

# McGill News

*alumni magazine spring/summer 2009*



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Baritone Sanford Sylvan recently earned his fourth Grammy nomination. Awards are nice and all, says Sylvan, but his main focus is on developing the vocal talents of opera's next generation.

BY SHELLEY POMERANCE



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McGill was recently handed the responsibility of overseeing much of the health care needs of Quebec's northern native communities — not to mention much of the province. Thankfully, the Faculty of Medicine has been building links to aboriginal communities for quite some time.

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Près de 6 000 étudiants francophones choisissent McGill. Voyons les facteurs qui ont motivé leur choix et comment ils y perçoivent la vie étudiante.

PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B.A. 1992)



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McGill issued a challenge to one and all to compose stories using only six words. Hundreds picked up the gauntlet. Now learn the stories behind some of those fascinating micro-stories.

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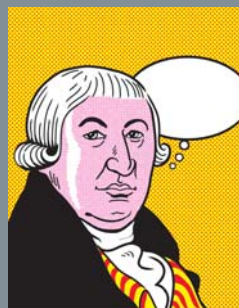
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by Tzigane



# Saluting some colourful characters



I never did outgrow comic books — as anyone who has glimpsed the collectibles in my office knows full well (they're not dolls, they're action figures). I know I'm not the only one, either.

Some of the most influential writers, filmmakers and TV producers around, people like *The Fortress of Solitude* author Jonathan Lethem, *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* mastermind Joss Whedon and *Lost* co-creator Damon Lindeloff (whose own works have been heavily influenced by comics), happily accept big pay cuts for a chance to script comic book tales about some of their own favourite caped crusaders.

One of the most critically acclaimed graphic novels to be published in recent years is *Skim*, a sensitive portrayal of how the teen years, like old age, aren't for the faint of heart. The book's author, Mariko Tamaki, BA'98, is one of four grads profiled in our cover story about McGill alumni working in the comics field. She and her cousin, illustrator Jillian Tamaki, have been earning armfuls of prizes and award nominations for *Skim* — the most recent being the Doug Wright Award for Best Book.

Truth to tell, we could have run a much longer story featuring many more grads. Like John Rogers, BSc'90, for instance, a screenwriter (*Transformers*, TV's *Leverage*), who co-created the Blue Beetle, a young Hispanic superhero who appears regularly in comics and on television. Or Kid Koala (known as Eric San, BEd'96, while he studied here), one of the music world's most celebrated DJs and turntablists, who will soon be publishing his second graphic novel, *Space Cadet*. Or Evan Goldberg, BA'06, who is using his recently acquired Hollywood muscle (he and writing partner Seth Rogan penned the scripts for *Superbad* and *Pineapple Express*) to pursue several comics-related projects.

As a tip of the pen to the comic book's ongoing infiltration of popular culture, cover illustrator Peter Mandl presents James McGill as sixties pop artist Roy Lichtenstein might have imagined him. Lichtenstein, of course, became famous for repurposing comic book imagery as fine art — and fine art is certainly

something that McGill's chancellor-elect H. Arnold Steinberg, BCom'54, LLD'00, knows a thing or two about.

A widely respected businessman and an important figure in health care circles, Steinberg is a savvy appraiser of modern and contemporary art. He regularly turns up in *ARTNews* magazine's annual listing of the world's top art collectors and has contributed his insights for years to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts as a member of one of its acquisitions committees.

Robert Rabinovitch, BCom'64, the chair of McGill's board of governors, describes Steinberg as "a force of uncommon integrity and grace." While there is little doubt that Steinberg will be a splendid chancellor, he certainly does have a hard act to follow.

Richard Pound, BCom'62, BCL'67, has held just about every senior position at McGill that's not associated with a paycheck — president of the McGill Alumni Association, chair of the McGill Athletics Board, chair of the McGill Fund Council, chair of the board of governors, chancellor. There is ample evidence that he has distinguished himself in each of these roles. For one thing, McGill is always quick to find another gig for the guy once he steps down from one of these positions. Pound will soon receive an international honour, the Ernest T. Stewart Award for Alumni Volunteer Involvement, in recognition of his many contributions to McGill.

He might not wear a cape, but the former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency never ducked a fight while trying to stamp out cheating in international sports. And journalists across the country and around the world would quickly confirm that Pound is every bit as colourful as any member of the Justice League — many reporters will be seriously bummed out now that they'll have one fewer reason to interview the always quotable soon-to-be ex-chancellor.

One thing is certain. Pound will continue to contribute to McGill. Dr. Doom couldn't pry him away from his alma mater.

DANIEL MCCABE



OWEN EGAN

a writer and an artist among them — who struggled at first to make a living and then to make a decent living. I have learned that versatility, fearlessness and sheer force of will come to matter as much as talent and luck.

**PAMELA KAPELOS  
FITZGERALD, BA'69**  
Charlottesville, Virginia

As a McGill law school graduate (BCL'51), I was sometimes invited by Don Wolvin to the Château Apartments where he would invite the cast of the Red and White Revue of *My Fur Lady* after rehearsals. While I never participated in the show itself,

I would on occasion sit down at the piano to play some quiet jazz and I had the opportunity to meet William Shatner at one of the rehearsals. A few years after graduation, while in New York, I attended the musical comedy *The World of Suzie Wong*, in which Bill starred. After the performance, I found my way to his dressing room and his parting words were "Did we have a full house?" This was our last encounter, but it is a good feeling to read about his success and to reminisce about all the talented performers of the Red and White Revue.

**JACQUES V.  
MARCHESSAULT, BCL'51**  
Montreal, Quebec

### BULLY FOR BILL

Just a quick note to say I thought your latest issue (Winter 2008/09) was really terrific and quite compelling reading. With everything that comes through the mail slot, I don't always have time to go through my *McGill News* from cover to cover, but I pretty much did this time! And William Shatner an alum—who knew?

One small criticism, though. I think the fact that McGill was named one of the top 25 universities in the world—again!—should have received much more prominence than a small appearance at the bottom of the eighth page. Such an impressive standing is really something to be proud of and ought to be acknowledged accordingly. Keep up the good work.

**SEANA MASSEY, BA'91**  
Toronto, Ontario

I enjoyed the William Shatner article tremendously. Bernie Rothman's comments about the qualities you need to survive and thrive in the world of arts and entertainment were right on the mark. In a creative business and in a family of creative "types"—an actor,



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*Embrace the future with the  
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Last issue was the best one I have ever read!

**S.W. MCLEOD**, BSc (PE)'53  
Fredericton, New Brunswick

### A BUILDING CALLED SHATNER?

Your article about William Shatner was an interesting piece on a truly transformed man, but one thing makes me curious. How exactly did you go about writing an entire multi-page article on William Shatner without mentioning, even once, the fact that, at the very institution in whose alumni magazine the article appears, there is a building named after him? After all, the William Shatner University Centre has had that name since 1992.

Okay, maybe not officially...

In the 1991-92 Students' Society of McGill University elections, a student-initiated referendum run by a small group of dedicated Shatnerites (mostly *Trek* fans, I was more a *T.J. Hooker* man myself) allowed McGill to boldly go where no university had gone before by requiring the SSMU to refer to the University Centre only as the William Shatner University Centre, to hang a sign with that name in the lobby, and to have SSMU's VP University Affairs lobby the University administration to change the building's name officially.

The response to creative slogans like "The Shatner Building: Why not?" and "Shatner Building? Beam me up!" was overwhelming—students turned out to vote in higher numbers than at any of the three previous SSMU elections. The referendum passed. And although McGill has studiously refused to give effect to this name officially, invoking a policy from some McGill toponymy committee, for the past 15 years those who really respect the students (the heart of this great institution) have known this building by only one name.

Shatner it is. And Shatner it shall be.

Incidentally, two of us who ran the referendum went on to play other roles in McGill and Canadian education. Alex Usher would later found the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and develop the idea that blossomed into the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. And in 1996-97 I became the SSMU VP

University Affairs—my very first official act was to lobby then Dean of Students Rosalie Jukier to change the name of the building. She declined. She also declined to rename the Brown Building after Patrick Stewart. No fun at all.

**DON MCGOWAN**, BA'92,  
DipEnvironmentalStudies'96,  
LLB'97, BCL'97  
Seattle, Washington

### WRONGLY ASSOCIATED

I just received my copy of the *McGill News* and appreciate your offering the news of my being chosen one of Alberta's library innovators for medium-sized public libraries in 2005. However, it was the Canadian Association of Public Libraries of which I was a former chairman, not the Canadian Library Association. I am very proud of my degree from McGill, and look back on that student time as one of the best times of my life.

**DUNCAN RAND**, BLS'64  
Lethbridge, Alberta



### THE UNFORGETTABLE FLO

I just began reading the Winter 2008/2009 edition of the *McGill News* and what a surprise to see Flo Tracy's name. Of the people that I remember from my days at McGill living at Solin Hall and being involved in the inter-residence council, Flo Tracy is especially hard to forget. Flo, as I recall, said it like it was and we were all the better for it! Kudos to Flo for years and years of formative shepherding and for a tremendous amount of giving to so many of us! Thanks again Flo!

**JESSE HENRY**, BA'99  
Rockland, Maine



### PROUD OF PROUDFOOT

I'm glad you featured Tony Proudfoot in the winter edition of the *McGill News* ("Grace Under Fire"). He deserves it, for a number of reasons. You wrote about how he very likely saved the life of one of our students, who had been shot in the head during the 9/13 rampage at Dawson, by giving first aid. What isn't explicit in your profile is just how heroic an act this was. While Tony was with the wounded student by the front entrance of our college, no one knew whether the shooter would come back out and continue shooting. Yet Tony stayed by the student's side, at the risk of his own life.

About a week after the event I ran into Tony at Dawson. I had made it a point to congratulate those members of our community who had performed so bravely. I shook Tony's hand and told him that what he did was amazing and wonderful. I also asked him if he had been scared then. He said no, he had not been.

I was off-campus when the terrible events occurred, but I have sometimes wondered what I would have done in those circumstances. I hope I would have done as Tony, and a few others, did. Tony doesn't have to wonder and hope—he acted courageously, to his eternal credit.

**ALEX SIMONELIS**, BSc'72, MSc'78  
Computer Science Department  
Dawson College  
Montreal, Quebec

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# Leadership worth following

When convocation finishes at the beginning of June, McGill will have sent another group of promising, talented graduates out into the world to make their mark. The nature of leadership has never been so hotly debated as during this global recession, which, more than signaling an economic crisis, is a crisis of management — and, therefore, leadership.

In the 20th century, the American media, which help shape trends around the world, created an obsession — a cult, really — of leaders, rooted in that country's historically individualistic mindset. Today images of rock-star CEOs and politicians are plastered everywhere. This focus on iconic leaders builds organizations which, instead of functioning as inclusive, creative communities, become centred on individual initiative alone. When these organizations fail, we blame the leader, then turn around and repeat our mistake by seeking a "better" one. As renowned McGill management professor Henry Mintzberg has put it, "Like drug addicts, each time we need a bigger hit."

By elevating and empowering one individual in this manner, we disempower the group. Organizations of all kinds require more "distributed leadership" — leadership based on influence, not authority, among people of talent connected by a common cause. After all, why hire smart people unless you're going to let them loose? Leaders who foster creative thought and inspire ambition for change succeed in creating a broad ownership among members of their organization, whether it is a company, a school, or even a country.

Universities can and should play a key role in nurturing a new kind of leader. Yet MBA programs and courses across all

disciplines that aim and claim to create leaders too often promote hubris instead, perpetuating the cult of leadership. At McGill, in a context informed by the highest international standards of excellence, all our faculties take a "3-I" approach to teaching — International, Interdisciplinary and Inquiry-based — equipping students with the cultural and intellectual fluency they will need to lead in new ways.

One example of our 3-I approach is the International Masters in Health Leadership, uniquely designed to teach physicians, nurses and other health professionals how health care is organized in different jurisdictions. Participants bring key issues from their own organizations around the world to Montreal to work on them cooperatively, with peers and faculty. And jointly with another Montreal-based business school, HEC, our Desautels Faculty of Management is implementing a new Executive MBA program. The EMBA students, who all have substantial business experience, learn different "managerial mindsets" and undertake a residential module in Asia or Latin America. While foreign exposure can be risky in a financial portfolio, in education it is a fine way to diversify; it expands knowledge, tolerance and creativity.

The broad thinking these programs require is the foundation of the Integrated Management approach underlying all of our management programs. Students are challenged to consider not just business, but the broader economic and social context in which business operates. Similarly, leadership today demands a broad commitment to

OWEN EGAN



growing a healthy society. The new leader has scientific and technological fluency, knowledge of the great religions and cultures of the world, the ability to communicate in more than one language, and an open mind and heart.

Beyond academics, great publicly purposed universities like McGill provide opportunities to acquire these leadership skills — by providing a place for students to undertake volunteer work at home and abroad, to play and teach team sports, to participate in student and professional organizations, and to trade ideas with people from across the world. Thus equipped, McGill graduates are set to become modern leaders with wise judgment and an authentic character, well-rounded people unafraid to make the right choices for the medium and long term, even when unpopular in the short. Take our founder. Contrary to his family's wishes and the zeitgeist of the times, James McGill, a pillar of the emerging Montreal community, donated his farmland and 10,000 pounds in 1813 to create a secular institution of higher learning. Everything Canada's most internationally acclaimed university has done for society stems from this one leader's farsightedness.

At McGill, leadership abounds. We are inspired by our founder's vision, and succeeding beyond even his wildest dreams. 🍁

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM

# A *voice* TO RECKON WITH

**A**ward nominations are a frequent occurrence for McGill professors—they rank amongst the country's best researchers in a wide range of areas, after all. But Grammy nominations? That doesn't happen every day.

**SANFORD SYLVAN**, an assistant professor of performance in the Schulich School of Music, was a Grammy finalist earlier this year in the category of Best Classical Vocal Performance and he was in very good company—mega-star mezzo-sopranos Cecilia Bartoli and Anne Sofie von Otter were also in the running (Israeli soprano Hila Plitmann ended up winning).

Sylvan earned the Grammy nod for his performance in Charles Fussell's *Symphony for Baritone and Orchestra "Wilde,"* which weaves Oscar Wilde's poetry and letters into an operatic meditation on the gifted writer's tragic life. Sylvan was happy to be recognized—and even happier for the attention that it brought to Fussell's work. "It's gorgeous, evocative music, and Fussell writes so beautifully for the voice."

Still, it wasn't exactly a life-altering event for the talented baritone. For one thing, this wasn't Sylvan's first encounter with the Grammys.

He had a key role as Chou-en-lai in John Adams's Grammy and Emmy-winning opera, *Nixon in China*, and he has earned three Grammy nominations for his collaborations with pianist David Breitman. "Grammys are lovely," says Sylvan, "but a Grammy isn't as important to a classical career as it is to a pop career."

As a performer, Sylvan has pretty much done it all, from the *Passions* of J.S. Bach to Mozart's operas to contemporary works by the likes of Philip Glass. He has collaborated with some of the biggest names in the world of classical music, including directors Peter Sellars and Robert Wilson, and conductors James Levine, Simon Rattle and Pierre Boulez.

That Sylvan is at McGill is testament, in part, to the fact that the in-demand singer was growing weary of life on the road. "I was

home about 60 days a year—two days here, four days there. After 25 years, hotels are boring and silly!" he says with a laugh.

Four years ago, Sylvan began directing the opera program at the Boston Conservatory, while continuing to perform internationally. Then, in 2007, came the job offer from McGill. "I loved my job at the conservatory, and I had no interest in moving. But the standard at McGill is very high and I like the fact that it's part of a university. If a student's GPA isn't high enough, we can't even think about accepting them, and I like that. I like smart, talented kids!"

Since coming to McGill, Sylvan has cut back on performing in order to give his voice students the time and attention they require. "Almost every undergraduate is making the journey from teenager to adult, which is a huge journey in life, but it's also when their body changes from a teenage to an adult voice, and it's about how to house that voice, how to introduce them to their own insides both physically and emotionally."

Graduate student Margaret Rood, who began working with Sylvan last fall, describes him as a skilled and thoughtful tutor. "My voice has improved leaps and bounds in the six months I've been with him."

SHELLEY POMERANCE

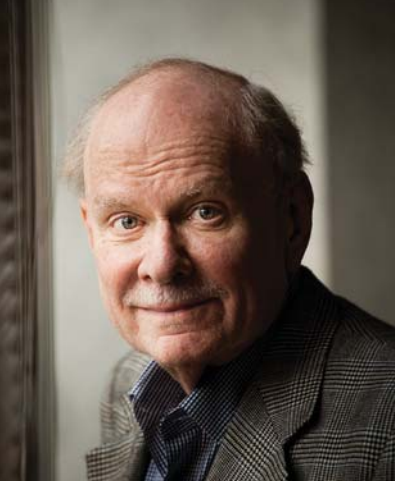


Sanford Sylvan as the Storyteller in a 2008 Chicago Opera Theater production of *A Flowering Tree* by John Adams

LIZ LAUREN / CHICAGO OPERA THEATER



# Steinberg named new chancellor



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

**H. ARNOLD STEINBERG**, BCom'54, LLD'00, recalls his very first class as a McGill undergraduate. It was in the Arts Building's Moyse Hall and Steinberg took note of the names of the former McGill chancellors inscribed on a wall outside the theatre hall.

"I remember looking at the impressive names on that list: Lord Strathcona, Sir Edward Beatty, Ray Edwin Powell. I never, never thought that one day my name would be included there."

Turns out he was wrong. Steinberg will begin a three-year term as McGill's 18th chancellor on July 1, replacing Richard Pound who is stepping down after 10 years in the role.

"Coming to McGill was a real eye-opener for me," Steinberg says of his student days. "I was exposed to so many subjects I had never studied before. I read Shakespeare and captained the varsity water polo team. It gave me the confidence to move forward in a way that I couldn't have had before entering the University."

He went on to become a senior executive with the once-ubiquitous Canadian grocery store chain that bore his family's name. He has served on the boards of Bell Canada International, Teleglobe, Provigo and Banque nationale du Canada. Steinberg is

currently a senior officer with Cleman Ludmer Steinberg Inc., an investment holding company.

McGill was rarely far from his thoughts—and not just because his wife, Blema Steinberg, BA'55, PhD'61, is a McGill emeritus professor who taught political science at the University for 41 years.

He spent 19 years chairing the board of governors of the McGill University-Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute and 10 years as a member of McGill's board of governors.

When McGill geneticist Charles Scriver, BA'51, MDCM'55, DSc'07, launched a campaign against rickets in the sixties, a childhood bone disease that was widespread in Quebec, Steinberg was a pivotal ally. Scriver advocated adding Vitamin D to all milk produced and sold in Quebec in an effort to eradicate rickets and Steinberg threw his weight behind Scriver's efforts—the Steinberg's chain refused to purchase milk unless Vitamin D had been added.

Steinberg continues to be a passionate proponent of health care projects. He played an important role in the creation of McGill's Medical Simulation Centre, co-chaired a capital campaign for the Montreal Children's Hospital and chairs the Canada Health Infoway, a non-profit organization that supports the development of electronic health information systems in Canada.

"I will do everything I can to protect, defend and develop the reputation of the University," says Steinberg. "It is the institution that has had the greatest impact on my life and I just want to make sure other people will have similar opportunities."

NEALE MCDEVITT

## ANYONE FOR A THREE-PEAT?



DEREK DRUMMOND

**MC GILL MARTLETS** captain Chantal Gauvin, BCom'08, always wondered why athletes seemed so tongue-tied after winning championships. Now she knows.

"I can't even describe how I'm feeling," Gauvin said moments after the Martlets earned their second consecutive national championship by defeating the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks 3-1 in the gold medal match of the Canadian Interuniversity Sports finals on March 22.

The Martlets became only the second sports team in McGill history to capture back-to-back CIS titles. The other team to manage the feat was the Redmen soccer squad in 1981 and 1982.

The Martlets' record against CIS rivals this season was an astonishing 36-0. "I told them in the room before the championship game to keep doing what we've been doing all year," said Martlets coach Peter Smith, BEd'79, MA'86.

EARL ZUKERMAN, BA'80



# STANDING UP FOR S1NGLES

There are a lot of lonely singles in New York City. **SHERRI LANGBURT**, BA'94, was once one of them. She moved to the Big Apple shortly after completing her studies at McGill and soon found herself feeling isolated. "It's very hard to meet people here," says Langburt (pictured). "It's a very transient city." That, coupled with her realization that companies tend to focus their marketing efforts on families—neglecting the millions of adults who aren't sporting wedding rings—led to a brainstorm.

"There needs to be a resource out there for singles!" Langburt launched SingleEdition.com in December 2007.

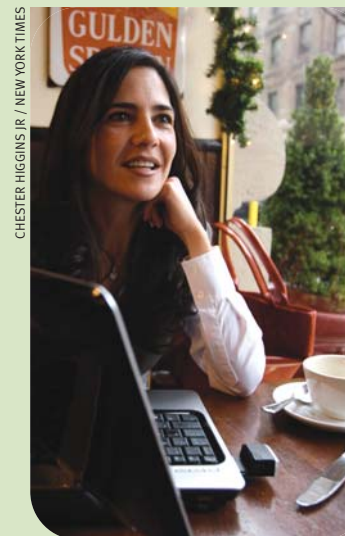
Most content for singles is on dating websites—precisely what SingleEdition.com is not. The site offers tips on restaurants and vacation options that are singles-friendly and suggestions for meals that are easy to make if you're living on your own. Advice is for all ages: a recent article provides tips on the tables-turned situation of having to win approval from your date's grown children.

With a new Canadian version of the site (SingleEdition.ca) now available, content and advertising partners on the rise, and a slew of recently launched features, the SingleEdition train is gathering steam.

While Langburt is no longer single—she recently got married—she continues to champion the cause of those who haven't yet met Mr. or Ms. Right. Her biggest piece of advice?

"So many people put their lives on hold [thinking] 'I should be married to do this, so I'm going to wait.' Don't play the waiting game. If you want to travel the world, travel the world."

JAKE BRENNAN, BA'97



CHESTER HIGGINS JR. / NEW YORK TIMES



OWEN EGAN

## Two for the Rhodes

McGill has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other university in Canada and that list is about to grow by two. This fall, **VINCENT LAROCHELLE** (left) and **STEPHEN AYLWARD** will head overseas, becoming McGill's 129th and 130th Rhodes Scholars.

Larochelle is no stranger to travel. The Quebec City native is a self-taught violinist who once financed a trip to Asia by busking on the streets of Dublin. "I've always wanted to go to Oxford," says Larochelle. An honours student in mathematics, he looks forward to the freedom offered by Oxford's tutorial system. "Left on your own, that's the environment I thrive in."

To earn a Rhodes Scholarship, it isn't enough to simply ace your courses. You have to exhibit athletic prowess and demonstrate some impressive civic mindedness. The secret to fitting it all in—academics, athletics and activism—is "time management," says Aylward.

Born and raised in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, Aylward, an accomplished singer, fiddler and mandolin player, is pursuing honours studies in philosophy at McGill, with a minor in political science. Aylward was the co-director of the McGill Debating Union's most recent winter carnival tournament. A long-time volunteer with Amnesty International, he served as the McGill chapter's co-president in his second year of studies and continues to sit on its international strategy committee.

Larochelle has also kept busy at McGill, editing the student math journal, competing

as a varsity fencer, volunteering to help the mobility-impaired and running as a Green Party candidate in a federal election.

He plans to pursue a doctorate in mathematics at Oxford (and to play for the Oxford hockey team), after which he might return home to study law, with the ultimate goal of resuming a political career, this time at the provincial level.

Aylward originally planned to study law at Oxford, but changed his mind when he realized that a big chunk of his undergraduate reading material at McGill was produced by Oxford's philosophy professors, making the opportunity to study with such "huge scholars too exciting to pass up." Possible future plans include returning to Canada to train for a career in refugee and immigration law, an area he'd like to see become "more accommodating of human realities."

ANNE CHUDOBIK, BA'97

## An art gallery unlike any other

Armed with spray paint and using an exterior wall as their canvas, a youthful trio were engaged in a bit of art-making in Old Montreal a few years ago when they spotted **AVI MORROW** heading their way. As the dapper octogenarian approached, they braced themselves for a stern talking-to.

Instead, they were each offered a commission.

Morrow (pictured) would pay them a few hundred dollars apiece to produce works of art based on his own building, located a short distance away. “That got their attention,” Morrow chuckles.

They weren’t the first to contribute to Morrow’s one-of-a-kind art collection. Many of Montreal’s best-known artists, including painters Normand Hudon and John Little, photographer Gabor Szilasi and *Gazette* editorial cartoonist Aislin, are also represented. Over the course of four decades, Morrow has compiled more than 400 paintings, illustrations, photographs and sculptures, all housed in the same quietly elegant 19th-century building on St. Hélène Street that serves as their inspiration.

Morrow only insists on one thing from the artists—their works must focus on the building. “Apart from that, they can do whatever they want.”

The building in question once served as the headquarters for Avmor, a leading manufacturer of industrial cleaners that Morrow



OWEN EGAN

co-founded in 1948, shortly after he left McGill, where he studied electrical engineering. The company eventually outgrew the building, moving its operations to Laval, but Morrow kept his own office on St. Hélène Street and began building his unique collection.

Morrow is keen to share the art with anyone interested in seeing it—fire regulations prevent him from throwing open the doors to the public, but visits can be arranged by appointment. Delegations from schools come frequently—including art education students from McGill.

