time."

REIMAGINING RELATIONSHIPS

Blackstock's work represents one aspect of the need for productive community engagement foregrounded by the task force; the Indigenous studies program also emphasizes the importance of reciprocity in exchanges with communities. "We are active in local communities, especially the Mohawk communities of Kahnawà:ke and Kanehsatà:ke, through our public events and our speaker series, consulting with them on who they would like to see, working out partnerships, and bringing speakers out to the community," says Downey.

However, McGill's history of interactions with Indigenous peoples is "complex," to use the term adopted in the task force's report, and the same could be said for universities in general. "There is a horrific legacy of the academy entering into communities and basically extracting objects and knowledge. And this remains a problem today. Just as there are great, fruitful and reciprocal relationships, there remain cases of this extraction," says Downey.

"We need to ensure that we are operating in real partnerships with shared benefits, rather than simply parachuting in teachers,

➤ Assistant professor of history
Allan Downey oversees McGill's
Indigenous Studies program

PHOTO: ALEX TRAN

A BROADER APPROACH TO LAW

students, or researchers, who take away knowledge without giving anything back, perpetuating colonial approaches,” says Angela Campbell.

Increasingly, Indigenous communities across Quebec are collaborating with McGill to benefit from university education adapted in culturally relevant ways. The Office of First Nations and Inuit Education, based in the Faculty of Education, is a pioneer in this realm. The office was founded in 1981 to design, develop and provide teacher-education and professional development programs for Indigenous teachers in First Nations and Inuit communities across Quebec. It currently works with Indigenous education authorities such as the Kativik School Board in Nunavik, the Cree School Board, the Listuguj Education Directorate and the Kahnawà:ke and Kanehsatà:ke education centres.

Another longstanding collaboration can be found at Macdonald Campus where the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) carries out participatory research projects guided by Indigenous partners to address questions and concerns about the environment and the sustainability of traditional food systems. The members of CINE's governing board include Dene national chief Bill Erasmus and Eva Johnson, the environment protection coordinator for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke.

Downey sees the task force report as a potential turning point for McGill. “We have to be accountable to those recommendations, and act on them, and that means a lot of heavy lifting across all levels. There is the potential now to really shift the course of McGill in a great way, which will have an impact on all of us at the University and in positive relationships with the communities around us,” he says.

Blackstock agrees. “The commitment to Indigenous students benefits all students. I am hoping that not only will Indigenous students be able to walk in McGill's world, but that all students will be able to walk in both worlds. And, increasingly, that McGill respects and honours the thought, knowledge, experiences and contributions of Indigenous peoples.”

Patrick McDonagh is a Montreal-based writer and teacher. His article on McGill's International Community Action Network, which appeared in our summer 2017 edition, received a gold medal from the Canadian Online Publishing Awards.

The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report included among its calls for action that law schools “require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law ... This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.”

To address this, the Faculty of Law launched its own task force running in parallel with the provost's task force. The Faculty created the new position of student advising administrator (Indigenous & equity-seeking student groups) this past fall and hired Charlotte Burns, BCL/LLD'12, who has first-hand experience in what it's like to be an Indigenous law student at McGill, to fill the role. It also welcomed a record 10 Indigenous students into its first-year class. New courses on criminal justice and property law include sections on Indigenous legal traditions.

“I'm seeing a lot of willingness on the part of students and faculty to engage with the idea of reconciliation. People see the need to do it,” says Véronique Bélanger, BCL'91, LLB'91, LLM'99, the Faculty's assistant dean (strategic planning) and the chair of its task force. Last January, first-year law students took part in an intensive week on Indigenous legal traditions, and the Faculty continued this initiative by introducing 2017's first-year students to Indigenous legal traditions in their first week of classes. Aaron Mills, who is Anishinaabe, will be joining the Faculty next August as an assistant professor. He'll be teaching a course on Indigenous constitutionalism.

Last summer, the Faculty offered a one-credit Anishinaabe law course led by John Borrows, the holder of the University of Victoria's Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, who is at McGill for one year as Distinguished Tomlinson Visiting Professor. Borrows, himself Anishinaabe/Ojibway, brought 20 students (selected from 60 applicants) for a three-day intensive course to his home community of Neyaashiinigmiing on the Bruce Peninsula in Georgian Bay, where he and a group of elders taught Anishinaabe law, focusing not just on content, but on the sources of law in Indigenous traditions.

“Every lesson was tied closely to language and linked to stories. The course really challenged notions of what law can be,” says Métis law student André Moreau. “It's not just a code or legislation, but something much more lived.”

PM

APPRECHER
UN BROAD
LAW

Is travaillent à la fois sur, pour et avec Montréal. C'est l'idée à la base du Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires en études montréalaises (CRIEM), qui regroupe une cinquantaine de chercheurs de huit établissements québécois, dont le tiers provient de l'Université McGill. « Ensemble, nous essayons de comprendre ce qui fait Montréal », dit Pascal Brissette, qui dirige le CRIEM et le Département de langue et littérature françaises.

Le CRIEM s'inscrit dans une tendance très forte au sein des universités nord-américaines, désireuses de se rapprocher de leur communauté : qu'il suffise de penser au Ryerson City Building Institute de l'Université Ryerson, au CityStudio Vancouver de l'Université Simon Fraser ou à Civic Innovation YYC de l'Université de Calgary. « C'est une belle occasion pour McGill de s'affirmer tant comme une université au Québec et comme une université québécoise », affirme Stéphan Gervais, coordonnateur scientifique du CRIEM et coordonnateur du *Programme d'études sur le Québec*.

Autre particularité du CRIEM : son financement, de source privée. En 2015, la Fondation McConnell y a engagé un million de dollars sur dix ans, et en novembre 2017, la Banque de Montréal annonçait un financement de 2,25 millions de dollars sur dix ans pour l'octroi de bourses et le versement de certains salaires. « Ça n'a pas été facile à obtenir, mais c'était nécessaire », explique Annick Germain, professeure titulaire à l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) et membre du comité de direction du CRIEM. « En raison des normes du *Fonds de recherche du Québec* (FRQ), les chercheurs ne peuvent appartenir qu'à un seul centre de recherche, ce qui est évidemment un problème lorsque le centre est interdisciplinaire. » Le soutien de bailleurs de fonds du secteur privé facilite le financement multisource pour les membres.

UN TRAVAIL DE « MONTRÉALISTES »

LE CENTRE DE RECHERCHES INTERDISCIPLINAIRES EN ÉTUDES MONTRÉALAISES (CRIEM), QUI REGROUPE UNE CINQUANTAINÉ DE CHERCHEURS PROVENANT DE HUIT ÉTABLISSEMENTS QUÉBÉCOIS, A POUR BUT DE « COMPRENDRE CE QUI FAIT MONTRÉAL » ET DE CONTRIBUER AU DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ QUÉBÉCOISE.

Par Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1992)



PHOTO: CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

« MONTRÉALISTE » DANS L'ÂME

Annick Germain, qui a prononcé la conférence inaugurale du CRIEM en 2013, se décrit comme une « montréaliste » convaincue. L'expression résume parfaitement l'objet du CRIEM, où Montréal est à la fois un sujet d'étude et une cause.

C'est ainsi que le CRIEM est devenu un partenaire stratégique de *Je fais Mtl*, un mouvement citoyen à l'origine de 181 projets conçus pour redonner de l'élan à Montréal. À la demande du Service de la diversité sociale de la Ville de Montréal, le CRIEM a également constitué une équipe de chercheurs pour veiller à la mise en place et au développement de la politique de l'enfance de la Ville.

Cette volonté de s'allier à des partenaires externes est très présente au CRIEM. Elle est au cœur même de *Vivre ensemble à Montréal : entre conflits et convivialités*, ouvrage collectif publié chez Atelier 10. « Nous tenions à ce qu'un certain nombre d'articles soient signés par des gens de la communauté, comme la Maison d'Haïti et les cégépiens du Collège de Maisonneuve », précise Annick Germain, qui a codirigé la publication avec Valérie Amiraux (Université de Montréal) et Julie-Anne Boudreau (INRS).

« On doit veiller à élargir les voix de la recherche et ne pas inclure seulement celles provenant du milieu universitaire », lance Stéphan Gervais (B. Ed. 1994, M. Ed. 1997). Pour être membre du CRIEM, les chercheurs doivent obligatoirement adhérer au principe du partage des expertises et de la co-construction du savoir avec le milieu.

Dans cet esprit de maillage université-communauté, une partie du don de la Banque de Montréal servira à l'embauche d'un « conseiller en transfert de connaissances ». Sa mission : mettre en réseau les chercheurs, les associations et la ville. « Il faut être à l'affût des initiatives », déclare Stéphan Gervais, évoquant une belle occasion ratée avec Lande, association consacrée à la réappropriation des terrains vacants. « À un moment donné, ils avaient besoin d'étudiants et de chercheurs pour faire la recension des terrains. Mais nous l'avons su trop tard. Quelqu'un doit se consacrer au travail de veille à temps plein. »

↑ Trois des protagonistes du CRIEM (de gauche à droite) : Gorka Espiau, Pascal Brissette et Stéphan Gervais, respectivement professeur praticien de la Fondation J.W. McConnell, directeur du CRIEM et coordonnateur scientifique du CRIEM.

À L'IMAGE DE MONTRÉAL

Le modus operandi du CRIEM découle de sa genèse. « On se demandait comment contribuer au développement de la société québécoise », se rappelle Pascal Brissette. « En étudiant ce qui se faisait ailleurs, on a trouvé pas mal de chercheurs qui s'intéressaient au Québec par le truchement de Montréal, mais on a aussi constaté l'absence de centre de recherche multidisciplinaire consacré à Montréal. »

Pascal Brissette et Stéphan Gervais ont donc entrepris de rassembler ces chercheurs. Habituellement, les centres d'études sur la ville réunissent surtout des architectes, des urbanistes, des géographes, des sociologues et des politologues. Le tandem a ajouté à cette brigade des juristes, des littéraires, des philosophes, des historiens, des économistes et même des professeurs de médecine. « C'est ce qui nous distingue des autres centres de recherche sur des villes comme ceux de Boston, de Londres ou de Washington. »

Comme ses fondateurs n'ont pas suivi de recette empruntée, le CRIEM ressemble à Montréal. « C'est une chose dont on s'est aperçu après l'avoir créé. En fait, tous les grands centres d'études sur la ville ressemblent à leur ville. »

Il cite le cas de LSE Cities, créé par la London School of Economics et résolument axé sur l'économie. Quant à la BARI (Boston Area Research Initiative), consortium formé du MIT, de l'Université Harvard et de la ville de Boston, elle travaille dans les données quantifiables. À Washington, le Centre Wilson, sous l'autorité du Congrès de par sa charte, est foncièrement politique. « Le CRIEM relève de la Faculté des arts, et ça tombe bien : quand on pense à Montréal, on pense culture, langue, diversité. »

SI MONTRÉAL M'ÉTAIT CONTÉE...

Un thème important des travaux du CRIEM, c'est la recherche du « récit collectif » montréalais. « Il y a les récits individuels, les récits collectifs et les récits transformationnels, ceux qui produisent de l'action et du changement », explique Gorka Espiau, professeur praticien de la Fondation de la famille J.W. McConnell, qui travaille au CRIEM depuis septembre 2016 pour un mandat de deux ans. Basque d'origine, cet ancien directeur des relations internationales et du programme *Places* de la Fondation Young (à Londres) est un spécialiste des innovations sociales et de la transformation urbaine.



PAUL FOURNIER

« Un récit collectif se nourrit de faits, mais ça ne suffit pas. Ce qui importe, c'est ce que l'on dit des faits. »

« Quand un mauvais quartier devient cool, c'est parce que le récit a changé. La volonté et la perception ne sont plus les mêmes, tant chez les nouveaux que chez les anciens résidents. C'est pareil au sein d'une ville », dit Gorka Espiau, pour qui le récit n'est pas une conséquence du changement, mais bien sa cause profonde.

« Autrement dit, la transformation est possible quand elle est autorisée socialement. Qu'est-ce qui crée le déclic? Comment le renforcer? C'est ça qu'on cherche », explique Pascal Brissette, dont la thèse portait sur les mythes littéraires et les récits collectifs. Pascal Brissette a beaucoup travaillé avec Marc Angenot, professeur émérite titulaire de la Chaire James McGill sur le discours social et père de la théorie du discours social.

« Un récit collectif se nourrit de faits, mais ça ne suffit pas. La preuve, c'est Donald Trump. Ce qui importe, c'est ce que l'on dit des faits », affirme Pascal Brissette, constatant que Montréal et le Québec divergent sur le plan du récit. « En dehors de Montréal, la société tient un discours de perte d'acquis, alors que Montréal, elle, est en reconstruction. Montréal s'est classée première ville étudiante du monde. Sur le continent, c'est la deuxième ville universitaire après Boston, mais Montréal ne le sait pas encore elle-même. »

Le CRIEM est actuellement le maître d'œuvre d'un ambitieux projet de recherche du récit sur le terrain. « Le but est d'en arriver à un Observatoire des récits de Montréal », dit Gorka Espiau, qui y consacre tout son temps. Une première expérience, appelée *Amplifier Gamelin*, visait à comprendre le récit collectif entourant le parc Émilie-Gamelin. La deuxième, *Amplifier Côte-des-Neiges*, vise le même objectif, mais à l'échelle d'un quartier.

