

McGill News

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING
SUMMER
2016

Hitting the **HIGH NOTES**

THE POWERFUL BONDS BETWEEN
THE MCGILL AND MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

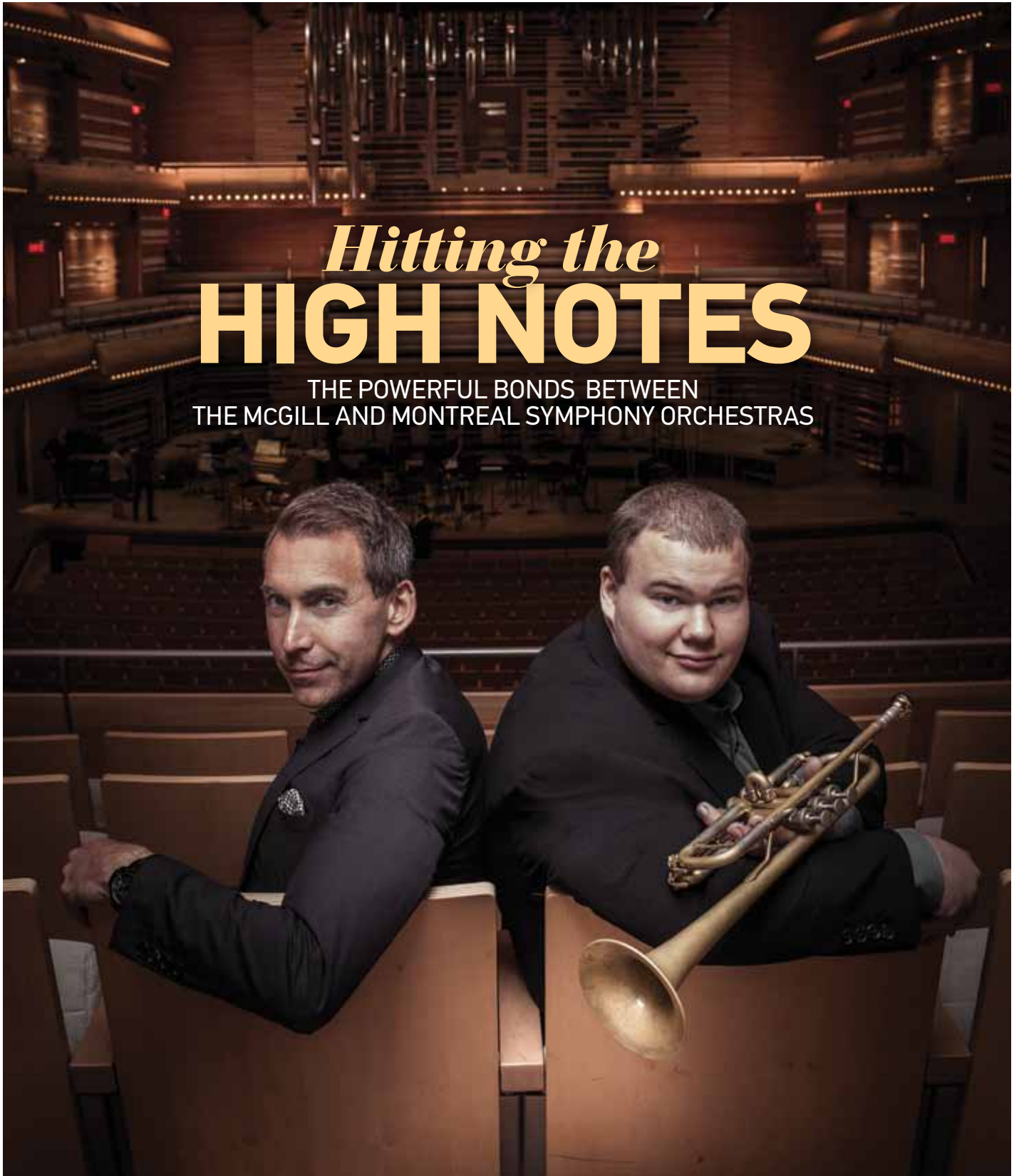


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IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK
- 4 PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE
- 5 NEWSBITES
- 9 DISCOVERY
- 34 REVIEWS
- 36 ALUMNI ACTIVITIES
- 40 ALUMNI PROFILE
- 41 ALUMNOTES
- 52 IN MEMORIAM
- 56 MCGILL MOMENT

12



IN PERFECT HARMONY

The student musicians in the McGill Symphony Orchestra have easy access to mentors who regularly perform for a world-renowned orchestra. Almost two dozen members of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal teach at McGill's Schulich School of Music and roughly one-third of the OSM's musicians are McGill graduates.

BY ROBERT EVERETT-GREEN

18



ENGINEERING'S NEW FRONTIER

If you want to build a better bridge or a better Mars Exploration Rover, get an engineer. But if you want to look at innovative ways for improving human health, well, you might want to get an engineer for that too. The growing field of bioengineering focuses on the unique properties of living things.

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH

23



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Every year, about 3,500 McGill students move into new quarters that all have something in common — the buildings are owned and managed by the University. Most of the students living in McGill residences will suffer from bouts of homesickness, but they'll discover a welcoming community and some surprisingly good food.

BY KATE SHERIDAN, BA&SC'14

28



FAIRE DE L'EFFET

Les diplômés de McGill sont nombreux dans les quelque mille entreprises que compte le secteur multimédia montréalais. Des jeux vidéo et de l'animation aux effets visuels et à la scénographie, ils contribuent à asseoir la réputation de Montréal parmi les grands centres de la création multimédia.

PAR JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU (B. A. 1992)



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EDITOR

Daniel McCabe, BA'89

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Julie Fortier

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

Derek Cassoff

ADVERTISING

Christina Barile / Tel.: 514-398-6043

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Christina Barile

Shrinkhala Dawadi

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DESIGN

Steven McClenaghan, Graphic Design
Communications and External Relations

MCGILL NEWS

1430 Peel Street

Montreal, QC, Canada H3A 3T3

Tel.: 514-398-5000 / Fax: 514-398-5293

Email: news.alumni@mcgill.ca

Web: publications.mcgill.ca/mcgillnews

Twitter: @McGillNewsMag

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Orchestra's Paul Merkelo with
McGill music student David Koch
at the Maison symphonique*

Photo by Claudio Calligaris



OWEN EGAN

A SEASON OF CAPS AND GOWNS

don't care how curmudgeonly you're feeling, I defy anyone to take a stroll through McGill's downtown campus during the spring convocation ceremonies and not feel a smile creeping across their face. It's like stumbling upon an oasis of joy. Beaming parents and grandparents as far as the eye can see.

There were 14 convocations this spring on McGill's two campuses. The caps and gowns worn by McGill's senior officials got a real workout. I once asked former McGill principal Heather Munroe-Blum if all that convocating ever tired her out. She seemed surprised by the question. "It's one of the best parts of the job," she declared.

As usual, some pretty impressive individuals received honorary degrees and imparted some advice to the new graduates. E. Fuller Torrey, MDCM'63, DSc'16, an expert on mental illnesses and a prominent voice in the world of psychiatry, drew chuckles with the advice he offered. He warned the new graduates to be wary of advice from older people like him. For instance, as a young man he was instructed by an elder *not* to go to Canada for medical school, but to pick a prestigious U.S. institution instead. A safer choice, he was told. "He was wrong and McGill was one of the best choices I've made in my whole life," Torrey said to cheers.

One of the names that appeared in this spring's convocation booklets belonged to Erik Kudelka, BSc(AgEnvSc)'16. No one worked harder to graduate from McGill than he did.

It took Erik 11 years to complete his degree — and he wasn't supposed to be able to finish it at all. Ten years ago, he was informed that he likely wouldn't survive the leukemia that was then assaulting his body. He is still here today, but the aggressive treatments that extended his life took a toll of their own. His damaged kidneys required four years of dialysis. He needed to have both hips replaced.

On June 3, he accepted his degree in applied zoology. He was the first undergraduate to cross the stage. Chris Buddle, the associate dean for student affairs for the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, informed the crowd of the extraordinary hurdles that Kudelka had faced. "Erik exemplifies optimism, positivity, motivation and enthusiasm for life and learning," Buddle said. The ensuing standing ovation made it clear that the audience was firmly in agreement.

Erik Kudelka is a tough act to follow, but here at the *McGill News*, we're pretty proud of another recent graduate, Jonathan Montpetit, BA'03, MA'16, who completed his master's degree in political science. A week before we went to press with this issue, we learned that the *McGill News* had earned two writing awards in the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education's annual Prix d'Excellence. Jonathan received a silver medal for Best Writing — English for his article on *Medicins Sans Frontières* international president Joanne Liu, MDCM'91, IMHL'14. Jean-Benoît Nadeau, BA'92, won the gold in the Best Writing — French category for his profile of NFL offensive guard and McGill medical student Laurent Duvernay-Tardif. In all, McGill picked up eight awards from the CCAE, tying the University of Alberta for top spot in the country. It's a nice way to end the academic year.

Enjoy the summer. 🐼

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD



CHRISTINE MUSCHI

Earlier this year, **Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76**, was the only head of a Canadian university to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos. More recently, she was appointed to Canadian finance minister Bill Morneau's Advisory Council on Economic Growth. The principal recently spoke to the *McGill News* about her experiences in Davos and her involvement in the council.

What was it like to participate in the World Economic Forum?

I had very high expectations and my expectations were surpassed. I expected to see some of the world's top finance people there—and they *were* there—but I was pleased and surprised to see so many people from the worlds of science and art there as well. We were focusing on the fourth industrial revolution, which will come from the fusion of the physical, biological and digital technologies. The discussion was not just about how to take advantage of these advances. It was also about how to nurture inclusive growth in the world. While we spoke about the fourth industrial revolution, we were keenly aware of the fact that 20 per cent of the world's population still has not benefitted from the second industrial revolution—they do not have refrigeration in their homes, or easy access to clean drinking water.

When you returned from Davos, McGill was invited to join the Global University Leaders Forum.

Yes. It is a group of universities selected by the World Economic Forum and they participate in the Forum's meetings. There are 26 of us and it is probably the group that you would imagine—Harvard, Cambridge, MIT, Stanford, Oxford, the National University of Singapore, etc. It is an incredible club to be part of. We talk about the future of education, of course. We also talk about the contributions that universities make to society, because that is very much a part of why we are at Davos—to show how we can contribute to addressing some of the big challenges facing the world.

You've had the opportunity to meet McGill graduates around the world recently—in Dubai, Hong Kong and London. What do they ask you?

The first thing they want to know is, "How is McGill doing?" The next question is usually, "What can I do to help?" They are especially interested in the students who are at McGill today. They want to help McGill recruit the best students, they want to mentor our young entrepreneurs, they want to help create internship opportunities. They might be a few generations ahead of the students who are currently attending McGill, but there is a sense of connection there, a powerful sense of community.

What can you tell us about the Advisory Council on Economic Growth?

These are challenging times in terms of fostering economic growth, and each country has to develop its own strategy. We recently had our first meeting and many ministers and deputy ministers were there. It is great to see the collaboration across government. One of the things that struck me about the members of the council was that many are Canadians who have become very successful outside of Canada and are prepared to help. The council's chair, Dominic Barton, is the global managing director of McKinsey and he is based in London. Katherine Barr, founder of C100 and a McGill graduate, is a very influential venture capitalist in Silicon Valley.

This reminds me of how the world is changing. Many of the people going to university today can expect to have a career and a private life that will take them to different parts of the world. This is why every university on the planet right now is thinking about how to build its international profile. We are very fortunate at McGill, because we have always reached out to the world. It is in our DNA. We have a strong foundation already in place and we can build on that as we continue to reach out to the world as a global university.

I remember coming to McGill as a student. One of the big attractions for me was to be immersed in a different culture and to learn a new language. I expected to be immersed in the world of English Canada. What I hadn't expected was that I would meet and become friends with students from the U.S. and Asia and the Middle East and Europe. It was an even richer experience than the one I was anticipating and it was a great launching pad into the world. 🐦



LEE JIN-MAN/AP PHOTO

Rise of the MACHINE

For seven days in March, millions of people around the world had their eyes locked on Seoul, South Korea and a computer program capable of doing something no artificial intelligence had been able to do previously.

AlphaGo, the first computer program to beat a professional player at the popular Asian strategic board game Go, competed against Lee Sedol, considered one of the world's top players in a game that is more than 2,500 years old. AlphaGo emerged victorious, winning four games to one. It was a battle between man and machine that enthralled the world in a similar fashion to the famed Deep Blue chess matches against Garry Kasparov in the nineties.

AlphaGo was created at Google DeepMind in London, England. Two of the team's members are McGill computer science graduates: **MARC LANCTOT**, BSc'03, MSc'05, and **ARTHUR GUEZ**, BSc'09, MSc'10. Neither could be considered Go experts, but they said the game was chosen for a reason.

"If you take an introductory course in AI [artificial intelligence], Go is always used as the example of something computers can't do. You must rely on more abstract thinking and conceptual things that computers are allegedly bad at," says Guez.

Although Go isn't well-known in Canada, its tremendous popularity in Asia also made it an obvious choice for Google DeepMind. According to Google, 60 million people in China alone watched the first match against Sedol, which was broadcast online.

It was expected that it would take a decade to create a Go AI with the machine learning capabilities to defeat a player of Sedol's skill. Instead, it only took two years. AlphaGo combines Monte-Carlo tree search—an algorithm often utilized for the types of decision-making associated with game play—with deep neural networks in order to self-improve. "We don't tell it what kind of decisions it should make. It learns through experience what it should do," says Guez, adding that AlphaGo can predict an opponent's move 57 per cent of the time.

Go is a game that looks deceptively simple—players are trying to surround their opponents or capture their stones—although there are more possible moves in the game than there are atoms in the universe. AlphaGo has been lauded for making moves human players generally hadn't considered before, and pro players around the world took notice.

Fan Hui, the first professional Go player to lose head-to-head against AlphaGo, described one of the moves the program made in the second game against Sedol as "beautiful."

"When you're playing at such a high level, those unexpected moves become possible. We could watch AlphaGo play an amateur and not see many of these because the moment didn't arise, but it would take someone as capable as Lee Sedol to get into a situation where such a move would be possible," says Lanctot.

Despite AlphaGo's resounding victory in Seoul, neither Guez nor Lanctot went into the series against Sedol confident about the outcome.

Guez was in Seoul for the games, and says AlphaGo's victory dominated headlines there.

"I thought after the first win, we can lose the rest, but at least we won this one game and it was historic. People were expecting us to lose 5-0," he says.

In a piece that she wrote for the *New York Times*, McGill associate professor of computer science Doina Precup described AlphaGo's victory as a "tremendous achievement."

"Just as the technologies developed for the Watson *Jeopardy!* player are now enabling pioneering data science applications in medicine and business, the algorithms developed for AlphaGo will enable us to use computers more effectively," she wrote.

ERIK LEIJON

↑ Go player Lee Sedol takes stock after a match against AlphaGo, an artificial intelligence system created by Google.

BIG THINKING FOR SMALL SPACES

New York is famously expensive. The average rent in Manhattan was recently reported at \$3,873 a month. While housing in the city was largely built for families, they now make up only 18 per cent of Manhattan's population, while single households are up to 60 per cent.

"People are being priced out, because they either have to share, which they may not want to do, or they are living in illegally subdivided apartments," says **ERIC BUNGE**, BSc(Arch)'89, BArch'91. Some subdivides are as small as 90 square feet.

Bunge, the co-founder of New York-based nArchitects, co-designed Carmel Place, a project that offers "micro-unit" apartments in Manhattan to serve the rising population of single people.

Carmel Place is the product of a competition launched a few years ago to search for solutions to the city's housing woes. A call went out for proposals for micro-apartment buildings and Carmel Place emerged victorious. It opened on April 1. The units in the building measure 260 to 360 square feet (the city relaxed its building codes to accommodate such small apartments).

The nArchitects team used high ceilings, natural light and overhead storage to give the micro-apartments a sense of being bigger than they actually are. The American Institute of Architects' New York chapter was clearly impressed by the work done by Bunge and his collaborators. Carmel Place recently earned the AIA's Design Honor Award, its highest distinction.

Bunge believes Carmel Place will have a lasting impact. "It affects the city through its role as a prototype, in changing the zoning codes, in changing the civic imagination about how we live."

MARK LEPAGE, BA'96



PABLO ENRIQUEZ



OWEN EGAN

Rewriting the book on HOCKEY ANALYTICS

Hockey fans look forward to the wheeling and dealing that goes on at the NHL trade deadline, as teams tinker with their rosters in the hopes of launching long Stanley Cup playoff runs.

CRAIG BUNTIN, MBA'13, is the CEO of Sportlogiq, a growing hockey analytics firm. He has a unique perspective on the trades that were made at this year's deadline.

"It was clear that our data was behind a lot of [the moves]," says Buntin. "There were direct recommendations we had made, and cases we had made for specific players in specific instances."

Sportlogiq counts 10 NHL teams among its clients, along with two major sports broadcasters, RDS and Sportsnet.

The company's computer vision-driven analytics software interprets live game footage and turns it into a series of data points that carefully track the hundreds of player-driven events that happen during a typical hockey game—the dekes, the passes, the blocked shots, the deflections, the stick-checks and a whole lot more.

The company's unique software was developed by Sportlogiq's chief technology officer **MEHRSAN JAVAN**, PhD'15. Javan co-founded the company with Buntin, a former Olympic figure skater.

One sports-savvy investor who likes Sportlogiq's potential is Mark Cuban, the owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks and a regular on the TV series *Shark Tank*. Cuban recently invested in the company.

The information derived from Sportlogiq's datasets allows teams, broadcasters and scouts to evaluate and compare players on a multitude of competencies. Buntin believes that data will play a growing role in the decisions that NHL teams make.

"You're going to see teams changing the way they play the game based on quantitative, objective decisions," he says.

TRACEY LINDEMAN

↑ Sportlogiq co-founders Mehrsan Javan and Craig Buntin.

THE RIGOURS — of the — REVENANT



Leonardo DiCaprio
in a scene from
The Revenant.

The production process for the Oscar-winning *The Revenant* was notoriously difficult. The *Hollywood Reporter* called it “a living hell,” while *The Telegraph* described it as “the toughest film shoot ever.” The cast and crew endured temperatures of -30 through much of the filming and the elements wreaked havoc with the equipment used to shoot the movie. But those aren’t the only reasons why the experience was gruelling.

“There were huge egos on that movie,” says **MICHAEL DINER**, BSc’87, who worked on the film as a supervising art director. “It was an Oscar-quality production. The kinds

of people who do that are very strong-willed, because they’re not just making blockbuster movies. They’re trying to make art as well. So on a movie like that, there’s very little room for misunderstanding. It could cost you your job and it cost many people their jobs on that movie.”

Despite the challenges, Diner and his team won an Excellence in Production Design Award from the Art Directors Guild for their work on the film.

Diner has a wide range of high-profile Hollywood projects on his resumé, including *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol* and the latest *X-Files* series.

He studied geology at McGill. He says that background is useful when working on outdoor shoots in rugged terrain. “Many epic films are made in epic environments.”

But even epic environments require a gentle nudge from an art director.

“It wasn’t just building sets,” he says of his work on *The Revenant*. “It was creating forests and painting forests. Building rocks and moving rocks. It was changing the physical environment in a subtle, but natural way so it worked with the storytelling.”

BRENDAN KELLY, BA’85

AN INSOLE THAT COULD *save* LIVES



An estimated 19.5 million people in North America develop peripheral neuropathy as a result of their diabetes. The condition, caused by chronically high blood sugar levels, damages nerves that carry messages between the brain and the feet. For those afflicted, the consequences can be serious, even catastrophic: ulcers, infections, amputation, and even death.

Calgary-based entrepreneur **BREAUNE EVERETT**, BSc’06, the CEO and co-founder of Orpyx Medical Technologies, developed the SurroSense Rx — a specialized shoe insole with sensors that wirelessly alert users when pressure-induced damage is occurring, so that they can move their feet to improve blood flow.