“There are thousands of paintings of the Eiffel Tower, but you can’t see them all in one place,” says Morrow. “You can’t compare them and see how different artists interpret [the same subject] in totally different ways.”

DANIEL MCCABE, BA’89



## Always an Olympic effort

McGill chancellor **RICHARD POUND**, BCom’62, BCL’67, is a notoriously busy guy.

A longtime member of the International Olympic Committee, Pound is also the director of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympics, a widely respected tax lawyer, the author of several books and an adjunct professor at Concordia University. He also chaired the World Anti-Doping Agency for nine years.

His is a constantly-on-the-go, if-it’s-Tuesday-it-must-be-Tuscaloosa existence.

Despite all that, Pound has always found time for McGill — whether it involves delighting alumni audiences with his wry humour at speaking engagements or forcefully advocating on McGill’s behalf to governmental decision makers.

Honora Shaughnessy, MLS’73, senior executive director of the McGill Alumni Association, calls Pound “the best friend any alumni association director could have.” The Council for the Advancement

and Support of Education agrees wholeheartedly.

The international association, whose membership includes fundraisers, alumni relations officers and other advancement professionals from more than 3,400 educational institutions, recently named Pound the winner of its 2009 Ernest T. Stewart Award — CASE’s highest honour for a graduate who has gone above and beyond the call of duty for his/her alma mater.

Pound’s contributions to McGill are legion. He has raised funds for McGill’s athletics facilities, chaired the University’s board of governors for several years and helped establish McGill’s Greville-Smith Scholarships, a Rhodes-inspired program that has itself served as a model for about 16 other universities.

Pound is only the second Canadian in the 56-year history of the Ernest T. Stewart Award to receive the prize, and the first since former Ontario lieutenant governor Pauline McGibbon won in 1982.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA’89



OWEN EGAN

# Like father, like son

At first, **FRANÇOIS CRÉPEAU**, BCL/LLB'82, wanted to be an archaeologist. "Frankly, I don't remember when I decided to study law," he laughs. His eventual decision seems to have been the right one, nonetheless. One of the world's foremost experts on international human rights and refugee law, Crépeau recently joined McGill's Faculty of Law as the first Hans and Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law (the chair was created through a gift from alumna **TAMAR OPPENHEIMER**, BA'46, LLD'94, who held a number of top UN posts over 40 years).

Perhaps an aptitude for the law was in his genes. His father, after all, is **PAUL-ANDRÉ CRÉPEAU**, McGill's Arnold Wainwright Chair in Civil Law. Last November, Crépeau senior was recognized for his remarkable career with a Prix du Québec (the Georges-Émile Lapalme prize), one of the highest honours awarded by the Quebec government. He is known as no less than "the father of the Quebec Civil Code." As the president of the Civil Code Revision

Office, Crépeau steered the process that saw the laws governing his province receive a thorough review.

"It was always in the background," says Crépeau junior of his father's labour of love from 1965 to 1977, when the *Report on the Quebec Civil Code* was published. "It was designed to reflect Quebec society of the modern time, in both substance and language," says Crépeau senior. The new Civil Code of Quebec was adopted in 1991 and came into force in 1994.

Crépeau senior is also well known for collaborating with his McGill colleague Frank R. Scott on recommendations that influenced the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in 1975. "I remember them sitting together under a willow tree," says Crépeau junior. "And my mother saying, 'Don't go near them!'"

When young Crépeau began his law studies at McGill, the decision was made that he would not take any classes with his father. "We passed each other in the hallways for four years, saying 'Bonjour, monsieur,'" he quips. "At the end of my first year, I received straight Cs and I was

very proud. It was absolute proof there was no favouritism!"

Crépeau junior went on to a prestigious career of his own, beginning with graduate studies in France, where he first examined the rights of migrants, the topic that would become his specialty. "When international human rights were first envisioned, the idea was that migrants' only right was to return home," he explains. "But we are now coming to realize that human rights are human rights because you're human, wherever you are." In fact, he believes that the humane treatment of migrants is an important litmus test for democracies today — in the same way that the struggle for full legal rights for women was 60 years ago.

His career has brought him full circle back to McGill, where his father continues to work as an emeritus professor. The close bond between father and son is evident, complete with a little gentle ribbing. Crépeau senior exclaims, "I have an office in the servants' quarters now, whereas my son is moving to the top office with a view of the river!"

ALLYSON ROWLEY, BA'77

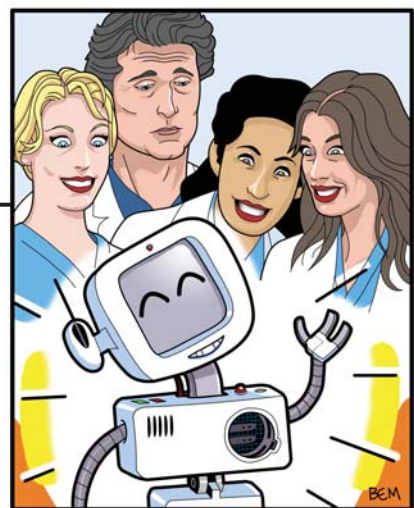


# You're Getting McSleepy, So Very McSleepy...

The first of Isaac Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics states that "a robot may not injure a human being." That may be so, but McGill researchers have designed an automated anesthetist that can gently knock you out — a notion powerful enough to catch the attention of the *New York Times*

*Magazine*, landing a spot in its eighth annual "Year in Ideas" issue.

"McSleepy,"<sup>TM</sup> as the new anesthesia system is known, administers drugs for general anesthesia and monitors their separate effects with no manual intervention. In fact, McSleepy recently performed the world's



ISTOCKPHOTO

## OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND LISTEN

Loud music, whisperers, lousy acoustics, a mouthful of marbles — many are the factors complicating our understanding of the spoken word. But what a new McGill-led study has discovered is, ahem, stretching our understanding of why we hear what we hear.

McGill neuroscientist **DAVID OSTRY** and colleagues at MIT and the Haskins Laboratories and Research Laboratories of Electronics in Connecticut created a robotic device that pulls a subject's facial skin in patterns common to speech production. The robot manipulated 75 subjects' faces while they simply listened to the word "head" as it was electronically manipulated, over 10 intermediate steps, into "had."

The researchers found that the direction that the skin was pulled in

actually altered the sound being heard. When test subjects' jaws were in the position needed to vocalize the word "had," he explains, their brains heard the test word as "had." (And the same for "head.") The researchers speculate that, during listening, the brain may combine auditory information with nerve cues from the face, indicating the brain may not clearly distinguish between sensory and motor stimulus. The study, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, may have applications for speech therapy and perceptual-based learning difficulties.

"There's the possibility this might lead to new therapeutic approaches that focus on movement as opposed to worrying about the actual sound patterns of speech," suggests Ostry, a professor of psychology.

CYNTHIA LEE, WITH FILES FROM JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

first totally automated administration of an anesthetic on a patient undergoing a partial nephrectomy, a three-and-a-half-hour procedure involving the removal of a kidney tumour while leaving the non-cancerous part of the kidney intact.

"We have been working on closed-loop systems, where drugs are administered, their effects continuously monitored, and the doses are adjusted accordingly, for the last five years," says associate professor of anesthesia **THOMAS HEMMERLING**, who heads ITAG (Intelligent Technology in Anesthesia research group), a team of anesthetists, biomedical scientists and engineers. McSleepy "thinks like an anesthetist, analyzes biological information and constantly adapts its own behaviour, even recognizing monitoring malfunction."

The difference is McSleepy can calculate the appropriate drug doses for any given moment of anesthesia faster and more precisely than a human can.

Still, don't expect McSleepy to fly solo during an operation anytime soon. The automated anesthetist assists its human counterparts the same way an automatic transmission assists drivers: by taking over some duties, it frees humans to better concentrate on other aspects of patient care, such as monitoring their patients' breathing and circulation.

Hemmerling believes it will take about two years to perfect the system and hopes that a commercial system might be available within the next five years.

PASCAL ZAMPRELLI, BCL/LLB'05, WITH FILES FROM JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05

There are few honours available to scholars and scientists in this country that offer the prestige of the Killam Prizes. Awarded by the Canada Council for the Arts, the prizes recognize stellar career accomplishments in the fields of health sciences, natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities. Five \$100,000 prizes are awarded each year — one in each field — and on May 11, McGill professors took home three of them.

James McGill Professor in Biochemistry **PHILIPPE GROS**, PhD'83, earned the Killam for health sciences. His groundbreaking genetics research has led to the identification of the gene that causes spina bifida, the isolation of the cancer resistant "mdr" family of genes and the identification of new genes that give rise to susceptibility to malaria.

Mechanical engineering professor **WAGDI HABASHI**, BEng'67, MEng'70, was awarded the Killam for engineering. Habashi is an international leader in the field of computational fluid dynamics, which is crucial to dealing with, among



Principal Heather Munroe-Blum with Killam Prize winners (left to right) François Ricard, Philippe Gros and Wagdi Habashi

other things, the potentially dangerous problem of in-flight icing of aircraft.

**FRANÇOIS RICARD**, MA'68, the Killam recipient for humanities, is a professor in the Department of French Language and Literature and James McGill Chair in Quebec Literature and Modern Fiction. Ricard has won acclaim for his work on recent Quebec social history and on

authors Milan Kundera and Gabrielle Roy.

A fourth McGill graduate, Queen's University environmental biologist **JOHN SMOL**, BSc'77, earned the Killam for natural sciences. An expert on Arctic freshwater conditions, Smol's research has been widely influential in establishing the links between human activities and environmental changes.

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05



JOHN RAOUX / AP PHOTO

Six years ago, **SHIRLEY STEINBERG** and **JOE KINCHELOE** were doing research in Florida when they took a quick detour to the Holy Land. Sort of.

Unlike a certain nearby secular magic kingdom, Orlando's Holy Land Experience encourages its visitors to "see God and His Word exalted."

"As cultural studies researchers," recalls Steinberg, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education, "the thought of a Jesus theme park was too good to pass up."

## THE Greatest Story EVER SOLD

The couple were taken aback by the big-budget Christian spectacle of an ersatz ancient Jerusalem, complete with daily crucifixion performance. "We started to see a huge corporate pattern of money being poured into selling Jesus," says Steinberg. "It was about the churches saying, 'We're losing our market, so we'll do what other successful people do: We'll have rock'n'roll, we'll have TV shows, we'll have movies, we'll have theme parks.' It worked."

Thus was planted the seed of their new anthology, *Christotainment: Selling Jesus Through Popular Culture*.

The book looks at how fundamentalist Christian groups, which once largely demonized pop culture (think rock'n'roll LP bonfires), are now using it to spread doctrine. Topics include the rapture-

themed Left Behind multimedia franchise (the books alone have sold over 40 million copies), the VeggieTales kids cartoon series and Christian punk rock.

"We're talking about the commodification of Jesus," Steinberg stresses, "we're not critiquing Jesus."

Sadly, Steinberg's husband and co-editor Joe Kincheloe passed away on December 19, 2008, shortly before the book's release.

In an essay for *Christotainment*, Kincheloe, who was McGill's Canada Research Chair in Critical Pedagogy, wrote, "I believe it is the ethical obligation of all individuals who call themselves Christians to know what is being done in the name of their faith."

JAMES MARTIN, MLIS'05



## Parlez-Vous Québécois?

Imagine judging your fashion sense against Parisian standards each day of your life. Developing a complex yet?

French Quebecers can probably relate. Their relationship to their language has been the stuff of psychotherapy for over a century. *Fin de siècle* migration from the country to the city saw them not just dominated by English commerce, culture and language, but contending with their own educated class measuring the quality of Quebec French against a mostly mythical external standard in Paris.

"It started at the end of the 19th century and has never stopped," **CHANTAL BOUCHARD** says of the debate over whether Quebecers speak proper French. Bouchard is

a McGill professor of French language and literature whose sociolinguistic history of Quebec, *Obsessed with Language*, was recently published in English. The book examines Quebec from the 1700s to modern times, tracing the developing psyche of a *peuple* through the history and character of their mother tongue.

Linguistic insecurity has held sway throughout much of this history, from the rise of the middle class in post-war years to the more turbulent sixties. "The worries about language sparked all the political actions of the Quiet Revolution and everything that came after," says Bouchard.

Attitudes are much more positive today, she explains. "We have a different

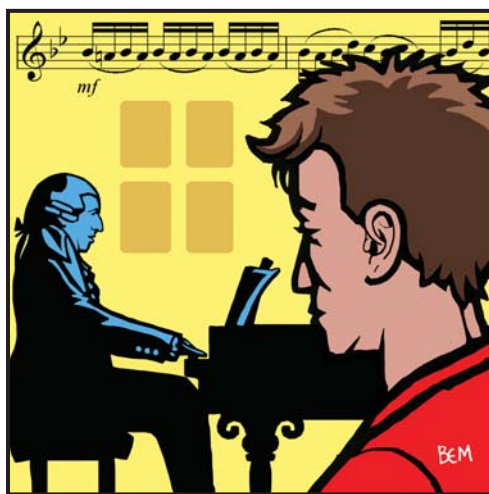


notion of what linguistic legitimacy is. It was a fiction to think every Frenchman speaks standard French." Nonetheless, she adds, factors such as television and the Internet — plus increased tourism and business travel between France and Quebec — mean the French spoken today in Quebec and that spoken in France are far more similar than they were 50 years ago.

Now, the English edition of Bouchard's book is an opportunity for the rest of Canada to learn more about this complex history. "A lot of the problems that arise between the English and the French come from a poor understanding of each other. So maybe this will help."

ANDREW MULLINS

## Bringing Haydn back to life



Think virtual reality and you probably imagine clunky hi-tech goggles. But what if you could recreate the sounds of history through "virtual acoustics?"

It turns out you can. In a groundbreaking project combining 18th-century art with 21st-century technology, associate professor of music performance **TOM BEGHIN** has recorded Joseph Haydn's complete

keyboard music exactly as it would have sounded over 200 years ago when the great composer played in the Esterháza Castle in Hungary or in his private study in Eisenstadt — all simulated from a laboratory in the Schulich School of Music.

The "Virtual Haydn" team — including sound recording professors **MARTHA DE FRANCISCO** and **WIESLAW WOSZCZYK**, and researchers from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology — has measured the acoustics of nine different spaces where the composer once played his music. Beghin performs on perfect replicas of historical keyboards, some not heard since Haydn's era, while virtual acoustics algorithms and a sophisticated surround-sound speaker

system recreate the sound waves as they would have occurred in the original spaces.

"For performing, you could go into that lab and pretend to be anywhere," explains Beghin. "It could be Carnegie Hall. The possibilities are endless."

The team's efforts have resulted in 15 hours of recorded music in high definition audio and video, which will be released as a three-disc Blu-ray set this fall — just in time for Haydn bicentenary celebrations. A launch concert by Beghin in the Schulich School's Music Multimedia Room (MMR) will feature a 24-speaker dome surrounding the audience — they'll be seated in the MMR, but hearing the acoustics of old Europe.

ANDREW MULLINS



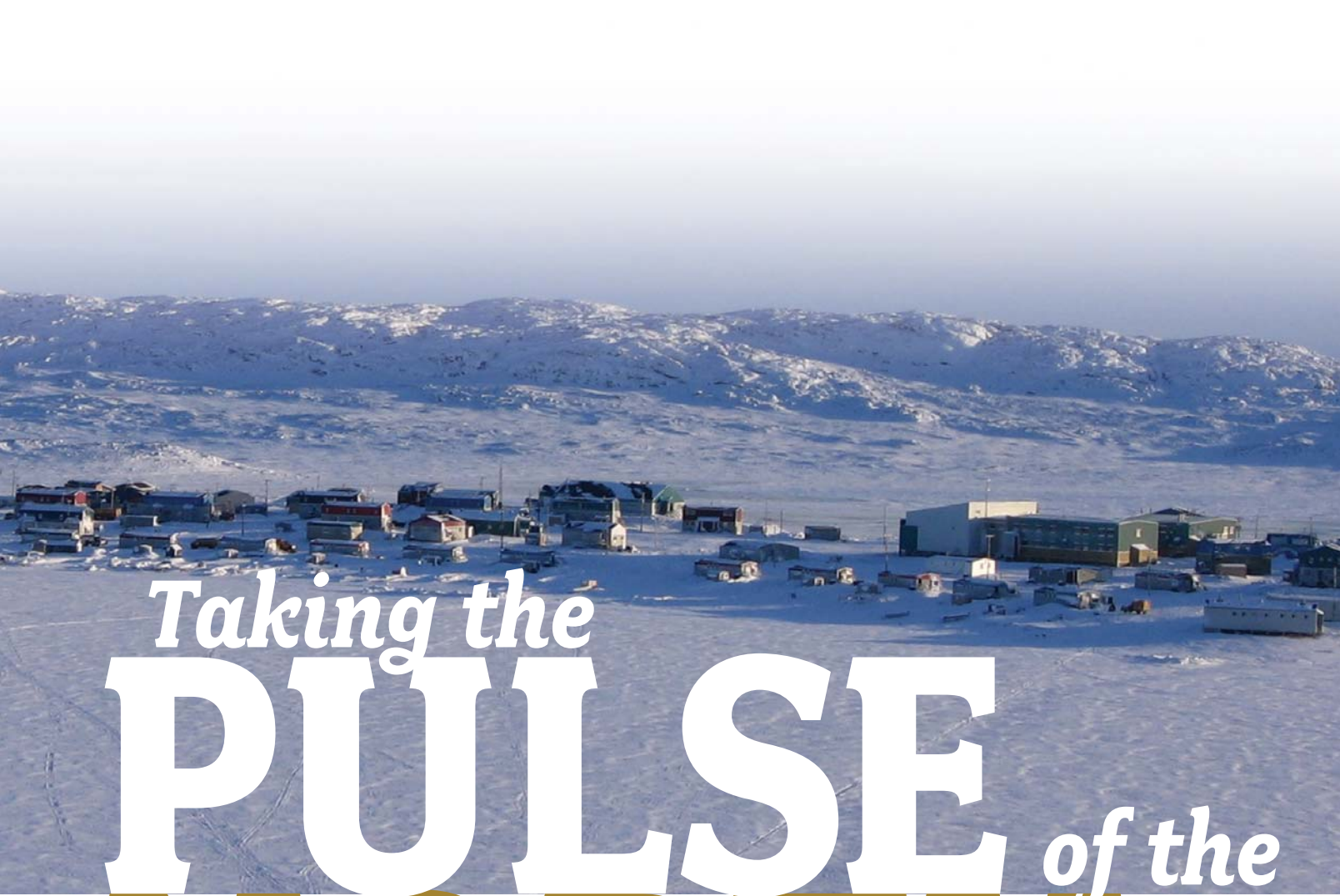


PHOTO: MARTIN TREMBLAY

# Taking the PULSE of the NORTH

**A huge portion of Quebec—including the Cree and Inuit territories—turns to McGill for much of their health care needs** BY MARK ABLEY

**S**eated in his downtown Montreal office, Gary Pekeles carefully examines an X-ray displayed on his desktop computer. It focuses on the lungs and airways of a boy who had recently been hospitalized. The youngster was seemingly on the mend, but the X-ray is a little disquieting. It doesn't look quite right.

If the patient was in Montreal, it would be easy enough to set up some follow-up tests to better determine what was going on. But the X-ray on Pekeles's computer was taken in Puvirnituk, an Inuit community on the east coast of Hudson Bay that's more than 1,600 kilometres away. The boy in question lives in Salluit, a few hundred kilometres further north on the shores of Hudson Strait. He

had been airlifted to the small hospital in Puvirnituk for closer examination when he first started feeling ill.

"He was sent back home," Pekeles explains, "because he seemed to be doing well. But the kid looked better than the X-ray. It showed some abnormalities, and the doctor in Puvirnituk emailed it to me. The question is, is the case urgent enough to pay \$20,000 in transportation costs for a medical evacuation?" And is the X-ray worrisome enough to subject the boy and his family to the upheaval of bringing him to Montreal for closer examination?



CORBIS

*Nunavik is in need of pediatricians—nearly half its population is under 18*

Dr. Gary Pekeles,  
director of the  
McGill University  
Health Centre's  
Northern and  
Native Child  
Health Program



JOHN MORSTAD

These are the sorts of questions that Pekeles, BSc'72, MSc'81, wrestles with regularly. An associate professor in McGill's Department of Pediatrics, Pekeles is also director of the Northern and Native Child Health Program at the McGill University Health Centre. He oversees the specialist care of children and teenagers in the 14 towns and villages of Nunavik—a region larger than California, with no road access and a population facing tremendous health challenges.

The population in Nunavik is astonishingly young—nearly half of its 12,000 people are under 18, and in some communities fewer than 10 per cent of residents are over 45. Pediatrics is an essential discipline. "Our focus," Pekeles says as he gestures urgently with his right hand, "is not so much on what we're doing down here, but on what's being done up *there*."

## A NEW SET OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Pekeles has been working on northern and native health for the past three decades. But his current position falls under the rubric of a Quebec government program called RUIS (Réseau Universitaire Intégré de Santé). Initiated in 2003, the program carves up the province into four large sectors, giving responsibility for a sector to each of Quebec's medical schools—McGill, Laval, Sherbrooke and Montréal. McGill has the largest area to look after, including the Cree and Inuit territories. It now coordinates most specialty care, medical research and medical education in those regions.

From the standpoint of McGill's administration, RUIS represents both an opportunity and a fresh set of demands. It integrates staff not just from the Faculty of Medicine, but also from its network of teaching hospitals. McGill's RUIS mandate extends across more than 60 per cent of Quebec's land mass. That is a daunting mandate,

says Samuel Benaroya, McGill's associate vice-principal for health affairs and the coordinator of RUIS McGill.

"Given the resources," Benaroya carefully observes, "we have to pick and choose among the expectations." On a wall in his office is a map of RUIS. Pointing at it, Benaroya, BSc'73, MDCM'75, describes the full scope of the challenge. The University's responsibilities extend far beyond the Cree territories and Nunavik; they cover nearly a quarter of Quebec's population, including residents of the Outaouais, part of the Montérégie, and a good portion of Montreal.

That's not all. Under RUIS, McGill is also responsible for Abitibi-Témiscamingue, a region that is 99 per cent French-speaking. "It is an opportunity for us to demonstrate McGill's role as an integral part of the Quebec community," says Benaroya. So far, the University has helped create a program in the region for training primary-care nurse-practitioners. It has also developed a family medicine unit in Val d'Or; and it sends oncologists to do regular consultations in Rouyn-Noranda.

"Some of the mandates are very difficult to carry out, especially in a time of staff shortages," says Benaroya. "The regional health boards might come to us with a particular need and say 'Can you help out?' And we have helped out—but with more resources, we could do more."

## SPECIALISTS IN SHORT SUPPLY

Pekeles, a winner of the J.A. Hildes Medal, the highest award of the International Union for Circumpolar Health, is a tireless advocate for primary health care in the North. He says Nunavik is in need of physiotherapists, nurses, audiologists—indeed, a new Inuktitut word, *siutilirijiit*, was recently coined to mean "lay, community-based hearing screeners."

"Having a different doctor or dentist come to the village every week is not good health care," notes Kent Saylor,



one of the members of the Northern and Native Child Health Program team. Patients are best served when they are able to establish relationships with their doctors over time. “Sometimes we are the most consistent care provider a family meets,” he says. “I’m pretty sure,” Pেকেles adds, “there isn’t a family with kids in any of these communities that hasn’t seen a McGill-affiliated health care practitioner at some point.”

Part of what needs to be done, in Saylor’s view, is to encourage more aboriginals to pursue careers in health care. In other words, there need to be more doctors like Saylor.

Saylor is uncomfortable talking about his own story. He doesn’t want to come across as some sort of hero—a boy from Kahnawake who studied at three of the top universities in the United States, and who finally came home in the late nineties to become the only pediatrician of First Nations or Inuit origin in all of Canada.

Every two weeks he does consulting work in Kahnawake; every month he visits the smaller Mohawk community of Kanesatake. And for 11 weeks of each year he works in the Cree territories, caring for children in Chisasibi and two other towns on a regular basis.

When health professionals visit such areas, Saylor remarks, “I’d like to see more of a holistic approach to taking care of people. That means thinking beyond the clinic doors, the hospital doors, and trying to engage more in the community. I’d like to see doctors communicating more with the schools, for example.”

Saylor speaks with the greatest passion when he’s asked what steps should be taken to get more young aboriginals interested in health care as a profession.

“Things need to start from when children are young,” he replies. “I’d like to see the schools promote health as a career choice.” Kids with potential ought to be identified early on and encouraged. Saylor points to the McGill High Performance Camp, run by the First Peoples’ House as a way to familiarize native youngsters with university life, as one useful model.

“Medical schools need to do a better job of realizing there’s a lack of native physicians throughout Canada. They have to be more active in getting native people to apply to medical school, and in helping them stay there.”

“[Kids] need role models, so they can say, ‘Hey, maybe I could do what this other person from my village is doing,’” Saylor adds. Pেকেles recalls the first time that Saylor visited Chisasibi to provide care. “That was a very powerful moment. There was a lot of interest in Kent.”

## TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE?

One of the tools now available to Pেকেles and his colleagues is a system called telehealth (télésanté in French): the delivery of health care and information by means of videoconferencing and other online technologies. Under this model, both diagnosis and treatment can be offered from a distance. “We’re bringing technology into patients’ homes,” enthuses Johanne Desrochers, McGill’s telehealth associate director. “That means the patient can see a medical specialist—a respirologist, an inhalation therapist, a

McGill University Health Centre's

# NORTHERN & NATIVE

Child Health Program

▲

 MOHAWK
 

▲

 CREE
 

▲

 INUIT

The Cree, Inuit and Mohawk communities in Quebec that are served by the McGill University Health Centre's Northern and Native Child Health Program. The program is headquartered at the Montreal Children's Hospital.



