



MEDICINE

SUMMER'09

TRAINING TOMORROW'S
LEADERS



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COMMUNITY

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COVER PHOTO BY NICOLAS MORIN

Medicine graduate Stephanie
Thibaudeau, BSc'05, MDCM'09
(right), celebrates convocation with
her mother, Diane Bellemare,
at the Dean's Awards Ceremony.
For the full story, see page 8.

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Message from Development and Alumni Relations

Owen Egan



We are forever indebted to our alumni and friends who enable us to continue to aim higher. It is always a difficult task to highlight but a few of the many gifts we receive. Despite these challenging economic times, the generosity of many shines through, including the following:

- Mark J. Cohen, MDCM'92, has established the Dr. Mark Cohen Prize in Ophthalmology with a donation of \$10,000 for a graduating medical student pursuing an ophthalmology residency in Canada. This award made its debut at the Dean's Awards Ceremony as part of spring convocation in May.
- Thanks to a generous bequest from Doreen Little, the Department of Neurology has received vital support for spinal cord research.
- Inspired by the leadership of their classmate J. Lawrence Hutchison, BSc'49, MDCM'53, members of the Medicine class of 1953 have raised over \$100,000 to support an endowed bursary for medical students in financial need.
- Hot on the heels of celebrating the new GlaxoSmithKline-CIHR Professorship in Pharmacology at McGill, GlaxoSmithKline has made a donation of \$500,000 to create the GSK Distinguished Science Award in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. This endowment will support an investigator exploring the treatment of chronic respiratory maladies.
- The Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) has made a first-time gift of \$500,000 to establish the CCRF Professorship in Rehabilitation Epidemiology in the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy.
- Thanks to the collaborative efforts of McGill and Hope & Cope, the Christine and Herschel Victor – Hope & Cope Chair in Psychosocial Oncology has been established. Herschel, BCom'44, and Christine Victor's generosity, along with the generosity of Hope & Cope, will enable the recruitment of a leading expert in psychosocial oncology with a particular emphasis on cancer survivorship issues. This visionary chair is a welcome addition to Hope & Cope. Founded in 1981 by Sheila Kussner, BA'53, LLD'90, Hope & Cope is a volunteer-based, professionally managed organization that provides comprehensive and innovative care to cancer patients and their families and friends.

As always, it is a pleasure to keep in touch with all of our alumni and friends. I encourage you to stay connected with your alma mater. Until we meet again, have a wonderful summer.

MICHÈLE JOANISSE, Executive Director
and the DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM
Faculty of Medicine

P.S. Nominate yourself or someone you know for a McGill Medicine Alumni Global Award today. See details on page 17.

Message from the Dean

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

“After all, these are the people who will transform their own communities and become tomorrow’s leaders.”

Our past records an impressive narrative that has earned us our international reputation as a leader in medical research, education and patient care. But past successes are no guarantee of a flourishing future. We are not immune to the economic constraints that have affected other sectors, and tough economic times, coupled with diminishing federal research funding, have created a new set of challenges for us. Equally significant are the challenges we face in ensuring that we are attracting the best students, graduating the best physicians and researchers, and providing an optimal learning environment to equip them for the realities of global health care. After all, these are the people who will transform their own communities and become tomorrow’s leaders.

We try to prepare students for the conditions of the future, in a profession – and a world – that is transformed by advancing technologies and evolving demographics, which seem, at times, to change at a pace that many old institutions cannot match. We could not do this without exceptional and committed professors, people who have an innate understanding that – whether in the classroom, the clinic or the lab – teaching is a passionate calling, a privilege that enriches learner and teacher alike. At McGill, pedagogy is truly interwoven with practice. And we cannot succeed without anticipating the medicine of the future and responding to the needs of that imagined time.

Consider the complexity of the multi-system illnesses of our aging population, and how much the health care structure must rely on primary care to treat our patients. To address issues like this, we are supporting the growth of academic family medicine and developing approaches to encourage students to pursue careers in the primary care specialties. Our new master of science degree in Experimental Medicine – Family Medicine Option will integrate family physicians into multi-faceted initiatives in health services and outcomes research, gathering insights and information that can be translated into better care for patients.