The device recently earned Everett (left) one of six inaugural Governor General’s Innovation Awards. The new national prizes celebrate innovative, entrepreneurial risk-takers, whose ideas and products are having a meaningful impact on Canadians’ quality of life.

Entrepreneurism isn’t new to Everett. At the age of eight, she sold handmade jewelry, and by the age of 10, her creations were appearing on the CBC television show *North of 60* and in films.

Everett attended McGill thanks, in part, to a prestigious Loran Scholarship. After graduating, she pursued a medical degree at the University of Calgary. While doing her medical residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery, she was alarmed by how many of her diabetic patients were suffering from severe complications caused by peripheral neuropathy.

Everett came up with a simple solution: a sensor-based shoe insole that takes pressure readings and sends signals to an electronic watch to remind the patient to shift position.

She says she’s delighted to be one of the first winners of the Governor General’s Innovation Award. “This new award gives a terrific boost to Canada’s innovation ecosystem.”

LINDA SUTHERLAND

MCGILL SYNCHRO RULES THE POOL

In February, for the 13th time in 15 years, McGill's **SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING TEAM** brought home a national championship.

The Martlets won the Gerry Dubrule trophy for best overall university team based on all their performances during the Canadian University Synchronized Swimming League's two-day meet at the University of British Columbia. Top finishers included the novice team's first-place routine and Marion Burnichon and Marilou Lachance's gold-medal novice duet routine. The senior team routine finished second, just 0.1 point behind the first-place squad.

"[New members] feel like they're coming into a team with a lot of history," says head coach Lindsay Duncan. "They feel they have expectations to live up to."

Winning the championship this season was no sure thing, says Duncan. Only one member of the senior team returned, and the squad was relatively young. But the team came together and worked hard throughout the season — partially motivated by their desire to live up to the team's sterling reputation.

That reputation may be the secret of McGill's dominant decade and a half. "It does attract swimmers like me," says Mathilde Warren, a member of the senior team and an international development studies student from Albany, New York.

For her part, Duncan balances her coaching duties on the team with her regular job as an assistant professor in McGill's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education. "It helped me feel more connected to McGill," she says of her decision to become involved with the team.

KATE SHERIDAN, BA&SC'14



L.A. BENOIT/MCGILL ATHLETICS

→ MOVE OVER, CRAIGSLIST

TAMI ZUCKERMAN, BEd'02, likes to stay busy. When her doctor advised her to go on a preventative maternity leave in 2012, the primary school teacher approached nesting mode with a vengeance. In the process of decluttering, she launched a multi-million dollar business.

As Zuckerman (right) went about paring down her belongings, she found that selling items on Craigslist was "creepy." You never really knew who you were dealing with (Craigslist has been linked to more than 100 murders). Other options for buying and selling online seemed poorly organized. She thought about what might work better. As her ideas solidified, she recruited her husband Carl Mercier, an experienced programmer. Together, they devised a new virtual garage sale system and called it VarageSale.

Users need a Facebook profile to register (to prove that they're who they say they are).

Members are vetted by an administrator. The system is organized by neighbourhoods and there are thousands of VarageSale communities — most of them in Canada and the U.S.

On any given day, about 50 per cent of VarageSale's members use the company's app — an enviable level of "stickiness" in the online world. That kind of devotion attracts attention. VarageSale has received \$34 million in venture capital funding from Sequoia Capital and Lightspeed Venture Partners (you may have heard of other companies they've backed, like Google and Snapchat).

Zuckerman says her McGill education degree and her 12 years of teaching experience played an important role in how she built her business. "It surprised me, the parallels that existed between running a classroom and running a company. Both require very clear goals and direction."

MAEVE HALDANE





MARTIN LIPMAN/NSERC

STELLAR

in every way

VICTORIA KASPI, BSc'89, is one of the country's leading astrophysicists and she has the prizes to prove it. Her most recent one is a biggie — the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering, arguably the top science prize in the country. Her work has shed light on the unusual properties of highly dense neutron stars and doubled the number of known magnetars in our galaxy.

And yet Kaspi didn't take a single astrophysics course during her undergraduate studies at McGill.

Her honours degree in physics didn't allow for much flexibility, and there was only a handful of courses about astrophysics available, including "Planets, Stars and Galaxies," created for non-science majors. She discovered the field that became her life's passion during her doctoral studies at Princeton — but only because the degree's requirements forced her to expand her horizons beyond particle physics, her intended area.

That passion for astrophysics is what brought her back to McGill as a professor in 2000. She left MIT's astrophysics department to kick-start the field at McGill. There were other reasons for the move (her cardiologist husband was already in Montreal teaching at McGill), but the notion of starting a program essentially from scratch was definitely intriguing.

"In other research fields in physics, [McGill] was very well known, but not so much in astrophysics," says Kaspi. "I would want to apply for time on NASA telescopes and on the drop-down menu there'd be every university in North America — but not McGill."

Kaspi set about putting McGill's new astrophysics group on the map (and on NASA's drop-down menu). "I'm still so impressed by the physicists at McGill who decided to give up faculty spots in their own research areas in order to [give spots to astrophysicists]," Kaspi says. "I feel that was the biggest decision that ever had to be made, and I wasn't there, I wasn't in it at all."

It didn't hurt that the program, once it began blossoming, attracted the attention of Lorne Trottier, BEng'70, MEng'73, DSc'06. "Mr. Trottier has a great passion for astrophysics," says Kaspi. The noted philanthropist endowed the Lorne Trottier Chair in Astrophysics (held by Kaspi) and more recently helped fund the McGill Space Institute, a multidisciplinary research group that spans astrophysics, planetary science, atmospheric science and astrobiology. Kaspi is the institute's director.

Her current research focuses on fast radio bursts (FRBs), quick sequences of radio waves flashing from beyond our galaxy. Kaspi and a group of collaborators from around the world recently published a paper in *Nature* suggesting that multiple FRBs had originated from the same place — the first time such an occurrence had been noted. The source of these repeating bursts is unknown, but Kaspi hopes that a sophisticated new radio telescope set to be completed in 2017, CHIME, will help her study the phenomenon — especially now that she has extra funding as the winner of the Herzberg medal (the prize includes up to \$1 million in research money). "Now I can have students and post-docs analyzing and interpreting data, and that's fantastic, that's what I want. It's like it's a dream."

Today, McGill's astrophysics group encompasses nearly a dozen professors, along with their post-docs and graduate students. And McGill's physics students have no problem finding astrophysics courses to take these days. "Planets, Stars & Galaxies" is still available for non-physics students who want to dip their toes in the world of astrophysics. Kaspi has taught that course herself.

KATE SHERIDAN, BA&SC'14

↑ McGill astrophysicist Victoria Kaspi recently won the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering



ED KWONG

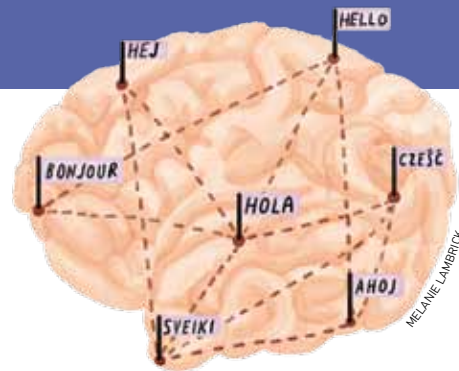
A PAIN *that reprograms* THE BRAIN

Chronic pain — defined as pain that persists for more than six months — affects more than 1.5 billion people across the globe. Despite its prevalence, scientists still know very little about it. In a recent study, McGill researchers discovered that chronic pain can reprogram genes in the brain and immune system, a finding that could pave the way for future treatments and diagnostic tools.

The team investigated epigenetic modification — in this case, the addition of chemicals called methyl groups onto DNA — which occurs in response to environmental factors and can alter the way genes function. By mapping methyl groups on DNA in rats nine months after a nerve injury, the researchers found extensive, overlapping changes in the brain and T cells, key players in the immune response. “We were completely blown away by the magnitude of the changes,” says dentistry professor **LAURA STONE**, a co-author of the study.

The research team, which also included James McGill professor of pharmacology and therapeutics **MOSHE SZYF**, also found that changes in a subset of the T cell genes could accurately predict pain sensitivity in the animals. This discovery could help scientists develop non-invasive diagnostic tools, such as a blood test, to determine how susceptible an individual is to developing chronic pain after an injury. These newly identified DNA markers could also provide new targets for future medications. “Chronic pain doesn’t just affect the brain, it affects the immune system as well,” says Stone. “So maybe we shouldn’t expect there to be a one-off cure, because so many things are changing.”

DIANA KWON, MSC’15



MELANIE LAMBRICK

WHEN IT COMES TO LANGUAGE, SOME BRAINS HAVE AN ADVANTAGE

Imagine that when you sign up for a course in a new language, you got your brain scanned as part of the registration process. A technician examining the images from the scan informs you that your brain circuitry puts you at a disadvantage. You better hit the vocabulary cards extra hard.

That scenario isn’t so far-fetched according to a recent study by Montreal Neurological Institute research associate **XIAOQIAN CHAI** and assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery **DENISE KLEIN**. Their findings identified certain connections in the brain that might explain why some people have an easier time than others in mastering a second language. The research potentially points to biomarkers that could help identify those who need extra assistance when learning a new language.

The study used 15 volunteers — all native English speakers — registered for an immersive 12-week course in French at McGill. Before the classes began, the students all had an fMRI scan. Once the course was over, the students returned to the fMRI machine. Verbal fluency and reading speed were tested both times. Each of the subjects read a paragraph in French aloud. They were also asked to describe something for two minutes in French — like a typical day at the zoo — using as many unique words as possible.

Chai and Klein noticed consistent patterns in the brains of students who had progressed well in the tests. Improvements in the reading test, for instance, were related to greater connectivity between the visual word form area of the brain and a language area in the left temporal lobe.

What’s unclear is whether these connectivity patterns are hardwired, says Chai. “Are we born with it? Or are they shaped by experiences growing up?”

SHANNON PALUS, BSC’13

THE MOST INHOSPITABLE PLACE ON EARTH?

Microbes live in every nook and cranny in the world: they're on our bodies, they're on our kitchen counters, they're cozying up to deep-sea hydrothermal vents. But in one spot in a valley in Antarctica, where the permafrost is so dry it looks like sand, they aren't there at all.

The location suggests an upper limit on what life as we know it on Earth — and maybe beyond — can endure. And it came as a surprise to **JACKIE GOORDIAL**, PhD'16, then a doctoral student in microbiology at Macdonald Campus. "We definitely didn't go looking for it."

Instead, she and Lyle Whyte, McGill's Canada Research Chair in Environmental Microbiology, took a helicopter to the remote area known as University Valley. When they arrived at a carefully selected spot to drill, they had a detailed hypothesis about the life they expected to find beneath the Martian-like surface. Whyte had recently discovered a microbe in the Canadian Arctic that can stay active at -25 degrees Celsius — Earth's current reigning "cold champion." The average temperature in the valley is only -23 degrees Celsius.



JACKIE GOORDIAL

The research team took samples from two boreholes in the ground, and shipped them back to Montreal. When they examined the ice to see what was living there, they found only dormant microbes, ones that probably hadn't been active since the wind carried them to University Valley thousands of years ago.

It's a combination of the extreme coldness and dryness that shuts the microbes down, Goordial explains.

That might make University Valley sound particularly forbidding, but Goordial says it isn't such a bad place to do research. "If you can handle Montreal in the winter, you can handle University Valley."

SHANNON PALUS, BSC'13

↑ A McGill research team in University Valley in Antarctica



ETHAN RILEY

LOOKING FOR LOVE *on your laptop*

According to **JUI RAMAPRASAD**, an assistant professor in the Desautels Faculty of Management, digital dating can be remarkably — and dishearteningly — similar to off-line interfacing.

"We still see these off-line social norms. Our results are derived from the idea men make the first move and that women leave this weak signal. It was more than surprising, it was disappointing — you would have hoped we have evolved beyond that."

The "weak signal" in this case was a notification that one party had visited another's

profile: its equivalent in the offline world might be a meaningful look or flirtatious hair-toss. In a recent study, Ramaprasad's team worked with a major online dating site to offer anonymity to 50,000 selected users, so that they could visit profiles without leaving a digital trail. It's a feature without an obvious equivalent in the real world.

"I can't go to a party and check out everybody in a way where I can learn enough about them so that I can make a decision about whether I want to talk to them. People know when you're looking at them," says Ramaprasad.

Opting into the feature changed users' behaviors in noticeable ways: both men and women visited more profiles over all, and more profiles of socially riskier matches — interracial partners for instance.

Both men and women were also far more likely to visit profiles of same-sex individuals under the cover of anonymity.

However, users' success in finding a match was dramatically reduced when using the anonymity feature — by as much as 14 per cent for women. With no way to leave a hint that they might welcome contact from a potential partner, women had to make the first move themselves — which, even online, they are less likely to do.

"It turns out that leaving this weak signal is an additional mechanism to increase the likelihood of finding a match," says Ramaprasad.

MARK REYNOLDS



The McGill Symphony Orchestra, led by music director Alexis Hauser, rehearses for a concert.

in
**PERFECT
HARMONY**

The McGill Symphony Orchestra has enjoyed a special relationship with the world-renowned Orchestre symphonique de Montréal for decades. It's a bond that benefits both ensembles.

by Robert Everett-Green

PHOTOS BY WILL LEW



David Koch plays trumpet with the McGill Symphony Orchestra (MGSO)

It was a nasty January morning in Montreal, the kind that made trumpeter David Koch wonder why he had moved from Michigan to study music in this windy, wintry city. He checked his email and found a timely reminder: an invitation to sit in as a substitute player for two concerts with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, after just one term in the graduate performance program at McGill's Schulich School of Music.

"That made my day right there," Koch says. An added bonus was that he would be playing one of the OSM's most anticipated programs of the year: the return engagement, after a 14-year absence, of former music director Charles Dutoit.

Koch had entered McGill on short notice last September, after learning that Richard Stoezel, his teacher at Michigan's Grand Valley State University, had been appointed head of the Schulich School's brass studio. Koch applied late and arrived in Montreal in the fall not quite knowing what to expect, though well aware of the OSM and its close connection with the McGill Symphony Orchestra (MGSO).

He had played three concerts with the MGSO when Paul Merkelo, the OSM's principal trumpet and an instructor at the Schulich School, invited him to sit in with the OSM for a program that included Stravinsky's *Petrushka*. Stravinsky wrote the piece for an expanded trumpet section, and didn't make things easy for the players. The first rehearsal was "nerve-wracking," Koch says, though it could have been much tougher without the special prepping he received from the section principal.

"Paul made it a very comfortable experience for my first concert with a major orchestra, let alone one of the biggest concerts of the OSM season," Koch says. "We spent a lesson working on the music, and he pointed out some spots that he thought might come up in rehearsal. He said Dutoit might single out the trumpets, and not to be afraid when that happened, just to play as I always do."

Merkelo also briefed him on the etiquette of playing in a professional orchestra, most of which comes down to being as prepared and attentive as possible. That turned out to be especially important, Koch says, when working with a conductor who rehearses as quickly and efficiently as Dutoit. The young trumpeter also knew that the way he handled himself, in rehearsals as much as in the concerts, could determine whether he'd get another chance to play as a "sub" in the OSM. It's an opportunity that's much on the minds of MGSO members, who all know that many OSM members have passed through McGill's orchestral ensemble.

A "STEPPING STONE"

The OSM has firmly established itself as a world-class orchestra having won more than 50 national and international awards over the years, including two Grammys. Roughly one-third of the orchestra's musicians are McGill graduates and 23 Schulich School instructors and professors are also full-time members of the OSM. The links between McGill and the OSM were highlighted earlier this year when two OSM recordings were among the five finalists for the Juno Award for Classical Album of the Year: Large Ensemble. One of those OSM albums featured Merkelo in a headlining role. The other CD, which won the Juno, prominently featured the OSM's new organist-in-residence, Schulich graduate Jean-Willy Kunz, DMus'11.

"The MGSO is the stepping stone to the OSM," says Catherine Gray, a violist who entered the Schulich School's undergraduate performance program in September, after receiving a performance diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music's Glenn Gould School in Toronto. "There are quite a few MGSO alumni at the OSM, some of them only a few years older than I am." Gray played a program with the OSM in November, and was asked to sub for the recent OSM tour of the U.S. as well, but declined because she would have had to miss too many classes.

“It’s kind of a big deal, having the concertmaster of the OSM leading your sectional rehearsal. You feel like you’re getting a real professional training.”

“It’s one of the things that draws people to McGill, the close connection with the OSM,” says Jonathan Crow, BMus’98, a former OSM concertmaster who now holds the same position with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. “During my first week as a student at McGill, I had a sectional rehearsal with Richard Roberts,” then the leader of the OSM strings. “It’s kind of a big deal, having the concertmaster of the OSM leading your sectional rehearsal. You feel like you’re getting a real professional training,” Crow says.

His first performance with the OSM was actually a joint “side-by-side” concert with the MGSO, in which he, as concertmaster of the McGill ensemble, sat right next to Roberts. “Dutoit swooped in for one rehearsal, like a conquering hero, and immediately fixed all the problems,” Crow says. “That was our first experience, for probably most of the MGSO, with a real international conductor, and it was a real eye-opener.” He also found it revelatory to play Bruckner’s *Symphony No. 7* with the MGSO, then to hear the OSM perform the same piece a few months later. “It’s incredible, that chance to hear great musicians doing what you’re being told to do.”

It’s possible to study your instrument with someone from a major orchestra in many places, Crow says, but at McGill, the concentration of talent from the big-league local orchestra is almost unique. “To have one orchestra that’s a major cultural export connected so specifically with one university is very unusual.” In New York, for instance, members of the New York Philharmonic are spread out through several competing schools.

When Crow was a McGill student, the influence of so many teachers from the OSM made itself felt not just at the individual level, he says, but in the notion of orchestral sound that the students absorbed from their mentors. “By virtue of having all of those OSM teachers at school, and all of us playing in orchestra together, we got this idea of a transparent sound, slightly less aggressive and more European than many North American orchestras,” Crow says. The OSM sound, renowned throughout the world, affected the sound of the MGSO, which made it all the easier for very talented McGill students to find their way into the OSM.

AN ORCHESTRAL EDUCATION

As a student orchestra, the MGSO has a much more rapid turnover than any professional group. “I have about 30 per cent newcomers almost every year,” says Alexis Hauser, who has been the orchestra’s music director for the past 14 years. “There are quite a number of first-year students. They are usually very advanced technically, but many haven’t played regularly with an orchestra.” Some of what they need to know comes through full rehearsals, but there’s also an enormous amount to be gleaned from smaller, more focused section rehearsals, many of them led by OSM players.

MGSO violist
Catherine Gray



Two albums nominated for Junos this year were by the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal



Both albums featured Schulich School of Music instructors or graduates in principal roles

“When I was a student at McGill, the sectionals were usually led by Tom Williams or Denise Lupien, both of whom were at one point members of the OSM,” says Alexander Read, BMus’09, GrDipMusic’12, who is now principal of the OSM’s second violins and a regular sectional coach for the MGSO. “They each taught us many things about ensemble playing. They worked on intonation, articulation, balance, and leading effectively [for the principal players], and on creating a unified sound with character and energy. They also gave us strategies for fingerings and bowings, and efficient methods for learning difficult passages. I try my best to pass along their knowledge, and also what I’ve learned myself as an orchestral player.”

Placements of students in the orchestra are done mainly by the performance faculty, who also decide how and when to rotate people within sections during the season. Sometimes that’s for balance, though often — especially in the winds — it’s meant to give as many people as possible a chance to take both a leading and a supporting role. Hauser is in charge of programming, which means making the most of a limited number of programs — just six per academic year — to expose students to a broad range of challenges.