*Dr. Elizabeth MacNamara is one of several McGill medical professors who lend their expertise to health care facilities in northern Quebec*



JOHN MORSTAD

neurologist, and so on—in real time. Of course there also needs to be a home-care nurse by the patient's side."

An even more ambitious project involves what Desrochers calls the setting-up of a "virtual health centre." She describes it as "a foundation that will allow us to do pretty much anything we want in telehealth." It would allow, for instance, a surgeon in one Montreal hospital, a geneticist in a second and an obstetrician in a third to discuss a high-risk pregnancy in a remote northern community.

Before they consult with a patient onscreen, doctors involved in telehealth often need training. If they wear prints or checks, for instance, their image may be blurred in the patient's eyes. If they look at the screen, instead of the camera, the patient may be annoyed; if they speak too quickly, the patient may not understand. Yet despite such pitfalls, Desrochers remains convinced that "telehealth is the future."

Pekes isn't quite so gung-ho. "Telehealth is *part* of the future," he stresses. "It enhances our capacity to provide backup support to remote, small communities that may never have a full range of health services. But it is only helpful if it supports the ongoing presence of first-line staff, such as nurse-practitioners. If I'm doing anything that undermines their presence in the community—if people think they can get easy access to some hotshot specialist in Montreal—then I'm doing more harm than good."

That's one of the reasons why Pekes is helping to develop a distance education program aimed at nurse-practitioners stationed in remote areas. There are few opportunities for these nurses to develop their skills unless they leave the communities they work in. "Retaining nurses is one of the big challenges there," says Pekes. "They often feel isolated and overwhelmed. Anything that we can do to support them is valuable."

## DAUNTING CHALLENGES

Barbara Young, BSc'93, MDCM'98, has run the Nunavik Centre project at the MUHC since 2006. It was conceived within the RUIS framework as a way to raise the quality of specialized care for adult patients in Quebec's far north. She is, if you like, the counterpart to Gary Pekes for patients aged 18 and over. The Nunavik Centre offers services in every medical domain except psychiatry, which the Université de Montréal handles under a pre-existing agreement.

Young quickly realized that some of the problems facing northern communities were beyond her abilities. "We have people within the borders of our own country who are living in Third World conditions. It's important that we address this," Young says improvements to infrastructure in native communities would play a huge role in lowering the rates of lung cancer, TB and other pulmonary diseases.

"When I started this job in 2006," she says, "I was told that part of my task is to provide cardiology services." As time went on, though, Young grew worried that policy-makers were missing the bigger picture. "When the people there are living in totally inadequate housing, how can I just say to them, 'Too bad—but I can offer you an implantable pacemaker'?"

RUIS-McGill oversees research projects in the region and here Young is determined to tread carefully. The Inuit are genetically homogeneous and physically isolated. That makes them, as Young puts it, "tempting research subjects. But we need to be very careful in pursuing this temptation. Can we really justify conducting research when we can't guarantee basic health care services?" The regional health board, based in Kuujuaq, gets requests from researchers all over the world.

When Dr. Elizabeth MacNamara thinks about Nunavik, what comes to mind is the lack of trained local staff. The chief of diagnostic medicine at the Jewish

# BANDING *together against* DIABETES



JOHN MORSTAD

In 1970, **ANN MACAULAY** (pictured) was a young family medicine practitioner, newly arrived from Scotland, when she began seeing patients in Kahnawake, the Mohawk territory just across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal. She was the first external physician ever hired by the Mohawk community to tend to their medical needs.

Macaulay soon noticed that many of her Mohawk patients were being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes—too many, in fact. The rates of Type 2 diabetes in the community struck her as alarmingly high.

Collaborating with the late Louis Montour, MDCM'79, a young doctor who had grown up in Kahnawake, she began a research study to find out more. They discovered that the rates of Type 2 diabetes in the community were twice as high as the national average.

Macaulay launched her research career, she explains, “as a way of trying to improve patient care. I was really a clinician, doing research by the seat of my pants.”

Montour and Macaulay were insistent on sharing her findings with groups across Kahnawake, young and old alike. Elders and other leaders in the community were distressed by the findings—and determined to do something about it. Working with them and with colleagues from McGill and the Université de Montréal, Macaulay helped create the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP), a program that promotes healthy eating and physical activity in the community. The project has been widely credited with stabilizing diabetes rates in Kahnawake and has been used as a model for similar programs across Canada.

The project's code of research ethics was a major

influence on the guidelines for research involving aboriginal people that were adopted in 2007 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the country's major funding body for health-related research.

“The standard model of research is very top-down,” says Macaulay, a professor of family medicine at McGill. “Indeed, aboriginal people have been researched to death.” Historically, “researchers have presented their findings at conferences without taking their findings back to the community or allowing for community reaction.” As the first director of the Department of Family Medicine's recently created Participatory Research at McGill office, Macaulay encourages other researchers to build more collaborative relationships with the individuals and communities that they study.

Macaulay's own work has drawn high praise. In 2005 she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S., a rare honour for a non-American. And in 2008 she was named Family Medicine Researcher of the year, a prize awarded by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Macaulay ended her 38-year practice in Kahnawake last year, but remains active as a KSDPP research member.

What has she learned from her experiences among the Mohawks and other indigenous groups? “Their generosity,” she replies. “Their sharing. There's always room for one more person in the circle. It never fails to amaze me that for all the damage white people have inflicted on aboriginal people, they are still so welcoming.”

For more information on the KSDPP, please visit [www.ksdpp.org](http://www.ksdpp.org). To learn more about Participatory Research at McGill, visit <http://pram.mcgill.ca>.

*“We don’t want to be part of the ‘white ghetto’ of the North. So they will learn that we really care.”*

General Hospital, MacNamara has paid several recent visits to Puvirnituk, supervising an upgrade of the lab in its small hospital. In the late nineties she did the same in the Cree community of Chisasibi, where she was appalled to find the lab contained several bottles of picric acid—a highly explosive substance used in munitions. (More than half a century ago, it was sometimes deployed to measure kidney function.) The RCMP had to send in an explosives team to blow the bottles up.

The current system for medical testing in Nunavik is not working as well as it should, MacNamara says. It requires all urine and blood samples to be airlifted to the lab in Puvirnituk, where the staff are seldom if ever northerners. “I wish Quebec would put energy and money into training people locally,” she says. “The problem is, people come down, get adapted to the south, and don’t want to go back north.” Nunavik does have a few Inuit nurses, nurse assistants and midwives, plus one assistant whom Young has trained in pulmonary testing, but overall there is no program for developing local staff.

## **BUILDING TRUST**

Dr. Janique Harvey, a young psychiatrist at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, spends 12 weeks a year in Cree communities on behalf of RUIS-McGill. There she works with people who endure the poisonous legacy of residential schools, whose nine communities are ravaged by cocaine and alcohol addiction, sexual and physical abuse—and whose previous experiences of Western psychiatry have not been happy ones.

“Their first reaction,” Harvey says, “is often ‘Are you going to lock me up? Are you going to send me to Montreal?’ They might have been wary at first, but Harvey says they’re starting to open up to her.

Harvey, trained in transcultural psychology, understands that the Cree have their own methods of healing: shaking tents, sweat lodges, solitary journeys into the bush, and so on. Their language had no words for “depression” or “schizophrenia.” Charles-Édouard Carrier, who manages the RUIS program at the Douglas, says that “patients with schizophrenia often do better up there. But now, because we’ve put a label on, they are more afraid of it.”

Carrier says psychiatrists from the Douglas have been visiting the Cree territories for many years—but not in a structured way. The gap between Western and Cree ways of understanding had proved very difficult for doctors to bridge. In the near future, Carrier plans to introduce telehealth as a support—after Harvey has made several trips to each community, gaining the confidence of local people.

The Cree have long memories. They recall the “TB boats” that would haul sick patients away from their homes, never

to return. Carrier has accompanied Harvey on her trips to the Cree territories. He says that to reduce suspicion, “we try to spend time with the people at lunch, in the evenings—we don’t want to be part of the ‘white ghetto’ of the North. So they will learn that we really care.”

“Our relationship to native people is unique,” says Pেকেles of McGill’s long history in northern health care. “The only university in the country that rivals us in terms of the breadth and depth of what we are able to offer is the University of Manitoba. The two of us are in a class all our own.”

Few McGill physicians have been involved with native communities in the North for as long as MUHC pediatrician Johanne Morel. She made her first trip there in 1981, accompanying a friend who was going to James Bay to work in health care for a few months. It took some doing before the friend finally convinced Morel to tag along. “I was a city girl,” she says of her initial reluctance.

At the time, Morel was at a crossroads. She hadn’t yet finalized her medical training and she was having second thoughts about a career in pediatrics. Once she started seeing patients in James Bay, though, she didn’t want to stop. When her friend returned home, Morel opted to stay a few months longer. “I remember at one point, I had just finished delivering a baby at four in the morning and I realized, ‘This is what I want to do.’” She came back to Montreal to complete her training, now determined to use her medical skills to assist patients in the North. “As soon as I finished my exams, I was back there.”

Morel would play a pivotal role in establishing McGill’s Northern and Native Child Health Program, which is based at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. “I love getting on a plane, discovering new places and getting to know the people there,” she says. “I’ve had a chance to experience the North in different seasons, to see wild caribou. If I just had a doctor’s office [downtown], I would have missed out on so much.”

Pেকেles has now been travelling up north to see patients for so long, some of the kids he used to treat are old enough to bring their own children to see him.

“What I do in Montreal is important,” he says, “but if I fell off the edge of the island, I don’t think it would have much of an impact.” It’s far easier to find a doctor in Montreal than in Puvirnituk, after all. “In terms of the contributions that we make to [northern] communities, I have a real sense that we’re making a difference in people’s lives.” 🐻

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*Mark Abley is a Montreal-based author, poet and journalist whose work has appeared in Canadian Geographic and The Walrus. His most recent book is The Prodigal Tongue: Dispatches From the Future of English.*





# PACKING A LITERARY PUNCH

As comics become a cultural force,  
McGill graduates are making their mark

BY BRAD MACKAY

**B**y now it should be clear to even the most casual observer that comics are enjoying an unprecedented cultural moment.

With movies based on superheroes earning more than \$7 billion U.S. over the past five years—including last year's billion-dollar blockbuster *The Dark Knight*—their dominance in the arena of popular culture is indisputable.

The influence of comics can also be seen on bookstore shelves, where graphic novels and manga are shouldering out traditional prose novels for the dollars of younger readers. Even the *New York Times* has taken notice, unveiling a Graphic Books Best Seller List that's stacked with everyone from Batman and Spider-Man to a graphic novel version of Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.

Meanwhile, a new generation of more literary-driven cartoonists are busy crafting works that challenge the preconceptions of the medium, and garnering praise and prizes along the way. For example, Chris Ware's *Jimmy*

*Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth* racked up a pile of honours, including the prestigious Guardian First Book Award (the first comic ever to do so).

Oh. And earlier this year the Louvre—home of the *Venus de Milo* and the *Mona Lisa*—debuted its first major exhibition devoted entirely to comics.

With that sort of coverage, it's no surprise that a number of McGill graduates are making their mark in the comics community. Here are a few.

## ROOKIE SENSATION

It's a safe bet that no one was more surprised by **MARIKO TAMAKI's** sudden, overnight success in the comics realm than Tamaki, BA'94, herself. The Toronto-based writer never set out to be a celebrated comics scribe. She enrolled in McGill at 17 with an eye to becoming "the next Timothy Findley," and left with a degree in English literature. She quickly immersed herself in Toronto's vibrant arts commu-

nity, where she wrote and performed in plays and penned her first novel.

Then *Skim* happened.

Her debut graphic novel, produced with her cousin Jillian Tamaki, *Skim* recounts a turbulent period in the life of Kimberly Keiko Cameron, a Goth-ish teen navigating her way in an all-girls private school. Published in January 2008, the book has since become a certified sensation, capturing an Ignatz Award for Outstanding Graphic Novel, landing on the *New York Times* list of Best Illustrated Books of 2008, and nabbing a Governor General's Literary Award nomination — the first comics work to ever receive such an honour. More recently, *Skim* garnered four Eisner Award nominations — arguably the "Oscars" of the comics industry.

A fast-talking 33-year-old who balances her literary bona fides with a punk sensibility, Tamaki has ridden the *Skim* wave into a promising career in comics writing. Her sophomore graphic novel, *Emiko Superstar*, about a suburban teen who unexpectedly finds acclaim in the underground arts scene, debuted in late 2008 and she has an autobiographical story in the upcoming Top Shelf anthology, *Awesome 2: Awesomer*.

Mariko recently talked about the surprise success of *Skim* and the unexpected controversy that surrounded her GG nod.



KC ARMSTRONG



Mariko Tamaki, author of the award-winning graphic novel, *Skim*



From *Skim* by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki

**If you had to sum up *Skim* in a Hollywood-style pitch, what would it sound like?**

MT: *Skim* is the anti-*Gossip Girl*, the anti-*Sweet Valley High*. In the subject matter it covers, like suicide and love, it's also, I hope, a book that runs in the opposite direction of key high school reading texts like *Romeo and Juliet*. It's a book that says that just because everything isn't working out, you don't have to give up and give in. Nothing that happens in high school is the be-all and end-all, even when it's sucking pretty hardcore.

**You've mentioned before that you knew very little about the process of making comics before you started *Skim*. How do you think that affected your approach to writing comics?**

MT: I gave [Jillian] the dialogue and the same sort of directions that you might give an actor, like this is what the scene is. *Skim* was really written in acts and scenes, because of my background in theatre.

**Then there's the GG nomination — the first ever for a comics work — which was tainted by the fact that it was nominated in the "Children's Literature-Text" category. Which, to many in the comics world, seemed to suggest that your cousin's contributions were being ignored. Can you talk about the experience of being nominated? What was your reaction when you found out that you were the only one nominated?**

MT: I didn't really understand it [at first]; I was like, "Uhh, text?" It didn't make any sense. So, I called Jillian and we were both like, "This sucks!" I was still happy that it had been nominated — but it totally sucked.

My first reaction was, "Why wouldn't she be nominated for the illustration category?" If this is a story that's been nominated for the text, how does it make any sense that the illustration — which tells a huge component of the story — not be nominated? Everybody who comments on *Skim* comments [about] the illustration.

**The issue quickly became something of a comics-world cause célèbre after Chester Brown and Seth, two of Canada's best-known cartoonists, penned a protest letter to the Canada Council urging them to include Jillian in the nomination. The letter was co-signed by a number of A-list alternative cartoonists, from Adrian Tomine and Bryan Lee O'Malley to Chris Ware and Art Spiegelman. How did that make you feel?**

MT: We were really thrilled when Chester and Seth contacted us. It also felt like, even though we were new to this community, from the get-go we've had such amazing support. I did feel that [the whole controversy] was an opportunity for someone to speak to this genre at large. The collaborative efforts of artists should be supported, I think. You see that it's a factor in theatre, where collaboration is an accepted part of the process. I think it should be a factor in graphic novels as well.





A sample of Bryant Paul Johnson's online comic strip, *Teaching Baby Paranoia*

## ONLINE AND OFFBEAT

As the creator of the web-comic *Teaching Baby Paranoia*, **BRYANT PAUL JOHNSON**, BA'94, has carved out a quirky niche market for his brand of smart and funny cartooning. The weekly strip, which he has published online since 2000, features intricate (and "periodically factual") history lessons that come complete with voluminous and misleading footnotes that send up everything from academic snobbery to meta-writers like David Foster Wallace and Dave Eggers.

Available for free on the web-comics stalwart *Modern Tales*, the strip began in a McGill student paper and later emerged as one of the first strips to appear exclusively online at the onset of the decade. Since then, Johnson's readership has grown to include diehard web-comics fans and others fond of absurd, post-modern humour.

Reached by phone and email at his home in Northampton, Massachusetts, the 36-year-old opened up about how McGill helped shape his approach to cartooning and the uncertain future of the traditional newspaper strip.

**What's the story behind the title of your webcomic? It's not exactly Peanuts.**

**BPJ:** *Teaching Baby Paranoia* started out as an editorial comic in the *McGill Tribune*. It was the punchline to a *New Yorker*-style cartoon that I had done, that I never actually ended up using. But I liked the sort of nonsense quality as a title.

**The subtitle for your strip is "At The Crossroads of the Academic and the Asinine." That's appropriate, what with its ersatz history lessons and long-winded footnotes. Where does that come from?**

**BPJ:** I just started writing random little faux history stories and found that that was the stuff I was enjoying the most, so that's what the strip became. My degree at McGill

[classical civilization] was kind of eclectic, in that I would take whatever classes I thought were interesting at the moment. The strip sort of reflects that, in that I have this kind of dilettante thirst for different subjects. So anytime I think of something that might be interesting to read about, chances are a comic comes out of it.

**How does one earn money by publishing online? Are you making a living off your web-comics?**

**BPJ:** Comics are unfortunately not my only source of income. I make money doing freelance illustration work for video game companies.

I don't think there are too many people who are making a living solely from doing web-comics. But I can honestly say that the audience is significantly larger than the audience for traditional print comics, if only because you're getting people who would read newspaper comic strips, but wouldn't go into a comic bookstore.

I think one of the reasons why a lot of people are using the web is that monthly print comics have become financially prohibitive—especially for self-publishing.

*Bryant Paul Johnson's comic, Teaching Baby Paranoia, can be found at [www.moderntales.com](http://www.moderntales.com).*

## MASTERING MANY MEDIUMS

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in part in his parents' native Nicaragua, **ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA**, MA'97, grew up in what can only be called fan-boy heaven. Each week his mother, a huge horror buff, would take him and his two siblings to the neighbourhood 7-Eleven, where they would buy Slurpees and comics; horror comics for her, superhero and *Archie* comics for the kids.

Some 30 years later, Aguirre-Sacasa has carved out a successful and unique career for himself, dividing his time





DREW REYNOLDS



Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa writes a popular adaptation of Stephen King's *The Stand* for Marvel Comics

between writing for theatre, television and his first love, comic books. When he isn't penning scripts for HBO's acclaimed *Big Love*, the 38-year-old New Yorker is writing provocative plays (*Good Boys* and *True, Based on a Totally True Story*) and best-selling comics for the industry-leading Marvel Comics group. His latest, a 30-issue adaptation of Stephen King's epic novel *The Stand*, has been met with healthy sales. His upcoming comics projects include *Marvel Vixens*, a series that he describes as being "like *Sex and the City*, set in the Marvel Universe."

We caught up with Aguirre-Sacasa in New York City where—in between doing loads of laundry for his boyfriend—he discussed the congruencies between the stage and the comics page, his Edward Albee-inspired take on the *Fantastic Four* and his little-known role in McGill comics history.

**You seem to have it all: a respected career as a playwright, a lucrative writing gig at HBO and every little boy's dream job; writing comics at Marvel Comics. How did you pull it off?**

**RAS:** There's no other way to describe it other than it was a very, very lucky break. I was in grad school for theatre [at Yale University] and I heard that the president of Marvel Comics was looking for new writers—from film, TV, novelists, essentially anyone who had an affinity for their characters. I pitched a bunch of stuff [including a treatment for *The Incredible Hulk* and *The Fantastic Four*], then about two or three weeks before I graduated from drama school, I got a call saying "We'd love for you to write the *Fantastic Four*." It was great timing.

**Are you a comics writer who dabbles in theatre, or a playwright who experiments in comics?**

**RAS:** I would say that I am a playwright who lucked into this incredible day job that supports my addiction of playwrighting.

**How accepting were comics fans of you? Your debut run on the *Fantastic Four* (in the comic *Marvel Knights 4*) caught some heat after you made them file for bankruptcy and get kicked out of their home base—the Baxter Building—all in the first issue.**

**RAS:** In the beginning I think there was a lot of curiosity that a playwright who had never written a mainstream comic was going to be writing Marvel's first family. But these days, it's much more fluid. TV writers and screenwriters and novelists who had never written comics before seem to sneak in more easily than they used to.

**Has writing for a monthly comic had an effect on the way you approach your theatre or TV work?**

**RAS:** Characterization and dialogue—all those tools that are a playwright's bread-and-butter—have influenced my comics. One of the things I heard a lot about [my work on] the *Fantastic Four* when I first started, was how the dialogue sounded so real and how the characters seemed very emotionally complicated.

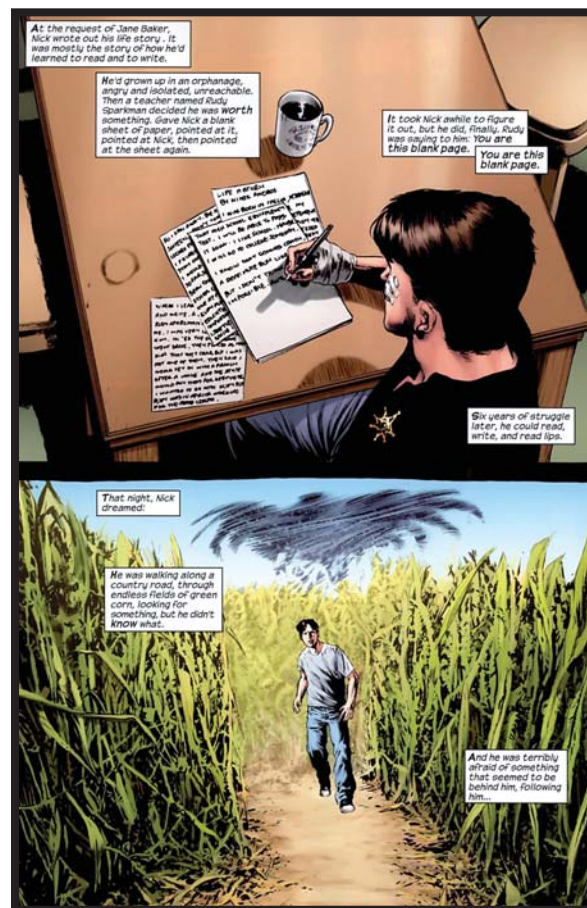
Now, when I look back at those issues they seem incredibly type-heavy to me. I feel like every issue has Sue Richards and Reed Richards screaming at each other like George and Martha from *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*?

**You're primarily a writer now, but you originally aspired to be a cartoonist and even penned an ongoing comic in high school. I've heard from other McGill grads that you actually wrote and drew a number of stories for *Newbies Eclectica*, a notorious alt-comics anthology published at McGill in the nineties.**

**RAS:** That is true. My stories [for the anthology] were very eclectic. In one issue I did a story about a kid who hit puberty and started becoming a werewolf, in another I did a story about my obsession with Spider-Man and the Spider Woman from *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, which is crazy. It was my love letter to both of them. I have a comic book rack—you know, like from the old-school comic book stores—and those issues are on it in a place of honour.

**Your current comics project has you writing Marvel's high-profile adaptation of *The Stand*, Stephen King's epic fantasy novel. What has the process been like for you?**

**RAS:** I've never been particularly interested in adapting another writer's work. I love pilfering from other writers,



An excerpt from the comic book version of *The Stand*

and spoofing other writers' work, but in terms of doing a faithful adaptation? I wasn't that interested in it.

I had not read *The Dark Tower*, the [Marvel] series that preceded *The Stand*, but an editor at Marvel called me anyway and said, 'We think we're getting the rights to adapt another Stephen King book. Would you be interested?' I thought, well gosh—I'm not particularly interested. But then he told me the novel was *The Stand*, which is of course one of King's most beloved books. It also happens to be one of my favourite Stephen King books; it also happens to be 1,400 pages long.

So, I thought if I'm going to do this, it's going to become the quintessential *The Stand*. I want this to be on people's shelves for all time. I want there to be no better adaptation of *The Stand*, ever.

**The Stand is slated to run 30 issues. Not only is that a big commitment for you and your collaborator [artist Mike Perkins], but you have to face the author himself, King, who has been vocal about his displeasure with past adaptations of his work—including Stanley Kubrick's movie version of *The Shining*. How do you cope with that?**

**RAS:** It seemed daunting at the time. But it's like every other project; you write one word after the other, one issue after the other, and suddenly we're a third of the way through it. I'm incredibly proud of it. It's probably the most consistently beautiful book I've worked on. Mike's work is just great. Whatever hesitations or doubts I had initially have completely gone away.

## CHAMPIONING COMICS FOR KIDS

Remember the comic books of your youth? The ones jam-packed with funny animals in brainless situations or little kids traipsing into—and waltzing out of—potentially dangerous predicaments? **J. TORRES**, BA'93, DipEd'94, sure does.

Concerned about the dearth of kid-friendly comics, the Filipino-born writer began penning all-ages comics about 10 years ago that bucked the then popular trend of violent, revisionist superhero stories. Done as a rebuke to the increasingly grim and gritty superhero fare, Torres's comics gained popularity in alt-comics circles and led to a few mainstream comics gigs.

In the decade since, Torres has been recruited to write a slew of new age-appropriate comics for younger readers, including *Wonder Girl*, *Legion of Super Heroes in the 31st Century*, *The Batman Strikes*, *Teen Titans Go!*, *Degrassi: Extra Credit*, *Alison Dare* and *Jason and the Argobots*. He has also brought his perspective to bear on a series of more personal, adult works such as *Days Like This*, *Love as a Foreign Language* and *The Copybook Tales*, which have helped earn him five consecutive Outstanding Canadian Writer nominations (and one win) in the Joe Shuster Awards.