Ce projet requiert la contribution de l'Université Concordia, de la Fondation McConnell et de Centraide, entre autres partenaires. Le travail, qui occupe neuf employés, dont une demi-douzaine d'ethnographes, consiste en une collecte qualitative de témoignages, d'une part, et en une analyse de mégadonnées puisées dans les réseaux sociaux, d'autre part. « Quand on étudie le récit, ce qu'on étudie en réalité, c'est le processus culturel de la transformation », indique Gorka Espiau, qui veut que ce modèle fournisse des informations réelles aux décideurs. « Notre plateforme d'écoute ne servira pas seulement à comprendre, mais à diriger l'action. »

TRANSFORMER MONTRÉAL

Car le véritable objectif du CRIEM, c'est de participer à la transformation de Montréal. Ce qui est en soi un exercice périlleux sur le plan épistémologique. Après tout, pour des chercheurs montréalais et « montréalistes », si convaincus soient-ils, les arbres peuvent cacher la forêt. « D'où l'intérêt d'avoir un Gorka Espiau parmi nous, qui apporte un regard extérieur sur les transformations sociales en cours ici », dit Pascal Brissette.

« Un processus de transformation, ça résulte de mécanismes normatifs, qui découlent de décisions. Habituellement, les études s'arrêtent là. Tout le monde convient que la dimension culturelle de la décision est cruciale, mais personne ne l'étudie », déplore Gorka Espiau. « Parce que les décisions, elles, découlent de l'attitude et du comportement, lequel découle des croyances, qui se fondent sur un système de valeurs. C'est là qu'agit le récit collectif. »

Gorka Espiau dit faire des pas de géant depuis son arrivée au CRIEM, en septembre 2016. « À la Fondation Young, ils sont dans l'économie et le changement social. Ils savent que le récit est important, mais ils saisissent mal son importance. Au CRIEM, ils ont compris ça dès le premier jour. »

Selon Pascal Brissette, une étude en profondeur du récit montréalais est nécessaire pour favoriser la transformation de Montréal. Le récit, c'est ce qui, par-delà les différences, lie les hommes et les femmes qui habitent le territoire; il recèle aussi bien les conditions du vivre ensemble que de la transformation urbaine. »

Depuis qu'Amazon a annoncé son intention d'ouvrir un second siège social dans une ville du continent, Gorka Espiau observe le brouhaha avec intérêt, alors qu'on ignore si Montréal sera dans la course. « Si Montréal cherche à concurrencer sur la base du prix, ça n'ira nulle part, dit-il. Ça demande plutôt une discussion de haut niveau sur les qualités de l'écosystème montréalais et la place qu'Amazon pourra y occuper. Ça suppose une compréhension fondamentale de ce qu'est Montréal. »

Mais qu'est-ce qui fait Montréal? Sans hésiter, les chercheurs évoquent le secteur culturel, le mouvement coopératif, l'économie sociale et la langue, mais personne ne comprend nettement comment tout cela s'articule avec la mentalité, dont l'un des traits caractéristiques est la diversité. « Les Torontois se sont monté un récit et des slogans sur la diversité, mais pas les Montréalais, même si Montréal est beaucoup plus plurielle dans les faits, avance Annick Germain. Montréal, c'est une diversité assumée, mais peu revendiquée ou affirmée. »

Gorka Espiau en convient : « Les Montréalais imaginent que leur manière de vivre avec la diversité est une chose normale, alors que ça ne l'est pas du tout. C'est tout à fait exceptionnel. C'est un puissant outil de transformation. »

Jean-Benoît Nadeau est chroniqueur au Devoir et reporter à L'actualité. Il vient de publier The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed (St. Martin's Press).

← La mairesse de Montréal, Valérie Plante (à gauche), participe à une conférence de presse convoquée en vue de l'annonce de l'octroi de 3,25 millions de dollars au CRIEM. Étaient également présents à l'événement (de gauche à droite) L. Jacques Ménard, président de BMO Groupe financier, Québec, Suzanne Fortier, principale de l'Université McGill, et Stephen Huddart, président-directeur général de la Fondation McConnell.

MONTREAL

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



THINKSTOCK

The 50 researchers affiliated with the McGill-led Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal (CIRM) have a single goal in common. They want to know what makes their city tick.

“Together, we are trying to understand what makes Montreal,” says Pascal Brissette, a professor of French language and literature at McGill and the director of CIRM.

The CIRM team is busy exploring the things that make Montreal unique. Other cities might have had successes in certain areas that we’re interested in duplicating, but it isn’t a simple or straightforward process, says Brissette. “Borrowed formulas only work if we adapt them to who we are. In order to do that, we need to first understand who we are.”

CIRM is part of a growing trend among North American universities to use their research expertise to foster stronger links with their host cities. Other examples include Simon Fraser University’s CityStudio Vancouver and Ryerson University’s City Building Institute.

“It’s a nice occasion for McGill to fully express its identity not just as a university *in* Quebec, but as one that’s a part of Quebec,” says CIRM’s scientific coordinator Stéphan Gervais, BEd’94, MEd’97.

CIRM’s efforts recently received a substantial boost. At a November event attended by new Montreal mayor Valérie Plante, CIRM announced it had received \$3.25 million in funding support — \$2.25 million from the BMO Financial Group and \$1 million from the McConnell Foundation.

One of CIRM’s chief aims is to strike up partnerships outside university walls. CIRM members are working with the City of Montreal, for instance, to develop a child policy for the city. Part of the money that CIRM received from BMO will go towards hiring a knowledge transfer and partnership advisor who will help to build links between CIRM and other organizations in the city with an eye towards using CIRM expertise to bolster Montreal’s social, cultural and economic development.

Thanks to support from the McConnell Foundation, Gorka Espiau is CIRM’s J.W. McConnell Foundation Visiting Professor of Practice. The former director of international affairs for the Young Foundation in Britain, Espiau is an expert on social innovation and urban transformation. “He brings an outsider’s perspective to the social transformations going on here,” says Brissette.

Espiau is leading an effort at CIRM that looks at “collective narratives.”

“When a bad neighbourhood becomes a cool one, it’s because the narrative has changed. The will and perception of the residents have changed. The same is true of cities,” says Espiau. “So what’s the spark that gets [that] process going?” adds Brissette. “And how do you reinforce it once it’s started? That’s what we are looking for.”

An ongoing project, one that has attracted support from Concordia University, the McConnell Foundation and Centraide, is examining the collective narrative for the Côte-des-Neiges neighbourhood. Personal testimonies collected from residents are being combined with an analysis of mega data gleaned from social media.

According to CIRM members, Montrealers don’t always fully appreciate their own narrative or the things that make their city special. “Montreal [was named] the best city in the world for students and is the second-biggest university city in North America after Boston, but Montrealers don’t know it yet!” says Brissette.

“Toronto has put together a narrative and slogans about diversity. Not Montreal — even if Montreal is actually more diverse,” says Annick Germain, a member of CIRM’s executive committee and a professor at the Montreal-based Institut national de la recherche scientifique. She believes Montrealers largely take this characteristic of their city for granted.

Espiau agrees. “Montrealers imagine their diversity is normal when it’s not. It’s really exceptional. And it’s a powerful tool for transformation.”

BY JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA’92
TRANSLATED BY JULIE BARLOW, BA’91



Join influential leaders
BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

“I benefited from a considerable professional experience when I got involved to confirm an international convention in Montréal. Associating my name with a major convention is a distinction that will follow me for the rest of my career. My involvement also allowed me to generate significant intellectual spinoffs and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in my sector of activity.”

Prof. Wagdi G. Habashi

Director, Computational Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
McGill University
Executive Ambassador, Ambassadors Club



Palais des congrès
de **Montréal**
Club des Ambassadeurs

A CALL TO ACTION ON CONCUSSIONS

KEN DRYDEN, LLB'73, started sounding the alarm about the dangers of concussions several years ago with the growing conviction that it was the biggest issue facing sports.

The former Montreal Canadiens goalie, a six-time Stanley Cup winner, wrote pieces about his concerns for such publications as the *Globe and Mail*, *La Presse* and *Grantland*. By 2015, he was thinking of writing a book on the topic. That's when he heard that former NHLer Steve Montador had been found dead in his Mississauga home, nearly three years after playing his last game with the Chicago Blackhawks.

Montador, a popular figure with former teammates, had struggled with addiction and the effects of concussions. He was only 35.

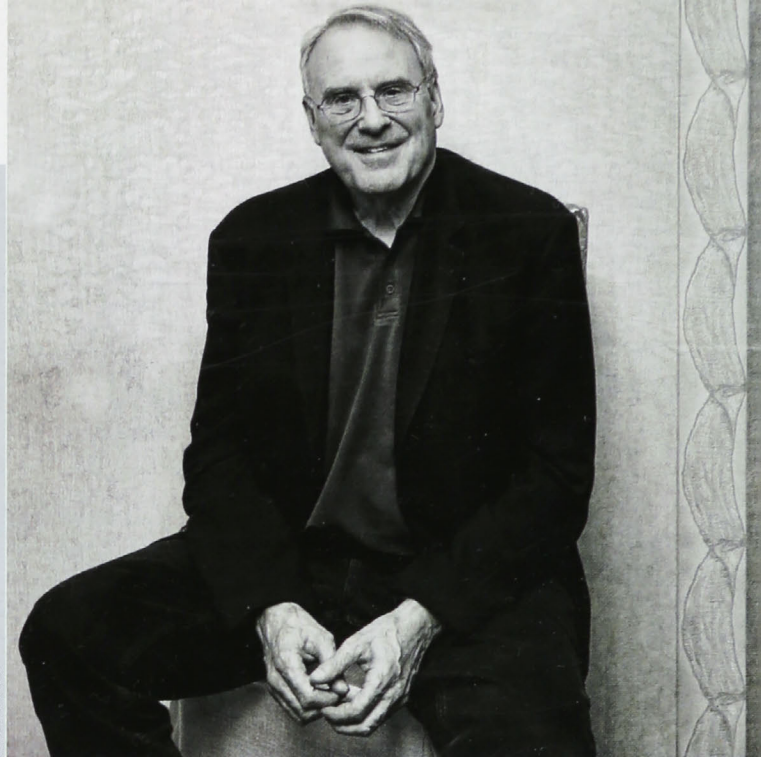
With Montador's family on board, Dryden decided to make him the focus of his new book, *Game Change*. The opening narrative describes a neuropathologist's examination of Montador's brain that winds its way to the disturbing conclusion that he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative condition linked to repeated head trauma.

In the book, Dryden explores how hockey has evolved since 1875, when McGill students took part in the first organized game at Victoria Skating Rink in Montreal. Where NHL players once paced themselves through long shifts and stickhandled up the ice, they now pass in a full-sprint game with little time or space on the ice — and more collisions.

The game has changed, and so should the rules, Dryden suggests, to reduce hits to the head.

"What I tried to do with the story of the game, is to say, you think that by saying that a game can't change, you're wrapping yourself in the flag of the purist and the traditionalist. Well, if you really knew the history of this game, you would see how this game has changed overwhelmingly in its time." For instance, says Dryden, "for the first 54 years of hockey you couldn't make a forward pass."

In putting together the book, Dryden spoke with former NHLers Keith Primeau and Marc Savard about their struggles with concussions (both men dealt with severe and debilitating symptoms for years). He also talked to Toronto-based neurosurgeon Karen Johnston (the former director of the concussion program at the McGill Sport Medicine Clinic) and McGill neurology and neurosurgery professor Alain Ptito, BA'75, who have collaborated on concussion research and raised awareness about the injury.



SERGEY SMIRNOV

Ultimately, the answer for brain injuries in professional sports rests with the decision-makers, says Dryden, who tries to prod NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and the league into taking action to reduce blows to the head. Dryden's most urgent recommendation is straightforward.

"There should be no such thing as a 'legal' check to the head," Dryden writes.

At times heart-wrenching, *Game Change* recounts how Montador, who suffered his first concussion at the age of 12, struggled with the effects of concussions at the end of his NHL career and afterward, including memory problems and depression. He also battled addiction. A former teammate recounted how Montador would spend time at Starbucks on his laptop researching concussions and what was going to happen to him as a result.

How hard was it for Dryden to write the book?

"Most of the time it was not hard at all because it was talking to people for whom Steve was such a vivid guy," says Dryden, recalling many laughs. "He was just a very funny guy."

Reading some of Montador's journals toward the end was difficult, though. His deteriorating condition was obvious. "It was the changes of the handwriting ... it was the way in which things would come out, that it was more frenzied, it was more incomprehensible. Those parts were very hard to deal with."