“The repertoire has to reflect the whole spectrum, from classical to contemporary repertoire,” he explains. There are also at least three concerto competition winners to accommodate, a spotlight occasion for a renowned international composer such as Kaija Saariaho or Wolfgang Rihm, and a concert with choir if possible. Hauser’s choices are ambitious: the MGSO has performed demanding works such as Mahler’s *Symphony No. 3* and Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé Suite No. 2*, and performed Shostakovich’s *Symphony No. 5* for a performance at Toronto’s Koerner Hall last November.

Each program is repeated once, giving the players what Hauser calls a “priceless” opportunity to revisit what went well and what could be done better. Every concert is recorded and videotaped for live streaming by graduate students and faculty of the sound recording and music technology programs, including associate professor Martha de Francisco, a former Philips Classics producer who has recorded many top-flight orchestras, including the OSM.

It remains a big leap from playing in a student orchestra, even an excellent one, to coping with the pace and daily discipline of working full-time in a professional ensemble. “At university, you’ve got maybe six weeks to prepare a program,” says Jonathan Crow. “With a professional orchestra, you may have six hours.” But having continual guidance from teachers who live in that professional world at Maison symphonique makes a huge difference, and has smoothed the path for many MGSO players.

David Koch eventually did have his close-up with Charles Dutoit, when the conductor singled out the trumpets while rehearsing *Petrushka*. Koch says that being prepped on that possibility by Paul Merkelo helped take the jitters out of it, and allowed him to play his best. Another topic from his lessons came home to him in a new way when Koch realized how much of fitting into the OSM brass section came down to finding the right kind of attack for each note.

“In order to match the rest of the brass and just be heard within the orchestra, I found that the front of the note had to be much crisper,” he says. “Paul and I had worked on that in lessons, giving a very clean front to every note. But actually playing in the orchestra, hearing him do that and getting feedback from the hall, was really important. I got a higher sense of how the front of the note defines the sound.”

After the concerts, Koch had a debriefing with Merkelo during the first quarter-hour of his next lesson. “He told me what he liked in what I had done, and what he thought I could do better,” Koch says. That’s what teachers always do in lessons, though this time it was also the section principal talking to him, as to a junior colleague, explaining what he could improve to be more successful in the milieu in which he wants to spend his professional life. That’s not something you can ever get from a book, or even from a fine teacher in a good university that doesn’t have a vital link with a major symphony orchestra. 🐦

Robert Everett-Green is a feature writer with The Globe and Mail and a former professional musician. A National Magazine Award winner, he currently focuses on arts and culture in Montreal.

SAVE
THE
DATE

OCTOBER 27^{'16}
30



HOMECOMING

CELEBRATION WEEKEND & OPEN HOUSE

HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK AT THE PRELIMINARY LINEUP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

- Beatty Memorial Lecture with Canadian icon and author Margaret Atwood

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

- Hilarity at the 47th Annual Leacock Luncheon
- 25th Silver Celebration for the Class of 1991
- 50th Golden Jubilee for the Class of 1966
 - Student and Young Alumni Gathering
 - Exclusive Parents Cocktail

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

- Sir William Macdonald Luncheon
- McGill's Genius Minds and Innovations
- McGill Redmen Homecoming Football Game and Tailgate Party

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

- McGill Open Air Family Breakfast
- Open House for prospective students and their families – alumni welcome!

PLUS

- Faculty events
- Affinity reunions
- Mac Campus events
- And more throughout the weekend



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ED KWONG

ENGINEERING'S NEW FRONTIER

Engineers have long explored chemical processes, electrical power and mechanical systems. Now an increasing number of engineering researchers are turning their attention to the properties of living things—and that includes us.

by Patrick McDonagh

When you think of engineers, who do you picture in your mind's eye? The one person on a construction site wearing a stylish blazer along with a hard hat? Someone who's deeply versed in the workings of electrical wires or underground pipes? Somebody who can explain how a fuel cell functions?

Nathalie Tufenkji, BEng'00, is a professor of chemical engineering and she is doing unusual things with maple syrup.

It turns out that Quebec's most famous culinary export is more than a delicious pancake topping: it also harbours surprising antimicrobial powers. But no one had realized its bacteria-fighting potential until Tufenkji and her research team isolated an extract. Once Tufenkji combined the extract with antibiotics, she discovered that, astonishingly, the amount of antibiotics used to kill bacteria could be reduced by up to 90 per cent—a significant finding given concerns about the over-prescription of antibiotics and bacterial resistance to them.

Tufenkji's further probing showed that the extract inhibits bacteria's ability to adjust the permeability of their membrane,

allowing antibiotics to enter more easily; it also reduces the bacteria's capacity to expel them. Further, the extract represses certain genes in bacteria, rendering them less virulent. And it can even disable bacterial defences in biofilms—layers of bacteria clustering together and excreting a sticky protective nest and posing a serious threat of infection.

Following such promising results in the lab, the next step is preclinical testing. This spring Tufenkji, a Canada Research Chair in Biocolloids and Surfaces, won a Faculty of Engineering William and Rhea Seath Award to develop her discovery's commercial potential. The day may come when maple syrup extract is incorporated into antibiotic treatments to form a powerful alliance against bacterial infections.

Tufenkji's project is one of many wide-range bioengineering initiatives in the Faculty of Engineering. Interest in bioengineering has surged in recent years and the field holds promise for enhancing health care, addressing environmental issues, and developing safe, sustainable materials.

“Engineering involves applying science to solve problems, and we have reached the point where the principles of the life sciences have many potential engineering applications,” says Dean of Engineering Jim Nicell. As Dan Nicolau, who joined McGill in 2013 as the first chair of the University’s new Department of Bioengineering, points out, “Electrical engineering has electromagnetism as its foundation, chemical engineering has chemistry. And bioengineering applies knowledge and principles from biology to design structures, materials, devices and processes, for non-medical as well as medical applications.”

APPLYING BIOLOGY TO ENGINEERING

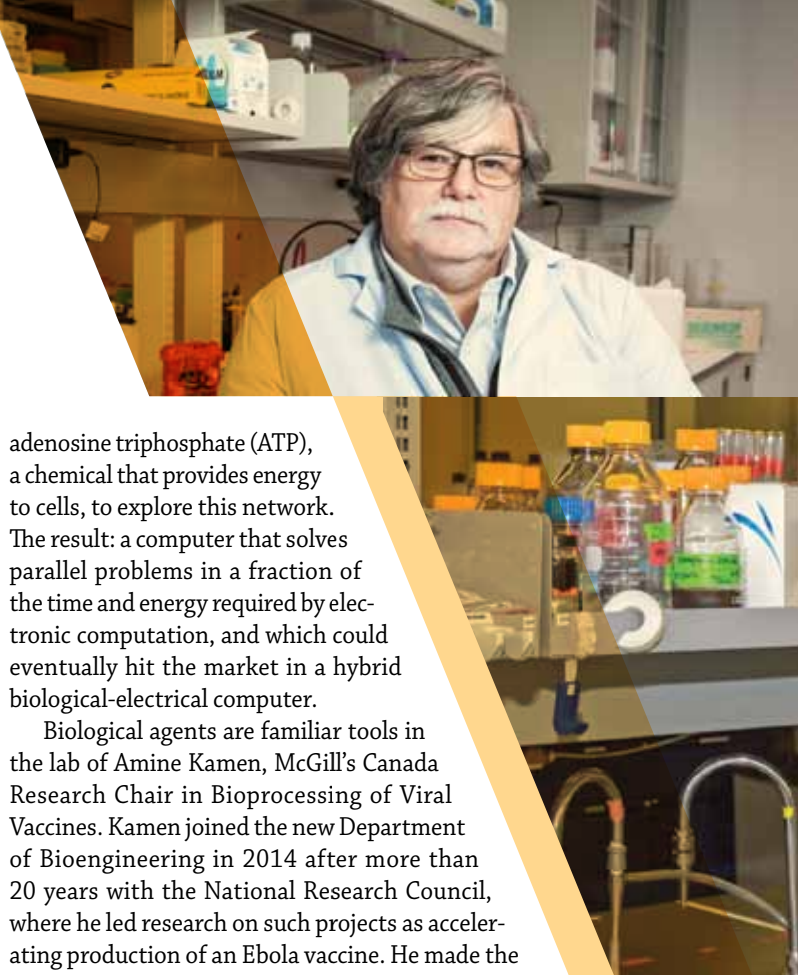
Applying biological know-how to an engineering application is precisely what Nicolau and an international team of collaborators achieved when they constructed a computer using strands of protein, instead of electrons, to solve problems. An electronic computer processes questions one at a time, and cannot perform parallel functions. “But microorganisms use incredible algorithms, better than we can devise, to explore space,” Nicolau says. So he and his team constructed a chip with a network resembling an urban street grid representing a complex parallel-computation problem. Then they released millions of strands of protein — what Nicolau calls “unintelligent biological agents” — powered by

adenosine triphosphate (ATP), a chemical that provides energy to cells, to explore this network. The result: a computer that solves parallel problems in a fraction of the time and energy required by electronic computation, and which could eventually hit the market in a hybrid biological-electrical computer.

Biological agents are familiar tools in the lab of Amine Kamen, McGill’s Canada Research Chair in Bioprocessing of Viral Vaccines. Kamen joined the new Department of Bioengineering in 2014 after more than 20 years with the National Research Council, where he led research on such projects as accelerating production of an Ebola vaccine. He made the move because he felt training young researchers was a critical priority. “In my field, vaccines often become a concern only when people face a pandemic. Today everyone is talking about Zika, but it is not new. We should be preparing for these concerns in times of peace, not during crises, by training young scientists and researchers.

“Vaccines are manufactured in eggs, which is costly and slow,” he says. “One of our goals is to make vaccines available to more people at a lower cost.” His lab is exploring alternative processes that could be scaled up for mass production of vaccines.

He is also pioneering research into using recombinant viruses in vaccines. When incorporated into a vaccine these viruses, whose genetic makeup has been manipulated to render them safe, can prompt the production of antibodies to fight infections. These recombinant viruses can also be used to deliver genetic therapies. “Nature designs viruses to be efficient in delivering genomic material — so we can use them as vehicles to carry therapies that will help control genetic diseases,” he says. “For instance, in muscular dystrophy, an essential protein is not being expressed, so by delivering this gene to the appropriate cells we may enable them to express the protein where it is needed.”



PHOTOS THIS PAGE: DANIEL HABER

“Nature has been doing R&D for millions of years and it’s very efficient. It’s a lot more advanced than we are.”



EVA BLUE

NATURE'S R&D

Bioengineering need not rely on biological agents like viruses or proteins, though. Observing and understanding nature — especially at a very fundamental level — provides important engineering insights. For instance, sharks can glide quickly through the sea, and drops of water simply roll off kale when you wash it: in both cases, surface texture is a big part of the reason. But nature's surfaces are not easy to emulate.

“Textures in nature often do not exhibit precise geometry, as nature is more random than scientists,” says assistant professor of chemical engineering Anne Kietzig, who runs the Biomimetic Surface Engineering Lab. “Many natural surfaces have cells of different sizes and shapes, which are hard to model.” She has developed a strategy for coming close by quickly scanning a surface with an ultrafast femtosecond laser (a femtosecond is one millionth of a nanosecond), not trying to carve specific geometries. The result is that one laser pass creates a surface of irregular structures at the micro, sub-micro and nano levels — just as in nature. Potential applications can be found wherever friction between liquids and solids needs to be reduced.

“In many cases we use chemical coatings that wear off, so developing complex surface textures may eventually allow us to avoid these. And as most coatings come from fossil fuels, surface texturing processes are greener,” says Kietzig. The potential applications of this approach range from exterior aircraft parts to stents for cardiac patients.

“Nature has been doing R&D for millions of years and is very efficient,” Kietzig says. “It’s a lot more advanced than we are.”

Nature's R&D also informs the work going on in associate professor of mechanical engineering François Barthelat's Advanced Materials and Bioinspiration Lab. Engineered materials like ceramics and glasses are extremely hard but very brittle; meanwhile, nature has developed hard bio-materials that still manage to resist cracking and breaking, like teeth, bone, and sea shells.

“You keep your adult teeth all your life, but ceramic coatings don't last nearly as long because they don't have the sophisticated structure nature builds into these materials,” Barthelat points out. “Natural materials like bones, teeth and shells are packed with weak interfaces, so if a crack starts at the surface of your tooth, these interfaces channel it to areas where it doesn't matter as much. It may be easy to start a crack, but that triggers all sorts of fancy mechanisms that will stop it.”

Inspired by nature's approach, Barthelat has used lasers to carve tiny microfractures into a large block of glass, creating something like the perforated holes that used to join stamps. “If you drop your phone, the crack goes all over the screen; but with a weak interface you could guide cracks to the edge,” he says.

APPLYING ENGINEERING TO BIOLOGY

Biomedical engineering is an important variant of bioengineering, and is distinct in that it applies a range of engineering principles and approaches — not just those based in biology — to address health and medical issues. The Faculty of Medicine's Department of Biomedical Engineering includes several engineering professors among its associate members — including Damiano Pasini.

A mechanical engineering professor, Pasini's research concerns the geometry of materials rather than materials themselves — changing the molecular topology of materials in order to obtain unprecedented new properties, creating what are known as meta-materials; these lend themselves to numerous applications, from aerospace to orthopaedic implants.

While Pasini's lab focuses on both, his biomedical research, a six-year collaboration with Michael Tanzer, MDCM'84, an orthopaedic surgeon and McGill medical professor, may soon have an impact in the operating room.

“Hip implants are made of solid materials and are much stiffer than bone itself, so when they are inserted into a femur, the surrounding bone experiences stress that causes bone tissues to disappear,” he says. “Since the mechanical property of bone tissue changes throughout the femur, the insert needs to be made of a matching graduated porous material that bone can grow into.”

↖ Top left to right: Dan Nicolau and Nathalie Tufenkji

↖ François Barthelat



DANIEL HABER



EVA BLUE

In lab experiments, this approach reduces bone loss at least 70 per cent compared to implants on the market, while the material is 30 to 40 per cent stronger than the current porous material available — providing strength that is needed for loadbearing joints. This project recently entered the preclinical research stage, with implants being placed in dogs; if the canine implants prove successful, the next step will be into the clinic — and the development of implants for other loadbearing orthopaedic applications, such as knee replacements.

Orthopaedic replacements are an established area of medical activity, with patients receiving primitive implants in the 19th century and the field growing after the First World War. Other areas of biomedical engineering are entirely products of the 21st century.

ON THE HUNT FOR DISEASE

Biomedical engineering professor David Juncker's lab searches for biomarkers of breast cancers using a bio-chip-based microarray of hundreds of different antibodies. Each antibody will bind to a particular protein, enabling Juncker and his team to identify proteins in the blood, compare samples from healthy and diseased subjects, and create molecular portraits that distinguish them.

"No single protein is expressed because of cancer, so we are looking for a combination of proteins that would be like a fingerprint for the disease," he explains. His lab has also created "point-of-care chips," analogous to the pregnancy test you can buy in a pharmacy. Once doused with urine, the presence of bacteria is detected swiftly. While such a tool has many potential applications, the current focus is on diagnosing different urinary tract infections and early clinical tests are very promising.

Tal Arbel's research is also largely focused on medical applications. An associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, Arbel, BEng'92, MEng'95, PhD'00, has a long history of collaboration with the Montreal Neurological Institute. Her Probabilistic Imaging Group is working with MNI scientists to build methods for detecting lesions in brain images of multiple sclerosis (MS) patients.

"One way to determine if a drug is working is to count lesions in the brain over time, but they are hard to find and exhibit lots of variability," says Arbel. Her lab works with NeuroRx, a McGill spinoff that builds software used by pharmaceutical companies to assess if a particular drug works. Drawing on their massive database of brain images, Arbel's team has developed automatic techniques to identify and delineate lesions,

greatly improving consistency and speed over the current approach of counting manually.

"The field has developed to the point where we can now use algorithms for everything from diagnosis to determining treatments," she says. "We can also adapt our approach to different pathologies, such as brain cancer tumours or cardiac tissue diseases."

Arbel and colleagues at the MNI have also worked together to develop software that enables neurosurgeons to merge ultrasound scans taken during surgery with pre-surgical images to map the brain's interior, even as the brain moves and shifts during operations, so surgeons know where to cut and what to avoid — a technology that has made it into the MNI's operating rooms. "It gives us a lot of satisfaction to be building tools that can contribute to people's well-being."

Dean Nicell believes that bioengineering and its related fields have a bright future. His faculty's new undergraduate program in bioengineering begins this September. Since its 2014 launch, the Department of Bioengineering has hired seven faculty members, with two more to be hired this year. The department also has numerous associate members across the Faculty of Engineering as well as from the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, and Agricultural and Environmental Sciences — including Barthelat, Juncker, Nicell, Pasini, and Tufenkji.

"Bioengineering research at McGill has exploded, and graduate student numbers are rising faster than we ever anticipated," says Nicell. Across all departments, engineering professors are engaging in bioengineering projects, and Nicolau is confident of the field's future and its eventual impact. "We're really just getting started. When bioengineering enters into the marketplace," he says, "it will hit like a tsunami." 🐳

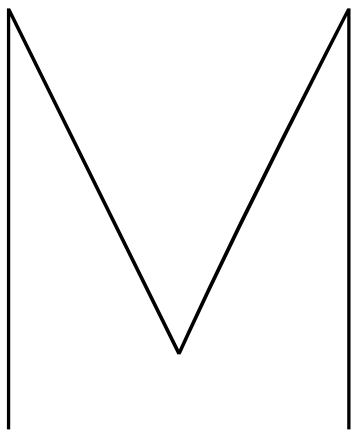
Patrick McDonagh is a Montreal-based writer. He is the author of Idiocy: A Cultural History, and has contributed to the Globe and Mail, The Walrus and Chatelaine.

↑ Top left to right: Damiano Pasini and Tal Arbel



For thousands of students, McGill is more than just their school —
the University is also their landlord.

by Kate Sheridan, BA&Sc'14



McGill residences welcome 3,500 students every year. Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS) guarantees that every first-year student at the University can have a place in residence if he or she wants one.

Most of the students who live in Rez are first-year undergraduates and they tend to be either international students or Canadians from other provinces. But some of the students who opt to live in residence each year come from places that aren't far away at all.

Matthew Yaremko, who just completed his first year of studies in mechanical engineering, lived with his family in Montreal West before coming to McGill. "I didn't want this to be just another school," he explains. "I didn't want this to be like high school or CEGEP. I wanted this to be a special time in my life."

Yaremko was looking for a more immersive experience and decided that living in residence was the way to go. He spent his first year at McGill at Gardner Hall, in the very same room that his father, John Yaremko, MDCM'80, once lived in.

"It was definitely weird at first," he says of the new living arrangements. "It was hard not seeing my family every day." That sense of homesickness was widespread, Yaremko says. "In the first few weeks, everybody [in residence] is in the same boat as you." The upside to that shared sense of disorientation is that it encourages tight new bonds to be forged. "You make friends really easily here."

Anoosh Poorian, a biochemistry student from Florida who lived in McGill's La Citadelle residence this year, agrees. "[Residences are] a social building block. It created the social network that I had throughout the year."

"[Residences are about] living in a community with other students, it's having connections to all of what McGill has to offer," says Janice Johnson, BA'91, director of SHHS.

There are 11 downtown residences, each with its own unique character. McConnell, Gardner and Molson Hall are classic, dorm-style buildings grouped together close to Mount Royal. Along with Douglas Hall, they're often referred to as "Upper Rez." Douglas is



arranged differently than the other Upper Rez halls; it has eight houses made up of rooms around a common area. These are the only downtown buildings constructed to be dorms and dorms alone — other residence buildings have had a past life.

New Rez, La Citadelle and Carrefour Sherbrooke are all converted hotels (and still look like it, to a certain extent). The MORE Houses are a group of unassuming stand-alone homes near McGill's downtown campus. Solin Hall, a former chocolate factory, is notable for being the furthest away from the University (it's close to the Lionel-Groulx metro station and within walking distance of the Atwater Market). Royal Victoria College (RVC) has the longest history of all; it was the very first residence at McGill, opening in 1899, and one that housed only female students until fairly recently.