Torres took a break from his busy schedule—which

includes wrangling his one-year-old son and putting the finishing touches on his upcoming graphic novel *Lola: A Ghost Story* (based, in part, on Filipino folklore)—to talk about his comics career and the fall, and eventual rise, of comics for kids.

### What was your first comics job?

**JT:** I got my first break in the mid-nineties with a creator-owned series called *Copybook Tales*. It was illustrated by my friend Tim Levins. *Copybook* began as a self-published, photocopied mini-comic that we sold on consignment in comic book stores, as well as on the Internet, way back during the "Usenet" days. We would also send copies of each issue to various editors and publishers. After five issues, SLG Publishing offered to publish *Copybook* as a "real" comic.

### Tell me: What happened to all the great kids' comics?

**JT:** What happened in the late eighties was that as the small but loyal comic book audience matured, so did the storytelling. Not that this was a bad thing—out of this period came seminal works like *Watchmen* and *The Dark Knight Returns*, but the industry threw the baby out with the bathwater with their "comics aren't just for kids anymore" mantra, and pretty much lost an entire generation of potential readers.

About 10 years or so later, you saw a reaction to this in the small and alternative press where people, including yours truly, started to produce all-ages material in the hopes that someone would notice. The age-appropriate books have been out there all this time. You just had to know where to look. Book publishers eventually figured that out and now we have their help in getting comics into bookstores and libraries and into the hands of younger readers.

### So, have we turned the tide? Are comics a viable, popular option for younger kids, or is the future paved with video games?

**JT:** I think we're in a good place right now. Even the Big Two [Marvel and DC Comics] seem to be trying harder to reach that younger demographic. It was only a matter of time before they realized it was key to their survival and that of the comic book industry in North America.

*J. Torres is currently writing the new kid-friendly series Batman: The Brave and The Bold for DC Comics. You can find out more about his comics at [www.jtorresonline.blogspot.com](http://www.jtorresonline.blogspot.com).*

*To read an expanded version of this article, please visit the McGill News online at [www.mcgill.ca/news](http://www.mcgill.ca/news).* 🐦

*Brad Mackay is an Ottawa-based freelance writer who has worked as a reporter for the National Post and CBC.ca. His articles about culture and comics have appeared in the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, the Ottawa Citizen, enRoute and Toronto Life.*



Comics written by J. Torres include *Love as a Foreign Language*, a romantic comedy in manga form, and the superhero miniseries, *The Family Dynamic*





# **McGill en français ? Plus que jamais !**

**McGill a bien changé depuis l'époque de McGill français, mouvement qui condamnait notamment l'unilinguisme de l'Université. Aujourd'hui, le français y est bien présent.**

PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B.A. 1992)

Natif du Saguenay, Hugues Doré Bergeron (B.A. 2006) est un indépendantiste convaincu, venu à McGill dans le sillage de ses deux sœurs aînées pour parfaire son anglais. Quelle ne fut pas sa surprise d'y découvrir l'existence d'une petite association étudiante, l'Action indépendantiste! Il y a adhéré dès son admission. Et c'est ainsi qu'à tous les grands événements de McGill, Hugues Doré Bergeron s'installait à la petite table de l'Action indépendantiste avec ses dépliant pour faire la promotion de l'indépendance du Québec – sujet on ne peut plus délicat.

« Nous avons toujours eu des discussions respectueuses avec les autres étudiants », raconte Hugues Doré Bergeron, qui termine maintenant sa deuxième année de droit à McGill. « Ce qui m'a surpris, c'est que nous n'avons été insultés qu'une seule fois en trois ans. »

Quarante ans après la naissance du mouvement McGill français, qui réclamait la francisation complète de l'Université (voir encadré 2), McGill a bien changé. Elle demeure une

université de langue anglaise, mais a promu le bilinguisme au sein de son personnel cadre et permet désormais à ses étudiants de remettre essais et examens en français. De nombreux documents administratifs sont bilingues, voire uniquement en

français. « Notre politique en est une d'accommodement », résume Morton Mendelson, premier vice-principal exécutif adjoint aux études et à la vie étudiante. « Il n'y a pas de crise au point de vue linguistique. »

Il est complexe de dresser le portrait exact du français au sein de la population étudiante de McGill. Le nombre d'étudiants ayant inscrit le français comme langue maternelle en 2008 est évalué à 17 pour cent, un recul depuis 15 ans (voir encadré 2). Soulignons cependant que ces données ne tiennent pas compte de la « capacité de parler français », alors que presque tous les étudiants québécois allophones et anglophones ont soit été scolarisés en français ou ont subi une évaluation de compétences en français au cégep. « Parmi les étudiants canadiens non francophones qui arrivent à McGill et qui se débrouillent déjà en français, on peut présumer qu'un certain nombre est issu de programmes d'immersion », précise madame Jane Everett (Ph. D. 1988), doyenne à la vie étudiante.

## MCGILL : UN CHOIX ÉCLAIRÉ

La plupart des étudiants francophones qui arrêtent leur choix sur McGill le font soit pour approfondir leur connaissance de l'anglais, soit pour bénéficier du prestige de l'institution, qui leur offre l'avantage de demeurer proche de leur culture d'origine.

La violoncelliste Chloé Dominguez (Diplôme d'artiste 2003, M.A. 2005), termine son doctorat en interprétation à l'École de musique Schulich. Elle admet avoir beaucoup hésité à venir étudier à McGill. « J'hésitais non pas à cause de la langue, mais parce que 90 pour cent de mes condisciples du conservatoire partaient faire doctorat aux États-Unis », dit la virtuose, qui s'est démarquée en remportant plus tôt



OWEN EGAN

Chloé Dominguez

cette année le prestigieux Violon d'or, une importante bourse attribuée par l'École de musique Schulich. « Mais en restant à McGill, j'allais chercher une éducation de calibre international sans m'endetter, tout en continuant à cultiver mes contacts dans le milieu musical québécois. Les emplois sont rares en musique. »

L'expérience ne fut pas une sinécure cependant pour cette native du Plateau-Mont-Royal, et ce, même si ses connaissances de l'anglais étaient déjà solides grâce à sa participation à de nombreux camps musicaux et orchestres internationaux pour jeunes. « Les deux premières semaines, la tête me bourdonnait lorsque je revenais à la maison », raconte-t-elle. Rien ne l'avait préparée à la difficulté de démêler des conversations dans le vacarme des corridors ou de la cafétéria. Mais Chloé n'a jamais regretté son choix : « Le bilinguisme est une bonne discipline mentale et il me donne des capacités que je n'avais pas avant. »

Plus que la langue, c'est souvent un saut culturel que cherchent les étudiants francophones. « J'ai trouvé ici un bol d'air frais », dit Maysa Pharès, native du 17<sup>e</sup> arrondissement à Paris et rédactrice en chef du *Débat* (ancien *McGill Daily français*). « Le système français d'universités et de grandes écoles est beaucoup moins souple et tolère mal mon genre de changement de parcours », souligne l'étudiante, qui a pu se réorienter sans difficulté des sciences politiques à la géographie.



OWEN EGAN

Maysa Pharès,  
la rédactrice en  
chef du *Débat*

Par contre, la jeune Parisienne a dû s'adapter à une autre façon d'écrire, même dans sa langue maternelle. « Ici, la communication écrite est plus pragmatique : les gens ne pensent pas et ne raisonnent pas de la même manière. J'ai donc dû m'ajuster. La première année, je n'étais pas un bolide... »

## UNE PLACE ASSURÉE À LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Maysa Pharès s'est prévalu à plusieurs reprises du privilège de pouvoir remettre ses travaux notés en français, une formule qui remonte au début des années 1980. Comme le



# LE FRANÇAIS À MCGILL EN CHIFFRES

Morton Mendelson, premier vice-principal exécutif adjoint aux études et à la vie étudiante, explique que dans les formulaires d'admission, on demande aux étudiants leur langue maternelle (et le niveau de compétence en anglais aux étudiants non anglophones venant de l'extérieur du Québec, avec quelques exceptions) ainsi que la langue la plus fréquemment parlée à la résidence permanente.

Langue maternelle	1987	1994	2008
Français	25,5 %	19,6 %	17 %
Anglais	55,1	57	52,5
Autre	19,1	23,4	30,1

Québec : 56,6 %

Autres provinces : 24,6 %

Étranger : 18,6 %, dont 2,3 % de pays francophones.

« Notre objectif est d'obtenir un portrait clair l'an prochain », dit Morton Mendelson, qui estime que la place du français est grandement sous-estimée à McGill. « Nous découvrirons également, j'en suis sûr, que la très large majorité de nos étudiants parlent deux, trois, voire quatre langues. »



OWEN EGAN

Guillaume Doucet

précise Jane Everett, on ignore combien d'étudiants se prévalent de ce droit et à quelle fréquence. Quoi qu'il en soit, tous les étudiants interviewés pour cet article disent y avoir eu recours au moins une fois.

Chloé Dominguez s'est prévalu de ce privilège à plusieurs reprises : elle présentera même sa thèse-récital en français. Maysa Pharès y a eu recours souvent également, mais jamais si le professeur n'avait pas une bonne compréhension de la langue. « Je ne veux pas être corrigée par un adjoint. »

Débat sans fin parmi les étudiants francophones : remettre un texte en français a-t-il un impact sur les notes?

« Il existe une crainte qu'un texte remis en français puisse être évalué différemment des autres copies », dit Jane Everett, ajoutant que les mécanismes de révision sont justement en place pour parer à de telles inquiétudes. « Cependant, la possibilité d'une lecture 'différente' n'est sans doute pas plus élevée pour les francophones que pour n'importe quel groupe évalué par plus d'un correcteur. »

Outre le privilège de rédiger en français, de nombreux garde-fous sont en place pour mieux soutenir la place de la langue de Molière à McGill. Une Commission des affaires francophones a été créée au sein de l'Association étudiante de l'Université McGill, le journal *Le Délit* offre une voix aux étudiants francophones et tous les documents administratifs sont disponibles en français. Le Bureau des étudiants

de première année compte même un employé spécialement affecté aux francophones, qui les renseigne sur les structures, les outils disponibles, les programmes, les associations et même les événements les concernant.

Grâce à la Commission aux affaires francophones, l'administration de l'Université a d'ailleurs pris conscience en 2008 d'un sérieux raté dans son processus d'accommodement. En effet, bien des étudiants apprenaient trop tard qu'ils pouvaient être évalués en français ou étaient gênés de le demander. « Le Sénat a alors statué clairement que tout travail noté peut être soumis en français et que cette information devra apparaître dès l'été 2009 sur tous les plans de cours », indique Morton Mendelson.

## UN MICROCOSME BICULTUREL

L'Université McGill est devenue un point de rencontre parfois bouillant entre les cultures anglophone et francophone, ce qui signifie que bien des gens y confrontent leurs préjugés. La polémique linguistique ressurgit à l'occasion, comme à l'automne 2008, alors que les étudiants francophones se sont mis à dénoncer les mauvaises traductions françaises publiées par l'Association étudiante de la Faculté des arts. La levée de boucliers avait été provoquée l'année précédente par un article incendiaire du *McGill Tribune* qui décrivait la langue au Québec comme une version abâtardie du français d'Europe et qui assimilait la culture québécoise à Céline Dion et aux *Boys*.

« Mais ce n'est quand même pas la même ambiance ici qu'à Charlottetown », note Guillaume Doucet, un étudiant de première année en éducation physique, qui porte le numéro 22 de l'équipe de hockey des Redmen. Natif d'Anjou, il a vécu un an à Charlottetown, où il jouait pour l'équipe locale de la Ligue de hockey junior majeur du Québec. « Plusieurs francophones sont fiers de s'exprimer dans leur langue maternelle. Je n'ai vu personne se faire insulter parce qu'il parlait français. On est à Montréal, ici. »

Chloé Dominguez – qui a vécu une bonne demi-douzaine d'élections fédérales et provinciales pendant

ses huit années d'études à McGill – croit que le milieu mcgillois a un effet révélateur sur certains. « J'ai été fort surprise des idées très négatives sur le Québec que pouvaient avoir mes amies de Saskatchewan et du Manitoba. Mais elles ont pu juger de l'écart entre la réalité et ce qui se dit, se lit et s'écrit à ce sujet. »

Au-delà de sa politique d'accommodement à l'égard du français en ses murs, l'Université McGill vise à casser sa vieille image de bastion anglophone dans une société majoritairement francophone. Outre les échanges étudiants qu'elle a créés avec l'Université de Montréal, elle encourage fortement ses professeurs à participer à des programmes et projets de recherches conjoints et mêle volontiers les étudiants dans ses résidences, sans « ségrégation ».

Mais il reste encore du chemin à faire, à en juger par un éditorial du *McGill Daily* qui réclamait davantage de cours de français, pour les élèves, des programmes de résidence en immersion dans des familles locales et l'élargissement du cursus de certains départements afin qu'ils offrent plus de cours portant sur l'histoire et la culture du Québec.

« McGill se veut une fenêtre sur le monde pour les étudiants québécois et une fenêtre sur Montréal et le Québec pour les étudiants des autres provinces ou pays, mais il faut qu'on ouvre encore plus grand », indique Morton Mendelson, qui explique que l'Université doit faciliter l'interaction entre étudiants de diverses origines.

En effet, les étudiants québécois, grâce au cégep, peuvent obtenir leur diplôme de baccalauréat en trois ans, au lieu de quatre pour ceux d'ailleurs. C'est une année de moins pour la vie étudiante, d'autant plus que l'université n'est pas leur seul milieu de vie. « Même moi qui arrivais du Saguenay, j'avais ma petite diaspora saguenéenne dans les autres universités, alors je traînais avec eux le week-end », raconte Hugues Doré Bergeron, qui n'a vraiment participé à la vie étudiante qu'à sa quatrième année, lorsqu'il a entrepris un second baccalauréat en droit.

Une seule exception : les clubs de la Faculté de génie, où le nombre de Québécois est nettement supérieur à la moyenne, « dans une proportion voisine du tiers dans certains cas », selon Simon Ouellette (B. génie mécanique 2004, M.A. 2009). « Nos clubs doivent solliciter beaucoup de donateurs, de commanditaires, même les médias. Il faut donc être très branché localement », affirme le doctorant en génie mécanique qui consacre plusieurs heures au club de motoneige électrique.

Dans l'application de sa politique à l'égard du français, McGill ira-t-elle un jour jusqu'à demander à tous ses étudiants et ses professeurs d'apprendre cette langue?

Sur ce point, les étudiants francophones tiennent habituellement une position nuancée. « Quelle occasion ratée pour un étudiant de venir étudier quatre ans à McGill sans s'être donné la peine d'apprendre le français! » estime Vincent Larochelle, étudiant de 3<sup>e</sup> année en mathématiques et nouveau boursier Rhodes. « Par ailleurs, je ne pense pas que ce soit la tâche de l'institution de forcer l'étudiant à faire un effort. McGill doit cependant offrir plus de possibilités. »

Morton Mendelson explique que l'idée d'exiger la connaissance d'une deuxième langue a été soulevée dans les échelons supérieurs de l'Université, mais qu'elle n'obtient pas un grand appui. Il est néanmoins possible que l'on voit les choses autrement le jour où l'Université disposera de statistiques fiables sur les langues parlées par ses étudiants.

L'expérience de la Faculté de droit, dont le cursus de première année est entièrement bilingue, et ce, depuis environ 25 ans, mériterait d'être examinée par d'autres facultés. Cela va bien au-delà de la politique d'un bilinguisme passif minimal où chacun peut s'exprimer dans sa langue en toute transparence en ayant la certitude d'être compris. Une proportion importante des cours est carrément donnée en français.

Le doyen Nicholas Kasirer (B.C.L. 1985, L.L. B. 1985) considère que sa faculté a pris du galon sur le plan international grâce à ce changement. « La langue et le droit sont quasi indissociables. Nous avons compris tôt comment cette intégration en profondeur des deux langues nous démarquait parmi les grandes facultés de droit », fait-il valoir. La mixité du droit québécois, qui évolue tant en français qu'en anglais, est unique – le nouveau Code civil du Québec sert d'inspiration pour le nouveau code civil russe! « Cela fait de notre faculté le pont naturel entre l'Amérique et l'Europe. Nous avons donné notre premier cours de droit en espagnol en 2008, mais ce saut n'est possible que parce que nous avons d'abord profondément intégré le français et la sensibilité linguistique dans nos structures et nos façons de faire au quotidien. »

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

## MCGILL FRANÇAIS

Il y avait 10 000, partis du Carré Saint-Louis, avec des affiches du genre « McGill français », « McGill au peuple » et autres « À bas la Bastille ». Aux portes de l'Université, 500 policiers les attendaient.

Cela se passait le 28 mars 1969. L'émeute

tant redoutée n'a jamais eu lieu, mais l'événement a profondément secoué McGill. Le manifeste des protestataires réclamait l'admission immédiate de 10 000 étudiants francophones des cégeps, et la francisation complète du corps professoral en trois ans. « Les anglophones peuvent partir, collaborer ou se faire descendre », disait François

Bachand, membre du Front de libération du Québec et grand inspirateur du mouvement.

Dès la rentrée suivante, l'Université a mis en application divers moyens pour assurer un meilleur enracinement dans la communauté, à commencer par la hausse du recrutement d'étudiants francophones – à peine huit pour cent en 1968-1969.





## *Je choisis McGill*

The University is home base for almost 6,000 francophone students

BY JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA'92

TRANSLATED BY CH-KAY TRANSLATIONS

A committed *indépendantiste*, Hugues Doré Bergeron, BA'06, arrived at McGill a few years ago from his native Saguenay, in part, to work on perfecting his English. What he didn't expect to discover once he began his studies at the University was a McGill student group devoted to Quebec independence: *L'Action indépendantiste*.

He has been an active member ever since, and a regular representative for the group at campus information tables. "We've always had respectful discussions with the students [who approach us]," says Doré Bergeron, now finishing his second year of law at McGill. While tempers can easily flare when the subject of Quebec independence comes up, the students Doré Bergeron has encountered tend to be friendly and inquisitive. "What has surprised me is that in three years, there has only been one incident in which someone insulted us."

About 17 per cent of McGill's student body — close to 6,000 students — is francophone. Most choose McGill either to improve their knowledge of English or to enjoy the benefits of studying at a world-class university while remaining close to their culture of origin.

Cellist Chloé Dominguez, DipArt'03, MA'05, is completing her doctoral degree at the Schulich School of Music. Dominguez (pictured above), a resident of Plateau Mont-Royal, recently earned McGill's Golden Violin Award, the largest privately funded music scholarship in Canada. Though she knew some English when she arrived at McGill, her early days at the University were still a challenge as she puzzled out conversations amid the noisy racket of the hallways or the cafeteria. "For the first two weeks, my head was buzzing when I got home," she says.

Dominguez is grateful that she persevered. "I wanted to get an international-calibre education without incurring large debt."

For some students, the challenges facing them are more about culture than about language. Maysa Pharès is a Parisian from the 17th *arrondissement* and the editor in chief of *Le Délit* (formerly the *McGill Daily français*). While she appreciates the fact that McGill students have the right to submit their assignments in French if they want to, doing her studies in North America still required her to rethink her approach to her course work.

"Written communication is far more pragmatic [here]. People tend not to think or reason in the same manner as in France. I have just had to adjust. For the first year, I wasn't exactly the quickest!"

Besides the option of being able to submit work in French, several other measures are in place to ensure the language of Molière has a secure place at McGill. Manon Lemelin works in McGill's First Year Office as the University's first year assistant for francophone students. She is a resource for French speaking students adapting to a predominantly English university. The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) established the *Commission des affaires francophones* which, among other things, organizes events for French-speaking students. *Le Délit* provides a regular voice on campus for francophone students.

Forty years ago, 10,000 people took part in the *McGill français* demonstration, calling on the University to become a full-fledged francophone institution. Few echo such sentiments today, but Quebec City native Vincent Larochelle, a third-year mathematics student and a recently chosen Rhodes Scholar, thinks anglophone students are making a mistake if they don't take advantage of the fact that their University is located in a French-speaking city. "It would be such a missed opportunity for a student to come to McGill for four years of study without bothering to learn French!" 🐦



# LONG-WINDED STORY TELLERS NEED NOT APPLY

BY JOEL YANOFSKY, BA'77, MA'81,  
JULIE MASIS, BA'04,  
AND DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

## McGill's award-winning Six Words campaign proves that a gripping yarn requires only a handful of words.

According to publishing lore, some of Ernest Hemingway's drinking buddies once bet the fabled author that he couldn't craft a compelling story using just six words. Not one to shy away from a challenge, the future Nobel laureate used his six-word allotment to heart-rending effect: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

Hemingway is said to have believed that this ranked among his best stories ever. It certainly had a lasting impact. In recent years, several publications, including *BlackBook* and *Wired*, have been inspired by Hemingway's feat to issue their own six-word-story challenges to celebrated wordsmiths and, in some cases, to not-so-famous readers. *SMITH Magazine* popularized the notion of six-word memoirs, publishing two best-selling compilations that featured contributions from the likes of Jane Goodall and Stephen Colbert.

Last fall, McGill collaborated with the ad agency Ogilvy Montreal to create its own six word campaign. The idea, which initially focused on Toronto-area alumni, was to come up with an unexpected and eye-catching way to profile some of McGill's outstanding faculty and students.

Six individuals, including young human rights activist Eloge Butera and global warming expert Parisa Ariya, were featured in six-word profiles that appeared in print and online publications and as night-time projections — on the Air Canada Centre on the night of a Madonna concert, for instance.

An accompanying website was launched and visitors — mostly alumni — were invited to submit their own six-word stories. It turns out that there are plenty of McGill graduates with a knack for spinning short and to the point tales that are vivid without being verbose.

McGill's six word campaign has been an unqualified hit. It recently earned two gold medals from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education's Prix d'Excellence awards program for universities — for Best Print Advertising Campaign and Best Alumni Relations Program. Visitors to the site have now posted more than 1,600 six-word stories of their own.

We picked out a few of the many submissions that intrigued us and expanded on them a little. We hope you enjoy the results.





DREW REYNOLDS

## Drove on Mars! What Comes Next?

Peter Ilott, BSc'80, PhD'88

Peter Ilott has been a NASA scientist for almost a decade, but when he talks about his job he still sounds like a kid in a candy shop. Or, better yet, a sci-fi movie.

"I grew up in the sixties, watching the Mercury and Gemini missions and the lunar landing. So, sure, I wanted to be an astronaut and walk on the moon," says Ilott on the telephone from his office at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "Well, that's not going to happen. But being here has been the next best thing."

Ilott's love of physics and math, combined with an inherited knack for building things—his father, George Ilott, BEng'50, was an engineer who helped build Place Ville Marie—put him on his career trajectory. "NASA wasn't a specific goal, but it was in the back of my mind," Ilott says. "You point yourself in a direction and things just happen."

After getting his PhD in electrical engineering at McGill under the supervision of Tomas Pavlasek, BEng'44, MEng'48, PhD'48 ("He played a huge role in my life," Ilott says of his former mentor), Ilott worked at Spar Aerospace in Montreal, then moved to California to take on a job at Hughes Aviation. Eventually, he wound up at NASA's famous Jet Propulsion Lab (Explorer 1, the first U.S. satellite, was built there in 1958).

Ilott's first assignment was working on telecommunications for the Mars Exploration Program. Ilott was part of the team that carefully monitored signals and tones from the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit as it approached and landed on the Martian surface in 2004, soon to begin its historic fact-finding mission.

He also worked on the Deep Impact mission, which deliberately crashed a spacecraft into a comet at 35,000 feet per second. The plan was to kick up some dust—literally—and expose the underlying material in the comet. "There had been lots of models of what a comet is made of, but this was the first direct probe of the inside of one," Ilott says.

Deep Impact, coincidentally, is the name of a sci-fi movie. But, clearly, for Ilott, science fiction doesn't compare to science fact: "I mean I've helped drive a Rover around on Mars and crash a spacecraft into a comet. That's fun."

BY JOEL YANOFKY, BA'77, MA'81

## SHARON WILENSKY



JOHN MORSTAD



## Vegetarian Deli Owner Teaches, Marries, Mothers

Sharon Wilensky, BA'82, DipEd'87

Sharon Wilensky, my coat and I take up one-third of the available dining space in the famous family restaurant she helps run in Montreal. There are just nine stools and a counter at Wilensky's. No tables. No other chairs.

During the lunch-hour rush, many customers end up standing to eat the sandwich Wilensky's is renowned for. "When this place opened in 1932, there were lots of other places like it," says Wilensky. "My late father, Moe, wanted to invent something to distinguish himself. Customers would say, 'Moe, make me something special.' So he did."

The Special is made with salami and bologna, grilled and flattened on a kaiser roll. It comes with mustard, like it or not. These rules and others — like the limited seating or the prohibition on tipping — have never changed.

And don't expect them to, Wilensky says. A few years ago, for instance, she composed and posted a poem on the deli's wall explaining why the Special is never cut. Her answer, in a nutshell: because that's the way it's always been.

Wilensky has helped out at the restaurant since she was 12 but, after years of teaching English as a second language at McGill's Centre for Continuing Education, she rejoined the family business in a more hands-on manner five years ago, a few years after her older brother, Bernard, died. "It was a good business decision. It was also like coming home."

Still, she admits she's been thinking of ways to put her stamp on the business. Wilensky, a longtime vegetarian who acknowledges "it's very counterintuitive for me to be working here," hopes one day to see a tofu dog on the minimalist menu.