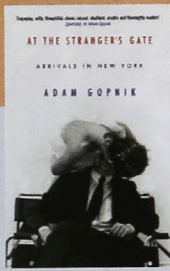
Asked if Bettman has dropped the ball on this issue, Dryden responds that pointing fingers merely results in fingers pointed in other directions. "It doesn't serve the purpose of things being better. And that's what this is about."

BRENDA BRANSWELL

↑ Hockey Hall of Famer Ken Dryden's new book was shortlisted for the B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

AT THE STRANGERS' GATE

by Adam Gopnik, BA'80, DLitt'13



In 1983, a young McGill graduate landed a 1,500 square foot apartment in the SoHo neighbourhood of Manhattan for \$832 a month. That in itself warrants a book but, since the graduate in question was *New Yorker* scribe Adam Gopnik, it's a particularly entertaining book.

Gopnik's latest offering recounts his early years in New York and his quirky adventures in marriage, employment and rental properties. In many ways it's an artist's coming-of-age story, a literary cross between Lena Dunham's *Girls* and Joni Mitchell's *Boho Dance*.

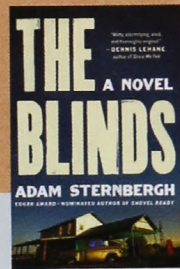
The book chronicles the eighties, an era that starts with Gopnik's marriage to fellow McGill graduate Martha Parker, BA'80, and ends with a steady gig at *The New Yorker*. In between those biographic bookends are stories about his various jobs (like grooming editor at *GQ*) and portraits of acquaintances like fashion photographer Richard Avedon and artist Jeff Koons.

Along the way to his eventual destination at *The New Yorker*, Gopnik reflects upon married life, food, art, aesthetics and Manhattan apartments affected, in one way or another, by cockroaches, mice, dead fish and rats. After all, with a monthly rent of only \$832, a little wildlife is to be expected.

ANDREW MAHON

THE BLINDS

by Adam Sternbergh, BA'93



Early on in Adam Sternbergh's novel, someone is murdered. We don't have to wait long to find out who pulled the trigger (though the killer's motives aren't clear right away). You see, *The Blinds* isn't so much a whodunit as a "who are these people?"

No one in the tiny Texas community called Caesura is who they seem to be. Most of the people there, all living in identical cinder block bungalows, have done terrible things. The twist is they remember none of it. They know they're probably guilty of something bad, but they have no memories associated with their crimes. Most are happy enough to leave their grim pasts behind.

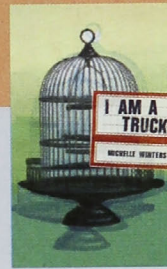
Caesura, nicknamed the Blinds, is part science experiment, part witness relocation program. And while the residents have had their memories erased, there are those outside the community's 14-foot security fence who know exactly what Caesura's residents have done. The town's sly sheriff (who has secrets of his own) sees the storm clouds forming. Can he prevent a bloodbath?

It's not surprising that the TV rights for Sternbergh's inventive page-turner have already been sold. Chances are once you've finished *The Blinds*, you'll want to know what happens next in Caesura.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

I AM A TRUCK

by Michelle Winters, BA'94



Réjean, a big bear of a man living in rural Acadia, has two great loves in his life — his wife Agathe and his Chevy Silverado. Agathe, in turn, adores her husband (she doesn't quite share his passion for the truck).

But as they approach their 20th wedding anniversary, they're both secretly haunted by a hard-to-define yearning for something more in their lives. Then Réjean disappears, leaving behind a grief-stricken but resilient Agathe to wonder what happened.

Réjean's unlikely best friend, a nervous, socially awkward car salesman, might know Réjean's fate. Agathe finds some comfort in the company of a brash new coworker who introduces her to the joys of rock and roll. And what role does the mysterious and intimidating "colonel," a sublimely talented cheese maker, play in all of this?

A sweet, quirky and poignant book, *I Am a Truck* is also noteworthy for its bilingual approach. While written in English, its two chief characters converse in French for the most part.

The book was a come-out-of-nowhere finalist for the 2017 Giller Prize. Winters won't catch readers by surprise next time. The word is now out there about her remarkable storytelling gifts.

DM

UNCOMMON GOOD

by Busty and the Bass



The nine members of Busty and the Bass met at McGill where they were all studying jazz at the Schulich School of Music. Their musical tastes weren't restricted to jazz, though, and the young musicians joined forces to pursue a particularly exuberant blend of soul, funk, hip-hop and dance, fueled by smooth vocals, synthy grooves and spirited horns.

That recipe earned them a loyal fan base in Montreal and garnered national attention when CBC Music named them Canada's Best Campus Band in 2014. In a few short years, they went from performing at house parties to opening for Anderson .Paak at the Montreal International Jazz Festival in front of a crowd of 80,000. They even won over Macy Gray with a cover version of her classic "I Try" which she declared was "beeyooteefoh!"

Uncommon Ground marks their most ambitious effort yet, with Grammy Award winning producer/mixer Neal Pogue (he's worked with Outkast, MIA and Nikki Minaj) guiding their sound. The results are hard to resist.

Le Devoir characterizes the offerings on *Uncommon Good* as being propelled by "contagious good humour," while *Flare* describes the album as a "sophisticated cross between smooth jazz and top 40 pop."

DM

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WEEKEND 2017

Professor Emeritus Charles Taylor, BA'52, provided the insight, Rex Murphy provided the humour and the McGill Redmen provided the football, as graduates and old friends alike came back to McGill for reunions, events and fun during Homecoming Weekend 2017.

This year's Homecoming welcomed more than 3,100 attendees for festivities on October 12-14, featuring popular mainstays including the Beatty Memorial Lecture, the Annual Leacock Luncheon and the Golden Jubilee Anniversary Dinner – along with special events like the Great Debate in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the McGill Debating Union and *La Balade pour la Paix*, organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in collaboration with McGill showcasing a unique art exhibition.

Throughout the weekend, alumni from around the world and from many graduating classes gathered to renew acquaintances and celebrate McGill connections including members of the Class of '47, celebrating their 70th anniversary. Among the intrepid group was Jane Ranken Bishop-Schissler, BCom'47, whose prescient graduation year-book quote from seven decades ago neatly summed up the spirit of Homecoming 2017: "given to sports, laughter and much company."

Photos by Owen Egan, Paul Fournier and Tom DiSandolo.



↑ Soccer all-star Shari Fraser, BA'07, was among six honorees inducted into the McGill Sports Hall of Fame at this year's Annual Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon.



↑ One of the highlights of Mac Homecoming was the presentation of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Pictured with Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean Anja Geitmann (left) are recipients Karen C. Altfest, DipEd'61; Loloah Chamoun, BSc(FSc)'15; Anton Angelich, BSc(FSc)'73.





↓ Members of the 2002 McGill Redmen football team (plus McGill mascot) gather during the Homecoming Football Game to celebrate the 15th anniversary of their Dunsmore Cup championship season.

↑ Joining the festivities with Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, at the Golden Jubilee Dinner celebration were members of the Class of '47 celebrating 70 years of McGill memories. From left: Robert Lee, BEng'47; John Baker, BCom'47; Murray D. Locke, BEng'47; Principal Fortier; Otto Cepella, BEng'47; Jane Ranken Bishop-Schissler, BCom'47.



Scarlet Key Society



← Speaking at the Scarlet Key Leadership Panel & Brunch (left to right): Eytan Bensoussan, BSc'05, BCL/LLB'10, MBA'10; Lerona Dana Lewis, MSc'10, PhD'16; Ryan Tomicic, BEng'04, BCL/LLB'10; Safina Adatia, BA&BSc'13, MSc'15.



→ A victorious lecture by Rex Murphy entertained a sold-out crowd at the 48th Annual Leacock Luncheon.



← Frank and Oak's Hicham Ratnani, BEng'08, is flanked by wax companions Céline Dion and René Angélil as he speaks to young alumni during an evening with the stars at the Grévin Museum.

SAVE THE DATE!
Homecoming Celebration
Weekend 2018 will be held
October 11-13.

A NEW CHAMPION FOR SCIENCE IN OTTAWA



MONA NEMER's new job gives her unique access to some of the most powerful people in the country and the opportunity to help shape the Canadian government's approach to a wide range of science-related issues.

"Her advice will be invaluable and inform decisions made at the highest levels," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, BA'94, when he officially announced in September that Nemer, PhD'82, would be Canada's chief science advisor.

It's a role that Nemer was eager to take on.

"I've always had a sense that we, the scientists [of this country], needed to be involved in the public discourse [around science issues] because science is just so important for so many aspects of our lives," says Nemer.

"I think it's critical that we maintain our competitiveness when it comes to science in terms of [the global picture], that we don't fall behind. We have some outstanding scientists in this country, we have outstanding young people training in science. We have a good system, but having a good system doesn't mean that it's perfect, it doesn't mean you shouldn't continue to tweak it and pay attention to it."

The vice-principal of research at the University of Ottawa for 11 years, Nemer is credited with championing interdisciplinary research initiatives and undergraduate research opportunities at that institution. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, her research has contributed to the development of diagnostic tests for heart failure and to our understanding of the genetics of cardiac birth defects.

When asked how she is approaching her new role, Nemer responds, "My general philosophy is, first of all, one of openness. And one of objectivity and impartiality. I'm really hoping that I will manage to involve the [science] community increasingly in the public role, engaging constructively with decision-makers and with the public as well."

➤ **Mona Nemer is Canada's new chief science advisor**

The responsibilities of her job, according to the prime minister's official web site, include ensuring "that government science is fully available to the public, that scientists are able to speak freely about their work, and that scientific analyses are considered when the government makes decisions." She will also be asked to "assess and recommend ways for the government to better support quality scientific research within the federal system." And she will be expected to promote the benefits of science to the public.

"I am very much looking forward to that part," says Nemer. "I have a deep conviction that science is actually part of our culture and our heritage, and we need to take as much pride in it as we take in our other [parts of our] heritage."

Nemer wants Canadians to be more aware of the quality of the work done by the country's scientists, but she has deeper concerns when it comes to the general public and science. "We have close to half the public who doesn't believe in science, who think it is opinion or propaganda or things like that. I think that is pretty worrisome," she told the *Ottawa Citizen* in a recent interview.

Before moving on to the University of Ottawa, Nemer spent many years in Montreal, doing her doctoral studies at McGill and eventually being awarded a Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Cell Differentiation at the Université de Montréal (she also served as an adjunct professor at McGill).

"McGill is very close to my heart," says Nemer. "I did my PhD in the Department of Chemistry, which was, and still is, the top chemistry department in the country. I did my PhD in an area of chemistry that, I guess, was sort of off the radar and unconventional. I learned from that to be bold, to follow your instincts, to be persistent and determined, and I think these were traits that were all encouraged at McGill."

"I also enjoyed very much happy hour on Friday afternoons at Thompson House. I was disappointed when I could no longer attend there [after I completed my degree] and needed some of my own graduate students to take me along. But we worked it out." 🐦

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CHARLES BARNES, BSc(Agr)'61, earned a bronze medal in the 80-84 age group at the World Triathlon Championships in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The 80-year-old completed the 750 metre swim, 20 km bike ride, 5 km run competition in a little over two hours.

M. DAVID GUTTMAN, BSc(Agr)'62, was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal by the governor general, an honour that goes to Canadians who have performed "exceptional deeds that bring honour to our country." He is the co-founder of Bladder Cancer Canada, a patient advocacy organization dedicated to bladder cancer issues. BCC is the founding sponsor of the Canadian Bladder Cancer Information System, a national project that aims to find answers to important questions about the clinical management of bladder cancer.

CHARLES VINCENT, MSc'80, PhD'83, an agronomist and research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, received the Gold Harvest Award for Career Achievement on June 15. Chris Forbes, the deputy minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, presented him with the prize during a ceremony in Ottawa.

PHILIPPE GOBEILLE, BSc(Agr)'04, is the director of the comedic show *Old, Fat & F*cked! Now What?* which premiered at the St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival in June. In addition to co-producing and directing numerous puppet shows, musicals and plays, including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Rialto Theatre, MainLine Theatre) and *West Side Story* (Expression), Philippe is also a writer. His latest commissioned works are the librettos and lyrics for two fairy tale adaptations from Anderson's repertoire, *A Forever Frozen Story* and *The Little Mermaid* (Tohu Bohu Productions).



DANNY ABBREL

FRANCES BRONET, BSc(Arch)'77, BArch'78, BEng'79, began her tenure as the new president of Pratt Institute on January 2, 2018. An award-winning teacher and an expert on multidisciplinary design curricula, she had been serving as senior vice-president and provost at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is a past president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. One of the best-known art and design colleges in the U.S., Pratt Institute is located in New York.

DAVID BERNARD-PERRON, BSc(AgrEnvSc)'12, MSc'15, is the new vice-president of horticulture for Green Organic Dutchman Holdings Ltd. In addition to his role at TGOD, David consults as the chief science officer for Destiny Biotechnology, a company based in Vernon, B.C. that provides living soil systems for organic cannabis production. Earlier in his career, he was the lead agrologist at the Whistler Medical Marijuana Corporation (WMMC), where he designed its certified organic growing program as WMMC became the first fully certified organic licensed producer of medical cannabis in Canada.