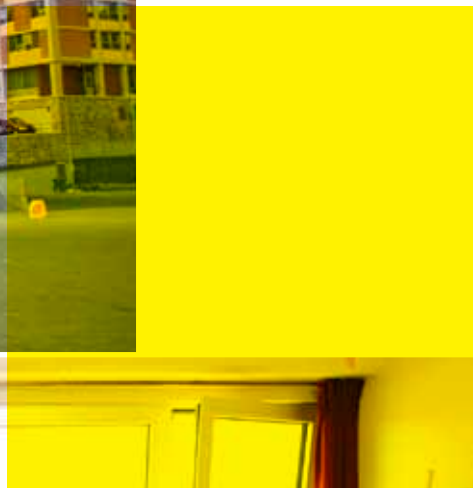
Macdonald Campus is served by two on-campus residences. Laird Hall is a conventional dorm-style residence. The apartment-style EcoResidence, largely constructed with recycled materials, emphasizes an ecological approach to residence life.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Residences each have their own distinct reputations. Molson is often thought of as a party building, for example. Student-athletes tend to gravitate towards Upper Rez because of its proximity to McGill's athletics facilities. Douglas, which bears a passing resemblance to Hogwarts, boasts an annual, formal Yule Ball. Solin Hall residents, a little more willing to roam beyond the downtown area, have their own student-run bike repair shop.

Still, Johnson cautions against pigeonholing the different residences. Traditions tend to shift and evolve. "It's more about the [people who live] in each building each year."

Community has been the foundation for the residence experience for nearly a hundred years. In a 1920 pamphlet, McGill professor and famed satirist Stephen Leacock noted, "If a student is to get from his College what it ought to give him, a college dormitory with the life in common that it brings, is his absolute right." When Upper Rez opened in 1962, an article in the *Montreal Gazette* reported that "life in residence, with the sense of community, is one of the most precious things in university life. The new buildings will enable McGill to give more of its students this enriching experience."



OWEN EGAN

- ↖ Students participating in Rez Warz, a year-long, inter-residence competition.
- ↑ Janice Johnson is the director of Student Housing and Hospitality Services.
- ← Matthew Yaremko stayed in the same Douglas Hall room that his father once lived in.



OWEN EGAN

That idea remains at the heart of today's residence experience. "Not all of our buildings are gorgeous — most of them aren't," Johnson says, "Which tells me it's not about the bricks and mortar — it's about the community."

Johnson and her SHHS team are very choosy when it comes to selecting the people who play the key roles in nurturing that sense of community.

Floor fellows, who have at least one full year of McGill studies under their belts, live alongside the other students in residence. They're expected to serve as academic and personal role models. They're a source of information, a sympathetic ear, an events programmer and, on rare occasions, the first responders in emergency situations.

The students who serve as floor fellows are carefully chosen, says Johnson. "We put them through a pretty intensive selection process — it's a little like med school. It's a carousel process — there's role playing, discussion groups, one-on-one interviews. We don't just want people who can write a good application form. We're looking for people with a diversity of skill sets and people from a diversity of backgrounds."

Exceptional people skills are a must, as is a broad knowledge of the University. Once selected, floor fellows receive rigorous training over a 10 to 12 day period in August.

"For a lot of students, being on your own that first year can be very stressful," says Patrick O'Donnell, a political science and sociology student from Alberta who lived in Solin Hall this year. "[But] you have these floor fellows who are the most fun and the most responsible students nearby as resources, all the time."

“Not all our buildings are gorgeous — most of them aren’t. Which tells me that it’s not about the bricks and mortar — it’s about the community.”

The floor fellows report to residence life managers (RLMs), full-time student affairs professionals who live in or near the residences they’re responsible for. RLMs collaborate closely with the floor fellows and oversee their work. The really tough jobs — crisis management, disciplinary procedures — fall to them. They deal with the day-to-day administrative responsibilities and keep in close contact with the hall councils that represent the students living in their residence. According to Johnson, RLMs typically have backgrounds in counselling, education or social work.

International development studies student Paige Rumelt credits her floor fellow at McConnell Hall with helping her through her first wave of homesickness when she arrived in Montreal from Washington, D.C. last year. That experience encouraged Rumelt to give back to the residence community by organizing activities as part of her building’s hall council last year and as a Rez Life staffer this year. Rez Life, a program under the SHHS umbrella, organizes activities for students in every residence that run the gamut from social justice workshops, to Iron Chef cook-offs, to dodgeball competitions.

“We try to give students a support system, and I’d say fundamentally that’s what we want students to have in residence,” says Rumelt.

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

Some of the activities that go on in the residence halls affect the lives of people several time zones away, people who live in conditions that would make a cramped dorm room look like the lap of luxury.

Phoebe Colby, an arts student from Vancouver, has been part of a unique international tutoring effort headquartered at Solin Hall. She is one of about 40 McGill students who have been taking to Skype and interacting with 10 young Syrian adults living in a refugee camp in Turkey. The Syrians all want to attend English-speaking universities — at least seven have tentative scholarship offers — but they need to pass English entrance exams first. The McGill students have been helping the Syrians hone their English skills.

Colby says the Syrians have been making impressive headway. “They’ve improved so much. Sometimes, they correct my grammar,” she laughs.

The initiative was this year’s Living-Learning Community (LLC) at Solin Hall. There were five LLCs this year, each devoted to a different activity and housed in a different residence. Each of the LLCs has a mentor who assists the students on their projects. Typically, the mentors are McGill faculty members or graduate students. For this year’s Solin Hall LLC, the mentor was Anita Nowak, BCom’97, PhD’11, a senior project manager with McGill’s Teaching and Learning Services and an expert on social entrepreneurship.

“McGill is such a big school. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed,” says Colby. “It helps to find a niche. It feels good to do something productive and to work on it with other people.”

The most important relationship that students will have while they’re in residence is with the person that they’ll be seeing the most often — their roommates. Not all residence rooms are doubles, but many are (most of the rooms in the hotel residences, for instance).

As part of a residence application, students fill out a questionnaire, describing their interests and expectations. Based on the answers, floor fellows match the students in each residence with roommates. If someone says they’re a night owl, they probably won’t be paired with an early bird.

Of course, putting strangers together in a close, months-long relationship — sight-unseen — is an imperfect science. Students can and do switch rooms or buildings, but Johnson sees that as a last resort.

“If you’ve got a roommate conflict or the floor doesn’t suit your lifestyle, let’s see if we can [figure] this out,” she says. “In life, you don’t just get to walk away from stuff if it’s not working for you.”

McGill’s student population has exploded in the last two decades; the number of degree-seeking undergraduates increased by about 46 per cent between 1998 and 2015. McGill administrators realized they needed more student residence buildings and they needed them fast. So the University went hotel-hunting.

The first converted hotel to open was New Residence Hall (New Rez) in 2003, located near McGill’s athletics facilities. Carrefour Sherbrooke, just two blocks away from the downtown campus, opened in 2009. La Citadelle, also two blocks away, is the most recent addition. It opened in 2012.

The acquisition of these hotels has had a big impact. Between 2003 and 2016, the number of student residence places that McGill can offer to students jumped from 2,200 to 3,500 — a 59 per cent increase.



ALLEN MCINNIS/MONTREAL GAZETTE

← Solin Hall residents Ingy El Kafrawy, Phoebe Colby and Anton Zyngier tutored Syrians living in a refugee camp in Turkey via Skype.



HOSSEIN TAHERI



- ↑ A group of students outside Solin Hall.
- ← Executive chef Oliver de Volpi in the kitchen at Royal Victoria College.

REIMAGINING THE MENU

The food being served in McGill's residences has changed quite a bit in recent years too. Executive chef Oliver de Volpi and his team have orchestrated a major revamp of the meals available in residence dining halls. "We listened to the students," says de Volpi. "They wanted more local foods. They wanted more food options and more transparency."

Soups are now made from scratch, not from prepared mixes. An in-house pastry department was added. Homemade gelato is now available. Vegetarian and vegan options have increased. McGill was the first university in Quebec to become fair trade certified for the food it serves and the first in Canada to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council for its commitment to serving sustainable seafood.

The most important change involves a much closer working relationship with Macdonald Campus. De Volpi says the Macdonald farm now supplies about 60,000 pounds of fresh produce each year.

"The quality of food is much higher now and it's much fresher," says de Volpi. "We went from being underappreciated to being a poster child for McGill's commitment to sustainability." The numbers support his claim. Food and Dining Services revenues have leaped from \$14 million per year to \$23 million. At RVC, the busiest cafeteria in the Rez system, 95 per cent of its customers rate the quality of the food as very good or good.

As the academic year ends, students have been busy planning their accommodations for the fall. Poorian has already chosen his apartment — and his roommates.

"I'm living with five people next year," Poorian says, including his La Citadelle roommate. "They're all from Rez and we're all really good friends. I don't think I would have been able to form such close relationships with people if I hadn't lived with them already."

Yaremko will be sharing an apartment with three students he met at Gardner Hall. "Living in residence is a good transition between living with your family and living on your own."

He offers some advice to the students who will occupy the Gardner Hall room that he and his father have both lived in. "Try some things you normally wouldn't do. Push yourself out of your comfort zone. Make the most of it." 🐦

Kate Sheridan is a Montreal-based writer and her work has been published in the Montreal Gazette and Hakai Magazine. She lived in McConnell Hall during the 2010-11 academic year and worked part-time at the RVC and Bishop Mountain Hall cafeterias for three years.

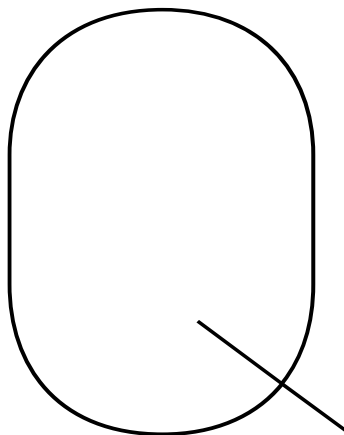


FAIRE RE DE L'EFFET

Montréal a su se tailler une place enviable parmi les grands centres du multimédia depuis 25 ans. Main-d'œuvre qualifiée, culture distincte et avantages fiscaux ont tous servi d'ingrédients dans la recette de son succès. De nombreux diplômés de McGill contribuent à l'essor de ce secteur d'activité, qui se trouve aujourd'hui à un tournant décisif.

par Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1992)

Photo : En 2012, l'entreprise montréalaise Moment Factory a créé un spectacle son et lumière pour la Sagrada Familia, l'une des principales attractions touristiques d'Espagne.



Quand on entre chez Moment Factory, il faut regarder où l'on met les pieds. Dans ce temple montréalais du multimédia, il y a des planches à roulettes partout – près de la porte d'entrée, au bas des escaliers, dans les corridors. C'est que les 150 employés – moyenne d'âge : 30 ans – se déplacent en planches à roulettes dans l'immense entrepôt converti en studio situé en bordure du viaduc de l'avenue du Parc.

Bienvenue dans l'une des entreprises phares du secteur multimédia à Montréal. Avec Los Angeles, Vancouver, Londres et Paris, Montréal s'est hissée parmi les principaux centres mondiaux du multimédia. Dans les deux pôles, l'un situé à l'ouest du Vieux-Port et l'autre dans le quartier Mile-End, défilent producteurs hollywoodiens et artistes internationaux à la recherche du dernier raffinement en matière de scénographie ou d'effets visuels.

Plus d'un millier d'entreprises, surtout des PME, œuvrent aux effets visuels de la prochaine superproduction de Disney, imaginent le dernier jeu vidéo d'Ubisoft, conçoivent la prochaine tournée de Madonna ou raffinent la technologie de réalité virtuelle d'Oculus. Bon nombre de diplômés de McGill occupent des postes enviables – dirigeants, producteurs, directeurs, concepteurs – au sein de ces entreprises.

L'écosystème multimédia montréalais remonterait à Expo 67 et même avant, selon Éric Fournier (M.B.A. 1991), producteur exécutif chez Moment Factory. « Très tôt, on a installé à Montréal de grands outils de production et de promotion de la culture, comme l'Office national du film, Radio-Canada, la SODEC. Puis, au début des années 1980, plusieurs grands festivals ont insufflé une nouvelle dynamique. » Au milieu des années 1980, l'environnement était déjà assez fécond pour que s'installe dans le Vieux-Port une exposition semi-permanente, *Images du futur*, consacrée au multimédia sauce 1980.

Dans les années 1990, le savoir-faire montréalais commence à s'imposer à l'étranger grâce à deux entreprises emblématiques. Softimage et Discreet Logic inventent des logiciels de création numérique et créent les effets visuels de plusieurs superproductions d'Hollywood, notamment *Jurassic Park*, *Titanic*, *Mission : Impossible* et *Forrest Gump*. En 1994, Microsoft acquiert Softimage pour une somme évaluée à 200 millions de dollars, et quatre ans plus tard, la société californienne Autodesk paie 520 millions pour Discreet Logic.



CHRISTINE MUSCHI

Éric Fournier découvre le multimédia et Moment Factory alors qu'il est vice-président au Cirque du Soleil. La petite boîte travaille aux effets visuels de plusieurs productions du Cirque et se prépare à révolutionner la scénographie du rock'n'roll avec la tournée du groupe Nine Inch Nails. Dans les années qui suivront, elle travaillera pour tous les grands noms de la scène internationale : de Disney à Madonna, en passant par Bon Jovi et Arcade Fire. « Moment Factory s'est placée dans un marché inexistant, entre le spectacle, le théâtre, le jeu vidéo, les effets visuels et l'architecture », dit Éric Fournier, qui deviendra le troisième associé de la firme en 2008 – et son 13^e employé. Ayant amorcé sa carrière auprès de la firme-conseil en stratégie et marketing SECOR pour ensuite passer chez Bombardier, il a vite appris à mettre de côté son approche de gestion plus traditionnelle. « On a très bien fait de ne pas suivre un cadre rigide, car on aurait raté des occasions fabuleuses », dit-il.

UN ÉCOSYSTÈME FÉCOND

Dans les années 1990, le secteur multimédia montréalais se résumait encore à un petit noyau de PME. Son développement doit beaucoup à une fiscalité très généreuse, notamment des crédits d'impôts avantageux. « C'était visionnaire. Peu de gens y croyaient. C'est comme ça que Montréal a réussi le pari de créer une masse critique », dit Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski (B.C.L./LL. B. 2000), président et producteur exécutif de Digital Dimension, spécialisée dans l'animation et les effets visuels, à qui l'on doit les effets visuels de la série télé *Quantico* et une partie de ceux du jeu vidéo *Assassin's Creed*.

À part la société française Ubisoft, installée à Montréal depuis 1997, ce sont surtout les entreprises locales qui ont profité de ces crédits d'impôt. Mais depuis 2013, plusieurs studios londoniens, tels Framestore et Cinesite, viennent profiter de la manne. « Le Canada offre les meilleurs crédits d'impôt du monde. Et ceux du Québec sont les meilleurs du Canada », dit Chloë Grysole (B.A. 1998), directrice générale de Cinesite Studios à Montréal, qui a passé cinq ans à Londres où elle a supervisé les effets spéciaux de plusieurs films d'*Harry Potter*. « Ils nous permettent d'économiser environ 42 % de la facture globale. » Pour Cinesite, l'avantage financier est tel que le studio londonien mise toute sa croissance des prochaines années sur Montréal. D'ici peu, la firme aura cinq fois plus d'employés à Montréal qu'à Londres! « J'embauche cinq à dix personnes par semaine. Nous serons bientôt 300, mais l'objectif est d'arriver à 750 employés. »



CHRISTINE MUSCHI



OWEN EGAN

Toutefois, si la greffe du multimédia a pris à Montréal, et si les incitatifs n'ont pas créé une simple bulle comme en Bulgarie ou en Estonie, c'est parce qu'il y avait autre chose derrière, notamment une main-d'œuvre bilingue, bien formée et très adaptable.

« À Montréal, on est souvent les premiers à adopter des nouveautés, comme le passage du 35 mm à la haute définition dans les années 1990 », dit Isabelle Riva (B.A. 1997), qui se félicite d'ailleurs d'avoir fait une spécialité en Études culturelles l'ayant bien préparée au changement. (C'est d'ailleurs pendant ses études qu'elle a fait la connaissance de Chloë Grysole, et les deux amies se revoient régulièrement.) Productrice et consultante chez Rivalibre, sa propre boîte, la jeune femme, qui a travaillé à des productions de styles variés, notamment *C.R.A.Z.Y.* et *Race to Mars*, a touché à presque tout : du montage à la production, en passant par l'animation et le financement. Elle cite le cas récent de la nouvelle coqueluche montréalaise, Félix & Paul Studios, petite boîte qui a carrément inventé une nouvelle caméra permettant de filmer à 360° en réalité virtuelle. L'entreprise travaille au développement de cette nouvelle technologie avec Facebook, Oculus et Samsung. « Grâce à de telles avancées, la main-d'œuvre montréalaise devient experte et extrêmement compétente, capable de recevoir des cahiers de charge très exigeants, qui alimentent plusieurs réseaux d'entreprises. »

Le secteur du multimédia profite également d'une très forte demande locale. « Les Québécois consomment beaucoup de leur propre production culturelle, en télé notamment et dans tous les arts. Ça crée une bonne assise. Mes amis torontois en sont jaloux », dit Daniel Ferguson (B.A. 1996), producteur chez Cosmic Picture, qui a réalisé de grands documentaires IMAX tels *Jérusalem* et *Les Derniers hommes éléphants*.

Natif de Toronto, ayant grandi également en Australie, Daniel Ferguson raconte avoir choisi McGill pour Montréal, où il vit toujours – dans le quartier Rosemont, près du Cinéma Beaubien. « Si on veut [voir] un film canadien, il y a de bonnes chances que ce soit un film québécois. À Toronto, tout le monde sait que le cinéma canadien est fabuleux, mais personne ne l'a vu. J'ai travaillé à Vancouver, sur *X-Files* et *Millennium*. Vancouver, c'est une monoculture dominée par les séries américaines. À Montréal, on va travailler à un projet européen, un projet américain, un projet québécois », dit le cinéaste. Daniel Ferguson a même convaincu plusieurs amis de Los Angeles de s'installer à Montréal pour faire du montage sonore et visuel.

Mélanie La Rue (B.A. 1994), productrice chez Rodeo FX, l'une des grosses boîtes québécoises d'effets visuels (*Le trône de fer*, *Deadpool*), est d'ailleurs revenue au Québec après un séjour de huit ans en Californie. « On n'a plus besoin d'aller à l'étranger. On a des projets de qualité [ici]. »



CINESITE

- ↑ De gauche à droite :
Éric Fournier,
Jan-Fryderyk
Pleszczynski et
Chloë Grysole
- ← Certains des effets
visuels du très
populaire jeu vidéo
Assassin's Creed
sont l'œuvre de
Digital Dimension.



PHOTOS: CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

L'ENVERS DE LA MÉDAILLE

Le secteur multimédia peut compter sur de nombreuses écoles offrant de bons programmes de formation. « Elles forment bien et beaucoup. À Los Angeles, en Nouvelle-Zélande, il y a beaucoup de Québécois », souligne Mélanie La Rue. Or, le succès des boîtes montréalaises crée tout de même des maux de tête à ses artisans en matière de recrutement.

« Cette année, Moment Factory doit pourvoir 100 postes », dit Éric Fournier, qui recherche des architectes, des informaticiens, des ingénieurs, des gestionnaires capables de travailler à des projets innovants et complexes techniquement, et qui sont à l'aise dans l'environnement multimédia. « Le multimédia marche tellement que nous sommes actuellement en chômage négatif, dit-il. Il y a beaucoup plus de postes ouverts que de capacité d'embauche locale. » Et l'arrivée des gros studios étrangers depuis 2013 crée davantage de rareté et même une tendance à la hausse des salaires.