"So far that's met with some resistance," she says, glancing at her 89-year-old mother, Ruth, a fixture behind the counter. "This place doesn't lend itself to change."

Of course, Wilensky knows it's precisely this resistance to change that's at the heart of the iconic deli's appeal. "I can always spot new people because they walk in here and look like they're walking into a museum. Or another time."

You do need a moment, entering Wilensky's, to remember what decade it is. Its standing as a Montreal landmark predates its memorable cameo role in Mordecai Richler's 1959 novel *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. But there's no doubt the novel, and later the 1974 movie version, has helped fix it in time.

"We are forever tied together, Richler, us, and that period," Wilensky says.

She's become the public face and voice of a Montreal institution, not to mention tourist attraction. Wilensky's is written up in guidebooks all over Europe. "I still have a hard time wrapping my head around how well known the restaurant is."

BY JOEL YANOFSKY, BA'77, MA'81



BRENDA BAILEY

## Previous 'Do-Gooder' Becomes Video Game Leader

Brenda Bailey, BA'90

"A feminist working in the video game industry sounds pretty weird, right?"

Brenda Bailey acknowledges that her career switch a few years ago, from the not-for-profit sector to the world of gaming, might strike some as unorthodox.

Bailey is the chief operating officer and co-founder of Deep Fried Entertainment, a Vancouver-based videogame developer that has partnered with the likes of Sega. For 10 years, though, she worked for non-profits, most recently as a regional manager with the Canadian Cancer Society.

Bailey was fêted for her leadership skills and earned the organization's National Employee Award in 2002, but she found herself thinking about doing something else for a living.

"There is a lot of sadness in that field," she says. Some of the volunteers she had grown close to had succumbed to the disease and those losses took a toll on her. Her marriage was also ending and, with children to support, she needed more income. "I realized I could do heaps and heaps of work for a low salary or I could do heaps and heaps of work for better pay."

As it turned out, some former staffers from the video game giant Electronic Arts were looking to start up their own company and they needed someone with managerial know-how. Enter Bailey.





SUSAN STROMBERG-STEIN

## *I Create Sculptures To Outlive Me*

Susan Stromberg-Stein, MA'77

Sculpting isn't the safest way to make art. For instance, an electric grinder once nearly sliced Susan Stromberg-Stein in half while she was carving marble. More recently, she suffered a bad cut on her hand from a razor blade as she sculpted a piece of Styrofoam for a bronze casting. The occasional element of danger is well worth the risk, Stromberg-Stein insists.

"The only time I am truly at peace is when I'm in my studio working," she says. The only thing that can compete is playing with her grandkids. "I don't think I could ever stop sculpting. It's the way I see and experience the world."

Stromberg worked at a high school, teaching phys-ed and health education, before she stumbled upon her true calling. As a young mother, she discovered her own passion for art while teaching her daughters how to paint. She signed up for some art courses. A half hour into her first sculpting class, she had already carved two figures into stone and the impressed instructor found it difficult to believe that Stromberg-Stein had never sculpted before.

"That day, I experienced 'the light bulb effect,' knowing instantly that this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life."

She got off to a good start. "People wanted my works almost as fast as I created them." In the 32 years since she became a sculptor, she has made more than 425 pieces — from marble, limestone, granite, steel, wood and bronze.

The Canadian government presented some of her works as official gifts to former U.S. president Bill Clinton and former Russian president Boris Yeltsin. One of Stromberg-Stein's sculptures, titled *Osmosis*, is located in the garden of the Governor General's Rideau Hall residence in Ottawa.

She recently completed her largest work yet, for the Community Anchor Center for Traumatized and Abused Children in Be'er Sheva, Israel — a 15'x6'x4' sculpture in galvanized steel depicting a large protective hand shielding a small figure underneath it from any harm.

"It's astounding to think that all the sculptures I have made will live longer than me," she marvels. 🐦

BY JULIE MASIS, BA'04

Back at McGill, Bailey helped organize the McGill Walksafe Network and took part in Take Back the Night marches. She knows full well that there are plenty of problematic video games out there. "With Grand Theft Auto, there are things I admire about it — the quality of the graphics, for instance. But it is a misogynistic game. I don't think I could work for Rockstar [the game's developer]."

Still, Bailey bristles when anyone condemns the gaming industry as a whole for the violent or sexist content of some games. "There are lots of violent films out there, but does anyone say we should just stop seeing movies altogether? Gaming is a huge industry. It's not just about the violent games." Her own company produces sports-oriented and family games, for instance.

While Bailey is content at Deep Fried, she can see herself launching another gaming company one day — a company that would have a mostly female staff.

"We need more women in gaming," she says. "It would be really interesting to see the sorts of games that women design for other women instead of having men design games that they think women will like."

Noting the plethora of shopping games ostensibly directed towards women, Bailey says, "Shopping isn't really all that much fun. Would men play a game where they get to take out the garbage all the time?"

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



# SIX WORDS 10 CHOICES YOU VOTE!

As the hundreds of stories compiled on McGill's Six Words site make obvious, there is no shortage of McGill grads capable of "thinking big in six little words." Now it's time for you to help us select some winners.

To make things easier, we've narrowed the list down to 10 finalists. After considering the candidates listed below, please tell us who you think deserves to be our Six-Word Champion.

The three authors who garner the most votes will win prizes, and the *McGill News* will profile them in its fall issue, giving you the whole story behind their six-word submissions.

Even if your own story didn't make the final 10, you can still win—three voters chosen at random will receive a special prize from the McGill Alumni Association just for participating.

We'll be accepting votes until July 31, 2009.



*Roddick Gates.  
Short walk; long strides.  
Earle Straus, BA'71, BCL'75, LLB'76*



*Not us against them,  
mais ensemble  
Jeannette Bellerose, BA'77, PhD'86*



*Exploration: relentlessly seeking  
knowledge with passion.  
Dave Williams, BSc'76, MSc'83, MDCM'83, DSc'07*



*Passion is contagious:  
spread your virus.  
Tanya Drapeau, BSc'01*



*Seeing the world  
before it's gone  
John Roxburgh, BCom'74*



*Sorry and thank you  
repeat often  
Dr. David Lee, MDCM'80*



*Superwoman has got  
nothing on me...  
Nadine Wiper-Bergeron, BSc'98, PhD'04*



*Followed dream. Found cure.  
Nobody interested.  
Pamela Maher, BSc'75*



*Tried to hate.  
Love won out.  
David Meyer, MSW'72*



*Never say Never  
Never say Forever...  
Jean-Pierre Rabbath, BEng'96, MEng'98, MBA'00*



## McGill

[www.sixwords.mcgill.ca](http://www.sixwords.mcgill.ca)

You can vote for your favourite at  
[www.sixwords.mcgill.ca](http://www.sixwords.mcgill.ca) or  
send your ballot to:  
McGill News **Six Words** Contest  
1555 Peel, Suite 900, Montreal, QC H3A 3L8



# Explaining the Extraordinary

When **JOHN RALSTON SAUL**, BA'69, DLitt'97, agreed to edit Penguin Canada's Extraordinary Canadians, a new series of biographies about particularly significant Canucks, he had something bigger in mind than simply telling a few life stories. "I wanted to explore the creation of modern Canada."

According to Saul, the 20 people showcased in the books — among them, women's rights activist Nellie McClung, media studies pioneer Marshall McLuhan and prime ministers Lester B. Pearson and Wilfrid Laurier, BCL1864, LLD1898 — all played key roles in fashioning the country we know today.

In his introduction to the books, he writes, "Each one of these people has changed you. They changed how each of us sees what surrounds us, how minorities are treated, how we think of immigrants, how we look after each other, how we imagine ourselves through what are now our stories."

The books are modest in length — generally 200 pages or less. Saul has little enthusiasm for "great big suitcase-sized biographies. They tend to give you an awful lot of information without being terribly revealing."

The aim of Extraordinary Canadians is not so much to pore over the minutiae of their subjects' lives, as it is to give readers a sense of their major accomplishments, their motivations and how they

each had a lasting impact on a young, evolving country.

One of Saul's chief tasks as series editor was to select the books' authors. For the most part, he steered clear of writers best known for biographies (one notable exception is *Nellie McClung* writer Charlotte Gray), choosing instead some of Canada's best-known fiction writers, including Nino Ricci (*Pierre Elliott Trudeau*), David Adams Richards (*Lord Beaverbrook*), M.G. Vassanji (*Mordecai Richler*) and Jane Urquhart (*L.M. Montgomery*).

"I've always had problems with the notion that non-fiction is factual while fiction is something that's just made up," says Saul, a prize-winning writer himself for both fiction and non-fiction. "There is a reason why great novels live for hundreds of years. A talented novelist explores the truth in a way that most [non-fiction writers] can't."

One of the writers Saul approached was Margaret MacMillan, the author of *Paris 1919* and *Nixon in China*, both of them best-selling accounts of major turning points in world history. Given her track record, Saul thought MacMillan would be ideal for a biography he had in mind about a major statesman. Instead, she surprised him by asking to write about Stephen Leacock, the McGill economist and political scientist who earned worldwide fame for his satirical works.



LUCY CAVENDER

"I was attracted to Leacock as a subject because I have always enjoyed his humorous writings, some of which I think are absolute classics," MacMillan explains.

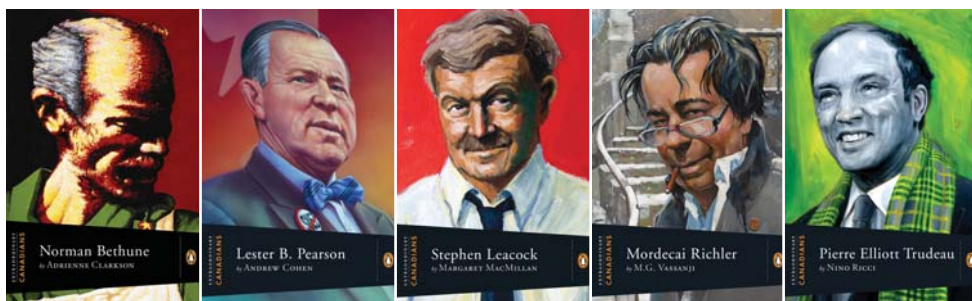
"What surprised me [about Leacock] was how well-known he had been and how he was a public intellectual." Leacock's admirers included Charlie Chaplin and F. Scott Fitzgerald and his new works were eagerly anticipated by readers in the U.S. and the U.K. "He was a major figure in Canadian public debates," MacMillan adds, "over how to deal with the gaps between the rich and the poor, for instance, and Canada's place in the British Empire and the world."

Saul himself penned one of the books in the series — an upcoming joint biography of 19th-century political reformers Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine and Robert Baldwin.

"They were practically children when they came into power," says Saul, and they only wielded that power for a handful of years. "What they accomplished in that brief period is stunning. The laws they passed provided the underpinnings for the country we now live in — our system of municipal democracy, our civil service, our railroads, our public universities, our post office."

Extraordinary Canadians indeed.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89



## FALL

by Colin McAdam, BA'93

Colin McAdam spent his childhood bouncing around the globe as a diplomat's son. The author draws heavily on his nomadic experiences in *Fall*, the follow-up to his acclaimed 2004 debut *Some Great Thing*, a Governor General's Literary Award finalist.

The new book follows two unlikely roommates and their relationship with the prettiest girl in school, Fall. Julius is handsome, athletic and popular and Fall soon gravitates toward him. Noel, introverted and obsessive, occupies a peripheral position in their romance, and yet grows increasingly certain that one day she will be his. With such polar opposites obsessing over the same prize, confrontation proves inevitable.

The strength of *Fall* lies in McAdam's stream-of-consciousness approach. While some readers may wince at the notion of eavesdropping on two 18-year-old minds (both Julius and Noel act as narrators), the author's sensitive portraits of his protagonists make the steady stream of pimples, locker-room torment and awkward sex scenes worthwhile.

Growing up is a nasty business, and McAdam conducts a ruthlessly honest examination of what Noel calls "the pugilism of life."

BRETT HOOTON, BA'02, MA'05

## BITTER ROOTS, TENDER SHOOTS: THE UNCERTAIN FATE OF AFGHANISTAN'S WOMEN

by Sally Armstrong, BEd'66, DLitt'02

The cover of Sally Armstrong's new book shows a runner, photographed in Afghanistan as she trained for the Beijing Olympics. She never made it. Her life was threatened by fundamentalists for anti-Islamic behaviour and she fled to Norway a few weeks before the Games. Millions of Afghan women facing similar danger have no hope of escape.

Armstrong's 2002 book, *Veiled Threat*, documented life under the brutal

Taliban regime. She went back last year to see if conditions had improved for women since the Taliban's ouster. What she found were "tender shoots" of progress in human rights, health care and education for women. But brutal tribal laws still hold sway. Young girls are traded to settle debts or disputes. Women are imprisoned or killed for having been raped. They can't be treated by male doctors, but without education, women can't become doctors themselves.

Armstrong's book is a must-read for anyone who doubts the importance of the NATO mission in Afghanistan. The stories of personal courage Armstrong tells are poignant and inspiring. Women risk — and sometimes lose — their lives for speaking out. For their sakes, she says, and for Afghanistan, the world cannot afford to back away.

DIANA GRIER AYTON

## THAT GOOD NIGHT: ETHICISTS, EUTHANASIA AND END-OF-LIFE CARE

by Tim Falconer, BA'81

Medical advances are keeping a lot of us alive for longer periods of time — in some cases, though, just barely alive. Two-thirds of Canadians can expect to die in a medical facility equipped with the sorts of technologies that can keep us going when we can't keep ourselves going without them. As bioethicist Kerry Bowman puts it in Tim Falconer's thoughtful new book, *That Good Night*, "death — for the first time in history — is now a negotiated event."

According to Falconer, our society has yet to figure out how to approach those negotiations. Risk-averse politicians avoid dealing with these issues and the public lets them get away with it. Who wants to think about dying, after all?

Falconer approaches the thorny issues surrounding end-of-life care with sensitivity. He has one powerful piece of advice to dispense. Think care-



fully about the things that could go terribly, terribly wrong and consider the circumstances in which you would want to carry on living. Make sure your loved ones know how you feel.

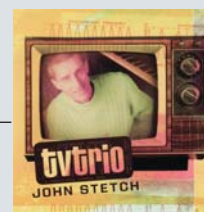
Otherwise, someone else might be making that decision for you.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

## Soundcheck

### TV TRIO

by John Stetch, BMus'90



John Stetch has a reputation as one of Canada's most adventurous and eclectic jazz pianists. His latest CD, the Juno Award-nominated *TV Trio*, offers further evidence to bolster that notion.

In his previous works, Stetch has explored everything from the oeuvre of Thelonious Monk to Ukrainian folk music. This time around, he focuses his attention on a dozen TV show themes from the seventies, ranging from the instantly recognizable (*Star Trek*) to the decidedly obscure (*The Mighty Hercules*).

While Stetch might not be the first jazz musician to reinterpret music from Hollywood (case in point — John Coltrane's iconic take on *The Sound of Music*'s "My Favorite Things"), he is almost certainly the first major artist to tackle these baby boomer staples in such an imaginative way. Stetch transforms the somber theme from the Depression-era drama *The Waltons*, giving it a surprisingly jaunty playfulness, while dialing back the bombast for the theme to *Dallas*, offering up a delicate, textured treat.

DM



# MAKING HISTORY

## Moving McGill *into the future*

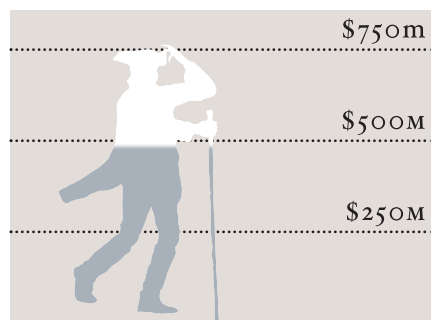
### A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Thanks to the unflagging support of the global McGill community, Campaign McGill continues to achieve outstanding results. More than \$475-million has been raised from 67,601 donors worldwide.

Gifts of all sizes count toward Campaign McGill, and gifts from individuals add up to 79 per cent of all giving to date.

Publicly launched in October 2007, Campaign McGill is the University's first "comprehensive" campaign. Rather than a capital campaign which focuses on large gifts for specific purposes, a comprehensive campaign seeks gifts of all sizes for a broad range of initiatives that benefit people and programs.

Thanks to our many loyal supporters, we are on track to meet our ambitious goal of \$750-million. During these challenging economic times, it is more important than ever to support Campaign McGill and its compelling vision for the McGill of the future. Thank you for your support!



### RECENT HISTORY MAKERS



**Les Vadasz**, BEng'61, DSc'07, is backing young innovators with the Vadasz Doctoral Fellowships in Engineering. A Silicon Valley pioneer, Vadasz has made a gift

of more than \$8-million through the Vadasz Family Foundation. This is the largest gift to date from outside Canada to Campaign McGill.

**Peter C. Hoffmann** has created the Peter C. Hoffmann Chair in German History through his tireless fundraising efforts. A McGill professor of history, Hoffmann is a leading authority on the German resistance to the Third Reich.



McGill professor **Andrew Kirk** has created the Jackie Kirk Fellowship in Education, in memory of his late wife, **Jackie Kirk**, PhD'04. His gift

of \$100,000 from Jackie's life insurance policy has been matched by The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation.



**CAMPAIGN  
McGill**

**HISTORY IN  
THE MAKING**

### THE MAKING HISTORY TOUR

#### Hong Kong: November 28, 2008

More than 100 alumni, parents and friends came for a delicious dinner at the Hong Kong Cricket Club. Principal and Vice-Chancellor Heather Munroe-Blum spoke at the event, and Brigitte Van Coillie-Tremblay, Director of the Québec Immigration Office, was in attendance.

#### Beijing: November 30, 2008

About 80 alumni and parents flocked to the beautiful China World Hotel. Principal Munroe-Blum was also the keynote speaker at this event, and Robert Wright, BSc'68, the Ambassador of Canada to the People's Republic of China, was in attendance.

#### Shanghai: December 2, 2008

Nearly 80 guests arrived at the elegant Portman Ritz-Carlton Shanghai. A number of McGill parents came to meet the Principal and other members of the McGill family. Also present were François Gaudreau, BScAgr'81, the Québec Representative, and Susan Gregson, Consul General of Canada in Shanghai.

*Allyson Rowley, BA'77*

### REMEMBERING JACKIE KIRK

To make a contribution to the Jackie Kirk Fellowship in Education, please contact:

**Donna Hency** at 514-398-1666 or [donna.hency@mcgill.ca](mailto:donna.hency@mcgill.ca).

To date, \$19,711 has been received from 76 donors.

# The Making History Tour *visits Asia*

# TOGETHER



Addressing the Hong Kong gathering (l to r): Charles Mui, BEng'98, President of the Hong Kong chapter of the McGill Alumni Association; Brigitte Van Coillie-Tremblay, Director of the Québec Immigration Office in Hong Kong; Alex Hsiong Chu, BArch'73, MArch'78.



Gang Ye, MEng'03, took a 10-hour train ride from Wuban to attend the event in Beijing.

RIGHT: Vice-Principal Marc Weinstein with Kevin Tsui, BCom'96, President of the MAA Beijing chapter.



Principal and Vice-Chancellor Heather Munroe-Blum with Judy Ho and Louis C. Ho, BEng'61, in Hong Kong.



Vice-Principal Marc Weinstein, BA'85, BCL'91, LLB'91, with McGill parents (l to r) Susheng Qu, Xing Ding and Lily Peng in Shanghai.



Robert Wright, BSc'68, Ambassador of Canada to the People's Republic of China, spoke in Beijing.



ABOVE: Chi Zhang, MMgmt'05, with Susan Gregson, Consul General of Canada in Shanghai.

RIGHT: François Gaudreau, BScAgr'81, the Québec Representative in Shanghai, with George Guo.



Xiaojing Yang (l) and Hui Ding, both LLM(Comp)'07, in Beijing.

[www.mcgill.ca/campaign](http://www.mcgill.ca/campaign)





## Deck the Palm Trees

Graduates gathered at the home of Jim Torosis, BSc'77, MDCM'81, and Susan Cummings, MDCM'79, in Los Altos, for the McGill Alumni Association of Northern California's annual holiday party. Young and old enjoyed munchies, swapped stories of Montreal winters, and re-gifted the previous year's yuletide duds at a white elephant present exchange.



## Three McGillians Walk into a Bar...

Stand-up veteran Ophira Eisenberg, BA'95, recorded material for a new comedy CD at New York's Comix in February. Local alumni turned out in droves to support one of their own and contribute a few extra chuckles to the taping.

## Perfect Pairings

Cheese, bread and memories of McGill—all these things make a fine wine even better. At least, that seemed to be the opinion of 16 Atlanta alumni after they received the VIP treatment during an exclusive wine tasting at The Grape in Inman Park this past November.



Left to right: Carolyn Lantelme, BMus'77; Carl Johnston; Allison Whitney, MA'99; and Andrea Wood, BA'00

## Part of the McGill Family



Even when their kids are studying on the other side of the globe, parents are still important members of the McGill community. Kuangyi Lu and Qingxian Liu, parents of McGill student Yiqing Lu, were among the alumni and friends who turned out to meet Principal Heather Munroe-Blum during her visit to Beijing on November 30 as part of the Making History Tour.



## Climbing for a Cure

Gerry Apostolatos, BCL'88, LLB'88, proved that McGill pride flourishes at any altitude when he reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro last summer. The Montreal lawyer scaled Africa's highest mountain as a member of an intrepid group raising funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec.



Carnival Queen Jackie Magnan (centre), with (left to right) Carol Eaton, Sybil Beck, Holly Higgins and Enid Pottel in February 1956.



## Regal Reunion

Jackie Magnan Brennan, BCom'58; Holly Higgins Jonas, BA'58, MSW'71; Enid Pottel Klein, BA'58; and Sybil Beck Ham, BA'58, held court during their 50th reunion celebrations at Homecoming in October. The lovely ladies also presided over the 1956 Winter Carnival as its queen and princesses.



## Showing Their True Colours

Forget politics, McGill graduates showed that hockey's the best contact sport in Washington, D.C., when alumni met before an NHL game in February. Although the group was divided between Capitals and Canadiens fans, everyone put rivalries aside when it came time to toast their alma mater.

*Left to right:  
George Marini,  
Bill Urquhart,  
Dave Urquhart  
and Lloyd Olsson*



## Mentors of the Universe

In March, recent business grads and senior executives mingled at a special career development reception for McGill and Harvard alumni in New York City. Despite the tough economic times, the young graduates in attendance were in good spirits as they networked and received sage advice from some of the world's most successful entrepreneurs.

*Left to right: Michael Fieldman, BSc'59, BArch'63; Robert Long, BA'77; Harvard grad Andrew C. Quale, Jr.; Brett Hickey, BCom'02; and Mark Hantho, BCom'81*



## Building a Branch

Pittsburgh Penguins CEO Ken Sawyer, BSc'71, treated the McGill Alumni Association of Western Pennsylvania to a behind-the-scenes look at his team's new arena, currently under construction. The branch has been doing its own rebuilding of late by organizing a number of alumni events like baseball games, trips to the symphony and this "McGill Hockey Night in Pittsburgh" in February.

## Scouting Young Talent

Vice-President and Treasurer of the McGill Alumni Association of New York George Marini, BCom'75, and Past President Lloyd Olsson, BSc'83, talked slapshots with Dave Urquhart, BCom'08, and his father Bill at the branch's holiday party in December. The younger Urquhart, who is a former captain of the Redmen hockey team, plays for the AHL's Hartford Wolf Pack.

## A School of Supporters



## Conjuring Good Times

Every month, members of the McGill Young Alumni Association of Ottawa congregate for what they have dubbed Wonderfully Wicked

Wednesdays. Co-Presidents

Jonathan Mitchell, BSc'01

(left), and Patrick Girouard, BScAgr'92, MSc'95 (right), with Rania Mouchantaf, BSc'97, PhD'03, led the mischief at the November gathering.



A local photographer got creative with a fish-eye snapshot of the Making History Tour's stop in Hong Kong. Graduates, parents and friends packed the Hong Kong Cricket Club on November 28 to hear McGill principal Heather Munroe-Blum outline the University's plans for the future.



**June 4, New York:** Welcome to Your New City. The Alumni Association is hosting events for new McGill graduates who are moving to a new city. Alumni in the region will welcome these graduates at an informal gathering to provide them with advice, tips, and information about their new city. Other Welcome to Your New City events include **Pittsburgh** on June 7, **Toronto** on June 10 and **Calgary** on June 13. For more details, contact [branches.alumni@mcgill.ca](mailto:branches.alumni@mcgill.ca).

**June 5, Toronto:** Toronto Leacock Luncheon, featuring actor, director and broadcaster John Moore as lecturer and guest of honour. Derek Drummond, BArch'62, will host. Concert Hall, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto, \$50, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Contact 416-703-9795, x221 or [toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca](mailto:toronto.alumni@mcgill.ca).



CLAUDIO CALLIGARIS

*McGill tree expert Bronwyn Chester, BSW'81, will lead tours of the University's diverse leafy treasures on June 5 and June 19. The June 5 event will also launch a new illustrated booklet for self-guided tours, published by the Redpath Museum.*

**June 5, Montreal:** Tree Walk: A leafy legacy. Tracing the evolution of the downtown campus from its early cattle-trampled days to the audacious landscaping surrounding many of McGill's new buildings. Bronwyn Chester, BSW'81, describes some of the 70-plus species on campus and launches the Redpath Museum's new self-guiding booklet. Redpath Museum, 859 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, free, 10 am to 1 pm. No reservation required.