In fact, we are encouraging a consideration of change in all our pursuits. As computer scientist Alan Kay once said,



Owen Egan

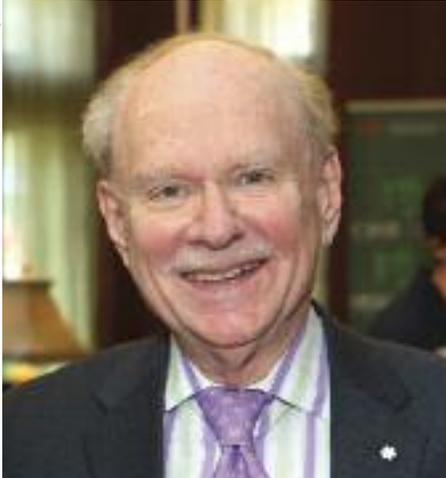
“Don’t worry about what anybody else is going to do... The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” We have always been committed to excellence, and, to ensure it in the future, we have embarked on an ambitious strategic planning process called “Think Dangerously.” We have added talented people to our administrative team, who, together with our deans, chairs and directors, will not only help us in the planning process for the future of education, research and the professorial life cycle, but also actually invent this future and enhance our Faculty’s status as a health sciences leader on the world stage.

RICHARD I. LEVIN, MD
Vice-Principal (Health Affairs)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

P.S. Our alumni include captains of industry, trailblazers of philanthropy and beacons of hope in today’s global community, and we want to recognize and celebrate their many achievements. Medicine Alumni Global is our call to action to further engage alumni in their alma mater. I invite you to read page 14 to discover more about this initiative, so that, together, we can map the future of health care.

News Highlights

Owen Egan



STEINBERG NAMED CHANCELLOR

H. Arnold Steinberg, BCom'54, LLD'00, became McGill University's 18th chancellor on July 1. After serving as chairman of the Board of Governors for the McGill University-Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute for 19 years, Steinberg knows the Faculty of Medicine well and has worked closely with several deans. Most recently, he helped establish the McGill Medical Simulation Centre.

Top Doctoral Students Awarded Vanier Scholarships

Five doctoral students from the Faculty of Medicine were recently awarded prestigious Vanier Scholarships as part of a Canadian-government-funded program to attract and retain world-class talent at the doctoral level. Among those chosen to receive \$50,000 a year for three years to support their leading research are Dana Bailey from the Department of Biochemistry, Lisa Buchy from the Department of Neuroscience Studies, Sylvanne Daniels from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Serene Joseph from the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, and Thérèse Lennert from the Department of Physiology. Congratulations to these students on this well-deserved honour!

Faculty of Medicine Thinks Dangerously

To "think dangerously" involves asking provocative questions, exploring new approaches and seeking solutions. In the fall of 2008, the Faculty of Medicine launched a comprehensive strategic planning process by this name to "think dangerously" about its future in response to a rapidly evolving health sciences field that defines this era. The goals: to identify the most influential movements within three domains – education, research and the professorial life cycle – define best practices, assess current strengths and plan the way forward. Teams of faculty members, staff and students, along with Dean Levin, a steering committee and an external advisory group, are investigating these issues and will table their report in the coming months.

Plenty of challenges exist in today's health sciences landscape. In education, which is constantly being transformed by technological innovations, the Faculty must anticipate future health care needs and identify how to best prepare students to address them. The Faculty is also reassessing its research priorities to decide which fields will be most fruitful and to leverage its strengths to build world-leading investigative teams in these areas.

The Think Dangerously process involves revisiting organizational structures and activities across many levels for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research assistants, as well as full- and part-time faculty members. For the professorial life cycle, strategies for recruiting and retaining both full- and part-time faculty members remain a critical concern. Likewise, there is a need to engage the professional wisdom and experience of faculty members post-retirement.

Stay tuned for additional news as it emerges throughout this planning process.