« Le danger des crédits d'impôt sur la main-d'œuvre, c'est qu'on risque de déshabiller Pierre pour habiller Paul », résume Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski, qui redoute de voir les grands studios marauder dans son personnel. « L'arrivée des grands studios londoniens en 2013 était une excellente nouvelle, mais est-ce qu'on crée de nouveaux emplois ou bien on ne fait que les déplacer ? Je n'ai pas la réponse. »

D'ailleurs, pour utiles qu'ils soient, les crédits d'impôt ne sont plus suffisants pour financer le développement des entreprises québécoises, qui sont presque toutes en mal de capital. Le danger est de répéter les mésaventures des biotechnologies. Ce secteur a fleuri au Québec il y a 20 ans grâce à une fiscalité avantageuse, mais les étrangers ont acquis presque toutes les entreprises québécoises, une à une.

« Le capital de risque québécois est trop prudent », estime Jean-Olivier Dalphond (B.A. 2005), associé et directeur commercial chez Pixmob. Cette entreprise, qui a vu son personnel passer de 13 à 70 employés en trois ans, a conçu un système pour relier des objets interactifs lumineux – bracelets, pendentifs – que les spectateurs peuvent activer en coordination avec la scénographie d'un spectacle. Il a été utilisé durant la dernière tournée de la chanteuse Taylor Swift et au spectacle de la mi-temps du Super Bowl en 2014. « Nous tirons 97 % de notre chiffre d'affaires

de l'étranger », dit ce diplômé en études internationales, qui craint de voir des entreprises québécoises se vendre à peu de frais pour assurer leur croissance.

CRÉATION DE VALEUR

Le succès mondial de la série de jeux vidéo *Assassin's Creed* d'Ubisoft, c'est bien joli; Ubisoft Montréal est certes le plus grand studio d'effets visuels du monde, mais tous les profits partent pour Paris. « Actuellement, le multimédia montréalais se résume à des prestataires de service glorifiés », dit Éric Fournier. « Il faut passer d'une économie de locataires à une économie de propriétaires. Il faudrait arriver au stade où nous toucherons une redevance sur chaque billet. »

Il cite en exemple le spectacle de Moment Factory *Ode à la vie*, qui a illuminé la cathédrale Sagrada Família à Barcelone, en 2012. Les droits d'auteur de ce spectacle appartiennent à Moment Factory, qui en exploite les produits dérivés. « Pour y parvenir, dit-il, il faut soulever la question de la propriété très tôt dans la négociation, évaluer combien vaut le droit d'auteur. Actuellement, bien des avocats québécois ne parlent pas ce langage. Bien des comptables ne savent pas mettre une valeur là-dessus. On part de loin. »

Isabelle Riva observe des changements. Elle note que des petits studios d'animation québécois, comme Frima (jeux vidéo) ou Budge (applications mobiles pour enfants), ont créé leur propre marque originale. « On est très fort en technique, mais en matière de contenu, on est encore dans l'enfance. Ça va prendre des bâtisseurs d'empire, le prochain Mickey Mouse, dont tous les profits reviennent ici. »

La transformation du secteur du multimédia montréalais passionne Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski, aussi président du Conseil des arts de Montréal. « Il faut créer de la valeur. Le Québec ne doit pas juste être un invité à la danse. Il faut être plus ambitieux que ça. Il faut créer sa propre chance, et ce n'est pas avec des sociétés étrangères qu'on va y arriver », dit Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski, qui négocie afin que Digital Dimension devienne pour la première fois coproductrice d'un film d'animation qu'elle a créé de toutes pièces.

« L'enjeu, c'est finalement que les boîtes d'effets visuels deviennent productrices ou coproductrices de séries accrocheuses avec des scénarios d'ici, dit-il. Un coproducteur minoritaire, ce n'est pas la même chose qu'un prestataire de service. C'est excitant d'être au Québec pendant que ça se passe. » 🐦

↑ De gauche à droite : Mélanie La Rue et Jean-Olivier Dalphond

Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1992) est chroniqueur au *Devoir* et reporter à *L'actualité*. Il vient de publier *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed* (St. Martin's Press).



MULTIMEDIA MAGIC IN MONTREAL

CINESITE

You have to watch where you step at Moment Factory, the cutting-edge multimedia producer located in Montreal's trendy Mile End neighborhood. Skateboards are everywhere — in the front entrance, at the bottom of stairs, scattered throughout the hallways. For the firm's 150 staff, skateboards seem to be the most popular method for travelling through the converted warehouse they work in.

It's a far cry from the corporate world where Éric Fournier, MBA'91, once worked. It's not the only adjustment he had to make. "I had to throw out the basic premise of starting with a business plan and making forecast reports," says Fournier, a former VP at both Bombardier and Cirque du Soleil and now a Moment Factory partner and the company's executive producer. "If I had stuck to that kind of rigid framework, we would have missed out on some incredible opportunities." That willingness to be flexible paid off. Moment Factory's clients and collaborators in recent years include Bon Jovi, Disney and Madonna.

Thanks to the stellar work being done by Moment Factory and other inventive visual effects companies, Montreal is now one of the world's preeminent centres for multimedia. And Fournier isn't the only McGill graduate playing a key role in the thriving industry.

Isabelle Riva, BA'97, a visual effects specialist and producer at Rivalibre, has worked on films and TV series like *C.R.A.Z.Y.* and *Race to Mars*. She says the city boasts a tech-savvy and nimble work force. "Montrealers are usually the first ones to adopt new technologies."

The success of Montreal's multimedia industry owes much to generous tax credits put in place by the Canadian and Quebec governments in the nineties for companies involved in the film and multimedia sectors. "It was very forward-thinking," says Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski BCL/LLB'00. Pleszczynski is the president and executive producer of Digital Dimension, a computer animation company that created visual effects for *Assassin's Creed* video games and the TV series *Quantico*.

Chloë Grysole, BA'98, the general manager of Cinesite Studios in Montreal, says the tax credits played an important role in the British company's decision to set up visual effects and animation operations here. Grysole, who worked as a visual

effects producer for the final three Harry Potter films, says science fiction and fantasy aren't the only genres that require visual effects expertise. "There are visual effects in everything these days, even romantic comedies."

Mélanie La Rue, BA'94, works at Rodeo FX, one of Quebec's biggest visual effects companies (she worked on *Deadpool* and was part of an Emmy Award-winning team for *Game of Thrones*). "No one needs to go anywhere else today," says La Rue, who returned to Montreal after being based in California for eight years. "We have enough high quality projects [in Montreal]."

Filmmaker Daniel Ferguson, BA'97, directed the IMAX documentaries *Jerusalem* and *Last of the Elephant Men*. He agrees with La Rue. "When I worked in Vancouver, on *The X-Files* and *Millennium*, I felt that city had a monoculture dominated by American TV series. In Montreal, you can work on European, American or Quebec projects."

Jean-Olivier Dalphond, BA'05, is a partner and commercial director for PixMob. The company creates lighted interactive objects — like bracelets and pendants — for major events. PixMob devices were used in Taylor Swift's most recent concert tour and during the half-time show at the 2014 Super Bowl. "Ninety-seven per cent of our revenues are from outside Canada," says Dalphond.

Some worry that Montreal's multimedia sector might be too dependent on projects created in Hollywood, New York or Paris.

"We have to move from an economy of renters to one of owners," says Fournier. "At the moment, Montreal's multimedia companies are glorified service providers."

Pleszczynski agrees. "The goal is for local visual effects companies to become producers or co-producers of compelling series that are written here. We need to create our own luck." 🐾

BY JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA'92

TRANSLATED BY JULIE BARLOW, BA'91

↑ One of the first projects for Cinesite's new animation studio in Montreal is the film *Klaus* by Sergio Pablos (*Despicable Me*)

IN DEFENCE OF PSYCHIATRY

While most fans of *The New Yorker* regard the magazine's clever cartoons as a treat, they often irk **DAVID GOLDBLOOM**. To be precise, there's a specific type of *New Yorker* cartoon that troubles him, but it's one that turns up regularly. "You'll have a middle-aged psychiatrist sitting in his chair — usually a balding man, often with wire-rimmed glasses. And you'll have a patient, usually a woman, lying on a chaise longue. And one of them will say something that's absolutely ridiculous."

Goldbloom, MDCM'81, DipPsych'85, is one of the most prominent psychiatrists in the country. The former chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, he is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto and senior advisor at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The man prides himself on being a funny guy. Before accusing him of being thin-skinned on the subject of his profession, hear him out.

"It points to a portrayal [of the mentally ill] as buffoons, as hopeless neurotics," he says of the cartoons. "Why is it alright to single out the mentally ill and the professionals who treat them in a manner that simply wouldn't be acceptable for any other type of disease? Why does that happen?"

It happens because we're scared, says Goldbloom. "It's a defense against the threat that mental illness represents to our identity and personal integrity." As he writes in his recent best-seller *How Can I Help?* "If you break your leg, you're still you. If your brain is broken, are you still you?"

Goldbloom says he wrote *How Can I Help?* with co-author Pier Bryden to give readers a better sense of what psychiatrists do for a living and a fuller understanding of the people they try to help. He wanted to quash some myths.

"One of those myths is that the mentally ill never get better," says Goldbloom. "People with mental illnesses do get better. I see people's lives improve each and every week."

How Can I Help? follows Goldbloom during a typical (in most respects) week in his life. The fact that a typical work week for Goldbloom is so multi-varied (he likes it that way) makes it an interesting read. We watch as he encounters patients with a broad range of conditions. We visit a telemedicine facility he uses regularly to assess patients living in remote regions. We're a fly on the wall as Goldbloom works a shift in an acute care unit, making tough decisions about when to hospitalize patients against their will or use restraints to prevent them from harming themselves or others. Along the way, Goldbloom explores the history of his profession.

Psychiatry, according to the book, is "the most misunderstood — and mistrusted — specialty in medicine." Some of that scorn is understandable and even deserved, acknowledges Goldbloom. The history of psychiatry includes more than a few



ALYSSA BISTONATH

troubling episodes — the overcrowded asylums of the late 19th century, for instance, and the "savage rush toward psychosurgeries" in the early part of the 20th century. But Goldbloom is quick to note that many other medical specialties have deeply unsettling incidents in their own pasts.

Goldbloom's book describes psychiatry as "medicine's most intellectually challenging, eclectic, and diverse specialty." Blood tests and imaging technologies aren't as helpful in determining psychiatric conditions as they are for other illnesses. Taking the time to gain a thorough understanding of patients and their lives is essential for sussing out the symptom patterns that point to particular disorders.

The book has been optioned for a possible TV drama. As an alumnus of Montreal's defunct Dorothy Davis and Violet Walters School of Drama for child actors (William Shatner, BCom'54, DLitt'11, went there too), Goldbloom playfully suggests that he could play the lead.

"They would save a fortune on prosthetic noses!"

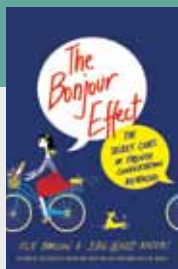
See. He does have a sense of humour. 🐼

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

↑ [David Goldbloom's recent book offers a behind-the-scenes look at psychiatry.](#)

THE BONJOUR EFFECT

by Julie Barlow, BA'91,
and Jean-Benoît Nadeau,
BA'92



The French love to talk and they're awfully good at it — France's school system is adept at grooming youngsters to become nimble conversation-alists. But the French have particular traditions and codes that govern the way they speak. In *The Bonjour Effect*, their latest book on France and the French language (their third to explore this terrain), Julie Barlow and Jean-Benoît Nadeau steer readers through some of the tricky intricacies of conversing in France.

By all means, spring a provocative thesis on someone you just met, but don't dare ask for his first name. Sex jokes? Sure. Questions about someone's job? Only if you're friends. And woe betide anyone who begins a conversation, no matter how mundane, without a crisp "Bonjour." Regardless of how polite or solicitous you are after that faux pas, you'll be firmly pegged as a boorish clod.

Barlow and Nadeau spent a year in France to write this book and they noticed some changes since the last time they lived in the country. For instance, English is now considered hip, resulting in the rise of new words that would likely confuse native English speakers, like zapping (channel surfing), babyfoot (table football) or pipoles (celebrities, as in *People* magazine).

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

BAD SINGER

by Tim Falconer, BA'81



A picture may be worth a thousand words, but for Tim Falconer, two songs are worth a book.

Bad Singer chronicles Falconer's efforts to do justice to Joe Strummer's "Silver and Gold" and the Beatles' "Blackbird," but he faces a particularly daunting challenge. He truly is a terrible singer.

Amusia — commonly known as tone deafness — affects 2.5 per cent of the population, including Falconer. Unlike most amusics, Falconer loves music dearly. The book explores his efforts to learn how to sing, despite his inability to gauge pitch.

Readers accompany him on his quest to overcome his affliction, from learning to breathing techniques in a singing coach's studio, to taking a battery of tests in a cognitive neuroscience lab in Montreal. Falconer is subjected to scans that measure the flow of blood and water in his brain, listening tests that assess his perception of the building blocks of music, even an expert's analysis of his personal "top 50" playlist.

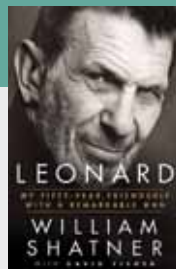
Along the way, Falconer explores the evolutionary value of music, as well as the way it is heard and processed in the brain.

Written in an engaging, self-aware and often self-deprecating voice, *Bad Singer* is an odyssey musicians and amusics alike can appreciate.

KATE SHERIDAN, BA&SC'14

LEONARD

by William Shatner,
BCom'52, DLitt'11, with
David Fisher



Like a crafty SEO expert, William Shatner packs the opening paragraph of his latest book with Trekkie-bait key words like *Wrath of Khan*, Enterprise, Genesis Device, warp drive, McCoy and Spock.

He had me at 'Khan'.

Leonard: My Fifty-Year Friendship with a Remarkable Man is Shatner's fond recollection of *Star Trek* co-star Leonard Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock, the logical Vulcan with a seven-year mating cycle. It's a must-read for any Trek fan, packed with juicy, behind-the-scenes anecdotes from the show.

As two young actors with the chance to play lead roles, Shatner (as Captain Kirk) and Nimoy were kindred spirits who didn't get along at times when, for example, Shatner made fun of Nimoy's Vulcan mind meld during the "Devil in the Dark" episode (witnessed by a no-doubt embarrassed Horta).

What forged their friendship was a shared ambivalence toward their *Star Trek* experience. Both actors were ready to move on after the series ended, but the lure of the franchise (like the spores on Omicron Ceti III) was too strong. After 100 *Star Trek* conventions and six feature movies, their lives became an inseparable history until Nimoy died of COPD in 2015, the final chapter in a fascinating and complex relationship.

ANDREW MAHON

LOVE STREAMS

by Tim Hecker, PhD'14



According to *The Guardian*, Tim Hecker, whose doctoral thesis at McGill explored different dimensions of city noise during the Industrial Revolution, "is the closest thing experimental music has to a breakout star." *Rolling Stone* says Hecker "has made some of the most celebrated ambient records of the 21st century."

His latest release, *Love Streams*, might be his best album yet. If your notion of ambient music relates to washing the dishes to a soothing sonic backdrop supplied by Moby, you might need to stretch your boundaries. Hecker isn't particularly interested in finding calming melodies as he creates his soundscapes. There are plenty of jagged edges here. Influenced by medieval choral scores (a sense of yearning echoes through many of the album's tracks), *Love Streams* focuses on the human voice in a way that's new for Hecker. Recorded, in part, in Reykjavik, Hecker's key collaborators this time include the Icelandic Choir Ensemble.

Once the dishes are done, find yourself a comfy chair, turn off the lights, pour yourself a stiff Scotch and drink the album in. Hecker's work may be more stormy than serene, but he'll take you to some interesting places.

DM

HONOURS & AWARDS

New York. Dubai. Shanghai. McGill alumni and friends converged on Montreal from points around the world in May for the annual McGill Alumni Association Honours and Awards Banquet, where outstanding volunteers are recognized for all they do for McGill and their communities. PHOTOS BY NICOLAS MORIN



↓ THE WRIGHT STUFF

A champion of social justice and environmental sustainability initiatives, Chris Tegho accepts the James G. Wright Award named in memory of an exceptional McGill alumnus, presented by James Wright's wife, Nancy Wright.



↓ MAGNIFICENT MENTOR

Timothy Thompson (right) was recognized for his mentorship and advocacy work on behalf of students in the Desautels Faculty of Management. He received his award from Bob Babinski, BA'86.



↑ KUMAR & COMPANY

Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Award winner Sahil Kumar (right) celebrates the moment with Mitchell Miller, BEd'10.



↑ DISTINGUISHED DOAA

Community leader and founder of Fédération des femmes musulmanes du Québec (FFMQ), Doaa Farid accepts her Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Award from Chancellor Emerita Gretta Chambers, BA'47.

RECIPIENTS

Award of Merit

Anton Angelich, BSc(FSc)'73

Distinguished Service Award

Joan Ivory, BA'54

E.P. Taylor Award

Janet Finlayson, BSc(HEc)'59, BLS'65, and Peter Finlayson, BSc(Agr)'63

Alumni Student Engagement Award

Timothy Thompson, MBA'90

Catherine Nance Common President of the Year Award

Amélie Dionne-Charest, BCL/LLB'05

Alumni Event of the Year Award

United Arab Emirates Gala 2015

Charles H. Peters Alumni Group of the Year Award

1969 McGill Redmen Football Championship Team: "The Mooney Men"

Robert Fung

International Award of Distinction
Matthew Shu Qun Ma, MM'01

Honorary Life Membership Award

Elliot Lifson
Kenneth Whyte

James G. Wright Award

Christopher Tegho, BEng'14

Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Award

Stephanie Ambrose, BCom'16
Doaa Farid, BSc(NutrSc)'10, PhD'16
Sahil Kumar, BSc'14, MSc'16

David Johnston

Faculty and Staff Award
Ron Duerksen, MBA'01

D. Lorne Gales

Special Recognition Award
Donald McGerrigle



↑ AND THE WINNER IS...

D. Lorne Gales Special Recognition Award winner Don McGerrigle (left) celebrates with McGill chancellor Michael Meighen, BA'60, LLD'12, David Lank, Ann Vroom, BA'67, and Tina Brouillette.



↑ WELL SUITED TO HIS AWARD

Elliot Lifson (centre), vice-president of Peerless Clothing, accepts an Honorary Life Membership Award for his longstanding involvement with the Desautels Faculty of Management from the banquet co-hosts, MAA president Alan Desnoyers, BCom'85 (left), and MAA president designate Bob Babinski.



↑ MANY MOONEY MEN

Introducing the legendary 1969 McGill Redmen Football Championship Team — affectionately dubbed “The Mooney Men” in honour of their coach, Tom Mooney: (from left to right) Jay Harris, BCom'71, Peter Bender, BEd'69, MA'72, retired McGill football coaching legend Charlie Baillie, Clifford Moore, DDS'71, George Wall, BEd'69, Bob Taylor, BCom'70, Ken Aikin, BSc'70, MDCM'74, Howard Mednick, BSc'70, MBA'72, Stephen Neville, BCom'73, Bill Holt, BEd'71, MEd'77, Jack Sutton, MDCM'73 (seated).

↓ MERITORIOUS APPLAUSE FOR ANTON

Principal Suzanne Fortier presented Anton Angelich with the Award of Merit, the MAA's highest honour, for his decades of service to the University, support for Macdonald Campus, and invaluable mentorship of McGill students.



↓ MACDONALD MOMENT

Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Anja Geitmann cheered on Mac graduate, benefactor and volunteer extraordinaire, Peter Finlayson, who received the E.P. Taylor Award with his sister, Janet Finlayson.



↓ INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTION

Matthew Ma received his Robert Fung International Award of Distinction for his work as co-president of the MAA's Shanghai branch and his help in establishing McGill's first full-degree program in China with Zhejiang University. He is pictured with Alan Desnoyers.



LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY TO MCGILL

McGill University owes its very existence to the foresight of a generous planned gift. It was a bequest from the estate of Scottish-born merchant James McGill in 1821 that officially established this University.

Today the *McGill 1821 Society* and the *Macdonald Legacy Society* recognize and honour alumni and friends who have graciously confirmed their intention to remember McGill University through a bequest or other planned gift.



McGill gratefully acknowledges all those who have thoughtfully included the University in their estate plans. The following list represents Society members who have agreed to have their names publicized. Their names are listed as requested.

If you would like to learn more about bequests and planned gifts, and how you can become a member of the *McGill 1821 Society* or the *Macdonald Legacy Society*, we invite you to contact us. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.



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THE SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

was brought up on chocolate,” says **JULIETTE BRUN**, BA’02. She says it earnestly, a rare break from the usual smile and laugh that seem to be almost her default mode.

Sitting on a banquette at one of her Montreal restaurants, the founder of chocolate specialty chain Juliette & Chocolat says she’s always been drawn to food, especially sweets. It’s a trait, she says, that runs in the family.

“My mom is a chocaholic, it’s crazy. So were my grandparents. We never finished a meal without chocolate, never, ever, ever, ever. You never had coffee without chocolate.”

Brun was born in Brazil to French parents and grew up internationally, thanks to her father’s career in finance. Wherever her family was, they made sure they always had access to the highest-quality chocolate. Nothing less would do.

That standard of quality, she says, “is very European. And when we’d travel back to Europe — we would travel there once or twice a year — we would come back with our luggage full of chocolate bars. We’d stock up, because we never knew if we were going to have enough to get back to the States or Syria or wherever.”

Wait a minute. There wasn’t any chocolate in the U.S.?

“Well, not good chocolate,” she says. Not at that time, anyway.

Being brought up in a family appreciative of high-end food sparked a lifelong interest and, eventually, her decision to commit to the food industry as a career choice. But what kind of food?

After completing her McGill degree in 2002, she took a careful look at what was already available.

Coffee chains and cafés were exploding around the city. There was no point entering a field that was already packed with competitors. Smoothies? Montreal is too cold for too long.

➤ **Juliette Brun is the founder of chocolate specialty chain Juliette & Chocolat.**



JULIETTE & CHOCOLAT

“So I said, we need hot chocolate. We need something that’s comforting. And then,” she laughs, “my mind started dreaming. I have a very vivid imagination and I could picture a store just filled with chocolate things and I thought, ‘Oh my God, that would be amazing — let’s do the same thing [all the cafés] are doing for coffee, but do it for chocolate.’”

Brun left Montreal for a year, first to study cooking in France (earning diplomas in chocolate and crepe-making) and then to work in a Paris restaurant, absorbing everything she could about the industry — from keeping washrooms clean to preparing menus. By February 2003, she was back and ready, she says, to “conquer the world.”

And so Juliette & Chocolat was born, in a 1,500-square foot store on St-Denis Street in Montreal’s Latin Quarter. Thirteen years later, she is planning to open their eighth location. The chain employs around 300 staff. A cookbook is in the works and an online boutique is doing well.

Juliette & Chocolat takes its devotion to chocolate seriously. One Australian travel writer, marveling at the chain’s variety of chocolate drink options, declared that the selection “is more detailed than some wine lists.”

The company’s success, says Brun, lies in its commitment to hand-crafting its products. “Flavour is enhanced if you let something sit, chocolate especially. If we’re in a rush and we’re preparing chocolate for the same day because we’ve gone through so much chocolate in a day, the chocolate won’t taste as good. It tastes better the next day. And we cook it for a really long time, to let the milk evaporate and the sugars develop. We use real chocolate and cocoa, because we obviously want the taste of chocolate and the taste of cocoa. It’s a long process. We still make it in house and it’s all hand-made, so you’ll never get exactly the same thing. It’s a tricky process, but it’s what made us famous.” 🐦

PATRICK LEJTENYI, BA’97



RICK MILLER, BSc(Arch)'93, BArch'94, is an actor and playwright whose latest work, *BOOM*, has been touring Canadian cities with more than 225 performances over an 18-month period. A one-man stage show that documents the music, culture and politics that shaped the Baby Boom generation (1945-1969), *BOOM* relies heavily on its creator's ability to mimic a wide range of voices, including Janis Joplin and Louis Armstrong. The *Globe and Mail* recently described him as "Canada's most talented impressionist since Rich Little."

AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

PROSANTA CHAKRABARTY, BSc(Agr)'00, was named one of 21 TED Fellows selected from around the world for 2016 by TED, a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). Prosanta is an evolutionary biologist and natural historian researching and discovering fish around the world in an effort to understand fundamental aspects of biological diversity. He is an associate professor of biological sciences at Louisiana State University.

ARCHITECTURE

MICHELLE CHAN, BSc(Arch)'99, MArch'01, appeared as a contestant on the December 14, 2015 episode of the beloved game show *Jeopardy!* She finished second in a close match. Introduced as an architect from Montreal, she continues to work at Marosi + Troy Architects.

HENRY TSANG, BSc(Arch)'00, MArch'02, received the 2015 Educator of the Year Award from the National Association of Career Colleges of Canada. Henry teaches at Montreal's Herzing College and was recognized for his contributions to Herzing's diploma program in sustainable architectural technology. Before returning to Montreal, he worked for six years for the Japanese design firm Nihon Sekkei.

ARTS

VALERIE KNOWLES, MA'57, recently published the fourth edition of *Strangers at our Gates* (Dundurn Press), a history of immigration and immigration policy in Canada. Her previous books include the award-winning *From Telegrapher to Titan: The Life of William C. Van Horne*. The revised edition of *Strangers at our Gates* includes a chapter on the Conservative government's handling of immigration between 2006 and 2014.

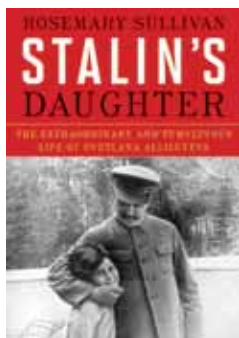
TIMOTHY BRODHEAD, BA'64, LLD'15, received an honorary degree from McGill at the University's 2015 fall convocation ceremonies. From 1995 to 2011, he was the president and chief executive officer of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, a family foundation based in Montreal whose mission is to create a more resilient society by enhancing inclusion, sustainability and social innovation. Timothy is also a former executive director of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, a national body representing Canadian NGOs working in international development.

ELAINE KALMAN NAVES, BA'67, recently published *The Book of Faith*, an exploration of the lives of three women who attend the same synagogue. *Quill & Quire* gave the book a strong review. "The documentary-like dissection of contemporary women's lives recalls Austen; the scabrous humour and contemporary Montreal setting suggest Richler." Elaine has written eight books and her honours include a Canadian Literary Award for Personal Essay, two Quebec Writers' Federation prizes for non-fiction, and two Jewish Book Awards for Holocaust Literature.

GERALD BRAY, BA'69, edited *The Book of Homilies: A Critical Edition* (James Clarke). The book is a compilation of the Books of Homilies, collections of model sermons produced by the Church of England during the 16th century, and which offer an enduring insight into Anglican doctrine of the period. Gerald is a research professor of divinity, history and doctrine at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.



ANNIK SHAMLIAN, BSc(Agr)'92, successfully completed a six-month, 7,000-km canoe trip across Canada, beginning in Montreal and ending in Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. She was part of Les Chemins de l'Or Bleu, an expedition team that was funded, in part, by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. The 175-day journey involved 117 portages. "I never thought I'd discover this much about my country by canoe," She told *Canadian Geographic*. "The vistas change every three days and they're beautiful."



ROSEMARY SULLIVAN, BA'68, continues to receive major awards for *Stalin's Daughter*, her biography of Svetlana Alliluyeva, the daughter of Josef Stalin. The book has won the RBC Taylor Prize, the Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. It was also shortlisted for a National Book Critics Circle Award. According to the *New York Times*, the book "offers an extraordinary glimpse into one of the grimmest chapters of the past century."

MORRIS ROSENBERG, BA'72, was awarded the Order of Canada "for his sustained commitment to our country and for his effective and ethical leadership as a senior public servant." He began his career in the federal civil service in 1979 and went on to hold senior positions, including deputy minister of foreign affairs and deputy minister of Health Canada. He is now the president and CEO of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

SAM ALLISON, MA'74, a retired high school history teacher and former adjunct professor at McGill's Faculty of Education, recently published *Driv'n by Fortune: The Scots March to Modernity in America 1745-1812* (Dundurn Press). The book sheds new light on the major role Scots played in the creation of Canada. Sam has written high school history and economics textbooks, adult education workbooks and several educational websites.

SHARON LONDON LISS, BA'76, was recently named president of the Art Dealers Association of Canada. A national not-for-profit organization, ADAC's mandate includes encouraging awareness of the visual arts both nationally and abroad. The president of Sharon London Liss Inc., she has extensive knowledge of 20th century art, both Canadian and international, as well as Inuit art.

ADAM NICHOLS, BA'76, MA'83, has a new non-fiction book coming out in August. He is the co-editor of *The Travels of Reverend Ólafur Egilsson* (Catholic University of America Press), the first-ever English translation of Egilsson's account of his remarkable life. Captured along with several hundred other Icelanders by Barbary corsairs in 1627 and sold into slavery, Egilsson was released and travelled alone across the Mediterranean and Europe to Denmark in an attempt to raise ransom money.

JAMES SIMON, BA'85, is the artistic director of George Brown College Theatre School. In 2015, he directed two McGill graduates, **MICHAEL RUDERMAN**, BA'13 and **ZARA JESTADT**, BA'13, in a production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

ROMAN S. PANCHYSHYN, BA'86, MLIS'97, has been appointed to the rank of associate professor with tenure, holding the position of catalog librarian at Kent State University Libraries in Kent, Ohio. He also serves as chair of the Database Management and Standards Committee (DMSC) of the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK), consortium. DMSC maintains quality standards and creates metadata policies and procedures for the state-wide OhioLINK Central Catalog, which encompasses the holdings of 93 academic libraries in Ohio.

MITCHELL BERBRIER, BCom'84, BA'87, is the new dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. A professor of sociology, Mitchell's research interests include race, ethnicity, and minority status.

RAY BERARD, BA'85, recently published *Inside the Black Horse* (Mary Egan), a dark thriller that draws on his own experiences working in the horse racing industry in New Zealand, supervising betting outlets. Now based in Christchurch, New Zealand, Ray is working on his second novel, *The Diary of a Dead Man*.

CHRIS MELLEN, BA'85, sold Delphi Valuation Advisors, Inc., a company he founded in 2000, to Valuation Research Corporation. He is now a shareholder and managing director with VRC, heading its Boston office.



KATHERINE BARR, BA'96, was one of three McGillians recently appointed to the Canadian government's Advisory Council on Economic Growth. The council, which will assist the government in preparing a long-term growth strategy for Canada, also includes Principal **SUZANNE FORTIER**, BSc'72, PhD'76, and associate professor of economics **CHRISTOPHER RAGAN**. Katherine is a general partner at the venture capital firm Mohr Davidow Ventures and a former co-chair of C100, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Canadian tech entrepreneurs succeed on the world stage.

DAVID RUMSEY, BA'87, is the new president of the American Translators Association. A resident of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, David is a freelancer who translates technical, medical, and commercial projects from Scandinavian languages into English. The ATA's primary goals include fostering and supporting the professional development of translators and interpreters and promoting the translation and interpreting professions

JILLIAN KOHLER, BA'88, MA'91, was appointed as the director of the new World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Governance, Transparency, and Accountability in the Pharmaceutical Sector. The centre will be based at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, where Jillian is an associate professor. Her research focuses on fair access to essential medicines with a particular emphasis on good governance and intellectual property rights.

DEREK COOK, BA'89, was recently appointed the director of Ambrose University's Canadian Poverty Institute in Calgary. Established in 2014, it is the only national academic institute dedicated to the eradication of poverty in Canada. Derek served from 2011 to 2015 as executive director of the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative, Mayor Naheed Nenshi's task force on poverty reduction.

ROBERT EDISON SANDIFORD, BA'90, recently published a new short story collection, *Fairfield*. Robert is a founding editor of *ArtsEtc: The Premier Cultural Guide to Barbados*, and has worked as a journalist, book publisher, and teacher. He has won awards for both his writing and editing, including the Barbados Governor General's Award of Excellence in Literary Arts and the Harold Hoyte Award, and been shortlisted for the Frank Collymore Literary Award. He divides his time between Canada and Barbados.

MARIE-LOUISE HANNAN, BA'91, was appointed as the Ambassador of Canada to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. She previously worked as the consul and senior trade commissioner at the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney, Australia. Marie-Louise joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 1997, and has represented Canada on postings to Malaysia, Taiwan, the United States, and other countries.

SYLVAIN LEDUC, BA'91, MA'93, is the new deputy governor at the Bank of Canada. Sylvain now sits on the bank's governing council, the main policy-making branch of the bank. He previously worked as vice-president, microeconomic and macroeconomic research, at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

ADAM DODEK, BA'92, won the 2015 Foundation for Legal Research's Walter Owen Book Prize for *Solicitor-Client Privilege* (Lexis-Nexis), which explores key aspects of attorney-client confidentiality and its exceptions. Adam is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, where he teaches public law and legislation, constitutional law, and legal ethics.

CHRISTINE VARGA-HARRIS, BA'93, is the author of *Stories of House and Home: Soviet Apartment Life during the Khrushchev Years* (Cornell University Press). The book is a social and cultural history of the massive construction campaign that Nikita Khrushchev instituted in 1957 to resolve the Soviet Union's housing crisis and to provide each family its own apartment. Christine is an associate professor of history at Illinois State University.

RACHEL MOORE, BA'94, is the director of PR and communications at Blue Thread Digital Marketing, as well as co-owner of Hub Etzion, a tech co-working space. Rachel lives in Israel with her husband and seven children. Jackson Wightman, an instructor in digital communications at McGill's School of Continuing Studies, recently visited Hub Etzion and took the time to share some of his PR wisdom.



MCPL VINCENT CARBONNEAU/RIEUAU HALL

ISABELLE DAUNAI, BA'86, MA'88, PhD'92, a professor of French language and literature at McGill, is the 2016 recipient of the Canada Council's Killam Prize for the Humanities. Seen here with Governor General David Johnston, she is also McGill's Canada Research Chair in the Esthetics and Art of the Novel. Her work has examined the evolution of the novel in Quebec and the connections the modern novel has with memory.

AUDRA SIMPSON, MA'96, PhD'04, earned tenure in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University in May, 2015. Her book, *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States*, (Duke University Press) has won awards, including the Lora Romero First Book Award from the American Studies Association and the Best First Book Award In Native American and Indigenous Studies from the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. In 2015 Audra was a keynote speaker at the 12th Annual ETMU Days: Rethinking Indigenous and Mobile Roots conference in Rovaniemi, Finland, and the World of Matter: Extractive Ecologies and Contested Terrains conference in Montreal.



WIN BUTLER, BA'04, is a founding member of Arcade Fire. He and his fellow bandmates were honoured at the Juno Awards in March with the Allan Waters Humanitarian Award. Working with groups such as Partners in Health and KANPE, the Grammy-winning band has helped raise more than \$4 million for programs benefitting the people of Haiti. He achieved another notable distinction in February. The basketball-loving musician was named MVP at the NBA All-Star celebrity game.

KEITH BISSON, BA'96, is the new president of Coastal Enterprises Inc., a non-profit that specializes in rural business funding and development in Maine and throughout the United States.

JONATHAN P. EACOTT, BA'00, recently published a book, *Selling Empire: India in the Making of Britain and America, 1600-1830* (UNC Press). The book explores how Britain made use of India's strengths to build its own empire in both America and Asia. Jonathan is an associate professor of history at the University of California, Riverside.

PAUL MILATA, BA'00, MA'01, is the managing director of the international executive search agency Milata KG. In late 2015, he published the results of a survey focused on corruption in universities in 10 European countries. The survey, which involved more than 5,000 respondents, found that the lowest levels of perceived corruption involved universities in the United Kingdom and Sweden, while the highest rates of perceived corruption related to institutions in Spain, Italy and Romania.

MARK RAWAS, BA'00, was promoted to vice-president, human resource services, at CNO Financial Group. Mark joined CNO in 2014 as human resources director supporting the information technology and operations divisions. Prior to CNO, he held human resources positions at Rolls-Royce in the U.S. and Canada.

MEGHANA D. SHAH, BA'01 was recently elected as one of seven new partners at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP. Meghana has experience in representing businesses in internal investigations, both domestically and internationally. She also regularly defends businesses in commercial litigation, and counsels clients in class action, product liability, environmental and maritime industry matters. Meghana works in New York.

JEAN-MARTIN FORTIER, BA'02, is a farmer, educator and author specializing in organic and biologically intensive cropping practices. His recent book, *The Market Gardener: A Successful Grower's Handbook for Small-Scale Organic Farming*, received a 2015 American Horticultural Society Book Award and a silver medal from the Living Now Book Awards. For more information, visit themarketgardener.com.

JOHN FEIFER, BA'04, is a filmmaker and directed and edited the short film *Brood or Thought*, which was screened at the International Film Festival of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles. The film focuses on a single father who must cope with his only daughter's decision to move in with her fiancé. John completed the London Film School MA programme and *Brood or Thought* is his graduation film.

LUKAS RIEPEL, BA'04, was recently selected as a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Lukas is working on a new book entitled: *Assembling the Dinosaur: Science, Museums, and American Capitalism, 1870-1930*.

SAMARA KLAR, BA'05, recently published her first book *Independent Politics: How American Disdain for Parties Leads to Political Inaction* (Cambridge University Press). The book uses surveys and other data to show that Americans view independent voters as the most socially desirable political group, and consequently, may intentionally disguise their own partisan preferences. Samara is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Arizona.

KATHERINE LEYTON, BA'06, recently released *All the Gold Hurts My Mouth* (Icehouse Poetry), a new collection of poetry. The collection takes on the sexual politics of the 21st century with subversive twists and turns. Her poetry and non-fiction have appeared in numerous publications, including the *Malahat Review*, *Hazlitt*, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *Edinburgh Review*. She is also the founder of the highly unorthodox video poetry blog HowPedestrian.ca.

IRENE LAX, BA'09, was recently elected to the Young Friends Board of the National Museum of American Jewish History. Irene has been working on Young Friends programs for this summer, including the museum's annual summer social, *Midsummer's Eve: Celebrating Life, Love, and Tu B'av*.

MARK ANTHONY KARANTABIAS, BA'06, recently graduated with a PhD in history from the University of Kentucky. His dissertation was entitled "The Struggle between the Center and the Periphery: Justinian's Provincial Reforms of the A.D. 530s."

PUSHKAR, PhD'06, was recently included on a list of leading thinkers in India by *Forbes India*. He is the co-author of *Democracy, Civil Society and Health in India*, a book that examines the failures of India's health care services. Pushkar is a professor of humanities and social sciences at BITS Pilani's Goa Campus.

TOM UE, MA'11, contributed to the recently published *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Twenty-First Century British Novelists*, a multi-volume series about the lives of British authors. The book includes interviews that Tom conducted with authors such as Phillip Pullman and David Mitchell. Tom is the Frederick Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

DENTISTRY

HARRY RAJCHGOT, BSc'67, MSc'71, DDS'78, has been on staff in the Dentistry Department of the McGill University Health Centre since 1981. He is also the editor of the literary e-magazine *JONAHmagazine*. He recently published his first novel, *Gravitational Fields*, which tells the story of how the sons of a Holocaust survivor discovered the remarkable story behind their father's deliberate silence about his life. The book is available on Amazon.

NOAH ZACHARIN, BSc'81, DDS'83, recently retired from dentistry to become a full-time musician and writer. While studying at McGill, he was active in both the music and poetry scenes, releasing his first album during his third year of dentistry studies. Over the course of his dental career, his patients included First Nations populations in northern Quebec and inmates at Archambault prison. As a musician, he has opened for David Lindley, Jesse Winchester and Fairport Convention. He just released *Strange Rider*, his seventh album. For more information, visit www.noahsong.com/noahsite.