ARCHITECTURE

MOSHE SAFDIE, BArch'61, LLD'82, has been named an officer of the Order of Quebec. One of Canada's most celebrated architects, his works include Habitat 67, the National Gallery of Canada, the Musée de la civilisation in Quebec City, the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, and the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem.

ADAM CARUSO, BSc(Arch)'84, BArch'86, his architectural partner Peter St John, and artist Marcus Taylor have been selected to serve as the curatorial team for the British Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018. Adam and Peter are the cofounders of Caruso St John Architects and have worked on several major arts projects including Tate Britain Millbank and Nottingham Contemporary.

ERIC TOKER, MArch'99, and Dedre Toker are the co-founders of Toker + Associates, a Calgary-based firm that recently merged with Lemay, one of Canada's largest architectural design firms. Toker + Associates recently completed the conversion of a former Hudson's Bay store in downtown Edmonton into the new home for the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension. The newly merged firm will be known as Lemay + Toker and Eric and Dedre will be two of the firm's nine partners.

ARTS

MAUREEN ANDERSON, BA'54, was recently recognized as one of "50 Extraordinary Volunteers" by Volunteers West Island. She has been a dedicated volunteer for 20 years with AVATIL, an organization that promotes autonomy and a satisfying quality of life for individuals with mild cognitive or social limitations.

DEBORAH GORHAM, BA'59, is the author of *Marion Dewar: A Life of Action* (Second Story Press), a biography of the former Ottawa mayor and NDP MP. The book won the Ontario History Society's Alison Prentice Award and was a finalist for the City of Ottawa Book Prize in the English non-fiction category.



JENNIFER BAICHWAL, BA'90, MA'96, is the co-director of *Long Time Running*, a documentary about the Canadian rock band the Tragically Hip's 2016 national tour in the wake of lead singer Gord Downie's announcement that he had been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival to glowing reviews. The *Globe and Mail* called the film "riveting," while the *Toronto Star* described it as "thoroughly engrossing and genuinely uplifting."

HOWARD FEDERSPIEL, MA'61, PhD'66, writing under the pen name Emery Buxton, has published two novels on the Korean War. *An Unexpected War* and *A Muddled War* are both available on Amazon. Two more books in the series are forthcoming. While not autobiographical by any means, the novels were inspired by Howard's own service in the U.S. Army before he attended McGill's graduate program in Islamic Studies and then joined the U.S. Department of State.

MYRON ECHENBERG, BA'62, MA'64, is a professor emeritus of history and classical studies at McGill. His new book, *Humboldt's Mexico*, focuses on Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), the world's most illustrious scientist before Charles Darwin. The book focuses on Humboldt's travels in Mexico, a one-year journey that resulted in, among other things, Humboldt's publication of *Political Essays on the Kingdom of New Spain*, a foundational document about Mexico and its cultures that is still widely consulted today.

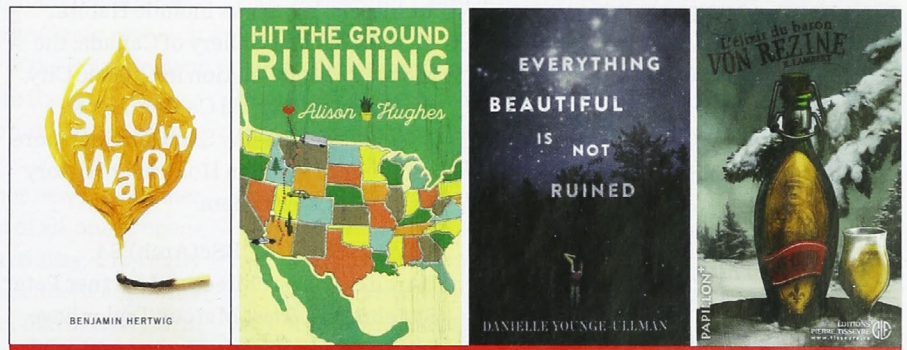
VICTOR TEBOUL MA'71, is the author of *Les Juifs du Québec: In Canada We Trust. Réflexion sur l'identité québécoise* (L'ABC de l'Édition). The book argues that Jews and other minorities are largely absent from la Belle Province's memory and that they are not perceived in the Quebec media or in history books as participants in the building of a French-speaking nation. This perception is particularly strong among many Quebec historians whose outlook is still influenced, according to Teboul, by nationalist sentiments.

RICHARD FADDEN, BA'72, has been appointed to the Order of Canada as an officer in recognition of "his distinguished leadership in the federal public service, notably in the fields of defence and national security." He is a former national security advisor to the prime minister of Canada and the former director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

CHAD GAFFIELD, BA'73, MA'74, has been appointed to the Order of Canada as an officer for "his leadership in interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration as a historian and administrator, and for his pioneering work in the digital humanities." A professor of history and the University Research Chair in Digital Scholarship at the University of Ottawa, he is a former president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

JAN WONG, BA'74, is an author and a professor of journalism at St. Thomas University. Her newest book is *Apron Strings: Navigating Food and Family in France, Italy and China*. The book follows Jan and her son Sam, an aspiring chef, as they research home cooking in countries known for their distinctive cuisine. She is the author of five non-fiction bestsellers, including *Out of the Blue* and *Red China Blues*.

HARVEY RISHIKOF, BA'75, recently released the second edition of *The National Security Enterprise: Navigating the Labyrinth* (Georgetown University Press). The second edition provides practitioners' insights into the operation, missions, and organizational cultures of the principal national security agencies and other institutions that shape the U.S. national security



BENJAMIN HERTWIG, MA'12, **ALISON HUGHES**, LLB'90, **KARINE LAMBERT**, BSc'01, BEd'03, and **DANIELLE YOUNGE-ULLMAN**, BA'94, were all finalists for the 2017 Governor General's Literary Awards. Hertwig's *Slow War* was a finalist for Poetry (English), Hughes's *Hit the Ground Running* and Younge-Ullman's *Everything Beautiful is not Ruined* were both finalists for Young People's Literature – Text (English) and Lambert's *L'Élixir du baron Von Rezine* was a finalist for Young People's Literature – Text (French). The Governor General's Literary Awards, administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, are Canada's oldest prizes for English- and French-language Canadian literature.

decision-making process. The book provides analysis from insiders who have worked at the National Security Council and other critical government entities.

CHARLIE CLARK, BA'76, recently published *Hidden History of Arlington County* (History Press), a collection of essays about a vibrant Washington D.C. community known as a centre for government institutions. Charlie is a longtime journalist in the Washington area who writes the weekly *Our Man in Arlington* column for the *Falls Church News-Press*. He is also a senior correspondent for Government Executive Media Group, part of Atlantic Media.

MARTIAL PAGÉ, BA'81, has been appointed Canada's new permanent representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations that is headquartered in Montreal. Over the course of his career in public service, he has been deputy Canadian ambassador to Japan, chargé d'affaires at the Canadian Embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and ambassador to Lebanon.

MARGUERITE MENDELL, PhD'83, has been appointed a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of "her contributions to social and economic innovation and for her research to develop innovative policy tools and levers to reduce poverty." A professor at Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs, she is also the co-founder of Concordia's Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy.

NATHALIE O'NEIL, BA'84, is Canada's new high commissioner in the Republic of Cameroon. She worked for several years at the Canadian International Development Agency and was the manager and senior analyst in the Operations and Strategic Planning Division for West and Central Africa from 2011 to 2013. She was the director of the aid program at the Canadian Embassy in Senegal.



PAUL BLOOM, BA'85, is the recipient of the 2017 Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize for scientific work of high social relevance to the development of children and young people. A professor of psychology and cognitive science at Yale University, he was recognized for his work into the origins, nature and development of children's moral thought and behaviour. The award includes one million Swiss francs to support research and travel expenses.

MARGIE BORSCHKE, BA'91, is the author of *This is not a Remix: Piracy, Authenticity and Popular Music* (Bloomsbury Publishing). The book examines the analog roots of digital practices and brings the long history of copies and piracy into contact with contemporary controversies about the reproduction, use and circulation of recordings on the internet. She is a senior lecturer of journalism and media at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

CHRIS MCKHOOL, BA'91, is the leader of the Sultans of String, a musical group that has earned three Juno Award nominations for their recordings. A violinist and viola player, Chris co-produced the group's new album, *Christmas Caravan*, which offers an eclectic take on seasonal music and features contributions from Rubén Blades, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Nikki Yanofsky and Paddy Moloney from The Chieftains.

ADAM DODEK, BA'92, is the new dean of the Common Law Section of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. A professor of law at the University of Ottawa, he has taught courses on public law and legislation, legal ethics and responsibility, and a seminar on the Supreme Court of Canada. He is a member of the Chief Justice of Ontario's Advisory Committee on Professionalism. His books include *The Canadian Constitution*, *The Charter Debates* and *Solicitor-Client Privilege*.

HEIDI HULAN, BA'96, is Canada's new ambassador to Austria. She is also Canada's ambassador to Slovakia and Canada's permanent representative to the United Nations in Vienna. She joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1996 and recently served as director general of international security policy. She also served as secretary to the Government of Canada's 09/11 Task Force.

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EMMANUELLE LATRAVERSE, BA'97, won the 2017 Prix Gémeaux for her work as the host of the political affairs show *Les Coulisses du pouvoir*. She is now a senior reporter with ICI Radio-Canada's *Le Téléjournal*. Over the course of her career in journalism, she has covered politics on Parliament Hill, the war in Afghanistan and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

JEFFERY VACANTE, BA'96, an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Western Ontario, recently published *National Manhood and the Creation of Modern Quebec* (UBC Press). The book traces the roots of the modern nationalist movement in Quebec to the early 20th century, when French Canadian men were looking for ways to come to terms with modern industrial society. The book argues that by turning to nationalism, they found a way to define themselves as men and in the process, reinforced existing relations of power that relegated women to a state of cultural inferiority.

JAMES MCKINNON, BA'98, a senior lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington and the director of its theatre program, was one of the recipients of a 2017 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award, a national prize in New Zealand that recognizes innovative teaching. The \$20,000 award was presented to him at a ceremony at Parliament hosted by then New Zealand prime minister Bill English. James has recently been involved in creating "audio walks" around Victoria's Kelburn campus, and exploring ideas about failure, which challenge the success bias in research.

PARUL SEHGAL, BA'03, joined *The New York Times's* team of book critics in July. She was previously a senior editor for *The New York Times Book Review* and wrote a column, "Roving Eye," focused on international literature. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Bookforum*, *The New Yorker* and *Slate*.

REBECCA WOODS, BA'03, an assistant professor of history at the University of Toronto, is the author of *The Herds Shot Round the World: Native Breeds and the British Empire, 1800-1900* (University of North Carolina Press). The book traces how global physiological and ecological diversity eroded under the technological, economic, and cultural system that grew up around the production of livestock by the British Empire.

ANCA SZILÁGYAI, BA'04, published her debut novel *Daughters of the Air* (Lanternfish Press) in December. Giller Prize-winner and fellow McGill alum Sean Michaels, BA'04, lauds the book as "a heartbreaking page-turner, rich in history and humanity." Anca's writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Electric Literature*, and *The Antigonish Review*, among other publications. In 2015, she was awarded the inaugural Artist Trust/Gar LaSalle Storyteller Award, a new \$10,000 prize given annually to a Washington State writer for outstanding fiction.

GRACIA DYER-JALEA, BA'05, recently received the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism from the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration for her role in the creation of the Toronto Ward Museum, Toronto's first museum of migration. One of the museum's six co-founders, she is also its founding executive director. She also recently served as the programming director for Friends of the Pan Am Path, working on Toronto's largest Host City Showcase project for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.

JESSICA SCHAFFER, BA'07, has been named to the sixth annual "Double Chai in the Chi: 36 Under 36" list of young Jewish movers and shakers in Chicago. The director of HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) Chicago, she was recognized for her work in supporting immigrants and refugees and for spearheading the multi-denominational, Congregational Co-sponsorship movement. Double Chai in the Chi candidates are selected by a joint committee of Oy! Chicago and the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago's Young Leadership Division.

CHRIS URQUHART, BA'08, recently published *Dirty Kids: Chasing Freedom with American Nomads* (Greystone Books), a chronicle of the time Chris spent immersed in the radically alternative culture of runaways, crust punks, dropouts, hippies, Deadheads, and Rainbows. *Quill & Quire* described the book as "raw, personal, exciting, and enlightening." Chris's writing has appeared in *VICE*, *Adbusters*, *COLORS Magazine*, *Broken Pencil* and *Maisonneuve*.



REBECCA TAICHMAN, BA'92, received the 2017 Tony Award for Best Director of a Play for *Indecent*, a play that touches on issues of anti-Semitism, homophobia and censorship while exploring the impact of Sholem Asch's controversial 1923 work *God of Vengeance*. The play ended its Broadway run on June 25 and aired on PBS *Great Performances* on November 17.