GROS RECEIVES KILLAM PRIZE

Philippe Gros, PhD'83, James McGill Professor of Biochemistry, has won Canada's most prestigious career research award, the \$100,000 Killam Prize, in recognition of his groundbreaking work in the field of genetics. Gros is a world leader in the study of resistance to drug treatments and susceptibility to malaria and other infectious diseases.

In addition, he led the team of researchers that recently identified the gene causing spina bifida and was the first to identify a gene family that renders certain cancer cells resistant to drug treatment.

Owen Egan



Heather Munroe-Blum, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, with Philippe Gros (centre) and Dean Richard I. Levin

News from the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy



Owen Egan

Graduate students (from left) Shang Yuan Teng, BSc(OT)'07, Sabrina Figueiredo and Ana Maria Rodriguez, BSc'99, BSc(PT)'04, MSc'08, are pursuing studies in rehabilitation science with Nancy Mayo.

Training Students: An Honour and a Privilege

Nancy Mayo, MSc(A)'78, PhD'86, is known for her innovative thinking and for encouraging students to challenge the depth of their knowledge. "What would Nancy do?" is a question students often ask themselves when faced with a problem. It became such a common phrase that in December 2008, Mayo's students gave her a box of grey rubber wristbands with the letters "WWND" inscribed on them to symbolize this question. "It's the greatest honour they could have bestowed on me. Now, when other students consult me, I'm supposed to give them one of these bracelets," she says with a smile.

A proud McGill alumna, Mayo is now an active researcher in the Department of Medicine, a member of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, as well as an associate member of the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health. Her research focuses on tracking outcomes – the results of particular health care practices and interventions on patients, including mortality and quality of life – for people with chronic, physically disabling conditions. "Over the years we have looked at various interventions that improve the outcome of stroke," says Mayo. "Now we have a project called 'Getting on with the Rest of Your Life After Stroke.' The focus is to incorporate interventions into the patients' everyday lives after they leave the hospital." Her research also extends to other diseases, such as cancer and multiple sclerosis.

An essential part of Mayo's livelihood centres on the students who comprise her team. She is passionate about training the next generation of health care professionals so that they learn how to deal with emerging epidemics in chronic disease. "It's really a privilege, as a professor, to have an impact on students," she says. "They need to recognize that they are the most valuable resource we have."

Mayo's approach to research has greatly influenced how she approaches training: She thinks seriously about the outcomes of those she supervises. "My responsibility," she says, "is to make sure students have access to enriched learning opportunities that expand their career choices."

While her academic goals are serious, Mayo really enjoys her work, and takes every opportunity to share this feeling with her students, who she calls her extended family. "We have a lot of fun," she says. "I'm in my office every day. The students are all here in my unit, and my door is always open."

INAUGURAL LECTURE SERIES CELEBRATES LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

"I believe that many of the skills we possess as physical and occupational therapists are extremely relevant for today's leaders," said Martha Piper, PhD'79, DSc'98, during her speech at the inaugural Edith Aston-McCrimmon Lecture held on January 25, 2009. "Getting people to be the best they can be: That's really what leadership is all about." Piper's keynote address focused on the challenges and traits of leadership, a topic befitting such a remarkably talented woman who, once upon a time, was director of McGill's School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and vice-president of Research and External Affairs at the University of Alberta, and president and vice-chancellor of the University of British Columbia.

Speaking in front of a few hundred educators, students and practitioners, Piper talked about the nerve, dedication, energy and courage needed to participate in a new era of responsibility and lead physical and occupational therapy within Canada into the next century and beyond.

The Edith Aston-McCrimmon Lecture Series is an annual event hosted by the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy in honour of Edith Aston-McCrimmon, a former McGill professor who inspired so many in the field through her dedication and hard work.

For more information on the Edith Aston-McCrimmon Lecture Series, please visit: www.mcgill.ca/spot/events/eamlectureseries.