EDUCATION

MICHEL LAVOIE, MEd'84, is the co-author of *Coaching Unleashed* (Friesen Press), a book that uses case studies to demystify the coaching experience. The book's narrator, Moka, is the authors' dog. The former head of children's and family programming at Société Radio-Canada, Michel was the executive producer of the Canadian version of *Sesame Street* for 15 years. As a professional certified coach, he has taught coaching at Coaching de Gestion and mentors graduating students at Concordia University. Visit coachingunleashed.ca to find out more.

MARC GÉLINAS, BEd'83, MA'89, is McGill's new executive director of athletics and recreation. Marc spent eight years as the CEO of the Institut national du sport du Québec, an institute that offers specialized medical and scientific services to athletes and coaches. He is also the former director for athlete and community relations for the Canadian Olympic Committee. A former minor league baseball player, Marc pitched for four seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates' organization.

JULIEN MERCIER, PhD'05, is the director of the Université du Québec à Montréal Laboratoire de Neurosciences Educationnelles (NeuroLab), Canada's first laboratory focused on neuroeducation. Founded in 2014, Neurolab conducts interdisciplinary research in cognitive science involving educational psychology, cognitive and affective neuroscience, neuropsychology, psycholinguistics and computer science.

ENGINEERING

PAUL CARMEL, BEng'86, became the new chair of the board of directors of Orbit Garant Drilling last November. Paul is a mining engineer with more than 25 years of experience in industry and capital markets. Orbit Garant is one of the largest Canadian-based mineral drilling companies, providing both underground and surface drilling services in Canada and internationally.

LAW

JOE OLIVER, BA'61, BCL'64, will be a distinguished senior fellow at the Montreal Economic Institute. He will be involved in research projects related to public finances and natural resources. He served in Stephen Harper's government as Canada's minister of natural resources and its minister of finance.



ANA SERRANO, BA'93, received the Digital Media Trailblazing Award at the Canadian Screen Awards in March. She is the chief digital officer for the Canadian Film Centre and the founder of CFC Media Lab, an award-winning institute for interactive storytelling. She recently launched Canada's first digital entertainment accelerator ideaBOOST with founding partners Shaw Media and Corus Entertainment. Also honoured at the Canadian Screen Awards was **MARK STAROWICZ**, BA'68, DLitt'01, who recently retired from the CBC after a long and distinguished career in journalism and documentary production. He received the Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism.

JENNIFER STODDART, BCL'80, LL'D'15, was awarded the rank of Officer of the Order of Canada for her work as the privacy commissioner of Canada and for her "international leadership in privacy rights." She served as Canada's privacy commissioner from December 2003 until December 2013. She is also a former president of the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec. Jennifer was awarded an honorary degree from McGill during the University's fall convocation ceremonies in 2015.

JUDITH ROBINSON, BA'85, BCL'90, LLB'90, was named as a Women's Executive Network 2015 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winner. Judith is a Montreal partner at Norton Rose Fulbright and the firm's national practice head of intellectual property law. Her practice focuses on IP litigation and related administrative law recourses.



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KRISTINE DI BACCO, LLB'98, has been elected to the partnership at Fenwick & West. Kristine represents high-growth technology companies in all aspects of general corporate and securities law, with a focus on the consumer internet, e-commerce, social networking and software sectors. She frequently lectures on startup issues and venture capital investments at Stanford University and the University of Southern California.

ALEX JOHNSTON, BA'92, BCL'99, LLB'99, is the CBC's new vice-president of strategy and public affairs. Her mandate is to continue shaping and implementing the CBC's strategic direction. She oversees enterprise strategy, corporate and regulatory affairs, public affairs and enterprise communications. She is the former executive director of Catalyst Canada, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization dedicated to creating opportunities for women and business in Canada.

CHRISTOPHER DYE, BA'99, BCL/LLB'03, joined the Guernsey-based law firm Babbé as a senior associate in the corporate department. Christopher advises on corporate and commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, and regulatory issues. He has practiced corporate law in Canada and Bermuda.

GRÉGOIRE CHARLES WEBBER, BCL/LLB'03, and **OWEN MAXWELL REES**, BA'99, were presented with the Meritorious Service Medal by Governor General David Johnston. The former Supreme Court law clerks were recognized for their efforts in establishing the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute as a resource for both novice and experienced counsel appearing before the Supreme Court.

MANAGEMENT

ROB FETHERSTONHAUGH, BCom'78, DPA'80, and **MARC BALEVI**, BCom'77, DPA'78, received the Meritorious Service Medal from Governor General David Johnston. They are the co-founders of Canada Cycles for Kids, which raises money for sick children through repeated cross-country bicycle treks in support of The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada.

RICHARD D. DANEAU, BCom'86, became the new executive director of Moisson Montréal in February. Moisson Montréal is the largest food bank in Canada and allocates nearly 1,000 tons of food per month to more than 250 accredited community organizations on the Island of Montreal. Richard is the former executive vice-president of RPM Tech Inc., and has nearly 25 years of experience in operations management and administration in the fields of transport, technologies, and industrial equipment.

JEAN-FRANCOIS BUSSIERES, MBA'93, a clinical professor at the Faculté de Pharmacie at Université de Montréal, received the Prix André-Archambault for teaching excellence in the field of population health from Sandoz Canada last fall. In January, he received the Safe Medication Best Practices Award, presented by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, for his project, "A pilot study of biological monitoring of four antineoplastic drugs among Canadian healthcare workers." He was also part of a team of pharmacists representing different provinces that received the Pharmacotherapy Best Practices Award for work on clinical key performance indicators.

RUCHY KHURANA, BA'01, MBA'06, is the founder of Ruchy Skincare, a Montreal-based, all-natural beauty and cosmetics brand. Prior to founding her own company, Ruchy worked in the fashion industry for seven years, as well as working as a planner and buyer for 3M Canada. Find out more at www.facebook.com/RuchySkincare.



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MARIE-HÉLÈNE SAVARD, BCom'02, is the new head of international media for Yahoo. She oversees the company's content businesses in Canada, Latin America, Europe, India, and Singapore. She will lead Yahoo's global editorial team in their coverage of worldwide events, including the upcoming Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

ALYSSA FAVREAU, BCom'12, recently published *Stuff Every Graduate Should Know: A Handbook for the Real World* (Quirk Books). The book offers recent university graduates practical advice on how to deal with post-campus life — how to stick to a budget, build a grown-up wardrobe, host a dinner party and (if need be) cope with living with your parents. She is the assistant publisher of *Maisonneuve*.

MEDICINE

GERALD BURKE, BSc'54, MDCM'58, recently published *It Was Worth the Trip: The Memoir of a Physician/Teacher*. Available on Amazon and Kindle, the book examines Burke's difficult childhood, his time at McGill (including an encounter with William Shatner) and his career in medicine. He became deeply involved in the emerging field of nuclear medicine and went on to chair the Department of Medicine at Chicago's Cook County Hospital, one of the largest public sector teaching hospitals in the U.S.

JAMES C. HOGG, MSc'67, PhD'69, DSc'15, was awarded an honorary degree from McGill at a scientific symposium in March, 2015, held in celebration of the opening of the McGill University Health Centre's Glen site. A longtime faculty member at the University of British Columbia, his work has had a profound influence on the medical community's knowledge of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma. The James Hogg Research Centre at UBC is named in his honour.

EUGENE BEREZA, MDCM'88, was elected president of the Canadian Bioethics Society. He also serves as the director of the newly founded Centre for Applied Ethics at the McGill University Health Centre. Eugene is also a member of the Ministry of Health and Social Services' Groupe de travail interdisciplinaire sur l'aide médicale à mourir. The group aims to help prepare Quebec health care institutions for the implementation of Bill 52: An Act respecting end-of-life care, which legalized euthanasia in Quebec.

THOMAS MONTINE, MDCM'91, is the new chair of the Department of Pathology at the Stanford School of Medicine. Thomas is a neuropathologist and his research interests include cognitive impairment in the elderly as related to Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

TRICIA DAVIS, BSc(PT)'95 will embark on a bike-packing trip from Kathmandu to Kyanjin Gumpa, in Nepal. The journey will be filmed as a documentary to showcase sustainable tourism practices.

ROBERT FOWLER, MDCM'95, was awarded the Order of Ontario for his work as a critical care physician at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Robert was a part of the first WHO clinical response team in Guinea during the West-African Ebola outbreak of 2014. During the SARS epidemic of 2003, Robert treated patients and colleagues with the disease, and helped provide the initial descriptions of critically ill patients.

AVRUM SPIRA, MDCM'96, is the new director of the Boston University Cancer Center. He is a professor of medicine, pathology and bioinformatics, and the Alexander Graham Bell Professor in Health Care Entrepreneurship at Boston University. Avrum's lab, co-led by Dr. Marc Lenburg, has developed biomarkers for monitoring chronic obstructive pulmonary disease activity, and has identified a novel COPD therapeutic that is currently in preclinical development.

MELISSA EMBLIN, BSc(OT)'08, received the Meritorious Service Medal from Governor General David Johnston. She is the co-founder of Project RAD (Réserve aux danseurs), an organization that gives people with various disabilities an opportunity to take urban dance classes. Project RAD also trains dance instructors, helps existing dance studios become more accessible to special needs clientele, and delivers dance workshops in schools, youth centres and hospitals.

LILY SHAKIBNIA, MDCM'08, MedResident'12, is a radiation oncologist at the Cancer Treatment Centres of America at the Southeastern Regional Medical Centre in Atlanta, Georgia. Lily collaborates in research projects with the CTCA Centers for Advanced Oncology. She previously worked as a radiation oncology specialist at the American Hospital in Dubai.



DAVID SAINT-JACQUES, MedResident'07, will be the next Canadian astronaut to take part in a space mission. He is scheduled to travel to space in November, 2018, for a six-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). An adjunct professor in McGill's Department of Family Medicine, he supervised medical trainees in Nunavik as a McGill clinical faculty lecturer. He will be the fourth McGill graduate to journey to the ISS, joining fellow astronauts Julie Payette, BEng'86, DSc'03, Robert Thirsk, MDCM'82, and Dave Williams, BSc'76, MDCM'83, MSc'83, DSc'07.



JEAN-WILLY KUNZ, DMus'11, is the first organist-in-residence with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. Along with the OSM and fellow organist Olivier Latry, he won the 2016 Juno Award for Classical Album: Large Ensemble or Soloist(s) with Large Ensemble Accompaniment for *Symphony and New Works for Organ and Orchestra*. He is also a harpsichordist and organist with Ensemble Caprice and has performed with the Cirque du Soleil and with Rufus and Martha Wainwright.

MUSIC

TARAS KULISH, BMus'95, who worked as the executive director of the McGill Chamber Orchestra for three years, will now serve as the director of artistic operations with the Calgary Opera. Taras was an opera singer for close to 18 years and is now forging a career as an arts administrator.

JUSTINE MCINTYRE, BMus'98, a city councillor in the Montreal borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, is the new leader of the Montreal municipal party *Vrai changement pour Montreal*, succeeding Mélanie Joly, who is now Canada's heritage minister. Before entering politics, Justine worked in many fields, including sales for a multinational company and communications for *Dans la rue*, a Montreal non-profit for homeless youth. She also founded and ran her own private music initiation school for four years.

CHRISTOPHER LEWIS, BMus'09, is a Welsh-born harpsichord player who has released three albums with the classical music label Naxos. His most recent album, *British Music for Harpsichord*, was released in April. His next CD, *Harpsichord Sonatas of Vincent Persichetti*, will be released later this year. He is completing a PhD at the University of Southampton.

HARRY STAFYLAKIS, BMus'10, was appointed as the composer-in-residence for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Harry will also serve as the co-curator of the WSO's annual Winnipeg New Music festival. He previously worked as the composer-in-residence for the McGill Chamber Orchestra.

BETH MCKENNA, BMus'13, BEd'13, is a Montreal-based saxophonist, composer, educator and bandleader. She leads the Beth McKenna Jazz Orchestra, which recently released its new CD, *Home: Montreal*, a musical exploration of different parts of the city. Though rooted in jazz, the BMJO hopes to reach a broad audience and Beth's compositions are influenced by rock, R&B, soul, pop, indie, hip-hop and film music.

SCOTT CHANCEY, BMus'15, and **ANDREA STEWART**, MMus'09, Artist-Dip'11, DMus'15, are members of collectif9, a Montreal-based string band dedicated to genre-bending classical performances. The group recently released its first album *Volksmobiles*, which includes works by Brahms, Bartók, André Gagnon and Geof Holbrook. For more information, visit www.collectif9.ca.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

ELIZABETH MUIR, BTh'80, PhD'90, recently published two books about Canadian women in aviation. *Canadian Women in the Sky: 100 Years of Flight* looks at the early history of aviation in Canada, when it was considered shocking for a woman to be on an airplane even as a passenger, to more recent triumphs, such as the first time a Canadian woman astronaut boarded the International Space Station. *Air Crazy ~ Fascinating Stories of Canadian Women in the Air* (Another Chapter Publishing), is intended for younger readers, ages eight and up. The book focuses on the contributions that women have made to Canadian aviation history.

SCIENCE

TAUN ROBERTSON, BSc'60, recently published *Those Lakeshore Years: 1937 – 1962* (Shoreline). The book recounts tales of his early years in Point-Claire Village and chronicles the evolution of the small town, with anecdotes about Second World War air raid drills, local war heroes, a Venezuelan revolutionary and the joys of sailing on Lac St-Louis.

JONATHAN MEAKINS, BSc'62, DSc'15, was awarded an honorary degree from McGill at a scientific symposium in March, 2015, held in celebration of the opening of the McGill University Health Centre's Glen site. Jonathan, a former chair of the Department of Surgery at McGill, was the Nuffield Professor of Surgery at the University of Oxford from 2002 to 2008. He has been a world leader in general surgery, widely known for his pioneering work on infection and immunobiology.

A. DAVID PELLETIER, BSc'72, has been granted an honorary fellowship at the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries of the United Kingdom. David previously served as chair of the Actuarial Standards Board of Canada and as the inaugural chair of the International Actuarial Association's Actuarial Standards Committee, which is responsible for the development of model international standards of actuarial practice.

XIAO JIE ZHOU, MSc'92, PhD'98, is a senior research scientist for 84.51°, a company that specializes in analytics and customer engagement. She previously worked as a senior scientist and data mining specialist at Proctor & Gamble.

BAO NGUYEN, PhD'93 received the 2015 Koopman Prize from the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences for the best military operations research paper published in the previous year in a world-wide competition. He is also now a faculty member at the University of Ottawa's School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.



TIM BLISS, BSc'62, PhD'67, a British neuroscientist, was one of the co-recipients of the 2016 Brain Prize, the world's most valuable prize for brain research. Bliss and the two other winners will split the €1 million prize, awarded by the Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation in Denmark. Bliss and the other recipients were recognized for their work on a brain mechanism known as 'Long-Term Potentiation' (LTP), which underpins the life-long plasticity of the brain. Bliss is a researcher at the Francis Crick Institute.

JARROD DANIEL, BSc'99, was awarded the Chiefs' Scholastic Alumni Achievement Award, presented by the Spokane Chiefs, a junior hockey team in the Western Hockey League. A former goaltender and Chiefs player of the year, Jarrod studied at McGill after his WHL career and played for the Redmen hockey team. Now a plastic surgeon in Charlotte, North Carolina, Jarrod is also a team doctor for the Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League.

LAUREN M. CURTIS, BSc'03, recently completed her double specialty in hematology and oncology. Lauren is a fellow at the National Cancer Institute and a physician working in Bethesda, Maryland. She has published several papers in stem cell research.

PHILIPPE CHARLAND (Ph. D. 2005) a publié récemment *Les Iroquoiens* (Cornac). L'ouvrage vise à offrir un portrait de la culture iroquoise, étayé par des légendes traditionnelles et des illustrations. Le livre a été conçu pour les enseignants, mais s'adresse aussi à tous ceux qui veulent explorer cette culture et aller au-delà des stéréotypes.

MELISSA BEDARD, BSc'15, and **MICHAEL BEAUVAIS**, BA'12, recently began their studies in jurisprudence, and cancer immunology, respectively, at Oxford University. The two McGill graduates attended their matriculation ceremony at St. Edmund Hall last October with fellow McGillian **DAVID OBERT**, BSc'10, who recently graduated from Oxford with a degree in global health sciences.

SOCIAL WORK

MYRA GIBEROVITCH, BSW'87, MSW'89, recently gave a TEDxMontreal talk based on her book, *Recovering from Genocidal Trauma* (University of Toronto Press). Her presentation (<http://bit.ly/1nwE4fY>) focused on her work with genocide survivors, their resilience and their contributions to society. She is an adjunct professor in the McGill School of Social Work. Visit www.myragibervitch.com for more information.

URBAN PLANNING

ALEXANDER GEORGIEFF, MUP'75, recently retired from a 41-year career as an urban/regional planner. He led a team of professionals to win a number of awards for planning and economic development excellence, including the Canadian Institute of Planning's Excellence for Innovation, the Ontario Professional Planning Institute's Healthy Communities Excellence in Planning, and the Economic Developers Council of Canada's Marketing Canada Award.

RITA RACHELE DANDAVINO, MUP'79, has been reelected as president of the board of directors of Chantiers Jeunesse for a second year. Chantiers Jeunesse is a nonprofit organization that encourages young adults from Canada and overseas to engage with the world by taking part in local and international volunteering projects.

We're always interested in what our graduates are up to. Please send your news to us at:

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Email: news.alumni@mcgill.ca
The submissions we receive may be edited and/or shortened.



MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE, BSc'80, DSc'11, will become the 11th president of Stanford University on September 1. He is the president of Rockefeller University in New York and the former executive vice president for research and chief scientific officer for the biotechnology company Genentech. He was a professor of biological sciences at Stanford from 2001 to 2005. "Marc has a remarkable record of achievement," said Isaac Stein, who chaired Stanford's presidential search committee. "What we have learned through this search, without exception, is that he has made every institution he has touched far better for his presence."



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1930s

HAROLD GOODMAN, BCom'32, at Montreal, on October 25, 2015.

1940s

RALPH D. RABINOVITCH, BA'40, MDCM'42, on December 23, 2015.

RUTH (WHITE) REDMOND, BA'40, BLS'47, at Kingston, Ont., on January 13, 2016.

KATHLEEN (HORTON) CONRAD, BCom'41, at Chatham, Mass., on February 27, 2016.

ANNIE MARY WRIGHT, MSc'41, at Riverside-Albert, N.B., on December 17, 2015.

PHOEBE WALLACE, BA'42, at Richmond, Va., on December 13, 2015.

CHARLES H. READ, MDCM'43, at Iowa City, Ia., on February 21, 2016.

CICELY WATSON, BA'43, at Toronto, Ont., on December 17, 2015.

MARY ELSPETH (RANKINE) BYERS, BA'44, at Rogers, Ark., on January 13, 2016.

JOYCE (MUIR) COUTOUMANOS, BA'44, at Ojai, Calif., on December 23, 2015.

HAROLD H. AUDET, MDCM'45, at Cary, N.C., on April 20, 2015.

MARGARET CARLEY, BSc'45, at Peterborough, Ont., on January 3, 2015.

ERIC NORMAN CLARK, BSc'45, PhD'51, at Sparta, N.J., on February 19, 2016.

BARBARA ANN (SMITH) PENNIE, BA'45, at Ottawa, Ont., on February 28, 2016.

LEO ROSENTZVEIG, BCL'45, at Montreal, on March 5, 2016.

JOY (POWLES) SMITH, BA'45, BSW'48, MSW'49, at Richmond, Que., on December 7, 2015.

ALISON FINNEMORE, BA'46, BLS'47, at Montreal, on January 27, 2016.

OTTO L. FORCHHEIMER, BSc'47, at York, Penn., on July 20, 2015.