**June 6, Lunenburg:** Students of the Games: McGill and the Olympic Experience. As a former Olympic competitor and the past head of the World Anti-Doping Agency, McGill Chancellor Dick Pound knows the Games inside and out. Find out about his personal experiences as an elite athlete and discover some of the ways

McGill has helped to shape the Olympics, including Vancouver 2010. Lunenburg Yacht Club, 734 Hermans Island Road, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, \$35, 6 pm to 10 pm. Contact 514-398-7684 or [event.registration@mcgill.ca](mailto:event.registration@mcgill.ca).

**June 8, Ste-Monique:** McGill Golf Day. Join alumni and friends for an exciting day of golf and camaraderie. Breakfast, a shotgun start, dinner and prizes are all part of the day. Everyone welcome, including novices. Le Diamant Golf Club, 10466 Montee Clement, Ste-Monique, QC, \$150, 10:30 am to 8:00 pm. Contact 514-398-6888 or [montreal.registrar@mcgill.ca](mailto:montreal.registrar@mcgill.ca).

**June 14, New York:** Greenwich Polo Event. Come learn more about this beautiful and fast-paced sport at one of America's premier polo clubs. Enjoy an afternoon full of fresh air and great food. Cost is \$85 (U.S.). Contact 1-800-567-5175 x7684, or [event.registration@mcgill.ca](mailto:event.registration@mcgill.ca).

**June 17, Victoria:** McGill on the Move: featuring "An Apple a Day," a lecture and reception with Joe Schwarcz, director of the McGill Office for Science and Society. The University Club of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., \$15, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Contact 1-800-567-5175 x7684, or [event.registration@mcgill.ca](mailto:event.registration@mcgill.ca).

**June 18, Ottawa:** Annual General Meeting and special lecture with Canada's Privacy Commissioner, Jennifer Stoddart, BCL'80. Cost is TBC. For more details, contact 1-800-567-5175 x7684, or [event.registration@mcgill.ca](mailto:event.registration@mcgill.ca).

**June 18, Kingston:** McGill on the Move: featuring "Healing the Health Care System: Where from Here," a presentation by Antonia Maioni, director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. Dinner included. Renaissance Event Venue, \$42, 6 pm to 9 pm. Contact 1-800-567-5175 x7684 or [event.registration@mcgill.ca](mailto:event.registration@mcgill.ca).

**June 18, Boston:** Jazz and Art with McGill Alumni. Browse the galleries and enjoy live jazz with cocktails in the Gardner Museum's outdoor courtyard. Isabella Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston, MA, \$12 (\$10 for seniors and \$5 for students), 6 pm to 9:30 pm. Contact [boston.alumni@mcgill.ca](mailto:boston.alumni@mcgill.ca).

**June 18, Vancouver:** McGill on the Move: featuring "An Apple a Day," a lecture and reception with Joe Schwarcz, director of the McGill Office for Science and Society. Strathcona Room, The Arbutus Club, 2001 Nanton Ave, Vancouver, B.C., \$15, 6:00 pm

to 8:00 pm. Contact 1-800-567-5175 x7684, or [event.registration@mcgill.ca](mailto:event.registration@mcgill.ca).

**June 19, Montreal:** Sacred Trees of the Solstice: The Trees of the Upper Campus. Discover the unusual trees planted on the grounds of the old mansions of the Square Mile that were integrated into the McGill campus in the fifties and sixties. Tour led by Bronwyn Chester, BSW'81. Redpath Museum, 859 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, \$12, 10 am to 1 pm. No reservation required.

**July 15, Brome:** Annual Dinner in Brome featuring "Making Successful Mistakes," a presentation by David Lank, director emeritus of McGill's Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies. Cowansville Golf Club, Cowansville, QC, \$45, 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Contact Peter Riordon at 450-538-4306.

**2009 Summer Send-Offs:** The Summer Send-Off program is coordinated by the Alumni Association in over 30 cities all over the world. It is a great opportunity for incoming McGill students and their parents to meet current McGill students and alumni from their region, before even setting foot on campus! We are looking for recent grads (who graduated within the last five years) to volunteer at these events to chat with new students and answer their questions. If you would be willing to volunteer at a Send-Off in your area, please email your name, city and contact information to [send-off.alumni@mcgill.ca](mailto:send-off.alumni@mcgill.ca).

**August 22 to 25, Montreal:** Parents Tent 2009. McGill Parents Association representatives will answer your questions about your child's new university. Returning parents are invited to help us welcome new members of the McGill family. For the Parents Tent schedule and to register for events, visit [www.mcgill.ca/parents/tent2009](http://www.mcgill.ca/parents/tent2009). Contact 514-398-6441 or [parents.association@mcgill.ca](mailto:parents.association@mcgill.ca).

**October 14 to 18, Montreal:** Parents Weekend 2009. Held in conjunction with Homecoming, Parents Weekend is a great opportunity for parents to visit their favourite McGill student while learning more about McGill and the city around it. Spend a few fun-filled days in Montreal and meet fellow parents, staff and professors. Events include tours of Montreal, hikes on Mount Royal, the Parents Association Annual Dinner and Classes Without Quizzes featuring top McGill professors. Visit [www.mcgill.ca/parents/weekend2009](http://www.mcgill.ca/parents/weekend2009) for a complete schedule and to register.

South Pole  
record setters  
Kevin Vallely,  
Richard Weber  
and Ray Zahab



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN VALLELY

## ADVENTURES IN ANTARCTICA

As **KEVIN VALLELY**, BSc(Arch'87), BArch'88, listened to José Saramago's *Blindness* on his iPod earlier this year, he had no trouble imagining the visual deprivation that the Nobel Prize winning author was trying to convey in his novel.

Vallely was skiing in the middle of a whiteout at the time, three kilometres above sea level, dragging a 180-pound sled of provisions. He says the vertiginous whiteout—a heavy cloud cover that reflects light, making the horizon invisible and shadows disappear—was like a huge eyelid dropping down. “We were going blind *white*.”

Vallely was part of a three-man team, led by Ray Zahab, in the midst of setting a new record for the fastest unassisted trek across Antarctica to the South Pole. Vallely, Zahab and Richard Weber covered 1,130 kilometres in 33 days, 23 hours and 30 minutes.

Armed with technology that wasn't available to earlier generations of adventurers, the trio posted their progress on a blog (available at [www.southpolequest.com](http://www.southpolequest.com)) and answered questions from schoolchildren via satellite phone.

In preparation for the physically punishing feat, Vallely gained 15 pounds before the trip—a smart move, as he lost 20 pounds during the expedition, despite the fact that he was consuming about 7,000 calories a day (the team took lipase, a digestive enzyme, to help their bodies go beyond the usual 5,000-calorie-a-day capacity). Butter, pemmican and deep-fried bacon were staples.

He figures he lost seven pounds during the last two days. During the team's final 20-hour push, he was burning about 1,000 calories an hour, and not eating much, so his body began consuming its own tissue. “I was eating myself alive.”

Vallely is no newbie to physical challenges. The veteran adventurer has retraced the Second World War's Sandakan Death March route across Borneo, skied the 2,000 km Alaskan Iditarod, and biked the same distance in winter along the Yukon River.

“It seems dangerous to a layperson, but it's a controlled thing,” says Vallely of his out-of-the-ordinary pursuits. “I'm extremely prepared, I know what I'm getting into.” A Vancouver-based architect when he is not adventuring, Vallely has filmed and written about several of his journeys.

This was Vallely's first expedition using an iPod. He regrets bringing along a digitized version of *The Worst Journey in the World*, written by a survivor of a disastrous British Antarctic expedition nine decades ago. “I had to turn it off. They're suffering, I'm suffering—it was too much suffering!”

When the iPod occasionally froze, Vallely became acutely aware that Antarctica is “the loneliest, most remote spot on earth.” While moving, communication between the trio, completely clad for protection from the brutal cold, high winds and bright sun, was scant. “[You're just] fully wrapped in your own world, and you just think and think and think.”

Now Vallely is back at home, designing small-scale single-resident buildings and enjoying the company of his wife and two daughters while he plans his next campaign. He credits his métier with keeping him grounded. “If you're just Mr. Adventure Dude, you're closed off to the world.”

MAEVE HALDANE





COLIN ROWE

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Just about every visitor to Ottawa has heard them: the bells that toll from high atop the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. Not the dull, familiar chimes that signal the time of day, but the melodic, almost hypnotic melodies that resonate for blocks around, every noon hour in the nation's capital.

To the casual listener, it seems a marvel of musical technology. One may well think, what sophisticated system of hammers and pulleys could possibly cause the tower's bells to not only play the national anthem but to reproduce the works of Bach? Think again.

Last November, **ANDREA MCCRADY**, MDCM'80, left behind a 30-year career in family medicine to become Canada's newest Dominion Carillonneur—the live musician behind the bells.

McCrady plays the carillon, a concert instrument vaguely reminiscent of a pipe organ but that's played, at least in McCrady's style, like a bat out of the belfry. For this particular musician, playing the carillon is a full-body experience.

"I always tell people that I'm like a drummer without the sticks," says McCrady, who recently hosted a group of carillon enthusiasts to witness one of her 15-minute noon hour concerts, during which she played a medley of music for guitar—adapted for the 53 bells of the Peace Tower.

Her instrument, dating to 1927 and housed in a tiny room near the top of the tower, has rows of protruding wooden knobs instead of the more familiar piano keys, as well as a series of wooden pedals, all of which combine to control the bells. She sits on a bench similar to a church pew, works the pedals with feet slipped into dancing shoes and hammers on the knobs with the heels of her hands. It's truly a sight to behold.

Musically, the result is astoundingly delicate and far more intricate than one would expect.

McCrady, who took over as Canada's sole Dominion Carillonneur when Gordon Slater retired after a 31-year career at the helm, came into the job after playing the carillon for decades and hearing about the opening through her membership in the World Carillon Federation.

"My first day on the job was November 3, and it was every carillon player's nightmare," she says. "There were three networks with television cameras and the sound system was down, so I couldn't hear myself, and I had to play O Canada. I thought, 'Oh no! Don't screw up the national anthem!'"

Of course, the first day went fine. Now, McCrady continues to play most weekdays, takes on carillon students and does her best to promote knowledge of the instrument so that more Canadians will take it up.

"No other Canadians applied for the job, which is a bit of a sticking point here at Parliament, so part of my mandate is to train other Canadians on the carillon," she says. "So please get the word out: I do take students!"

MICHAEL BOURGUIGNON

## AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / MACDONALD CAMPUS

**SONDRA SHERMAN**, BSc'76, BSc(FSc)'78, **TINA KADERG**, MD'86, and **Joyce Arsenault**, who are all certified diabetes educators in the Jewish General Hospital's endocrinology department, successfully completed their third marathon, this time in New York City on November 2, 2008, as part of Team Diabetes Canada. They were joined by 27 other members of Team Diabetes Canada, part of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Team Diabetes is the biggest fundraiser for the Canadian Diabetes Association. Team Diabetes raised over \$58,700 for all three marathons.

**PAUL JENSEN**, BScAgr'82, MSc'85, operates his own business, Jenco International, supplying horticultural products to greenhouses, nurseries, garden centres and municipalities. He was recently re-elected as vice-president (marketing) of the Fédération interdisciplinaire de L'horticulture ornementale du Québec. The federation groups together 12 different professional associations involved in ornamental horticulture. Paul is also on the board of directors of the Canadian Ornamental Horticultural Alliance, as well as the Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association. He lives with his wife, **DIANE LOWDEN**, MSc'88, in Rosemere, Quebec.

**ALEXANDRA ZUMFELDE**, BScAgr'99, has joined the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Nigeria, on a postdoctoral fellowship as a banana and plantain agronomist. In 2002, she received an MSc in agriculture from the University of Bonn in Germany for her work on "Screening of Endophytic Fungi from Banana (*Musa*) for Antagonistic Effects towards the Burrowing



**FRED ARTHUR WALSH**, BSc(Agr)'52, was formally invested into the Order of Canada as a new Member by Governor General Michaëlle Jean on February 22, 2008. Fred was also included in the 2008 edition of *Canadian Who's Who*. A lifelong apple farmer, he worked for many years for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Described in his Order of Canada citation as "a pillar of Nova Scotia's agricultural community," Fred, who lost sight in one eye as a result of a farm accident, has been active with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in efforts related to farm safety.

Nematode, *Radopholus similis* (Cobb) Thorne," carried out in Guatemala and at the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza in Turrialba, Costa Rica. Alexandra received her PhD in 2008. Her doctoral thesis was "Studies and Mutualistic Endophytic Fungi in Nematode-Suppressive Banana Plants (*Musa* AAA)."

## ARCHITECTURE

**H. PETER OBERLANDER**, BArch'45, received the City of Vancouver's highest civic honour in 2008, the Civic Merit Award, for his career achievements. He had guided a team of faculty and graduates from the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning in creating the online UN HABITAT/UBC Centre for Human Settlements Exchange. The project was part of a UN HABITAT/UBC Agreement of Co-operation, which initiates an archive of replicable professional experience in building and planning cities. The collection is curated and provides global access to print and audio-visual documentation. The Habitat Exchange

was presented at the World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing, China, in November 2008.

**ALLISON HOLDEN**, BScArch'02, MArch'05, recently quit her job at an architectural firm to set up her own business specializing in sustainable design in Vancouver. Her new firm is called one SEED design + interiors and, in just one year, she has designed two new green homes and several residential additions. In fact, one of the homes is raising the bar for sustainability as it is completely off the grid and primarily heated using solar hot water heating in conjunction with a high-efficiency fireplace which uses natural convection to circulate water through pipes in a radiant heating wall.

**JIANG ZHU**, MArch'02, the principal of Imperial Architecture and a senior architect at Stantec Architecture Ltd., has been appointed as a Vancouver City Planning Commissioner by Vancouver City Council. The commission assists City Council in an advisory capacity regarding issues affecting long-range planning for the city, including development, governance and transportation. Jiang is involved in heritage issues in Vancouver as a member of both the Chinatown Historic Area Planning



**GEORGE L. BOVELL**, BSc(Agr)'45, and **MARGARET BOVELL**, BSc(HEC)'44, MSc'46, have been inseparable for more than six decades. After graduating from Macdonald College, George was hired by the Ministry of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago and surveyed, identified and established the country's first soil maps. He and Margaret married in 1946. Over the next 15 years, they had six children, five of whom followed in their footsteps and graduated from McGill. In the seventies, George served as vice president of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, and in 1976 was elected to the country's senate. George and Margaret are known for breeding some of the finest thoroughbreds in the Caribbean through their Malabar Farm in Port of Spain, where they have entertained princes, presidents and prime ministers.





**F.A. (TEX) DAWSON, BA'50**, is enjoying a successful second career as an artist since closing his architectural practice. His paintings are part of private and public collections throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. He recently donated an oil triptych, entitled *Sherbrooke Street in Three Seasons*, to McGill. It hangs in the reception area of the dean's office at the Desautels Faculty of Management.

Committee and the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program & Transfer of Density Review Committee. In 2008, Jiang received the "Ten Most Outstanding Young Chinese Canadians" award from the Federation of Chinese Youth of Canada.

**LUCAS GRAY, BSc(Arch)'04**, is currently living in Berlin, Germany, where he is working as a freelance designer and writer. Lucas writes and edits an architecture blog ([www.talkitect.com](http://www.talkitect.com)) and a travel blog ([www.byworldofmouth.com](http://www.byworldofmouth.com)). He has also contributed articles to various design and travel websites and publications. Having lived and worked in Thailand and China, Lucas has seen the endless possibilities of the architectural profession and cultivated his own design interests. Lucas also holds a master's degree in architecture from the University of Oregon.

## ARTS

**ANN CHARNEY, BA'59, BLS'60, MA'65**, is a novelist, essayist and journalist. She has received awards for her fiction and non-fiction, including two National Magazine Awards, the Chatelaine Fiction Prize and the Canadian Authors' Association Prize. Her most recent novel is *Distantly Related to Freud* (Cormorant Books). According to *Quill and Quire*, "the novel offers considerable insight into the increasingly complex mind of an ambitious young writer."

**LEONARD ROSMARIN, BA'59, MA'60**, has written a book inspired by his own over-the-top, larger-than-life family. Leonard's first novel, entitled *Getting Enough* (Strategic Book Publishing), deals with a mangled marital and sexual relationship that manages to heal itself despite great odds. It tells the story of a beautiful, middle-aged woman going through a mid-life crisis who has the courage to break free from the puritanical straitjacket

in which she has been imprisoned all her life and become sexually liberated. Leonard is a professor emeritus of French literature at Brock University, in St. Catharines, Ontario. For more information, visit [www.strategic-bookpublishing.com/GettingEnough.html](http://www.strategic-bookpublishing.com/GettingEnough.html).

**JAMES ARCHIBALD, BA'67**, has won the Francis W. Weeks Award of Merit from the Association of Business Communication (ABC). The ABC is an international, multidisciplinary institution dedicated to advancing business communication, research and practice. The Francis W. Weeks Award of Merit acknowledges outstanding achievement in the discipline of business communication. James is currently the director of translation studies at McGill and teaches writing for translators, French usage, and translation theory. His research interests include organizational communication, translation and language policy.

**HEATHER MENZIES, BA'70**, is the author of the new book *Enter Mourning: A Memoir on Death, Dementia & Coming Home* (Key Porter), which chronicles her experiences with her aging widowed mother after the latter was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Heather is the author of 10 books. Her last

book, *No Time: Stress and the Crisis of Modern Life*, was selected as one of the *Globe and Mail's* top 100 books for 2005 and earned the 2006 Ottawa Book Award.

**WENDY STEINER, BA'70**, premiered her comic opera, *The Loathly Lady*, in Philadelphia on April 1, 2009, at Irvine Auditorium. The music for the piece is by Paul Richards, with original art by John Kindness and words and production by Wendy. Based on Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Wife of Bath's Tale," *The Loathly Lady* stars Julianne Baird, Drew Minter, Thomas Meglioranza, Susan Hellauer, Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatk, Ruth Cunningham and Jeffrey Behrens. Early instrumental sections in the piece are played by Piffaro, the Renaissance Band, and Parthenia, a Consort of Viols.

**JEAN CHAPMAN, BA'77**, recently graduated with a doctorate from the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, U.K. Her research used feminist epistemological, ethnographic material and gender-sensitive methods to foreground landmine management by residents of a heavily landmine-contaminated community. Jean conducted fieldwork in a minefield in northwestern Cambodia. Back in Montreal, she is a research associate at Concordia University's Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

**SUSAN STROMBERG-STEIN, MA'77**, has created her largest sculpture to date, entitled *Aspire and Become*. It is 15 feet tall and made of galvanized steel. The sculpture was created for the Community Anchor Center for Traumatized and Abused Children in Be'er Sheva, Israel. The piece depicts a hand which serves as a symbol that the 150 children housed at the centre will be protected and nurtured as they heal and grow, eventually reaching their full potential as young adults. Please visit [www.susanstromberg.com](http://www.susanstromberg.com) for more information.



**GLEN SHEPHERD, BA'69, MA'76**, became the new President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Partners International of Canada in January. Glen joined HPIC as senior vice president and chief operating officer last year. Before working at HPIC, Glen held several senior positions with the Salvation Army in France and in Canada. HPIC is a Canadian humanitarian organization that provides medical aid to countries in the developing world. HPIC has shipped more than \$260 million (wholesale value) in donated medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and devices since 1990.



**SAM ROBERTS, BA'98** (centre), is a musician, songwriter and the leader of the Sam Roberts Band. Sam and his group earned two Juno Awards in February 2009, including Artist of the Year and Rock Album of the Year, for their latest CD, *Love At The End of The World*. Sam is now a six-time Juno winner. *Love At The End of The World* was released in Canada last May and became available in the U.S. in February. The band's bassist, **JAMES HALL, BA'98** (far left), is also a McGill graduate.

**ROBERT ZARETSKY, BA'78**, is a historian of modern France and a professor at the Honors College of the University of Houston. His most recent book, co-authored with John T. Scott, is *The Philosopher's Quarrel: Rousseau, Hume, and the Demise of a Famous Friendship* (Yale University Press). The book examines the rift that developed between two of the greatest thinkers of the Enlightenment, a feud that shook Europe.

**SHARON KIRSCH, BA'82**, has published a book of creative non-fiction entitled *What Species of Creatures: Animal Relations from the New World* (New Star Books, 2008). The book chronicles how the early Europeans in Canada experienced wild animals previously unknown to them—flying squirrels, ruby-throated hummingbirds and polar bears. Historical personalities-at-large roamed the landscapes of Acadia, New France and Rupert's Land—this book conveys their adventures through extended anecdotes. The novel also borrows from established genres of animal writing, including the fable, children's stories and classifications by naturalists. Sharon is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Toronto.

**SANDRA K. PARKER, BA'82**, graduated with an MEd from the University of Toronto in 2007. Recently she coordinated a national environmental scan regarding the future of undergraduate medical education in Canada for the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (<http://www.afmc.ca/projects-international-future-med-can-e.php>). The project involved researchers from the

University of Toronto and Université de Montréal. Sandra attended the National Forum on the Future of Medical Education in Canada in Ottawa, April 2009. She can be contacted at [sanparker@sympatico.ca](mailto:sanparker@sympatico.ca).

**MARK TAKEFMAN, BA'82**, has joined up with CUSO-VSO to do organizational development with a local non-governmental organization in Barmer, Rajasthan, India, for two years. Mark can be contacted at [takefman@gmail.com](mailto:takefman@gmail.com).

**JACOLINE LOEWEN, BA'83**, works in private equity and has written *Money Magnet: Attracting Investors to Your Business* (Wiley), a guide for entrepreneurs interested in accessing capital from the private equity market. Jacoline argues that business owners will need to grow to survive in a global world and a way to reduce their risk is to partner with private equity. She is a partner with Loewen & Partners Inc., which has raised more than \$100 million in private equity for owners of companies. Jacoline also blogs for the CBC television series *Dragons' Den*, and volunteers with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

**ROBERT LEWIS, MA'85, PhD'93**, recently published *Chicago Made: Factory Networks in the Industrial Metropolis* (University of Chicago Press). Robert is an associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto. His book examines how manufacturing districts shaped Chicago's character and laid the groundwork for its transformation into a sprawling metropolis.

**ANDREW STEINMETZ, BA'89**, is an author and the editor of Esplanade Books, the fiction imprint of Véhicule Press, a Montreal publishing house. Andrew's latest book is *Eva's Threepenny Theatre* (Gaspereau Press). Andrew's novel uses fiction to explore memoir as he relates the story of his great-aunt Eva, who performed in the first workshop production of Bertolt Brecht's masterpiece *The Threepenny Opera*, in 1928.

**SUSAN LYNKEY, BA'91**, a Visiting Professor of Theatre at Georgetown University, was named one of three winners of Georgetown College's 2009 Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**NED BLACKHAWK, BA'92**, an Associate Professor of History and American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was named as one of *Diverse* magazine's 10 Emerging Scholars (under 40) for 2009. The author of the award-winning 2006 book *Violence Over the Land*, Ned is an expert on the history of indigenous people of North America and the complex and often tragic conflicts between native people and Europeans in the early American West.

**PAMELA MADAS SNYDER, BA'92**, was named by the *New Jersey Law Journal* as one of its "40 under 40" for 2008. The list repre-



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**McGill** Alumni Association

sents the publication's picks of the 40 most promising attorneys under the age of 40 in New Jersey. Pamela is a partner with the law firm of Bathgate, Wegener and Wolf, P.C. She practices in the areas of general and complex commercial litigation, eminent domain, personal injury, construction litigation, land use appeals and elder law. She has coached Seton Hall Law School's interscholastic moot court teams to the national finals.

**SHAFIQUE VIRANI**, BA'92, MA'95, has written *The Ismailis in the Middle Ages: A History of Survival, A Search for Salvation*, published by Oxford University Press. The book reconstructs the history of the Ismailis of Iran, a minority Shi'i community that suffered intense persecution in the 13th century. Through research of previously unknown sources, Shafique has created a major contribution to modern Ismaili studies. The book has received several awards, including Iran's Farabi International Award. Shafique received the prize from Iran's president and had the opportunity to meet with academics and dignitaries throughout the country.

**JUSTIN CAMMY**, BA'93, is the co-editor of *Arguing the Modern Jewish Canon: Essays on Literature and Culture in Honour of Ruth R. Wisse* (Harvard University Press). The book celebrates the remarkable career of Harvard professor (and former McGill professor) **RUTH R. WISSE**, BA'57, PhD'69, a leading scholar of Yiddish and Jewish literary studies in North America for four decades. Justin is an assistant professor of Jewish studies at Smith College. All four editors of the book are former students of Wisse.

**JORDANA KANEE SIGNER**, BA'93, her husband Daniel Signer, and their son, Benjamin, are happy to announce the birth of Abraham Nathan Signer in Los Angeles on November 29, 2008.

**DAVID SHAW**, BA'93, has recently become a partner of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. David practices in the Business Law Group in Blake's Toronto office and is also a member of Blake's Information Technology Group. He has a general corporate practice with a focus on mergers and acquisitions and reorganizations. In addition, David regularly advises clients in a wide range of industries on franchise law matters. He and his beautiful wife Rochelle live in Thornhill with their precocious six-year-old daughter Megan and their exuberant four-year-old son Benjamin. David can be contacted by phone at 416-863-4196 or by email at [david.shaw@blakes.com](mailto:david.shaw@blakes.com).