RACHEL L. WEISBLATT, BA'09, a health care attorney, is now a member of the law firm Verrill Dana's Health Care Group in Boston, Massachusetts. Her practice focuses on a wide variety of transactional, regulatory and litigation matters. Previously, she worked as an associate in the Public Finance Group of Mintz Levin. While in law school, she served as a regulatory practice extern at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission and interned at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office in the Health Care Division.

ALAN BRINSMEAD, BA'10, known professionally as Sinjin Hawke, released his debut album *First Opus* last spring. Available on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and on his homepage at fractalfantasy.net, *First Opus* is a 14-track, immersive audio and visual experience. *The Washington Post* described the album's music as "a scintillating synthesizer symphony that mixes big, brassy hip-hop and melancholic electronica with the sensuality of R&B."

IAN EUGENE RYAN, BA'11, is the co-writer of *Clemente*, a feature length screenplay about baseball legend and humanitarian Roberto Clemente. The screenplay received an award for Best Period Script at the 2017 New Hope Film Festival in Pennsylvania and was nominated for two other prizes. *Clemente* was also a finalist in the WriteMovies 2016 International Screenwriting Competition, earning an honorable mention.

AISHA AHMAD, PhD'13, is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Toronto and the co-director of the Islam and Global Affairs Initiative at the Munk School of Global Affairs. Her new book, *Jihad & Co.* (Oxford University Press), tracks the economic activities of jihadist groups in Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, Mali, and Iraq. In the book she argues that economic savvy, as much as ideological fervor, explains the rise of militant jihadism across the modern Muslim world.

BRITTANY DAVIS, BA'15, a student at Columbia Law School, was selected to take part in the Human Trafficking Institute's inaugural Douglass Fellowship program. Fellows were chosen through a competitive process based on demonstrated academic ability, leadership potential, and commitment to human rights. During their fellowship year, the fellows will support the institute's efforts to provide clear, data-driven materials to scholars and criminal justice practitioners who are fighting human trafficking. Brittany is the current chair for the Domestic Violence Project at Columbia and the president of Rightslink, Columbia Law School's student-run human rights organization.

CLARA LAGACÉ (B. A. 2015) a publié *En cale sèche*, son premier recueil de poésie. En 2015, elle a été récipiendaire du Lionel Shapiro Creative Writing Award à la fin de son baccalauréat en littérature anglaise à l'Université McGill.

THOMAS VALLIERES, BA'15, is one of the actors featured in *Morning After*, a short drama about sexual fluidity. It was among the films selected for

the Rhode Island International Film Festival, where it received the Flickers' Ambassador Award. The film has also been appearing at international festivals in Los Angeles, Oaxaca, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Bucharest, and elsewhere.

EDUCATION

ROBERT ROGERS, BSc(PE)'57, a former president of the Canadian Ski Association, has been inducted into the Sudbury Sports Hall of Fame. He was Team Canada's assistant chef de mission for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano and is the former head of the physical education program at Laurentian University.

BRUCE SHORE, BSc'65, Dip Ed'66, MA'67, an emeritus professor with McGill's Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, received the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children's 2017 International Award for Research. The prize is presented to researchers who have been recognized internationally for having made significant contributions to the field of gifted education.

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JULIE PAYETTE, BEng'86, DSc'03, was installed as Canada's 29th governor general on October 2. A former Canadian astronaut, she took part in two space missions. She has been the Canadian Space Agency's chief astronaut and CAPCOM (capsule communicator) at NASA's Mission Control Center. She has also been the Quebec government's scientific delegate to the United States and the CEO of the Montreal Science Centre. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, BA'94, praised the new governor general as "a trailblazer and a pioneer who proved to boys and girls, men and women across this great country that the sky was, in fact, not the limit."

CHRISTINE HELMER, BEd'87, received an honorary doctorate in theology in June from the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Theology. She is the Arthur E. Andersen Teaching and Research Professor, and a professor of German and religious studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She spent the 2012-2013 academic year as the Marie Curie EURIAS (European Institutes of Advanced Study) Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies, has collaborated with numerous Finnish scholars, and was a member of the international review committee for the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Theology in 2015.

MONA SUE WEISSMARK, BEd'77, is the former director of the Program Initiative for Global Mental Health Studies at Northwestern University's Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, and a visiting professor of psychology at Harvard University where she recently taught a summer course on "The Psychology of Diversity." She is the author of the forthcoming textbook *The Science of Diversity* (Oxford University Press).

MARK ANDREW SIOLEK, BA'95, BEd'96, is the course director for the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association's religious education courses for the Toronto Catholic District School Board. In 2015, Mark was awarded the Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in

Religious Education by the Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario, and in 2016 received the Brian J. Halferty Award for the Meritorious Service to School Chaplaincy in the Province of Ontario from the Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario. Mark is the only educator in Ontario to receive both awards.

DALE BOYLE, BA'01, MEd'03, PhD'11, is an award-winning songwriter and musician. His latest release, *Gasoline*, is a roots rock album recorded with drummer Kenny Aronoff (John Mellencamp, John Fogarty) and bassist James LoMenzo (Ace Frehley, David Lee Roth). The title track placed second in the Americana category at the international Unsigned Only Music Competition, while another song from the album, "My Birmingham," made the finals of the 2017 Canadian Songwriting Competition. Dale has also been a part-time lecturer at McGill since 2012.



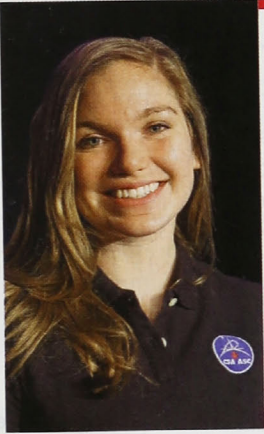
PETER TSANTRIZOS, BEng'79, MEng'81, PhD'88, is the recipient of the 2017 Prix Lionel-Boulet, the Quebec government's top honour for individuals who have contributed to Quebec's economic growth through their scientific and technological innovations. He is the founder, president and CEO of Terragon Environmental Technologies, a Montreal-based company that develops waste management technologies. Earlier in 2017, Terragon received an international GreenTec Award for developing a system that uses cruise ship waste to generate energy for the ships.

ENGINEERING

DEAN JOURNEAUX, BEng'60, was re-elected to the board of New Millennium Iron Corp. in June 2017. He co-founded New Millennium in 2003 after managing mine projects for many years. He has been the company's chief operating officer, president and CEO, and executive vice chairman, stepping down in 2015 as a director. He is a trustee of the CIM Foundation. His prime interest is promoting the participation of First Nations people and women in mining and he is a strong advocate of equitable, fair, clean and safe winning of minerals.

SAEED MIRZA, MEng'62, PhD'67, was named a member of the Order of Canada for "his contributions as a structural engineer specializing in sustainable construction who has made our cities safer by improving urban infrastructures." Saeed is an emeritus professor of civil engineering at McGill and an expert on the design of concrete structures and the preservation of infrastructure.

MAURICE SOLAR, BEng'68, MEng'69, PhD'71, is the 2017 recipient of the MetSoc Airey Award. The prize, which is awarded by the Metallurgical Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, recognizes his 45-year career in process research, technology development and industrial leadership in the nickel industry. Last year, he received the Billiton Gold Medal from the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining for the best paper published in *Transactions of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Section C*.



JENNIFER SIDEY, BEng'11, was selected by the Canadian Space Agency as one of the country's two newest astronauts. She is currently undergoing the two-year Astronaut Candidate Training Program at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Prior to joining the CSA, she was a combustion scientist and assistant professor at the University of Cambridge, where she completed her PhD and co-founded the Cambridge chapter of Robogals, a student-run international organization that encourages young women to pursue STEM studies. She was named Young Woman of the Year in 2016 by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

CHRISTOPHER NOBLE, BEng'77, is director of corporate engagement for MIT's Environmental Solutions Initiative, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

MARY WELLS, BEng'87, is the new dean of the University of Guelph's College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. She was the associate dean of outreach and a professor in mechanical and mechatronics engineering at the University of Waterloo. She has chaired the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering, which promotes the participation of women in engineering, since 2013. Mary received the 2017 Award for the Support of Women in the Engineering Profession from Engineers Canada.

NICOLAS GAUDREAU, BEng'89, is the new chief marketing officer of Reitmans (Canada) Limited and oversees the marketing efforts of all company banners, including Reitmans, RW&CO., Addition Elle, Penningtons, Thyme Maternity and Hyba.

ALEXA DOIG, BEng'92, is the new director of the School of Nursing at New Mexico State University's College of Health and Social Services, and the Elisa E. and Antonio H. Enriquez Endowed Chair. Her research interests have included nurse vigilance and decision making, looking into the effects of work interruptions on novice nurse medication errors, and the biomechanics associated with fall risk among older adults with physical impairments. She spent the last 15 years as a faculty member at the University of Utah.

CAMERON BELL, BEng'15, **JULIEN GUERINET**, BEng'15 and **YULRIC SEQUEIRA**, BEng'14, helped develop CANImmunize, a digital tool for Canadians to keep track of their family's immunization records on their smartphones. The app has been downloaded by more than 167,000 Canadians and is available in both English and French. CANImmunize was developed at the Ottawa Hospital mHealth Lab. Cameron is the lab's lead for design and development, Julien is its lead for development and Yulric is its head of web development.

KRISTINA PEARKES, BEng'17, and **SEAN KAISER**, BEng'17, are the cofounders of Orbityl. Orbityl's insomnia therapy earplugs won the Outstanding Next 36 Venture Award at Next Canada's Venture Day. The idea for the earplugs was conceived in Next Canada's Next 36, an accelerator program for young entrepreneurs that provides mentorship, development and funding.

LAW

IRWIN COTLER, BA'61, BCL'64, has been named an officer of the Order of Quebec. An emeritus professor of law at McGill and a former federal justice minister, he has long been a prominent defender of human rights.

IAN M. SOLLOWAY, BA'70, BCL'73, was named to the board of directors of La Fondation du Barreau du Québec.

NORMAN STEINBERG, BSc'71, BCL'75, was recently awarded the F.R. Scott Award for Distinguished Service from McGill's Faculty of Law. He was recently appointed to the board of directors of First Lion Holdings Inc.,

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HOPE
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BFL Canada Holding Corporation. He is chair emeritus of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada and the former global chair of Norton Rose Fulbright. He is also the co-vice-chair of the board of directors for the McGill University Health Centre Foundation and the chair of its development committee, a vice-chair of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and co-chair of the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum.

DOMINIQUE FORGET, LLB'85, has been appointed to the Income Security Section of the Social Security Tribunal as a new vice-chairperson. She had been the tribunal's senior director, registry, operations and tribunal services. She is a former director of investigations at the Public Service Commission of Canada.

WARREN MILMAN, BA'85, BCL'92, LLB'92, a partner at McCarthy Tétrault LLP for 24 years, has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. In addition to his private practice, he served as the chair of Pro Bono Law of British Columbia and



SHEILAH MARTIN, BCL'81, LLB'81, is the newest justice on the Supreme Court of Canada. She had been serving as a judge of the Courts of Appeal of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. She is a former dean of the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law. As a member of the legal team that looked into redressing the harms caused by the forced attendance of Indigenous children at residential schools, her work contributed to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

devoted a substantial part of his career to promoting meaningful access to justice for ordinary Canadians. He was appointed a governor of the Law Foundation of British Columbia in 2010 and served as chair of its board of governors in 2015 and 2016.

GERRY APOSTOLATOS, BCL'88, LLB'88, was appointed in 2016 as chairman of the board of directors of Langlois Lawyers LLP, a major Quebec based law firm. He continues to practice extensively in the areas of litigation, dispute resolution and advisory.

DAVID BIGIO, BCL'88, LLB'88, has been named Queen's Counsel in New Zealand, an appointment that was made by the governor-general of New Zealand on the recommendation of the attorney-general and with the concurrence of the chief justice. Since 2003, he has practiced as a barrister as part of an independent bar. His practice focuses on civil and commercial litigation, including the fields of real estate and property, building and construction, and trusts and company disputes.

GREGORY MOORE, BCL'94, LLB'94, a partner at Joli-Coeur Lacasse, was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Montreal. From 2014 to 2015, he was the bâtonnier of the Bar of Montreal, working to promote participatory justice and the city's diversity. He also taught intellectual property law and business ethics at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières and has lectured and published articles on a variety of legal issues.

GILLIAN NYCUM, BCL/LLB'07, is the new acting assistant dean (admissions & recruitment) for McGill's Faculty

of Law. Gillian previously held the role during a parental leave in 2014-2015. She had recently been the director of strategic initiatives at Human Impact Lab, a non-profit creative studio working in partnership with Concordia University.

SOPHIE ROY-LAFLEUR, BCL/LLB'11, is the new director of the Career Development Office of McGill's Faculty of Law. Sophie practiced labour law at the Montreal law firm Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand Melançon since 2013 and has also worked for Baker McKenzie in Toronto.

CHARLOTTE BURNS, BCL/LLB'12, was appointed to the newly-established position of student advising administrator (Indigenous & equity-seeking student groups) in McGill's Faculty of Law. Charlotte's main priorities will be providing academic advising and personal support for Indigenous students and students from other equity-seeking groups, such as racialized students, students with a disability, gender non-conforming and trans students.