Owen Egan

Martha Piper (left) and Maureen Simmonds, director of McGill's School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, with a certificate of appreciation for Donald McCrimmon, whose generous donation has made the lecture series possible

News from the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders



Karen Cavanagh

Martha Crago (second from right) with her son Peter Crago, BSc'05, her daughter Anna Louise Crago (far right) and Amy Buckland, MLIS'08

Commemorating a Life of Research and Academic Leadership

On a warm, rainy April afternoon, a small crowd of researchers, students and speech pathologists gathered in the Dawson Gallery of McGill's Redpath Museum. Among the walrus skulls and taxidermy exhibits, the guests chatted over a glass of wine. They were there to honour Martha Crago, BA'68, MSc(A)'70, PhD'88, winner of the inaugural 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award for Research Leadership from McGill's School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (SCSD). "She has accomplished so much, both clinically and as a researcher," says Marc Pell, associate professor and a former colleague of Crago's who attended the reception. "And she's taken her expertise out of the field into high academic positions. She's really got the whole package."

Crago has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments during her career in academia. Since her first position as clinical coordinator at the SCSD, Crago has published two books and over 60 articles and book chapters; served as dean of McGill's Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies programs and as vice-rector (International and Student Life) at Université de Montreal. She is currently vice-president (research) at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She is also the editor of the journal *Applied Psycholinguistics* and vice-president of the International Association for the Study of Child Language. Crowning all of these achievements, Crago has just been named *Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes Académiques*, one of the oldest civil honours bestowed by the government of France, for her promotion of French culture and France-Quebec relations.

When she started university, Crago had not planned on a career in speech pathology and language acquisition. It was her mother who suggested that she explore the option, "probably because I'm a big talker," jokes Crago. Her research took off when she was asked to give a course to teachers in an Inuit community in Northern Quebec and realized that her ideas about language acquisition did not apply in this diverse cultural and linguistic setting. Crago's curiosity took over, and she set about trying to discover why and how language acquisition differed for this population. This same passion for understanding has guided her through more than 20 years of research in the field.

At her lecture following the award ceremony, Crago spoke of her accomplishments with a wry sense of humour: "It has gone from soup to nuts. That's me: someone with a big appetite."

A SUPERVISOR'S INFLUENCE

If you ask Diane Pesco, MSc'95, how Professor Martha Crago influenced her, she will tell you that it was thanks, in part, to Crago that she pursued an academic career. Pesco first met Crago as a master's student under her supervision at the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She was drawn to Crago because of her multidisciplinary approach to language acquisition research, but the more she got to know her supervisor, the more she appreciated her as a teacher and a mentor. "She was profoundly encouraging," says Pesco. "The contagious enthusiasm that she had, and still has, for her work made it very appealing."

Pesco went on to complete a PhD under Crago's guidance and now works as an assistant professor in the Department of Education at Concordia University in Montreal. Her current research is focused on the conversational and narrative skills of children of diverse abilities and from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. "She had a huge effect on me," says Pesco about Crago. "She helped me navigate my career path to where it is today."



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Diane Pesco chatting with one of her graduate students at Concordia University

Working Together to Give Hope

“In Canada, people are lucky,” says Evangelista Koyombo. “In Tanzania, we could say that all of us live with HIV.” Koyombo is referring to not only the high prevalence of the disease in her home country but also the devastating effect it has had on families and communities. As a nurse with Highlands Hope, an association of nurses who work as HIV/AIDS counsellors and caregivers in the southern highlands of Tanzania, Koyombo sees the destruction on a daily basis.

Koyombo and Betty Liduke, a fellow nurse and coordinator of Highlands Hope, were in Montreal earlier this year to meet with McGill Nurses for Highlands Hope, a charitable academic organization that was established in February 2006. The partnership between McGill and Highlands Hope provides support for nurses in Tanzania and gives nursing students at McGill educational and research opportunities in global health. In 2008, McGill nursing students Andra Leimanis, MSc(A)'09, and Jacqueline Bocking, MSc(A)'09, spent four months in Tanzania working on global health studies projects. Two more students will be going there this fall.