**CHRIS TAYLOR**, BA'94, and wife Line Jean-Louis are proud to announce the birth of their second son, Julien, on December 11, 2008. Chris is an award-winning journalist in New York City.

**DAN KIPNIS**, BA'96, and his wife Trish are thrilled to welcome their second daughter, Tessa Rose. She was born on September 12, 2008 at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. Big sister Eloise loves playing with her new little sister.

**FAHAD BUALLAY**, BA'99, was recently appointed by the Prime Minister of Bahrain as Director of Media & Public Relations at the Ministry of Works. He is also heavily involved in the country's long-term national strategy, Bahrain Vision 2030.

**MARGARET CARLEEN**, BA'99, has been named Co-Chair of the Business Litigation Committee of the Litigation Section of the Boston Bar Association. The committee provides a means of dialogue and learning for members who share an interest in business



**DAVID BEZMOZGIS**, BA'96, is a writer and filmmaker whose first book, *Natasha and Other Stories*, earned the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for best first Canadian collection of short fiction in English. David recently wrote and directed his first feature film, *Victoria Day*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, 2009. The film, set in Toronto in 1988, focuses on a high-school senior, the son of Russian immigrants, who deals with unexpected romance and the mysterious disappearance of a classmate. The *Globe and Mail* hailed the film as "intelligent and poignant." *Victoria Day*, which stars Mark Rendall and Holly Deveau (pictured), will be released theatrically in Canada in May. David says fellow graduates should easily spot a reference to McGill in the film.

ANNABEL REYES



**ELENI BAKOPANOS, BA'76**, is McGill's new Senior Director, Government Relations. Eleni became Canada's first female Member of Parliament of Hellenic origin in 1993. She sat in the House of Commons as an MP for 13 years, representing the riding of Ahuntsic from 1997 to 2006. Eleni was the assistant deputy speaker of the House of Commons from 2000 to 2003 and served as parliamentary secretary at different times to the federal ministers of social development, human resources and justice. Prior to becoming an MP, Eleni worked closely with the Quebec government, as the vice president of Quebec's Council for Cultural Communities and Immigration and in other capacities.

litigation. Margaret is an associate at Hanify & King, P.C. in Boston.

**DAVID ABOUSSAFY**, PhD'00, is a clinical psychologist and shareholder at Orion Health Rehabilitation and Assessment Centres, which has seven multidisciplinary clinics in B.C. and Alberta. David also has an active private practice and is on the faculty of the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Vancouver. He recently served as vice president of the board of directors of the B.C. Psychological Association. David is married to **MELANIE ADAMS**, MMus'99, who teaches voice at Capilano University. She belongs to the internationally celebrated vocal chamber ensemble Musica Intima, whose latest CD, *O Nata Lux*, was released in November 2008 by Atma Classics. The couple live in New Westminster, B.C., and had their second child in September 2008.

**JEAN HANNAH EDELSTEIN**, BA'03, is the author of *Himglis and Femalese: Why Girls Don't Get Why Boys Don't Get Them* (Preface Publishing). Jean is a London-based journalist who has written for the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *Independent* and *New Statesman*, and is also a contributing editor to *Bad Idea* magazine.

**MATTHEW HENNIGAR**, PhD'03, **TROY RIDDELL**, PhD'02, and Lori Hausegger published their book, *Canadian Courts: Law,*

*Politics, and Process* (Oxford University Press) in October 2008. Matthew is an associate professor of political science at Brock University, and Troy is an associate professor of political science at Guelph University. The three scholars also jointly hold a major research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Their research goal is to examine the federal judicial appointment system.

**DEREK NEAL**, PhD'04, is the author of *The Masculine Self in Late Medieval England* (University of Chicago Press). Marshalling a wide array of evidence—including legal records, letters, medical sources and the literature of the period—the book plumbs the social and cultural significance of masculinity during the generations born between the Black Death and the Protestant Reformation. Derek is an assistant professor in the department of history at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario.

**GILLIAN JOHNSON**, BA'08, is a former captain of the McGill varsity women's volleyball team and is now playing professional volleyball in Salzburg, Austria. Next year, when Gillian is finished with her career in volleyball, she plans to apply to graduate programs in marketing all over Ontario.

**JORDAN SAFER**, BA'08, has been touring across central Canada with his band Urban

Preacher, which he formed while he was still a student at McGill. The group also includes fellow graduate **MYRRHINE FALLER**, BA'08. The band has recorded a six-track EP with George Massenburg, an adjunct professor of sound recording at McGill and a Grammy Award winner who has worked with Linda Ronstadt, Phil Collins and the Dixie Chicks. The CD release was held in Toronto and featured a performance by blues legend Michael Pickett (Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker). Visit [www.urbanpreacher.ca](http://www.urbanpreacher.ca) for more information.

## DENTISTRY

**HARRY ROSEN**, DDS'53, is a Professor Emeritus of Dentistry at McGill. In the last issue of the *McGill News*, it was incorrectly reported that Harry had received the 2008 William John Gies Award from the American Dental Association. In fact, the prize is awarded by the American College of Dentists and is the highest honour that the ACD can give to one of its approximately 7,000 fellows. Harry is the only Canadian to receive this award in 50 years.

**MICHAEL COHEN**, BSc'70, DDS'74, is in private practice in Seattle, Washington, and serves as affiliate assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics at the University of Washington's School of Dentistry. Michael is the founder of the Seattle Study Club, a continuing dental education organization which now has 220 chapters and 6,500 members in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. He has written many articles on the importance of peer-based continuing education. Michael authored a textbook entitled *Interdisciplinary Treatment Planning: Principles, Design, Implementation* (Quintessence, 2008). The book is unique in that it looks at treatment planning through the eyes of top clinicians around the world, each with their own individual perspective and philosophy on the subject.

ANDREW DOBROWOLSKY / MCGILL ATHLETICS



**MARTIN RAYMOND**, BED'90, MA'96 (first from left at top), coached his 500th game for the McGill Redmen this season. He ranks in second place in McGill sports history for coaching the most games and earning the most victories, behind only Rachèle Béliveau, coach of the Martlets volleyball team. Martin, a former star player with the Redmen during his student days, has coached the team for 14 seasons. He steered the Redmen to the OUA conference championship this year and the team qualified for the CIS national championship tourney for the third time in the last four seasons.



## EDUCATION

**ARNOLD E. TAYLOR**, BSc(PE)'50, was recently inducted into the Winnipeg High School Football League Hall of Fame as an outstanding coach.

**CAROL JONAS**, MEd'92, is the director of the Carousel Centre, a bereavement program for children, in Pointe Claire Village, Quebec. The goal of the program is to support West Island youth who have lost a loved one through sharing their experiences in workshops or in a one-on-one setting. The centre has been such a success in helping grieving kids that last September, the program expanded to include a Carousel Camp retreat for six- to 16-year olds. Carol has been presented with an award by the Canadian Association for Young Children for her work.

## ENGINEERING

**C. GORDON LINDSAY**, BEng'48, and **COLIN H. CAMPBELL**, BEng'56, each received one of the 10 Canadian Society for Senior Engineers (CSSE) Fellowship Awards awarded by the CSSE for 2008.

The CSSE is a member society of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

**HARRY TRIANDIS**, BEng'51, is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Illinois and the author of *Fooling Ourselves: Self-Deception in Politics, Religion, and Terrorism* (Praeger Publishers). In his latest book, Harry explains not only how and why self-deceptions occur in three areas — politics, religion and terrorism — but also how to recognize and reduce the frequency of fooling ourselves. The author of seven books, Harry is a former Guggenheim Fellow and the past president of both the International Association of Applied Psychology and the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology.

**DEAN JOURNEAUX**, BEng'60, was elected last year as Chief Operating Officer of New Millennium Capital Corp. Dean is a founding director of the corporation. New Millennium is developing three very large iron ore deposits in northern Quebec and Labrador near Schefferville, Quebec. These deposits are located in a part of the newly named Millennium Iron Range, part of the Labrador Trough, famous since the mid-fifties for its iron ore production.

**PAUL HESSION**, MUP'73, is the recipient of the silver distinction award from the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance (CATA). Awarded at the 16th annual GTEC gala held in Gatineau, Quebec, this national award recognized Paul's role as the executive leader of a team that successfully piloted a new methodology in six federal departments for implementing shared IT services. The 2008 GTEC distinction awards judges received 75 nominations and finalists were picked by the Society of Collaborative Opportunities and Advancement of Professionals.

**FRANÇOIS DONNEUR**, BEng'90, has been promoted to Senior Engineer, Environment at Philip Morris International. He develops environmental strategies for factories and markets on six continents. François has experience in areas related to energy, greenhouse gases, wastes and water efficient reductions on a local, regional and global basis. Although his carbon footprint is increasing now as he needs to travel every month from his Swiss home base, he looks forward to seeing McGill again in 2009.

**MICHEL PERRIER**, PhD'91, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Applied Sciences by Faculté polytechnique de Mons in Belgium during the academic year opening ceremony on September 26, 2008. His research



BOB CADLOFF

**BOB CADLOFF**, BEng'84, is a photographer and engineer who recently had three of his photos chosen for an international exhibition at the art gallery espai[b] in Barcelona, Spain. The exhibition featured 100 images from photographers whose work appears on the Internet. This was Bob's first major show—he has pursued photography while also working in the field of microwave module design. He has been busy doing commission work in both photography and furniture design. Bob's photography was recently selected to be featured on the ABC television series *Cupid* and his work can be purchased at Boutique Onze in Montreal. Many of his photos can be seen at [www.flickr.com/bomobob](http://www.flickr.com/bomobob) and [www.bomobob.etsy.com](http://www.bomobob.etsy.com).

contributions are in the development of adaptive techniques for the control and online optimization techniques of chemical and biochemical processes. Michel has been a professor of chemical engineering at École Polytechnique in Montreal since 1993. He is currently on a sabbatical leave as an invited professor at University Polytechnic of Catalunya in Spain until July 2009. He was also an adjunct professor at McGill in chemical engineering from 1994 to 2007.

**PRAVEEN PRASANNA**, BEng'96, MEng'98, and **KAREN SUM**, BEng'96, MEng'99, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Cecilia, in May 2008. Both of her older brothers are also proud to report their father earned his PhD in chemical engineering from Tufts University last May. Praveen is now working for Shire HGT in Cambridge, MA. Praveen and Karen love to hear from old friends and can be contacted at [Praveen.prasanna@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:Praveen.prasanna@mail.mcgill.ca).

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## HEALTH SCIENCES

**DAVID J. LEFFELL**, MDCM'81, has been newly designated as the David Paige Smith Professor of Dermatology at Yale University. David is a renowned specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of melanoma and other skin cancers. His clinical specialties also include plastic reconstruction, while his research focuses on the molecular biology of basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma, wound healing and cancer epidemiology. David is the chief executive officer of the Yale Medical Group and has served as the deputy dean for clinical affairs at the Yale School of Medicine since 2005.

**JEFFERY ULMER**, PhD'85, has been appointed Global Head of External Research at Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics. After leaving McGill, Jeffery completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine with Nobel laureate Dr. George Palade. He then conducted research at Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, PA, and at Chiron Corporation in Emeryville, CA. Jeffery recently relocated with his wife, Carol Anne Hale, and sons Christian (18) and Cameron (15) from California, where he was site head for vaccines research at Novartis, to his new role in Cambridge, MA.

**CHRIS MUELLER**, PhD'86, a Professor at the Cancer Research Institute at Queen's University, is seriously ill with a liver disease called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis. There is no known cure and Chris is in need of a liver transplant as a result of this condition. He is on the transplant list at the Toronto General Hospital (TGH). The TGH transplant unit has encouraged Chris to reach out to family and friends in an effort to find a suitable living donor. A donor for

Chris would have to have an "O" blood type. The donor's surgery would involve removal of about half of his or her liver. The remaining half will regenerate to full size within a matter of weeks, and the donor would then resume a completely normal life. Without transplant surgery Chris's life expectancy isn't good—a year ago, doctors gave him only a 67 per cent chance of living for two years. If you or anyone you know can help, please contact Chris's wife, Sally Milne Mueller, at [sm@sallymilne.com](mailto:sm@sallymilne.com), or Cailin McLeod at the TGH at 416-340-4800 ext.7594.

**SERO ANDONIAN**, BSc'97, MSc'99, MDCM'02, was recently given the Best Laparoscopic Paper Award at the World Congress of Endourology in Shanghai, China, for his paper entitled "Laparoscopic Experience Correlates with Differential Functional Brain Activation: An oxygen-15 labeled PET scan study." This research was conducted at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York, where Sero is finishing a fellowship in endourology. He has accepted an assistant professor position at the Division of Urology of the Royal Victoria Hospital/MUHC and will be starting in July.

**REZA SHARIF-NAEINI**, MSc'01, PhD'07, has been awarded the Peter and Patricia Gruber International Research Award in Neuroscience by the Society of Neuroscience, an organization of more than 38,000 scientists and clinicians who study the brain and nervous system. Reza belongs to the Institut de Pharmacologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire in Valbonne, France. His research advances the understanding of the mechanisms underlying changes in the electrical properties of sensory neurons during chronic pain conditions such as arthritis.



REMY BOILEY

**PHILIPPE GROS**, PhD'83, is a Professor of Biochemistry at McGill and a member of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Centre. He was awarded the Prix du Québec's Wilder Penfield Prize in the biomedical sciences in 2008 for his important contributions to our understanding of the biological processes associated with resistance or susceptibility to certain devastating diseases. He was the first to isolate the *mdr* family of genes, which gives cancer cells multidrug resistance. His research has also led to the identification of new genes that give rise to susceptibility to malaria.

## LAW

**IAN M. SOLLOWAY**, BA'70, BCL'73, recently chaired the 60th anniversary of the Lord Reading Law Society, the collective voice of the Quebec Jewish Bar, vis-à-vis the greater legal community and the government. Ian served as the society's 48th president from 2002-2003. He is a Montreal attorney specializing in family law and its related concerns. In 1992, Ian was elected as a fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**FRANÇOISE GUÉNETTE**, BCL'76, and **ISABELLE COURVILLE**, BCL'91, were both named to the 2008 Top 100 List of WXN's Canada's Most Powerful Women. Françoise is senior vice-president corporate and legal services for ING Canada. She was nominated in the corporate executive category. Isabelle is the president of Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie. She was selected as a public sector leader. The sixth annual Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards and Summit took place in Toronto on November 25, 2008.

**GEORGE PETSIKAS**, LL.M'90, was recently appointed President of the National Airlines Council of Canada, a new industry association representing Canada's largest passenger airlines. George retains his regular duties as senior legal counsel and director, government & industry affairs at Transat A.T., Canada's largest holiday travel company and one of the five leading integrated tour operators in the world.

**DOUG GARSON**, BCL'91, LL.B'91, was recently appointed Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the Department of Justice by the Government of Nunavut.

**BRYAN HAYNES**, BA'90, LL.B'93, is a partner in the law firm of Bennett Jones and the co-leader of the firm's commercial transactions practice group. Based in Calgary, Bryan is a contributing editor to the CCH *Alberta Corporations Law Guide* and the CCH *Directors' Duties in Canada*. In 2008, Bryan was named one of *Lexpert's* Rising Stars as one of Canada's top 40 lawyers under 40.

**ISABELLE DAOUST**, BCL'96, LL.B'96, and **PAUL MOEN**, LL.B'93, recently moved with their two young children to Washington, DC. Isabelle will be working in humanitarian law at the American Red Cross, while Paul is director of global government affairs at the biotech firm Amgen.





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**KATHLEEN WEIL, BA'78, BCL'82, LLB'82**, was appointed as Quebec's Justice Minister by Premier Jean Charest following the Liberal Party's victory in the Quebec general election in December, 2008. Kathleen was elected to the National Assembly to represent the riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Before entering politics, Kathleen served for eight years as the president and CEO of the Foundation of Greater Montreal, a community organization working to secure permanent endowment funds to support charitable work in a number of areas, primarily health, education, social services, arts and culture, and the environment. She has also been a member of the Montreal Children's Hospital's Council for Services to Children and Adolescents.

**SEBASTIEN LE COEUR, BCL'01, LLB'01**, has started a niche law firm, specializing in French employment and tax law. He is leaving behind Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in Paris after several years spent there. His new firm can be found online at [www.ols-frenchlawyers.com](http://www.ols-frenchlawyers.com). Sebastien is a member of the Paris Bar and the Law Society of Ireland. He lives in Ireland with his wife and his daughter.

**MARK LESSARD, BCL'01, LLB'01**, has been made a partner at the New York law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, effective January 1, 2009. Mark moved to New York on September 5, 2001, to begin his legal career at Pillsbury and has developed a specialty in the financing and trading of aircraft and other transportation assets. He was seconded by Pillsbury to Airbus in Toulouse, France, in 2004, where he deepened his knowledge of the aviation industry.

**JOHN HAFFNER, BCL/LLB'06**, was selected by Yale University to be a 2008 Yale World Fellow. The Yale World Fellows Program aims to build a global network of emerging leaders and to broaden international understanding. The program conducts a worldwide competition each year to select 18 highly accomplished men and women from diverse fields and countries for a four-month leadership program at Yale. John is a senior advisor for strategic planning at Ontario Power Generation (OPG). Previously, John worked for McKinsey & Co. in Tokyo and as a special policy assistant in the office of the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. He is the lead author of *Japan's Open Future: An Agenda for Global Citizenship*, to be published by Anthem Press in winter 2009, and is working on a second book on global energy policy with McGill associate professor of law Richard Janda that will also be published in 2009.

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

**DAVID MCKNIGHT, BA'85, MLIS'92**, has been appointed Director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML) of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. His responsibilities include ensuring stewardship, management, discovery and preservation of the collection as well as maintaining visibility of the RBML within and outside of the Penn community. David is also the director of the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image, where he oversees the library's scholarly digital collections.



**ANDRE CORRIVEAU, MDCM'81**, has been appointed Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, leaving his previous position as the chief medical officer of health for the Northwest Territories. Andre has been the NWT chief medical officer since 1998, responsible for health promotion programs, communicable and non-communicable disease control and prevention and health surveillance activities. In his new role, Andre reports directly to Alberta's Minister of Health and Wellness and advises on matters relating to the health of the province's population.

**DOROTHY W. WILLIAMS, PhD'06**, is the author of three books about blacks in Montreal and a specialist in Afro-Canadiana. Her book *Blacks in Montreal 1628 - 1986: An Urban Demography*, originally published in 1989, was recently reprinted. Dorothy has recently been interviewed about her work by *The Gazette*, CBC Radio, CJAD, CKUT and CTV News. In 2002, Dorothy was awarded the Quebec government's Anne Greenup Prize for the Fight Against Racism and the Promotion of Civic Participation. For more information, visit [www.dorothywilliams.ca](http://www.dorothywilliams.ca).

of *Product Innovation Management*. Ulrike has research interests in the areas of new product and service development, innovation for global markets, new product evaluation, and market vision at the front end of the new product development process. Since 2007, she has held the position of academic director of the doctoral and master's programs in administration at JMSB.

**ANTOINE ABOU-SAMRA, BCom'93**, started his own investment company, Magnet Capital, upon his return to Lebanon in 2007. The company specializes in

Justine, won the 2009 Teaching, Learning and Education Award from the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists for his 840-page book, *Législation et systèmes de soins*.

**CLAUDETTE H. COUTURE, BCom'93**, and her husband Leonardo Volikas would like to announce the arrival of their second son, Joseph Leonardo Couture Volikas, born on April 18, 2008. He is the baby brother of Michael, who is now two-and-a-half years old. Claudette is proud and happy to be a stay-at-home mom for her two precious boys. The family resides in Saint-Laurent, Quebec.

**PETE GAMPEL, BCom'97, DPA'80**, recently joined RSM McGladrey, a professional services firm providing accounting, tax and business consulting. Pete joins the firm as a director and will be part of its business valuation, forensic accounting and litigation support (BVFALS) practice. Pete is a credentialed business appraiser and will provide the firm with extensive experience in BVFALS services.

**MELANIE (SOUJIS-PILON) TATUTA, BCom'00**, and Daniel Tatuta are delighted to announce the birth of their second child, Anderson William Nathan, in Gainesville, Georgia, on January 3, 2008. Melanie went back to school and graduated with a nursing degree in May 2007. She now works as an RN on a medical-surgical floor at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

**ANDRES FRIEDMAN, BCom'03**, was one of 37 nominees selected from across Canada for the 2008 edition of the "10 most influential Hispanic Canadians," an event organized by [www.HispanicBusiness.ca](http://www.HispanicBusiness.ca) and presented by Scotia Bank. Nominees were chosen based on five criteria: entrepreneurship, influence in the Canadian mainstream, education, achievements, and support of the Hispanic community.



**MICHEL PETTIGREW, BCom'76**, is the Chief Operating Officer for Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a research-driven biopharmaceutical company that specializes in the fields of urology, gynecology and obstetrics, gastroenterology and endocrinology. The company, headquartered in Switzerland, employs more than 3,200 people throughout the world. Prior to his arrival at Ferring in 2001, Michel held several senior management positions during a 21-year career with Bristol-Myers Squibb. Ferring recently made a \$1 million donation to Campaign McGill, \$400,000 of which will be used to support top medical students pursuing research in urology, gastroenterology or fertility.

## MANAGEMENT

**ROGER JONES, DipMan'79, MBA'82**, retired as Vice-President and Chief Engineer from George Kelk Corporation in 2008 and now does engineering management consulting from Thornhill, just north of Toronto, where he lives with his wife, Lorna, and their two cats. His pastimes include playing classical piano and volunteering at the Toronto Aerospace Museum, where he is helping restore a Canadian WWII Lancaster to static display. Roger's part of this challenging project is refurbishing the vintage radios and avionics to working condition. He believes that although the "grand old bird" will not fly again, her original radios will sound pretty good when he's finished with them.

**ULRIKE DE BRENTANI, PhD'83**, a Professor of Marketing at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) at Concordia University, was awarded the Thomas P. Hustad Best Paper Award in 2007 for "Performance of Global New Product Development Programs: A Resource Based View," co-authored with Elko J. Kleinschmidt and Soeren Salomo. The article was published in the September 2007 edition of the *Journal*

European and Middle Eastern investments. In February 2008, Antoine was appointed managing director of a non-governmental organization called the Bader Young Entrepreneurs Program, which focuses on the promotion of entrepreneurship in Lebanon. The objective is to help young entrepreneurs go beyond the concept stage to actually launching their own businesses.

**JEAN-FRANÇOIS BUSSIÈRES, MBA'93**, a Professor in Université de Montréal's Faculté de pharmacie and the director of the pharmacy department at CHU Sainte-



**NICOLE LIZÉE, MMus'01**, is a composer and musician whose recent album, *This Will Not Be Televised*, includes her McGill master's thesis of the same name, a work intended for a large ensemble and solo turntablist that features scratch DJ techniques fully notated and integrated into a concert music setting. The composition, which incorporates a chorus of nuns, drawn from *The Sound of Music*, with vocal samples from David Lee Roth and other pop musicians, was selected as a top ten recommended work at the 2008 International Rostrum of Composers in Dublin. The composition was also a finalist for the Canada Council's Jules-Léger Prize. Nicole is a member of the Besnard Lakes, a widely respected indie rock band.





**JULIE LAMONTAGNE, BMus'98**, is a pianist and composer whose second album, *Now What*, was released on May 19 by Justin Time Records. Also appearing on the album are the regular members of her jazz trio, bass player **DAVE WATTS, BMus'96, MMus'08**, and drummer (and former McGill music student) **RICHARD IRWIN**, as well as New York saxophone player Donny McCaslin. As Isabelle Boulay's bandleader and keyboardist, Julie has accompanied the singer on tour in Quebec and Europe. Julie wrote the theme music for Radio-Canada's Espace Musique network.

## MUSIC

**MICHAEL LETOVSKY, BMus'82**, is currently teaching high school band in Michigan. In his 23rd year of teaching, Mike works alongside his wife, choir teacher, Kathi. Mike has also attended the University of Western Ontario (for a BEd), Baylor University and Eastern Michigan University (for grad school). Mike continues to perform on various instruments, leading three of his own local bands. He teaches private lessons, cooks, teaches driver's education, and publishes a

monthly newsletter for a Taekwondo school where he and his wife are working towards their second degree black belts.

**GREG BUSH, MMus'94**, is currently a Professor of Music in the Jazz Studies program at Vancouver Island University. Prior to this recent appointment Greg was the director of jazz studies at Abilene Christian University in Texas. Greg has previously been on the music faculties of McMaster University, Mohawk College and Red Deer College. Along with teaching, Greg has enjoyed a career as a freelance jazz trumpet

player. He has had the good fortune of accompanying such artists as Big Miller, Paul Horn, Bobby Shew, Lee Konitz, Dizzy Gillespie and Bob Brookmeyer. As the leader of his own big band, Greg has performed in clubs and festivals across Canada and around the world. Recently Greg released his first CD, entitled *Cause and Effect*. His website is [www.gregorybush.com](http://www.gregorybush.com).

**MARIA DIAMANTIS, BMus'95**, is the Artistic Director of Chroma Musika. Together with the Athens-based music house Filippou Nakas, Chroma Musika has released a new book/CD project for children, *The Carnival of Miracles and Monsters*. Forty children of Hellenic heritage from Montreal and Laval perform on the CD along with the Montreal Pop Symphonic Orchestra. Maria performs in the role of the good Queen of the Day on the CD. For more information, visit [www.chromamusika.com](http://www.chromamusika.com).