LAWRENCE DAVID, BCL'14, LLB'14, is currently completing an LLM degree at Harvard Law School, focusing on comparative public and constitutional law. Previously, Lawrence served as legal counsel with Public Safety Canada's Legal Services Unit, the team of Department of Justice lawyers responsible for advising the federal minister of public safety and emergency preparedness. He has also served in Canada's Privy Council Office, providing policy advice to the minister of democratic institutions and to the prime minister. In 2015-16, he served as law clerk to the Supreme Court of Canada's Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella.

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LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES

RICH BOULET, MLIS'00, was named Outstanding Librarian for 2017 by the Maine Library Association. The award is presented annually to a librarian for their demonstrated professional achievements and service to the Maine library community. He is the director of Blue Hill Public Library where circulation has increased by almost 150 per cent since 2012.

MANAGEMENT

WILLIAM P. WILDER, BCom'46, was named a member of the Order of Canada "for his leadership in the business community and for his philanthropic contributions in support of higher education and conservation initiatives." He is the former president of Wood Gundy & Company and the former chairman and chief executive officer of Canadian Arctic Gas. He currently chairs the board of Creemore Springs Brewery.

LESTER FERNANDES, MBA'82, has been appointed to the board of directors of Rideau Recognition Solutions, a company that specializes in corporate and governmental recognition programs and products. He will lead the board's audit committee. Over the course of his 30-year career, he spent more than 15 years working in investment and corporate banking with the Bank of Montreal and served as the co-founder and CFO of Pivotal Payments, a payment processing company.

ALAN EUGENI, BCom'84, BEng'86, MBA'88, is the author of *The Next Plane Crash*, a new book that raises concerns about the safety of air travel in North America. Alan gained a unique perspective on the industry while working as a regional airline pilot with Air Canada Express from 2015 to 2017. He has had a wide-ranging career, which has included creating and selling a closet manufacturing business, and working as a marketing consultant for hi-tech startups. *The Next Plane Crash* is available on Amazon.

RIMA QURESHI, BCom'87, MBA'96, former president and CEO of Ericsson North America, is the new executive vice president and chief strategy officer for Verizon Communications Inc. She oversees the development and implementation of Verizon's overall corporate strategy, including business development and strategic investments. Before becoming president and CEO of Ericsson North America in 2016, she was Ericsson's chief strategy officer and head of mergers and acquisitions.

GRACY PARDILLO, BCom'89, DPA'91, a certified internal auditor, fraud examiner, and chartered professional accountant with more than 28 years of experience, is Concordia University's new controller, effective August 2017. For the past 12 years, she has worked in the university sector in a variety of roles. Most recently she was senior project director of finance and administration at McGill's Faculty of Medicine.

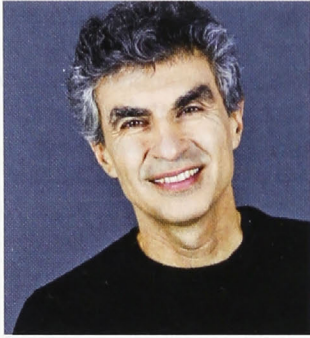
ANTOINETTE NOVIELLO, BCom'91, DPA'93, GradCert Trsy/Fin'97, is the new vice-president, corporate comptroller at Videotron. Having served for

two years as director general, corporate comptroller, and for more than 10 years as part of the Quebecor family, she is now responsible for Videotron's financial and accounting operations, including credit-risk management and collections.

PHILIPPE CLOUTIER, MBA'00, recently became the new senior vice-president and chief financial officer of Videotron. He now oversees all of Videotron's financial operations. He is the former vice president, North American operations, of Reader's Digest and the former president, Canada, of Quad/Graphics (formerly Quebecor World).

GEOFFREY CAPE, MMgmt'02, was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada "for his leadership in designing and building green spaces in schools and communities throughout Canada." Geoff is the founding CEO of Evergreen, a Canadian non-profit committed to transforming public landscapes into thriving community spaces with environmental, social and economic benefits.

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YOSHUA BENGIO, BEng'86, MSc'88, PhD'91, is the winner of the 2017 Prix Marie-Victorin, the Quebec government's top honour for outstanding achievement in pure and applied sciences. One of the world's leading authorities on artificial intelligence and a pioneer in the field of deep learning, he is the Université de Montréal's Canada Research Chair in Statistical Learning Algorithms and the head of the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms.

LAUREN WILSON, BCom'06, recently published *The Walking Dead: The Official Cookbook and Survival Guide* (Insight Editions), a project that was sanctioned by the AMC television network. The book focuses on skills and recipes anyone would need to survive (while trying to avoid being eaten) during an unexpected walker apocalypse. It also contains vital information on foraging, hunting wild game, and cooking outdoors. Lauren has worked in various capacities in the food world, from fine dining to cheese-mongering, online sales, catering and teaching cooking classes. She is also the author of *The Art of Eating through the Zombie Apocalypse*.

JEAN-MICHEL LAVOIE, MBA'09, assistant vice president, product development, group benefits, at Sun Life Financial, was named one of LIMRA's 25 Rising Stars in Innovation under 40. Jean-Michel has played an instrumental role in fostering innovative initiatives, including a new approach to expand access to mental health care for plan members with the launch of a virtual cognitive behavioural therapy program. LIMRA is a worldwide research, learning and development organization.

JACK HAN, BCom'11, is the new player development analyst for the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team. Jack served as the video & analytics coordinator for the McGill Martlets women's hockey team from 2014-17, during which time the team captured two RSEQ provincial titles and twice finished runners-up at the U Sports national championship. Prior to joining the Maple Leafs, He worked in digital media for the Montreal Canadiens and the ATP World Tour.

ÈVE LAURIER, EMBA'11, the general manager for Edelman Montreal, was selected as a finalist for the Québec Women's Business Awards by the Réseau des Femmes d'affaires du Québec in recognition of her leadership, creativity and community involvement. She leads a team of creative communications professionals at the Edelman Montreal office.

MEDICINE

ALEX CROWE, BSc(Agr)'63, MDCM'67, was among the members of the Class of '67 honored at a banquet on May 3 for their contributions to McGill. He has written and published *Cradle to Grave*, which is now available on Amazon in Canada and the USA. The book outlines his experiences in medical school and during his medical career and is divided into chapters on surgery, medicine, pediatrics, ER, ICU, obstetrics and house calls. The book also deals with medicare and medical litigation.

CAROL LILLIAN RICHARDS, BSc(PT)'69, PhD'80, has been named a knight of the Order of Quebec. One of the first physiotherapists to earn a doctorate in Canada, she is the Université Laval Research Chair in Cerebral Palsy and was the founding director of two Quebec rehabilitation agencies: the Quebec Rehabilitation Research Network (REPAR) and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation and Social Integration (CIRRIS). Her research has played an important role in improving the lives of stroke survivors.

RICHARD LEBLANC, MSc'84, is the author of *Fearful Symmetry*, which recounts the story of Paul Broca's pioneering 19th century discovery that speech resides within the left frontal lobe of the human brain. Broca, a young surgeon working at a hospice on the outskirts of Paris, had to overcome vindictive personal attacks before his findings were accepted. Richard is a professor of neurology and neurosurgery at McGill, as well as a neurosurgeon at the Montreal Neurological Institute.

NICOLE RANGER, MSc(A)'88, has been elected a Fellow by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Fellows of the AAPM have distinguished themselves by their contributions in research, education, or leadership in the medical physics community. She currently serves on the AAPM's mammography sub-committee, its radiography & fluoroscopy sub-committee, and is the co-chair of AAPM TG150 and chair of the women professionals sub-committee.



LINDA COVIT, BSc'69, is a Montreal artist known for her large-scale outdoor installations. Her work *Havre*, a sculpture of interlocking painted aluminum tubes at the McGill University Health Centre, was among the winners of the 2017 CODA awards, an international art and design competition that reviewed 465 projects from 21 countries. *Havre* won in the healthcare category. Her public installations include Mount Royal Park's *Give Peace a Chance*, a tribute to John Lennon and Yoko Ono's 1969 Montreal bed-in.

ERIC CADESKY, MDCM'04, MedResident'06, a family physician based in Vancouver, is the president-elect of Doctors of BC, a professional body with 12,000 members. He will begin his term as president in June 2018, and will be overseeing negotiations for B.C. doctors' next contract with the province. He developed MeKeeper, a free app that provides users with quick and secure access to their most important personal medical information.

ELIZABETH CAWLEY, MSc'12, PhD'17, is the new regional coordinator for student mental health initiatives for the Association of Atlantic Universities. In this recently created position, she will support student mental health initiatives for post-secondary institutions across Atlantic Canada. As a consultant with expertise in this area, she has assisted with the development and implementation of mental health strategies at several Canadian universities.

Ji WEI YANG, MDCM'12, received the 2017 Relève Award from the Quebec Medical Association. The prize is awarded to outstanding medical residents for their research efforts and/or their contributions to society and medical care. The chief resident of her program in 2016, Ji Wei authored six publications, more than 15 scientific presentations and demonstrated her commitment to vulnerable populations through her efforts as a member of Haitian Physicians Abroad and the Université de Montréal's Haiti Glaucoma Group (UHGG).

MUSIC

VÉRONIQUE MATHIEU, ArtistDiploma'03, is a violinist whose new album *Argot* focuses on works by three titans of 20th century European modernism: Franco Donatoni, Pierre Boulez, and Witold Lutosławski. Véronique was a prizewinner in the 2012 Eckhardt-Gramatté Contemporary Music Competition and the 2010 Kraków International Contemporary Music Competition.

KARL SCHWONIK, BMus'09, was recently named associate dean of business at Medicine Hat College. Karl is also a jazz drummer who was recently named to CBC Music's 35 Under 35 Jazz Artists list. Last spring, he won the Reinstein Jazz Competition hosted by the University of Cambridge. Other prizes he has earned include the Montreal International Jazz Festival's TD Grand Jazz Competition, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta's Emerging Artist Award and the VSA Arts International Young Soloist Award.

ANDREW CRUST, MMus'12, is the new assistant conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and the new conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony. Andrew will serve as cover conductor to music director Robert Moody and MSO guest conductors and will conduct several MSO concerts himself. As the conductor for the MYS, he will lead program/concert planning, weekly rehearsals and recruitment and auditions. In July, he served as assistant conductor for the National Youth Orchestra of the USA at Carnegie Hall.

SCIENCE

AVAK AVAKIAN, BSc'51, was presented with the French Legion of Honour, France's highest military distinction, on September 21 in recognition of the role he played in the liberation of France during the Second World War.

HUBERT REEVES, MSc'56, an officer of the Order of Quebec since 1994, has been promoted to grand officer. The Montreal-born, France-based scientist has been widely influential as an astrophysicist, an environmental activist and a science popularizer.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON, BSc'67, recently published his first book *Fire Maria: Memories of My Grandmother*, an homage to his Jamaican roots and a loving tribute to his grandmother. The book is available on Amazon.

STEVEN ROSENBERG, BSc'69, reports that he is alive and well and living in Silicon Valley. After leaving McGill, he earned his MSc and PhD degrees from Carnegie-Mellon University. Following stints at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

**HOW
DO YOU
SHAPE
STRONGER
SOCIETIES?**

Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, and Hewlett-Packard Labs, he is now the senior director of operations for Carnegie Mellon University's Silicon Valley campus. He lives in Palo Alto with his wife Gayla and daughters Terra, Hart and Stella.

ALAN J. COHEN, BSc'72, is the new director of the Office of Oil and Gas Research at the United States Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. An internationally recognized geophysicist with more than 35 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, he is an expert in oil and gas R&D, and exploration and production operations in onshore, shallow-water and deepwater provinces in the U.S. and internationally.

MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE, BSc'80, DSc'11, the president of Stanford University, has been elected to the American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States. A neuroscientist, Marc has long been a proponent of an interdisciplinary, humanistic education and studied philosophy as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University. Other members elected to the APS this year include former U.S. president Barack Obama. The APS was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin.

TAMMY BOTTNER, BSc'85, is a physician with a practice near Boston. Her book *Among the Reeds: The True Story of How a Family Survived the Holocaust* is available on Amazon. The book chronicles the experiences of family members during the Holocaust, when her father was a 'hidden child,' sequestered in a Belgian convent for two-and-a-half years while he was a toddler. The book also explores the science of epigenetics and the idea that traumatic life events and the effects they have on heritable changes in gene expression, might affect subsequent generations.

KATY LATIMER, BSc'90, is the new vice president, culinary innovation of Dunkin' Brands Group, the parent company of Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins. She now heads the Dunkin' Brands'

culinary team, planning and managing the strategic development of menu choices at more than 20,000 Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins restaurants across the globe. She leaves PepsiCo, where she was vice president of research & development, global beverage category.

INGRID STAIRS, BSc'93, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of British Columbia, has been awarded the Royal Society of Canada's 2017 Rutherford Memorial Medal in Physics. She is a leading world expert in finding and using radio emitting neutron stars (pulsars) to study and test theories of gravity.