RUDOLPH J. SCARABELLI, BEng'47, at Saanich, B.C., on December 27, 2015.

VELMA FRANKLIN, BSc'48, at Alexandria, Ont., on December 10, 2014.

SHIRLEY (WHIPPLE) INCE, BSc'48, at Vancouver, B.C., on January 5, 2016.

R. ARTHUR MACFIE, DDS'48, at Saint-Lambert, Que., on January 7, 2016.

WILLIAM GORDON MACLEAN, BEng'48, on February 17, 2016.

GERALD S. STOBBER, BSc'48, MDCM'50, in New York, on February 3, 2016.

INO ATTAS, MEng'49, at Montreal, on April 14, 2015.

JAMES MCARTHUR BIRD, BSc'49, at Ottawa, Ont., on December 5, 2015.

ARNOLD GRAHAM KUSHNER, BSc'49, MDCM'54, in California, on December 16, 2015.

JOHN M. MAFFRE, BA'49, at Bethesda, Maryland, on February 9, 2016.

PAUL E. QUESNEL, BEng'49, at Saint-Hyacinthe, Que., on January 13, 2016.

1950s

MARTHA J. KIRKPATRICK, MDCM'50, at Los Angeles, Calif., on August 1, 2015.

ROBERT M. MACALLISTER, DDS'50, at Ganges, B.C., on December 23, 2015.

HERBERT C. MONTGOMERY, BSc'50, on January 9, 2016.

J. FRED MORROW, BSc(Agr)'50, at Halifax, N.S., on April 3, 2016.

CATRIONA DUNELLA PEDERSEN, BSc'50, MDCM'54, at Victoria, B.C., on April 8, 2016.

MARY H. (FILER) SPENCE-SALES, BFA'50, at Vancouver, B.C., on January 29, 2016.



A pediatrician who became a politician, **VICTOR GOLDBLOOM**, BSc'44, MDCM'45, DipPediatrics'50, DLitt'92, served in Quebec premier Robert Bourassa's cabinet from 1970 to 1976, becoming the province's first environment minister in 1970. Bourassa made him municipal affairs minister in 1976, handing him a delicate challenge — making sure that the problem-

plagued Montreal Olympics opened on schedule. After leaving government, Goldbloom served as CEO for the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews from 1980 to 1987 (Pope Benedict XVI, impressed by Goldbloom's commitment to interfaith dialogue, made him a Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester) and as Canada's official languages commissioner from 1991 to 1999. Montreal mayor Denis Coderre described Goldbloom as "an exemplary model for anyone who wants to go into politics." He died in Montreal on February 15.



CONSTANCE BERESFORD-HOWE, BA'45, MA'46, wrote 10 novels, including the international bestseller *The Book of Eve*. She also spent two decades teaching English at McGill. "Teaching the great works of English literature has helped keep me humble," she once explained. Her books, particularly her "Voices of Eve" trilogy,

often showcased women constructing new lives for themselves — sometimes in unexpected circumstances. *The Globe and Mail* described *The Book of Eve*'s 65-year-old heroine Eva Carroll, who abandons an unhappy and stifling marriage, "as one of the best-loved heroines in Canadian letters" alongside Morag Gunn, Anne Shirley and Del Jordan. Beresford-Howe died on January 20 in England.

WILLIAM T. BROWN, BSc'51, PhD'54,
at Vancouver, B.C., on March 22, 2016.

GERALD B. CRANSTOUN, DDS'51,
at Victoria, B.C., on January 6, 2016.

SARAH SEGALL, BSc'51,
at Boston, Mass., on December 21, 2015.

KENNETH BARWICK, BEng'52,
at Pointe-Claire, Que., on February 15, 2016.

ERNEST D. BLACK, BSc(Agr)'52, MSc'57, MSc'58,
at Comox, B.C., on February 8, 2016.

DAWN BROUGHTON, BSc(HEc)'52,
on February 22, 2016.

BONNIE ANN (DRYSDALE) CLARK, BSc (HEc)'52,
at Ottawa, Ont., on March 24, 2016.

SHIRLEY FRIEND, BSc(HEc)'52,
at North Vancouver, B.C., on January 17, 2016.

MARY FRANCES HOPPER, BA'52,
on March 2, 2016.

JOHN D. HOWES, DipEd'52, MEd'74,
at Montreal, on January 5, 2016.

ROSSLYN (ABRAHAM) TETLEY, BSc(Hec)'52,
at Montreal, on January 14, 2016.

DONALD A. YOUNG, BSc(Agr)'52,
at Oromocto, N.B., on December 7, 2015.

WILLIAM "BILL" BRADY, BEng'53, Dip Man'68,
at Ottawa, Ont., on January 14, 2016.

WILLIAM T. BRYSON, DDS'53,
at Vancouver, B.C., on November 25, 2015.

REGINALD F. MEADLEY, BEng'53,
at Orillia, Ont., on December 19, 2015.

JOHN W. PICKERING, BSc(Agr)'54,
at Salt Spring Island, B.C., on March 21, 2016.

CAROL TROXELL, BA'54,
at Redding, Conn., on April 1, 2016.

HOWARD FREEZE, DDS'55,
at Calgary, Alta., on January 11, 2015.

ROBERT LOSCH, BEng'55,
at Oakville, Ont., On February 2, 2016.

BLASHFORD GORDON THOMPSON,
BSc'55, MDCM'59, MSc'65,
at Ormstown, Que., on February 5, 2016.

R. KEITH WHITING, MDCM'55,
in Delaware, on February 11, 2016.

PHYLLIS CUMAS, MSW'56, at Montreal,
on January 30, 2016.

BRYNA FEINGOLD, BA'56,
at Montreal, on February 26, 2016.

VISVALDIS GOLDE, BEng'56,
at Toronto, Ont., on January 18, 2016.

BURLEIGH LEISHMAN, BSc'56,
at Oakville, Ont., on April 14, 2016.

ROGERS "ROD" MCCOMB, BSc'56,
at Peterborough, Ont., on January 5, 2016.

HUGH MCQUEEN, BEng'56,
at Montreal, on December 17, 2015.

G. DUNCAN MCTAGGART, BEng'56,
at Ottawa, Ont., on January 11, 2016.

LEONARD BARRY TOROBIN, BEng'56, PhD'60,
at Los Angeles, Calif., on December 23, 2015.

PAUL IVANIER, CA'57,
at Montreal, on April 17, 2016.

JOHN H. LEONARD, MDCM'57,
at York, Maine, on January 27, 2016.

JOHN F. MCMULLAN, DDS'57,
at Kirkland, Que., on March 21, 2016.

DOUGLAS T. COLES, MDCM'58,
at Rochester, Minn., on March 6, 2016.

GERALD L. FEIFER, BCom'59,
at Montreal, on December 16, 2015.

PRESTON A. MCLEAN, MDCM'59,
at Bangor, Maine, on December 20, 2015.

SHIRLEY M. NORMAN, BSc(HEc)'59,
at Kingston, Ont., on February 18, 2016.

GUY RINFRET, BCom'59,
at Brockville, Ont., on May 11, 2015.

HARRIET "HALLIE" SLOAN, BN'59,
at Kanata, Ont., on January 21, 2016.

HUGH VAN ALSTYNE, BEng'59,
at Edmonton Alta., on April 15, 2015.

DENISE WHITE, BA'59,
at Toronto, Ont., on October 12, 2015.

1960s

ERIK H. ANVIK, BEng'60,
at Victoria, B.C., on July 26, 2015.

PHILIP DAVID BOBROW, BArch'60,
at Montreal, on March 11, 2016.

HENRY GALLAY, BA'60, MDCM'65, Dip Psyc'70,
at Toronto, Ont., on December 20, 2015.

FREDERICK WAH SOO, DDS'60,
on November 26, 2015.

CHRISTOPHER ALDERSON-SMITH, BSc'61,
in France, on September 29, 2015.

GEORGE R. KUBANEK, BEng'61, PhD'66,
at Pointe Claire, Que., on December 8, 2015.

CORNELIS VAN DER SCHANS, BSc(Agr)'61,
at Indianapolis, Ind., on January 12, 2016.

KJELL SOLHAUG, DDS'62,
at Oslo, Norway, on June 4, 2015.

TOBI KLEIN, BSc'62, MSW'64,
at Montreal, on February 14, 2016.

ABRAHAM TARASOFSKY, MA'62, PhD'68,
at Ottawa, Ont., on April 10, 2016.

LLOYD THOMPSON, DDS'62,
at Edmonton, Alta., on December 23, 2015.

ROGER S. TONKIN, MDCM'62,
at Nanaimo, B.C., on December 23, 2015.

NORMAN F. WHITE, MDCM'62, Dip Psych'67,
at Vancouver, B.C., on March 17, 2016.

MARGARET E. HENDERSON, BN'63,
at Waterloo, Ont., on March 4, 2016.



In 1982, **CONSTANCE GLUBE**, BA'52, became Canada's first female chief justice when she was appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. In 1974, when she was named Halifax's city manager, she became the first woman to hold such a position in the country. From 2000 to 2003, she chaired a national committee that

prepared a model for instructions for juries that is now used in courts across the country. "She left the Canadian justice system richer and more effective than she found it," said Beverley McLachlin, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Glube passed away in Halifax on February 15.

LEON TARTIER, MSc'64,
at St-Faustin-Lac-Carré, Que., on November 14, 2015.

ERNEST T. ROGERS, BA'65,
at Vancouver, B.C., on February 22, 2015.

SHARON GRACE ROSCOE, MSc'65, PhD'71,
on December 9, 2015.

ALLAN SMALL, DDS'66,
at Montreal, on April 25, 2016.

ANNE CÔTE PASOLD, BA'66,
in the Cayman Islands, on April 27, 2015.

ARTHUR PATRICK CAWLEY, BA'68,
at Charlottetown, P.E.I., on December 28, 2015.

DEENA ELIOSOFF, BSc'68,
at Montreal, on November 1, 2015.

JEAN ALISON EVERARD, BN'68,
at Saanichton, B.C., on September 28, 2015.

RANDALL FISHER, BSc'68,
at Halifax, N.S., on March 3, 2016.

MICHAEL R. GOLDBERG, MSc'68,
at Toronto, Ont., on April 1, 2016.

THE REV. BRIAN K. PRIDEAUX, BD'68, MA'73,
DipHRFLED'81, at Toronto, Ont., on February 8, 2016.

OFEI FLEISCHER-DJOLETO, BSc'69, MDCM'73,
at Mississauga, Ont., on March 1, 2016.

1970s

HUGH D. TILDESLEY, BSc'71, MDCM'75,
at Vancouver, B.C., on March 13, 2016.

KATHERINE A. EVANS, BSc'72, DPA'78,
on March 12, 2016.

ERIC M. RUBY, BSc'72, DDS'76,
at Mazatlán, Mexico, on March 11, 2016.

JULIENNE PROVOST, MSc(A)'72,
at Montreal, on February 19, 2016.

ROBERT BATT, BMus'74, LMus'76, MMus'80,
at Vancouver, B.C., on March 9, 2016.



The first woman to be elected to Quebec's National Assembly and the first to serve as a Quebec cabinet minister, **MARIE-CLAIRE KIRKLAND**, BA'47, BCL'50, LLD'97, was the driving force behind Bill 16. Before the bill's passage, married women in Quebec couldn't sign a lease or open a bank account without their husband's written consent. As

a cabinet minister, she also created the Conseil du statut de la femme and the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie. After leaving politics, Kirkland became Quebec's first female provincial court judge. Quebec justice minister Stephanie Vallee said Kirkland "traced the way for all of us." She died in Montreal on March 24. The Quebec government honoured her with a state funeral on April 2.

MARY ANN FIELDS, PhD'74,
at Guelph, Ont., on March 5, 2016.

ANDREA J. GABOR, BA'74, MUP'76,
at Toronto, Ont., on December 24, 2015.

ALICE A. SCHWARCZ, BSc(PT)'74,
at Montreal, on March 28, 2016.

ROBERT J. GRENIER, MBA'75, LLB'87,
in Vermont, on December 9, 2015.

GERALD ROBILLARD, DipEd'75, MEd'81,
on March 19, 2016.

KOHUR SURY, DipEngAALD'79,
at Calgary, Alta., on November 13, 2015.

1980s

CHRISTOPHER JAMES LINSTROM, MDCM'82,
on February 17, 2016.

KEVIN H. O'NEILL, BSc(Agr)'82,
on March 7, 2015.

SYLVIA ANNE CHELTENHAM, BSW'83,
at Lachine, Que., on February 2, 2016.

JUDITH PEARCE, BScN'84,
at Hudson, Que., on January 4, 2016.

WENDY ROBIN LACK, BSW'85,
at Toronto, Ont., on May 23, 2015.

ROBERT WILLIAM PEACE, MSc'85, PhD'91,
at Ottawa, Ont., on February 8, 2016.

ANDREW JOSEPH COULSON, BSc'89,
on February 7, 2016.

1990s

GORDON TIMOTHY MACKEY, BA'91,
at Concord, Mass., on January 3, 2016.

TONY WENHAU CHU, DDS'93,
at Santa Rosa, Calif., on February 20, 2016.

REN "RENNIE" PAUL LUSTERIO, BA'98,
at Vancouver, B.C., on January 2, 2016.

FACULTY/STAFF

WILLIAM BARKAS, MDCM'75, neurologist,
Montreal Neurological Institute,
at Montreal, on December 24, 2015.

PHILIP DISTIN, retired professor of
mining and materials engineering,
at Montreal, on January 12, 2016.

JOSEPHINE MIRTH AMBER DOYLE, BN'58,
retired associate professor of nursing,
at Victoria, B.C., on January 16, 2016.

DENIS GILSON, professor emeritus of chemistry,
on January 22, 2016.

LORNA HAWORTH-HENRY, MEd'60,
retired faculty member, Faculty of Education,
at Kingston, Ont., on February 20, 2016.

MICHAEL P. LAPLANTE, MDCM'62, GradDipMedicine'68,
associate professor of surgery, at Montreal,
on December 14, 2015.

ARTHUR B. LEITH, BSc'51, MDCM'55,
associate professor of ophthalmology,
at Montreal, on December 10, 2015.

DENIS MELANÇON, associate professor of
neurology and neurosurgery,
at Montreal, on January 21, 2016.

JACK T. RATNER, BSc'50, MDCM'54,
associate professor of medicine,
at Montreal, on March 1, 2016.

JOHN D. RIPLEY, professor emeritus of English,
at Montreal, on September 18, 2015.

RONALD DAVID SHARP, BSc(PE)'51, MEd'71,
former coach, McGill Athletics,
at Ottawa, Ont., on January 23, 2016.

PETER HORN SOLOMON, MDCM'88,
assistant professor of anesthesia,
on December 27, 2016.

TERRY-NAN TANNENBAUM, IMHL'08,
associate professor of family medicine,
at Montreal, on March 17, 2016.

MARK WALDRON, Dip Agr'55, BSc(Agr)'59,
former director of extension for Macdonald Campus,
at Guelph, Ont., on December 9, 2015.

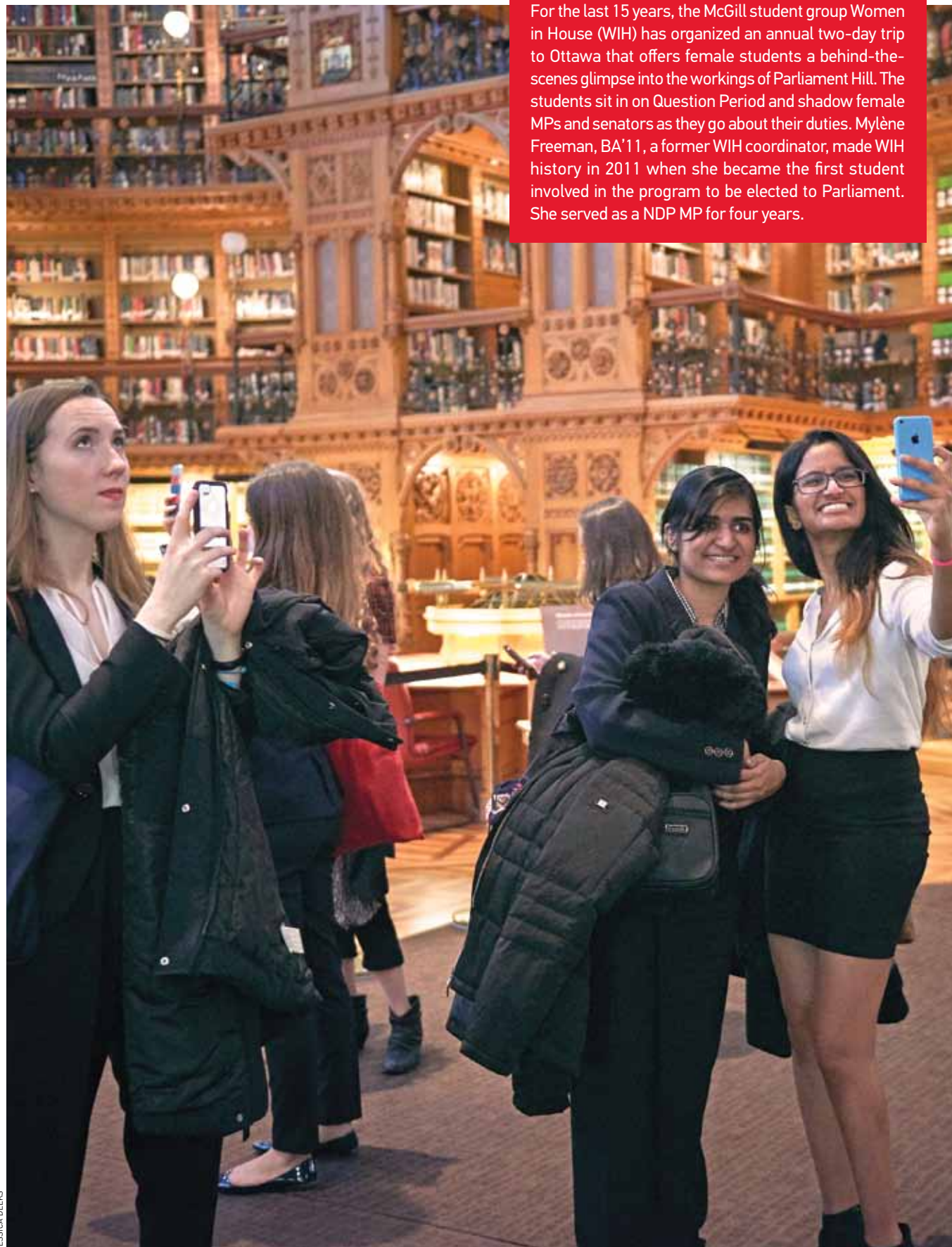


When IAN SOUTAR, BEng'58, co-founded Pembroke Management in 1968, the investment firm's first few years were rocky. Today, the company manages about \$3 billion in assets. "We went from bums to heroes," Soutar told an interviewer when he received the Morningstar Career Achievement Award for investment management in

2013. A member of McGill's board of governors from 1999 to 2003, he was also a key member of McGill's investment committee and helped steer the University through the stormy 2008 economic crisis. He was a generous philanthropist and a member of Campaign McGill's steering committee. Soutar received the McGill Alumni Association's Award of Merit in 2015. He died in Montreal on March 21.

WOMEN ON THE HILL

For the last 15 years, the McGill student group Women in House (WIH) has organized an annual two-day trip to Ottawa that offers female students a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the workings of Parliament Hill. The students sit in on Question Period and shadow female MPs and senators as they go about their duties. Mylène Freeman, BA'11, a former WIH coordinator, made WIH history in 2011 when she became the first student involved in the program to be elected to Parliament. She served as a NDP MP for four years.



JESSICA DEEKS

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No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in their province or territory of residence as of the contest start date. Approximate value of each prize is \$1,000 Canadian. Chances of winning depend on the number of valid entries received by the contest deadline. Contest closes Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Only one entry per person accepted. Skill testing question required.

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