**MATTHEW WARNOCK, BMus'03**, was awarded a Doctorate of Music Arts in Jazz Performance from the University of Illinois in the fall of 2008, becoming the first guitarist to receive this degree. He was also appointed the jazz guitar instructor at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan.

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**JANA SINYOR, BA'98**, is the creator and executive producer of *Being Erica*, a TV show that aired on the CBC in Canada and on Soapnet in the U.S. The show, a blend of drama and comedy, follows the adventures of Erica Strange (played by Erin Karpluk, pictured) as she travels back in time to pivotal moments in her life hoping to effect better outcomes. The *New York Times* described the show as "a sweet, blender smoothie of a concoction."



**JEAN-MARIE DUFOUR, BSc'71**, McGill's William Dow Professor of Economics, was the 2008 recipient of the Prix du Québec's Léon Gérin Prize for the humanities. Jean-Marie has established an international reputation in econometrics and his research has led to major contributions, notably in the development of more reliable statistical methods. He is the director of the Canadian research group on Mathematical and Statistical Methods for Financial Modelling and Risk Management within the MITACS (Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems) Network of Centres of Excellence.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**THE REV. JOHN BEACH**, BA'80, BTh'82, and **DENISE BÉNÉTEAU**, BSc'79, have moved to Geneva, Switzerland, where John is the rector at the American Episcopal Church and Denise works as a computer programmer.

## SCIENCE

**HUBERT REEVES**, MSc'56, is a research director at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in Paris and a well-known popularizer of science who appears frequently on television in France. His book *Terracide* has been updated and published in English by Cormorant Books. An international bestseller when it was first published in 2003, *Terracide* uses scientific evidence to issue a warning about how the human species is well on its way to making the world uninhabitable.

**HENRY SHIBATA**, BSc'66, was presented with the Hiroshima University Presidential Award for fostering academic collaborations between Canada and Japan by Hiroshima University president Toshimasa Asahara on November 27, 2008. Henry was a member of former Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque's organizing committee when the Montreal-Hiroshima Sister City Treaty was signed in 1998. He also played a leading role in establishing an exchange program between McGill's Faculty of Medicine and Hiroshima University's School of Medicine. Henry and a number of McGill colleagues travelled to Hiroshima last October to make presentations at a symposium that focused on medical issues related to aging. Henry is a professor emeritus in surgery and on cology at McGill and a senior surgeon in surgical oncology at the McGill University Health Centre.

**JOHN WELSTED**, MSc'60, has had an e-book published by the Rural Development

Institute of Brandon University. Entitled *Manitoba for the Air: A Geographical Interpretation*, it can be viewed at <http://mbair.brandonu.ca>. This is John's third publication about Manitoba. The other two, *Brandon: Geographical Perspectives on the Wheat City* (Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1988) and *The Geography of Manitoba: Its Land and Its People* (University of Manitoba Press, 1996), were co-edited with John Everitt and Christoph Stadel.

**JOEL H. WEINER**, BSc'68, was appointed University Professor at the University of Alberta in July 2008—one of the highest honours the university can bestow on an academic. Joel has also completed a seven-year term as Canada Research Chair in Membrane Biochemistry and an eight-year term as the first chair of the Institute Advisory Board of the Institute of Genetics for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

**RON SIMKOVER**, BSc'69, switched from mathematics to economics during his doctoral studies. Later, he moved to Ottawa and worked for many years at the Department of Finance. In 1993, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) hired him as their first economist in transfer pricing. Ron developed much of CRA's approach in this field, which he carried out while publishing papers and teaching in this area. In 2006, he became KPMG Canada's national economic advisor, transfer pricing, and assisted multinational clients. Ron is now retired, but still plans to do some consulting and teaching in his field (Carleton University just offered him a job). He would like to re-establish contact with his McGill classmates. You can reach Ron at [rsimkover@rogers.com](mailto:rsimkover@rogers.com) or 613-232-3617.

**LEE S. COHENE**, BSc'70, a mental health specialist with the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development, received the Premier's Legacy Award (Gold) from B.C. premier Gordon Campbell at a reception in Vancouver on February 5, 2009.

These awards recognize the accomplishments of exceptional public servants in the province. Lee was honoured for enhancing the breadth and depth of B.C.'s child and youth mental health services, particularly in the Tri-Cities region of the Lower Mainland, over a 30-year span.

**RUSSELL BOYD**, PhD'71, is the 2009 recipient of the Chemical Institute of Canada's Montreal Medal. Russell is the Alexander McLeod Professor of Chemistry and Associate Vice-President, Research, at Dalhousie University. The medal recognizes leadership in, or outstanding contributions to, the profession of chemistry or chemical engineering in Canada.

**DOUGLAS LIN**, BSc'71, was awarded the 2007-08 Outstanding Faculty Award from the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The award is the division's highest honour, recognizing excellence in research, teaching and service. As a professor of astronomy and astrophysics, Douglas is widely respected for his research, which has focused on understanding the formation and evolution of stars and planets. He is also the founding director of the new Kavli Institute for

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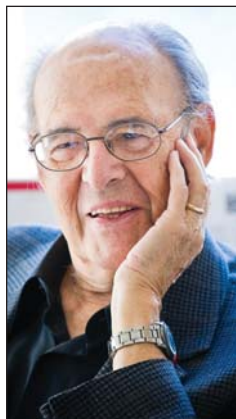
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Astronomy and Astrophysics at Peking University in Beijing, China.

**DOUG YOUNG**, BSc'72, was appointed to the Broward County Climate Change Task Force in November 2008. He has also been appointed to chair the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Subcommittee. Doug is the president of the Broward County Audubon Society and soon will become its first executive director as the organization evolves into the South Florida Audubon Society. The society will deal with regional environmental, conservation and wildlife issues. Later this year, Doug will retire from American Express in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after 13 years of service. He is starting up some green business ventures and will be distributing the "Flush Choice" two-flush water conserving system, and "Water Pure," a water producing system, into Canada in 2009.

**CHRIS ORVIG**, BSc'76, a Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia and the



CLAUDIO CALIGARIS

**RONALD MELZACK**, BSc'50, MSc'51, PhD'54, an Emeritus Professor of Psychology at McGill, has been inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. As the co-creator of the Gate Control Theory of Pain, Ronald played a pivotal role in establishing how pain is largely subjective and influenced by psychological factors. He developed the McGill Pain Questionnaire, which allows patients to precisely pinpoint the type and degree of pain they are experiencing. The questionnaire has been translated into 20 languages and is used worldwide. He was also the co-founder of the first pain clinics in Canada at the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1972, and the Montreal General Hospital in 1974.

Director of UBC's Medical Inorganic Chemistry Group, has won the 2009 Rio Tinto Alcan Award for making a distinguished contribution in the fields of inorganic chemistry or electrochemistry while working in Canada. The prize, awarded by the Canadian Society for Chemistry, will be presented to Chris this summer at the annual CSC conference in Hamilton.

**WILLIAM (BILL) FORDE THOMPSON**, BSc'79, has published a book entitled *Music, Thought, and Feeling—Understanding the Psychology of Music* (Oxford University Press 2008). Bill is now a chair professor at MacQuarie University in Sydney, Australia.

**ALEXANDER KOUKOULAS**, BSc'83, PhD'90, is the Managing Director and Senior Consultant at ANL Consultants LLC, a technology-based company that provides technical and business development support services to the pulp and paper, packaging, chemicals and bioenergy industries. He lives in the Boston area with his wife **LYNN BLENKHORN**, DipEd'82, CertPRMgmt'88. Alexander visited McGill in December 2008, to present a seminar to the McGill chapter of Sigma Xi. He spoke about changing energy policies and the impact they will have on the production of renewable power and transportation fuels.

**BENOIT RIVARD**, BSc'83, MSc'86, has joined the University of Victoria as its new BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing. Benoit is working with government, industry and other university researchers to develop new hyperspectral techniques for resource exploration and environmental monitoring. He is also developing methods to find early signs of such pests as the mountain pine beetle. Benoit is the former director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Alberta.

**ZOHAR GILLAI**, MSc'87, is working for VP Global Services and Support at

ForeScout Technologies. Zohar resides in Palo Alto, California, with her daughters, Maya and Dana.

**BILLY ANDRIOPOULOS**, BSc'03, PhD'08, is doing a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University. He was the principal author of a research paper recently published in *Nature Genetics* that illustrated how a growth factor involved in inducing bone formation has a previously unsuspected role in iron metabolism. Billy says he loves Montreal and looks forward to returning once he has completed his postdoc.

**JAKE S. SHERKOW**, BSc'04, graduated in December 2008 with honours from the University of Michigan Law School. After sitting for the bar exam, Jake will be working in New York City for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in its litigation department.

## SOCIAL WORK

**RUTH WHITE**, BSW'88, MSW'91, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Seattle University in Seattle, WA. She is the co-author of *Bipolar 101: A Practical Guide to Identifying Triggers, Managing Medications, Coping With Symptoms and More* (New Harbinger Publications). The book is intended to provide information on "everything you need to know to live well with Bipolar Disorder." To find out more, visit [www.ruthcwhite.com](http://www.ruthcwhite.com).

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OWEN EGAN

**JOE SCHWARCZ**, BSc'69, PhD'74, is the director of McGill's Office for Science and Society, which is dedicated to demystifying science for the public, the media and students. Joe has received several awards for teaching chemistry and for interpreting science for the public, including the Royal Society of Canada's McNeil Award and the American Chemical Society's prestigious Grady-Stack Award. Joe is well known in Canada as the author of many best-selling books about science. His two latest works, *An Apple a Day* and *Brain Fuel*, were published in the United States by Random House recently.

## A gift from the good doctor



*“You can’t go very far without a good education,”* says David Guthrie, BSc’43, MDCM’44. *“I feel sorry for kids who can’t afford to go to university. That’s why I’ve always focused on encouraging students.”*

Dr. Guthrie has done plenty to encourage students over the years. A loyal annual donor to McGill since 1952, he has now pledged \$1-million to create the David G. Guthrie Fellowships in Medicine and the David G. Guthrie Major Bursaries in Medicine. Dr. Guthrie has planned for regular payments during his lifetime, and any remaining balance will be provided for in a bequest from his estate.

This extraordinary gift is a testament to Dr. Guthrie’s deep appreciation of McGill. *“I wouldn’t have what I have today without my McGill education,”* he states.

As a very young child, he emigrated from England with his family in 1923. His father worked in the pulp and paper industry and had the

choice of emigrating to Canada or Russia. *“I’m glad he chose Canada!”* Dr. Guthrie quips. He quickly learned French and soon came to love his new Quebec home.

Dr. Guthrie first practiced as a young G.P. in northern Quebec. He remembers having to take a plane — and sometimes a boat — as the only way to reach his patients. At the time, there were no radiologists in that remote area. He became increasingly interested in the specialty and decided to join the army and study radiology at Queen’s University. During his 25-year career in the armed services, Dr. Guthrie travelled widely, in particular to Europe and Asia.

Now retired, Dr. Guthrie enjoys reading history books and the occasional good mystery novel. He also enjoys getting back to campus when he can.

*“It’s important to give back to your university, so that it can advance,”* he says, adding: *“I will never forget my years at McGill. They were marvelous.”*

*Dr. David Guthrie with a McGill crystal, presented to him in recognition of his outstanding support by Michèle Joannis, Executive Director of Development at the Faculty of Medicine.*

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# McGill



## 1930s

**ELISE H. (GREEN) GROSSBERG**, BA'31, at Toronto, on December 13, 2008.

**LORNA MARGARET (CLOGG) ALLEN**, BA'34, at Windsor, Ont., on August 3, 2008.

**AMELIA (MORRISON) BEALL**, BScAgr'35, at Wilmington, NC, on October 19, 2008.

**EDWARD KINGSLAND**, BEng'37, at Hudson, Que., on January 14, 2009.

**S. REGINALD ANNETT**, BSc'38, at Gaspé, Que., on May 1, 2008.

**HELEN (MCMASTER) PAULIN**, BA'38, at Hamilton, Ont., on December 30, 2008.

## 1940s

**MARY AGNES (NOBLE) HUDSON**, BA'40, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on October 23, 2008.

**R. DOUGLAS MACIVER**, BSc(Agr)'40, at Holly Hill, FL, on November 20, 2008.

**VIVIAN F. WIGHTMAN**, BA'43, at Victoria, B.C., on December 15, 2008.

**MARGARET FURNIVAL (HUNTER) DEACON**, BA'44, at Toronto, on July 12, 2008.

**MARJORY (DUFF) GRANT**, BA'44, at Ottawa, on December 14, 2008.

**MIRLE AMORY KELLETT**, MDCM'44, at York Harbor, ME, on June 17, 2008.

**H. PETER OBERLANDER**, BArch'45, at Vancouver, B.C., on December 27, 2008.

**FRANK W. CALDER**, BScAgr'46, at Springville, N.S., on December 13, 2008.

**M. ALICE (DICKSON) WOOLSEY**, BSc(PE)'46, at Markham, Ont., on January 31, 2008.

**THOMAS ANTON**, MDCM'47, at Biddeford, ME, on January 5, 2009.

**WALTER R. BRADFORD**, BSc'47, at Ottawa, on October 29, 2008.

**ARTHUR A. BRUNEAU**, BA'47, BCL'49, at Montreal, on December 20, 2008.

**EDWARD R. CHAPLIN**, BSc'47, BSc(Agr)'50, at Nepean, Ont., on November 4, 2008.

**ROBERTA DUNDASS**, DDS'47, at Magog, Que., on December 26, 2008.

**COURTNEY S. S. GILLIATT**, BSc(Agr)'47, at Ottawa, on October 17, 2008.

**VINCENT I. GORING**, BSc'47, BD'50, at Toronto, on July 9, 2008.

**STEUART PERCY HOLDER**, BEng'47, at Oakville, Ont., on January 8, 2009.

**JULIA (TIMMINS) SANTRY**, BSc'47, at Greenwich, CT, on November 18, 2008.

**PATRICIA J. (BROWN) DE ST. CROIX**, BSc(PE)'48, at Ottawa, on September 20, 2008.

**PETER LANDRY**, BEng'48, MSc'62, at Westmount, Que., on October 15, 2008.

**WALTER W. NICHOL**, BA'48, MDCM'51, at Mississauga, Ont., on October 21, 2008.

**JOHN H. R. BIRD**, BArch'49, at Montreal, on November 5, 2008.

**JOHN BLACK**, BEng'49, at White Rock, B.C. on October 15, 2008.

**RICHARD E. CROSSEY**, BEng'49, at Toronto, on October 28, 2008.

**ALBERT DOUGLAS HOLT**, BCom'49, at Toronto, on March 25, 2008.

**ANDREW K. HUGESSEN**, BEng'49, at Westmount, Que., on December 5, 2008.

**KIMBALL J. KEEPING**, BEng'49, MEng'50, PhD'52, at Bedford, MA, on August 25, 2008.

**DAVID B. SMITH**, BEng'49, at Victoria, B.C., on October 29, 2008.

**JOHN YOUNG**, BSc'49, at Bonita Springs, FL, on May 7, 2008.

## 1950s

**WILLIAM HENRY FOWLER**, BEng'50, at Prescott, Ont., on May 23, 2008.

**JOHN N. MAPPIN**, BCom'50, MA'68, at Montreal, on October 13, 2008.

**JOHN WILLIAM MEAGHER**, BSc(PE)'50, at Fredericton, N.B., on September 12, 2008.

**MARGUERITE DOREEN (FAIRMAN) MARKS**, BA'51, at Brampton, Ont., on January 6, 2009.

**DENNIS C. COLEMAN**, MDCM'52, at Vancouver, B.C., on November 13, 2008.

**ESTER GAUM**, BCom'52, at Boston, MA, on October 9, 2008.

**JANE (CURRIE) HUGESSEN**, BSc(PE)'52, at Westmount, Que., on November 25, 2008.

**RONALD SIDNEY SCOTT**, BArch'52, at Mississauga, Ont., on December 3, 2008.

**J. MAURICE TREMBLAY**, BCom'52, at Montreal, on November 3, 2008.

**FRED COULSON**, BScAgr'53, at Newmarket, Ont., on November 13, 2008.

**WILLIAM VICTOR HOBBS**, BSc(Agr)'56, at Collingwood, Ont., on January 12, 2009.

**JOHN KANNON**, BEng'56, at Media, PA, on August 3, 2008.

**MICHAEL MARSDEN**, MSc'56, PhD'79, at Sherbrooke, Que., on October 21, 2008.



**CHRIS DOBSON, MCL'59**, was a lawyer and, under the name Chris Bryant, a prolific screenwriter. Born in Bolton, Lancashire, he studied at Cambridge and McGill. After graduation, Dobson worked as special assistant to the Canadian Attorney-General, causing a minor scandal when it came to light he was moonlighting as a stand-up comedian. It was while lecturing at McGill that Dobson met student Allan Shiach, BA'61, beginning a long creative partnership. After cutting their teeth on the CBC's notorious late night satire *Nightcap*, the writers collaborated on eight feature films between 1970 and 1984, most notably the risqué thriller *Don't Look Now*, starring Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie. As a solo writer, Dobson wrote many TV movies and mini-series, including *Young Catherine*, with Vanessa Redgrave and Julia Ormond, and *Lady Jane*, starring Helena Bonham Carter. Dobson died on October 27, 2008, in Burford, UK.

**ELIAS PETSALIS**, BEng'56, DipM&BA'63, at Mont-Royal, Que., on December 12, 2008.

**DONALD H. DAVISON**, MDCM'57, at Orangeville, Ont., on September 11, 2008.

**GABRIEL F. BUSCHLE**, DDS'58, at Central Square, NY, on January 9, 2009.

**WILLIAM GORDON JEFFERY**, PhD'59, at Ottawa, on February 1, 2009.

**DAVID R. MASSON**, MSc'59, at Vancouver Island, B.C., on October 5, 2008.

## 1960s

**R. ALAN RICHARDSON**, MA'61, at London, Ont., on September 27, 2008.

**JURIS MAZUTIS**, BEng'62, at Ottawa, on November 30, 2008.

**ALFRED MOSES BERMAN**, BSc'64, MDCM'67, at Palm Springs, CA., on November 21, 2008.

**ELAINE BRENDA HILL**, BSc'64, at Los Angeles, CA, on October 1, 2008.

**P. MARGARET (HAMILTON) ROBINSON**, BN'64, at Orillia, Ont., on December 29, 2008.

**ELIZABETH RUSSELL**, DipNursT&S'65, BN'68, BSW'83, MSW'84, at Mumbai, India, on November 26, 2008.

**SUSAN VAN ITERSSEN**, MSW'68, at Ottawa, on November 4, 2008.

**KEITH M. KEDDY**, BSc(Agr)'69, at Kingston, N.S., on July 13, 2008.

## 1970s

**RICHARD LITVACK**, BSc'70, at Montreal, on October 20, 2008.

**BRUCE M. COOPER**, BSc'71, LL.M'85, at Ottawa, on November 10, 2008.

**CYNTHIA B. FISCHER**, MEd'71, at Worcester, MA, on September 30, 2008.

**RALPH BYERS**, BSc'77, at Lawrence, KS, on December 15, 2007.

## 1980s

**LOIS (ELLIOT) BELL**, BEd'81, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on January 14, 2009.



ALAIN DESILETS

**GEORGE KARPATI** passed away on February 6, 2009, in Montreal. The McGill professor of neurology and neurosurgery and Isaac Walton Killam Chair in Neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital was one of the world's leading experts on the diagnosis and treatment of neuromuscular disorders, particularly Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a lethal genetic disorder. Born in Debrecen, Hungary, Karpati joined the MNI faculty in 1967. His many honours include the Order of Canada, the Order of Quebec (Knight), the Prix Wilder Penfield (Prix du Québec) and lifetime achievement awards from the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada and the World Federation of Neurology. "George was a giant figure—a master clinician and scientist," says MNI director David Colman, "but above all, George was a mensch, always there to help, and give his blessing. He will be missed."

**ANTOINETTE BOUDREAU**, BA'83, at Saint-Lambert, Que., on November 22, 2008.

## 1990s

**DIANNE LILLIAN DUTTON**, BCL'91, LLB'91, at Welland, Ont., on October 31, 2008.

**LISS MARY ELIZABETH JEFFERY**, PhD'98, at Toronto, on December 16, 2008.

## 2000s

**OLIVIER VOURANTONIS**, BSc(PT)'07, at Montreal, on December 8, 2008.

## STUDENTS

**ADRIANO TASSONE**, Desautels Faculty of Management, at Saint-Laurent, Que., on March 18, 2009.

## FACULTY/STAFF

**JOHN CHOMAY**, BSc(PE)'51, BEd'70, professor (retired), Faculty of Education, at Rosemere, Que., on December 14, 2008.

**BARBARA ESPLIN**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, at Montreal, on November 30, 2008.

**ARWEL EVANS**, associate professor (retired), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, at Montreal, on August 17, 2008.

**GEORGE JUST**, Macdonald Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, at Montreal, on October 21, 2008.

**YAREMA GREGORY KELEBAY**, associate professor, Faculty of Education, at Montreal, on November 3, 2008.

**JOE KINCHELOE**, professor and Canada Research Chair in Critical Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, at Jamaica, on December 19, 2008.

**EVA P. LESTER**, DipPsych'59, professor, Department of Psychiatry, at Montreal, on October 10, 2008.

**JAMES DAN MACARTHUR**, professor (retired), Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, at Kirkland, Que., on December 8, 2008.

**WILLIAM OSCAR JULES MOSER**, professor emeritus, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, at Montreal, on January 28, 2009.

**MICHAEL MOSS**, assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine, at Mumbai, India, on November 26, 2008.

**SAMUEL SOLOMON**, BSc'47, MSc'51, PhD'53, professor, Departments of Biochemistry, Experimental Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology, at Westmount, Que., on December 13, 2008.

**MARISA TERRENZIO-EL-JAOU**, administrative officer, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, at Montreal, on November 4, 2008.

**MARTIN E. WEBER**, professor emeritus, Department of Chemical Engineering, at Montreal, on November 24, 2008.

**I. W. WEINTRUB**, BSc'48, MDCM'52, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, at Dorval, Que., on May 7, 2008.



# The North becomes her

BY HÉLÈNA KATZ, BA'87

I had just returned home from walking the dog when I heard a rustling sound too loud to be a squirrel. I turned to see a big black bear, 15 feet away, staring at us. If there's one thing I never had to worry about when I called Montreal my home, it was that a bear might drop by for lunch.

I moved to Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories in 2006 and now live on the edge of the bush, 12 kilometres from town. We're near Wood Buffalo National Park, where the bears and bison roam. Sanchez, our 65-pound pooch, is quick to bark furiously at squirrels, but pretended not to notice the burly trespasser that day. I grabbed some metal pot lids from the kitchen and banged them together. The bear lumbered away, probably annoyed that the music at this particular restaurant was so awful.

I was living in the densely populated Mile End neighbourhood five years ago when I visited Fort Smith to do a travel story and met Mike. First I fell in love with the North. Then I fell in love with a northerner. Since Mike works for the territorial government and I'm a freelance journalist, the answer to the question of who would move so that we could be together was a no-brainer.

Fort Smith is a pretty community on the banks of the Slave River, just north of the Alberta border. Fewer than 2,400 people call it home.

It's the kind of place where you get laughed at for locking your car, a weekend shopping spree requires a 10-hour drive, and stopping at a traffic light can be less common than travelling by floatplane.

It's also a town so small that you hang a right at the main intersection to go for Chinese food and make a left if you want pizza. I can get my fix of Indian food at home since Mike has a way with curry, but forget about souvlaki, sushi or Sunday brunch.

I hadn't realized how much I would miss bumping into familiar faces on the street and going out to grab a coffee. The peace and quiet I had so coveted when I was submerged in the cacophony of urban living suddenly felt stifling. I yearned for someone to bang on my door looking for a cup of tea—just to break the monotony.

I also hadn't anticipated just how difficult it would be to adjust to a life that was so different from the one I had led. In Montreal I was a busy and established freelance journalist. I mentored other writers, volunteered with a local writers' organization and was known for my sense of humour.

For nearly two years I struggled with being little more than Mike's appendage, leaving me feeling invisible and stripped of my own identity. Without any friends of my own in Fort Smith, I felt emotionally cut off from the tight support network I had enjoyed in Montreal.

Then I realized that being defined by my man instead of on my own merits wasn't about stripping me of my identity—it's about others using a human marker to try to place me. In a small, isolated community where family ties are strong and survival can depend on interpersonal relationships, people need to know who newcomers "belong" with.

Over time, my own identity began to emerge. "Are you *the* writer?" complete strangers began asking after I sold copies of my books at a community crafts sale and my byline started appearing in northern magazines.

Three years later, I've reclaimed my identity as a writer. And the stillness of the North that was once unnerving has become my salvation—a refuge where my literary creativity flows without the jarring staccato of urban interruptions.

I still wish some of my old friends lived down the road instead of being spread across Canada, but I'm finding my place in this community. Big cities are great places for dining and shopping, but the North is now my home. I am finally beginning to feel like a northerner.

Especially on those nights when the northern lights are shimmering and the vast sky outside my home becomes a canvas for Mother Nature's paintbrush. 🐻

*Hélène Katz has written for Canadian Geographic, Homemakers and More, and is working on a book compilation of her monthly "Letter from the North." She can be reached at: katzcomm@look.ca*



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