DAVID OSWALD, MSc'08, is the founder of DE (Design+Environment) a specialized eco-consultancy and design atelier that works with governments, NGOs, and corporations. He presented a TEDx talk at TEDxLaval in May, which is now online. He spoke about bringing ecology into the design process for urban centres, and his own experience in applying ecological principles to design challenges. To find out more, visit tedxlaival.com/en/speaker/david-oswald.

HELEN HUANG-HOBBS, BSc'09, was chosen by the Knowles Teacher Initiative as a member of its 2017 Cohort of Teaching Fellows. Knowles Fellows have access to grants for expenses associated with purchasing classroom materials and receive mentoring and coaching from experienced teachers and teacher educators. Helen was one of 37 promising high school mathematics and science teachers selected as one of the program's fellows this year. She teaches at the Pingry School in Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

ROHINI MEHTA, BSc'11, has been appointed to the Dean's Council on Advancement for the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. The council is a committee of volunteers created to advance the stature of the medical school by providing guidance, assistance, advocacy and philanthropic investment in support of the school's strategic objectives.

SOCIAL WORK

PHYLLIS BLACK, BA'58, MSW'60, is the recipient of the Service and Leadership in Social Work Education Award for 2017, from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the accrediting body for social work bachelors and masters level students, as well as accreditation of schools of social work in the U.S. The award acknowledges "extraordinary leadership contributions that impact social work education locally, nationally or globally." She is currently a professor of social work and director of the Lehigh Social Work Campus at Marywood University in Pennsylvania.

KAREN HAYNES, MSW'70, the president of California State University San Marcos, has been honored as a National Association of Social Workers Pioneer. The NASW's pioneer program recognizes social workers who have contributed to the evolution and enrichment of the profession. Karen is CSUSM's longest serving president. Under her leadership, CSUSM has focused on working with at-risk student populations, including former foster youth, veterans and Indigenous students. During her presidency, CSUSM has added 10 new facilities and the Temecula campus.

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THE BENSADOUN FAMILY FOUNDATION, whose \$25-million gift to create the Bensadoun School of Retail Management will reshape the retail industry for the digital age.

THE AZRIELI FOUNDATION, whose \$16-million donation to establish the Azrieli Centre for Autism Research at the Montreal Neurological Institute will lead to new advances in treatment and care for thousands of patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

MCGILL ALUMNUS PETER FU, whose \$12-million gift to the School of Architecture will help McGill remain at the forefront of architecture education, research and practice.

MAX BELL FOUNDATION, whose \$10-million donation to create the Max Bell School of Public Policy in the Faculty of Arts will position McGill as the foremost training ground for the world's next generation of government, public and private sector leaders.

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THE GIFT OF
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Cynthia Shewan, BA'65, has never forgotten how the door opened for her undergraduate studies at McGill. A longtime student counsellor, Rev. Clifford Knowles, made it possible for her to attend the University by arranging for a scholarship and bursary.

"That paved the way for me and I made sure that I studied hard and did well, so I was able to have financial funding through scholarships and bursaries until I graduated," says Shewan, who obtained her BA (Honours Psychology).

Shewan went on to earn a master's and doctorate at Northwestern University in speech-language pathology.

Now, she's creating meaningful opportunities for others at McGill, from Syrian refugees to an endowed bursary for female students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies.

Lina Akbeek, a student in the Faculty of Arts who is a refugee from Syria, received support from McGill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office last year, through a donation from Shewan. Akbeek had been living in Jordan and feared her dream of going to university was out of reach. "There are no words to explain how happy I am and the feeling inside of me," says Akbeek.

Thanks to Shewan's generosity, her financial support is continuing this school year, along with funding for other students from similar circumstances.

Shewan supports McGill's Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. She also established a bequest for McGill in her estate plans, which will further augment all of her generous initiatives.

Now retired, Shewan taught at universities and conducted research in speech-language pathology. Also, as director of research in non-profit organizations, research has always been her passion.

"I have a very fond spot in my heart for McGill. I got to work with some pretty famous people," she says, mentioning the late Donald O. Hebb and Professor Emeritus Ronald Melzack, both renowned psychologists.

Education has been particularly important to her, Shewan says about her motivation for giving. "I have my mother to thank for that because she did not have the opportunity to attend university – although she was certainly smart enough to. She always advocated that I get a good education, and I did. I have been distressed by the fact that women do not always get the opportunities that they should in education, and also just believe in giving back," Shewan says.

“ I was afforded an opportunity because someone helped me. And it's important to pay that forward. ”



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A TRAILBLAZER AND A BRIDGE BUILDER

When she was named McGill's chancellor in 1991, **GRETTA CHAMBERS**, BA'47, DLitt'01, became the first woman to hold the position. But venturing into uncharted territory was nothing new for a woman fondly remembered as a "dynamo." Chambers died on September 9 in Montreal at the age of 90.

A pioneering female journalist and commentator in Quebec, Chambers wrote a weekly column for the *Montreal Gazette* for 25 years, hosted a local public affairs program on CTV, and contributed to other English and French media outlets.

"There is no doubt that Gretta Chambers was leaning in before any of us even knew what that meant," her granddaughter, Alexis Lowry, said at her funeral.

"I talked to her a lot about how she was able to accomplish what she did. She would often say, 'I just got on with it' and 'I didn't worry that I was a woman, because I knew I had something to say.'"

The civic-minded Chambers was heavily involved in the community, sitting on boards, chairing committees, and raising funds for hospitals, museums and other organizations.

"She did everything to the maximum, including public service," her son Geoffrey Chambers said in his eulogy.

"She was a dynamo but without edgy ambition."

Fluently bilingual — her father was anglophone, her mother, a francophone — Chambers had two brothers: Geoffrey, who predeceased her, and Charles Taylor, BA'52, a McGill emeritus professor and a renowned philosopher.

She and her late husband Egan Chambers, a former Member of Parliament, had five children.

Chambers was deeply committed to education. She chaired the Task Force on English Education, set up by the Quebec government in the nineties, and was a member of McGill's Board of Governors from 1978 to 1988. She served as chancellor from 1991 to 1999.

"She has made an immense contribution to our University and to the society in which she lived," said McGill Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, in a statement.

"As a journalist and political commentator, and as a significant figure in the life of her community and her institution, Gretta brought insight, wit and wisdom to the various roles she played," Fortier added.



VINCENZO D'ALIO / THE GAZETTE

The level of her commitment as chancellor cannot be overstated, says former McGill principal Bernard Shapiro, BA'56, LLD'88.

She was committed to doing the job, and doing it properly, "and it didn't matter how much time it took or how many meetings she went to, she was there — you could always, always rely on her," Shapiro says.

Returning to Montreal after an absence of more than three decades, Shapiro appreciated her valuable insights when he became McGill's principal in 1994.

"She knew everybody and everything. She knew where all the skeletons were, and not only that, but she was happy to share it with you. So I can't tell you how many difficulties I probably avoided because I had the benefit of that kind of advice and her willingness to share it with me."

Chambers enjoyed meeting students and had a way of bringing them out in conversation, he recalls. She was a remarkable ambassador for McGill "as wonderful chancellors are," Shapiro says.

"She represented in herself, in a sense, the ideal Quebec citizen. She was perfectly bilingual. She was at home in English as she was in French and with French people as much as she was with English people. I think other people appreciated that. I certainly appreciated it and it was a model for me to follow in many ways."

As a journalist, Chambers explained French-speaking Quebec to English-speaking Quebecers and Canadians, says James Shea, president of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). "In so doing, she became an important bridge builder between Quebec's two solitudes."

In an interview in 2012, when she won the QCGN's Distinguished Community Service Award, Chambers said, "I just always felt the importance of explaining, English and French, one to the other, of who we were."

"Her contributions to Quebec were nothing short of outstanding," says Shea. 🐦

BRENDA BRANSWELL

1930s

MURIEL JACKSON, LMus'36,
at Westmount, Que., on October 5, 2017.

FRANCES WHITELEY, BA'38,
at Kingston, Ont., on March 23, 2017.

1940s

G. DRUMMOND BIRKS, BCom'40,
at Montreal, on June 23, 2017.

JOHN LETICHE, BA'40, MA'41,
at Berkeley, Calif., on September 5, 2017.

HAZEL CARSON, Dip Ed'42,
at Sherbrooke, Que., on August 25, 2017.

J. ARTHUR MADILL, BCom'42,
at Richmond, Que., on September 26, 2017.

JOSEPH SABBATH, BSc'43, MDCM'47,
in Massachusetts, in July, 2017.

ARTHUR D. MCKELLAR, BEng'44,
at Emerald Park, Sask., on October 26, 2017.

GEORGE L. BOVELL, BSc(Agr)'45,
in Trinidad, on August 29, 2017.

THOMAS CASSIRER, BA'45,
at Pullman, Wash., on June 11, 2017.

GLENN A. COOPER, BEng'45,
at Qualicum Beach, B.C., on September 5, 2017.

HAAKON MURRAY, BSc'45, MDCM'47, DipSurgery'54,
at San Fernando, Trinidad, on May 2, 2017.

NORMA (WILSON) DAVIES, BA'46,
at Ottawa, on November 22, 2017.

HAZEL BREITMAN, BSc'47,
at Mississauga, Ont., on September 22, 2017.

KATE M. BROOKE, BSc'47,
at Ottawa, on May 30, 2017.

WILLIAM WEINTRAUB, BA'47,
at Westmount, Que., on November 6, 2017.

ESTHER W. YAMADA, MSc'47,
at Winnipeg, Man., on May 4, 2017.

GORDON ROBERT BLAIR, BEng'48,
at Pointe-Claire, Que., on May 31, 2017.

JÉRÔME CHOQUETTE, BCL'48,
at Montreal, on September 1, 2017.

ARTHUR E. CARLISLE, BA'48,
at Leverett, Mass., on July 24, 2017.

CYRILLE DUFRESNE, MSc'48, PhD'5
at Westmount, Que., on August 12, 2017.

GEORGE LIONEL FORTIER, BSc'48, MDCM'52,
at Kingston, Ont., on October 18, 2016.

WILLARD GREIG, DipAgr'48,
at Ormstown, Que., on October 29, 2017.

NORMAN F. SMITH, BSc(Agr)'48,
at Scottsdale, Ariz., on November 26, 2017.

JANET (EDWARDS) WHITE, BA'48,
near Portland, Ont., on October 3, 2017.

HARRY ZIMMERMAN, BSc'48,
at Montreal, on August 21, 2017.

WILLIAM BURWELL, BSc'49, MDCM'53,
at Burnstown, Ont., on November 1, 2017.

TERENCE P. MURPHY, BSc'49,
at Mississauga, Ont., on June 3, 2017.

JOYCE WADDELL-TOWNSEND, BA'49,
at Aurora, Ont., on August 11, 2017.

1950s

PETER D. EDWARD, BSc(Agr)'50,
at London, Ont., on July 2, 2017.

ISABEL (GIBB) WHEELWRIGHT, BA'50,
at Orangeville, Ont., on August 4, 2017.

WILLIAM E. HAVILAND, BEng'50,
at Salmon Arm, B.C., on October 7, 2017.

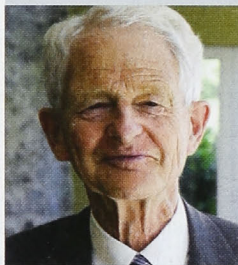
DAVID W. JOHNSTON, BSc(Agr)'50,
at Sydney, N.S., on November 3, 2017.

PHILIP NEVILLE, BEng'50,
at Delta, B.C., on August 29, 2017.

PETER ROSENBAUM, BSc'50, MDCM'54,
at Montreal, on October 28, 2017.

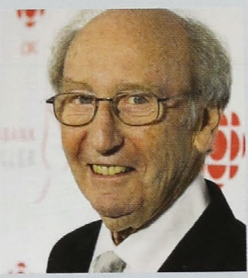
JEAN WADDINGTON, BSc'50, BLS'51,
at Huntsville, Ont., on November 7, 2017.

EILEEN S. NASON CAMBON, MDCM'51,
at Vancouver, B.C., on August 8, 2017.



As dean of law from 1969 to 1974, **JOHN DURNFORD**, BA'49, BCL'52, oversaw the implementation of his Faculty's groundbreaking national programme. He was an award-winning legal scholar and a gifted teacher (the Law Students' Association named its teaching award in his honour). But his most important contribution to his Faculty, as both dean and longtime

professor, was through his everyday kindness and his commitment to nurturing a sense of community. According to one of his successors as dean, Nicholas Kasirer, BCL'85, LLB'85, it set the tone for the Faculty. "The collegiality that was so important to John Durnford fast became a characteristic feature of life in the Faculty." Durnford died on November 30, 2017.



He never wrote a book, but **JACK RABINOVITCH**, BA'52, DLitt'05, will long be celebrated for his contributions to Canadian literature. A prominent real estate developer, he was the driving force behind the Scotiabank Giller Prize, widely regarded as the country's most prestigious award for fiction, which he launched

in 1994 to pay tribute to his late wife, literary journalist Doris Giller. The Giller Prize has had an immense impact — more than 2.5 million Giller-nominated books were sold in the first 10 years of the award alone. He also played a key role in the planning and construction of the new Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. He died in Toronto on August 6, 2017.

MARGARET JACOBS, BSc(HEc)'51,
at Pembroke, Ont., on March 17, 2017.

THOMAS MACAULAY, BEng'51,
at Maxville, Ont., on June 25, 2017.

ALEXANDER SZABO, BEng'51, MSc'55,
at Ottawa, on June 11, 2017.

GEORGE MCCOUBREY ANDREW, BSc(PE)'52,
MSc'63, PhD'67, at Lindsay, Ont., on January 8, 2017.

G. DENTON CLARK, MEng'52,
at Melbourne, Fla., on August 24, 2017.

DONALD WALTER GRAHAM, BSc(Agr)'52,
at Iroquois, Ont., on November 4, 2017.

IRVING GUBITZ, BA'52,
at Montreal, on July 17, 2017.

CHRISTINE MARGARET LUSSENBURG, BSc'52,
MSc'53, at Gloucester, Ont., on July 13, 2017.

WILLIAM M. SEATH, BEng'52,
at Kingston, Ont., on September 14, 2017.

THOMAS L. CALDER, MDCM'53,
at Vancouver, B.C., on September 15, 2017.

WILLIAM B. MAGYAR, BEng'53,
at Toronto, on August 2, 2017.

NICHOLAS MAU, BEng'53,
at Brighton, Ont., on May 16, 2017.

WILLIAM G. MCCRUDDEN, BEng'53,
at Rigaud, Que., on June 28, 2017.

JANE E. REEVES, BSc'53,
at Toronto, on July 15, 2017.

KEITH RONALD, BSc(Agr)'53, MSc'56, PhD'58,
at Guelph, Ont., on July 6, 2017.

EARL G. ISBISTER, BSc'54, MDCM'58,
at Burlington, Ont., on September 12, 2017.

HEATHER F. MACLEOD, DipP&OT'54,
at Toronto, on August 1, 2017.

MELVILLE A. SPOWART, BCom'54,
on May 27, 2017.

BRUCE M. BENTON, BSc'55,
at North York, Ont., on September 18, 2017.

SUSAN GODBER, BCom'55,
at Montreal, on July 16, 2017.

FRASER R. LINDSAY, BA'55, BCL'58,
at Victoria, B.C., on October 20, 2017.

DONNA G. SEXSMITH, MSW'55,
at Los Angeles, Calif., on August 20, 2017.

CHARLES H. TRASK, MDCM'55,
at Everett, Wis., on June 14, 2017.

WILLIAM REID WATERS, MDCM'55, BSc'55,
at Winnipeg, Man., on August 4, 2017.

MYER ZURAW, BCom'55,
at Ottawa, on May 14, 2017.

JOHN H. FEINDEL, MDCM'56,
at Halifax, N.S., on July 18, 2017.

GORDON BRUCE ENGLISH, BCL'57,
at Pointe-Claire, Que., on July 6, 2017.

P. MICHAEL PITFIELD, BCL'58,
at Westmount, Que., on October 19, 2017.

KENNETH POOLE, BEng'58,
at Ottawa, on February 23, 2017.

LOUIS R. SHARPE, BA'58, DDS'63,
at Almonte, Ont., on July 27, 2017.

WENDY ZSOMBOR-MURRAY, Dip(PTh)'58,
Dip(OTH)'59, BSc(PT)'75,
at Montreal, on September 3, 2017.

MARTIN BLATT, BCom'59,
in Edmonton, Alta., on September 17, 2017.

AARON BROTMAN, BCom'59,
at Toronto, on September 29, 2017.

WILLIAM T. HOUGHTON, BEng'59,
at Danville, Calif., on November 29, 2017.

JOAN NEVEU, DipNursPH'59,
at Bracebridge, Ont., on September 4, 2017.

FRED T. POWELL, DDS'59,
at Batavia, N.Y., on November 16, 2017.

1960s

CHARLES B. ARNOLD, MDCM'60,
at Topsham, Maine, on June 12, 2017.

PETER R. BLUNT, BSc'60, BD'70,
at Montreal, on July 27, 2017.

BRUCE J. INNES, MDCM'60, MSc'64,
at Hartfield, Va., on July 6, 2017.

DEREK H. PURDON, BA'60, MDCM'64,
at Victoria, B.C., on October 13, 2017.

MICHAEL BECKERMANN, BEng'61,
on August 18, 2017.

HOWARD T. COHEN, BCom'61,
at Toronto, on November 9, 2017.

JOSEPH G. ABOOD, Jr., DDS'62,
at Westminster, Colo., on June 14, 2017.

JACQUES LAPENSÉE, BEng'62,
at Ottawa, on August 3, 2017.

EZRA KLEINMAN, BA'63, DDS'65,
at Montreal, on November 16, 2017.

NADIA BAUMANN MALO, BA'64, on June 26, 2017.

JOHN D. MAROTTA, BSc'64, DDS'68,
at Winnipeg, Man., on May 25, 2017.

YIN HUM WOO, MEng'65,
at Mississauga, Ont., on August 30, 2017.

DONALD P. K. CHEUNG, BSc'65, DDS'67,
at Edmonton, Alta., on October 25, 2017.

RUTH ADLER, BA'66, LMus'70,
at Montreal, on November 1, 2017.

STEPHEN P. COHEN, BA'66,
at Teaneck, N.J., on January 25, 2017.

JAAK PUUSEPP, BSc'66,
in White Rock, B.C., on October 2, 2017.

SUSAN LOPEZ, DipEd'67,
at Cornwall, Ont., on May 20, 2017.

BENJAMIN POPE, MDCM'67,
at Pasadena, Calif., on May 29, 2017.

RICHARD N. WEISMAN, BSc'67,
at Buffalo, N.Y., on May 11, 2017.

JANNIE WOO, PhD'67,
at Syracuse, N.Y., on October 14, 2017.

KENNETH H. COOKE, BSc'69,
at Montreal, on September 27, 2017.

KATHLEEN J. A. SMITH, BA'69,
at Halifax, N.S., on June 13, 2017.

1970s

MAGED A. DAOUD, BEng'70,
at Toronto, on January 15, 2017.

RUSSELL GEORGE MERIFIELD, BCL'70,
at Magog, Que., on June 29, 2017.

AARON I. MUSCOTT, BSc'70, DipEd'72, MEd'76,
at Montreal, on September 20, 2017.

ELINOR G. ROGERS, BSc(FSc)'71,
at Ottawa, on September 14, 2017.

SALVATORE FURINO, BEng'72,
at Kirkland, Que., on June 12, 2017.

LEONARD F. RUGGINS, DipMan'72,
at Calgary, Alta., on August 24, 2017.

RAYMOND LANGTON, DipMan'73, MBA'76,
at Nashville, Tenn., on October 18, 2017.

STEPHEN J. NEVILLE, BCom'73,
at Montreal, on August 10, 2017.

GEORGE TOMITA, BTh'75,
at OrLéans, Ont., on January 15, 2017.

ELIZABETH GATBONTON, PhD'76,
at Westmount, Que., on November 29, 2017.

BARBARA DAWN FANNING, BSc'76,
at Oakville, Ont., on September 5, 2017.

HOWARD COHEN, BCom'77, DPA'79,
at Montreal, on October 25, 2017.

1980s

CLAUDETTE SAVARIA, BSc(Agr)'80,
on July 9, 2017.

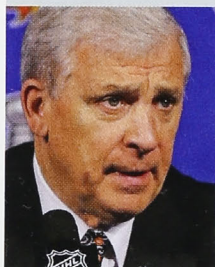
CAROL THOM, MEd'81,
at Montreal, on September 2017.

LEONARD MARK DAVIDSON, BCL'83, LLB'83,
at Montreal, on October 19, 2017.

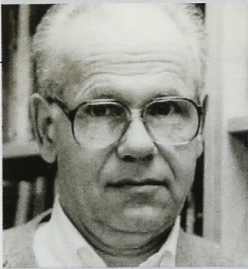
JOHN OESTREICH, BEng'83, MBA'90,
at Newmarket, Ont., on October 26, 2017.

MARIA ROSA BERTUCCI, BSc(Agr)'86, BSc(Arch)'89,
BArch'90, at Calgary, Alta., on October 16, 2017.

MARIO DUMAS, BCom'87, DPA'89,
at Ormstown, Que., on September 18, 2017.



Throughout his long NHL career as both a coach and general manager, **BRYAN MURRAY**, DipEd(PE)'64, did one thing consistently – he made teams better. One of only 17 coaches in NHL history to win at least 600 games, he earned the Jack Adams Award as the NHL's top coach in 1984 for his work with the Washington Capitals. He was named the NHL's executive of the year in 1996 when, as the general manager for the Florida Panthers, he shepherded the team to an unlikely appearance in the Stanley Cup finals. He began his career as a sports administrator at Macdonald Campus, serving as its director of athletics for four years. He died in Ottawa on August 12, 2017.



As a young priest, **GREGORY BAUM** played an important role in the Second Vatican Council as a periti (expert theologian) who helped steer the Catholic Church towards a much more positive relationship with Protestant and non-Christian faiths. After leaving the priesthood for academe, first at the University of Toronto, then McGill, he incurred the anger of Catholic conservatives with his support for contraception, gay marriage and the ordination of women as priests. Described by *The Catholic Register* as “one of Canada’s most influential and controversial theologians,” he was the author of more than 20 books, including *Compassion and Solidarity*, the subject of his 1987 Massey Lecture. He died in Montreal on October 18, 2017.

1990s

JOANNE GODEL, BA’90,
at York, Ont., on July 25, 2017.

STEPHANE LAROCHE, BEng’90,
at Cape Cod, Mass., on June 25, 2017.

KATAYOON KATY BARIN, BSc’91, DDS’97, MSc’97,
on October 12, 2017.

LUC THIFFEAULT, BEd’92,
at Trois-Rivières, Que., on August 23, 2017.

2000s

CHRISTINA ANDERSON, BSc’03,
at Montreal, on November 27, 2017.

SHREYAS ROY, MDCM’06,
at Montreal, on July 23, 2017.

TAMMY CHEN, BEd’07,
at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,
on August 13, 2017.

DANIEL THOMAS HINDLER, BEd’13,
at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on November 12, 2017.

FACULTY/STAFF

WARWICK ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
professor emeritus of geography,
at Oxford, England, on September 7, 2017.

KIRTI CHARAN, PhD’70, retired professor of human
communication sciences and disorders, on September 20, 2017.

RONALD P. DOIG, BSc’60, MSc’61, PhD’64,
retired professor of earth and planetary sciences,
at Duncan, B.C., on August 3, 2017.

RICHARD EMERY, DDS’76, MSc’79, associate professor
of dentistry, at Montreal, on September 6, 2017.

ROBERT W. FAITH, BA’53, DDS’58,
retired associate professor of dentistry, former
president of the McGill Alumni Association,
at St. Albans, Vt., on December 27, 2016.

BARBARA G. HASKEL, retired associate professor of
political science, on August 14, 2017.

ALLAN S. HAY, professor emeritus of chemistry,
on August 14, 2017.

BETTY JAQUES, former head of art education,
at Baie-d’Urfé, Que., on November 12, 2017.

DONALD P. LITTLE, professor emeritus of
Islamic studies, at Montreal, in 2017.

SAMUEL MELAMED, BSc’43, MSc’53, PhD’57,
retired associate professor of mathematics and statistics,
at Toronto, on July 23, 2017.

GARY O’CONNELL, director of academic and
administrative services, Macdonald Campus,
at Beaconsfield, Que., on October 4, 2017.

DONALD D. PATTERSON, BSc’48, MSc’50,
professor emeritus of chemistry,
at Montreal, on December 15, 2016.

WINSTON H. PURDY, BMus’64, professor of voice,
at Montreal, on November 14, 2017.

PETER ROPER, former faculty member, Department of
Psychiatry, at Montreal, on August 11, 2017.

VIVIAN SHIPLEY, BSc(HEc)’48, MA’69,
retired professor of dietetics, at Ottawa, on May 1, 2017.

ELEANOR STUBLEY, associate dean of
graduate studies, Schulich School of Music,
at Montreal, in August, 2017.

PETA TANCREED, BA’58, professor emerita of sociology,
at Westmount, Que., on August 15, 2017.

JOHN E. UDD, BEng’59, MEng’60, PhD’70,
former chair of the Department of Mining Engineering,
at Ottawa, on October 6, 2017.

TERRY WHEELER, associate professor of natural
resource sciences, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on July 25, 2017.



LOOK UP! BUT CAREFULLY...

On August 21, more than 8,000 people showed up at the University's downtown campus. Good thing that AstroMcGill was expecting company. A student-created public outreach initiative affiliated with McGill's Department of Physics and the McGill Space Institute, AstroMcGill hosted an eclipse-watching party, distributing thousands of pairs of eclipse glasses, and ensuring that special solar telescopes were available to offer visitors a closer look at what was transpiring in the sky.

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JENNY
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