Nurses Evangelista Koyombo (left) and Betty Liduke lead the Highlands Hope program in Tanzania.

Professor Madeleine Buck, BScN'79, MSc(A)'87, the director of McGill Nurses for Highlands Hope, continues to expand the program and develop innovative ways to help their Tanzanian counterparts. “This is a grassroots partnership that has grown before our very eyes,” says Buck.

“You can start with small things and then you can grow,” says Liduke, who stresses the importance of taking things *polepole* (Swahili for “slowly”) while finding out what works. And she knows the challenges that lie ahead. “The prevalence [of HIV/AIDS] is going down,” says Liduke, “but we still have to work hard. We need to continue to help people change their behaviour, and this will take time.”

Both Liduke and Koyombo were enthusiastic about their visit to Montreal and to McGill. Apart from strengthening the relationship with the University, the two Tanzanian nurses gained strategic planning skills to help ensure the long-term viability of the Highlands Hope program. Before they left, they had already started to plan how best to share and use the knowledge they would bring home with them.



INNOVATION IN PRACTICE

Nursing student Jason Hickey completed his mental-health rotation at Montreal's Douglas Hospital on an in-patient ward for adults with severe intellectual deficiencies and chronic psychiatric problems. It was the first time a nursing student had worked in the unit, and no one was sure what to expect, least of all Hickey. Armed with a BSc in psychology and the knowledge he gained in his first year of McGill's Direct-entry Nursing Master's Program, Hickey had a strong theoretical foundation but little practical experience. Nevertheless, he was determined to apply the collaborative model of nursing he had been learning at school within this challenging environment. In just a few weeks, Hickey succeeded in drawing out a patient with serious behavioural problems and helped the unit staff develop a new care plan for this individual.

The Direct-entry Nursing Master's Program is tailored to university graduates, like Hickey, who have no previous background in nursing. The only program of its kind in Canada, it has a long-standing reputation for fostering excellence and innovation. “The program not only teaches you the current state of nursing,” says Hickey, “but it also shows you where nursing should be.”

Hickey's next challenge is a 14-week research project and clinical placement in Thailand with the International Organization for Migration. He does not know yet where nursing will take him, but looks forward to finding out.

Class of 2009



Nicolas Morin

“I never thought this day would actually come. It’s a really great feeling.”

– Ruth Ronn, Graduate

From left: Medical graduates Cam-Tu Nguyen, MDCM’09, Chao Li, MDCM’09, Mathieu Blanc, MDCM’09, Marie-Pierre Dallaire, MDCM’09, and Laurence Poliquin-Lasnier, MDCM’09

Pride, joy, anticipation and sadness – these were just a few of the sentiments expressed by Stephanie Thibaudeau, BSc’05, MDCM’09, featured on the cover page, and her 175 classmates as they celebrated their long-anticipated graduation day in May.

“It’s surreal,” said Ruth Ronn, MDCM’09, a member of the graduating class of 2009 and the winner of the Brian Newton Memorial Award for high academic standing in obstetrics and gynecology. “I have to say I never thought this day would actually come. It’s a really great feeling.”

Louise-Helene Gagnon, MDCM’09, was moved by the sense of collegiality in the air. “It’s all our friends who are getting prizes,” she said, “and there’s recognition of everybody, as well as of specific people. It’s very emotional to witness that.”

Fellow graduate H el ene Weibel, MDCM’09, was happy to share in the moment with her family. “I’m very proud, very proud of my daughter,” said her mother, Christine, standing by her side. “She has worked so hard to get where she is.”

Loree Tamanaha, MDCM’09, and David Kaiser, BSc’03, MDCM’09, had a special reason for looking ahead to their future: They got married on June 20, just before starting their residencies at the beginning of July.

“This is a graduation, the end of an experience; this is a commencement, the beginning of an experience. It is both,” said Dean Richard I. Levin, addressing the roomful of graduates and their families and friends at the Dean’s Awards Ceremony, held as part of the convocation activities. Levin spoke of the new challenges confronting global medicine that the graduates will undoubtedly face.

Following the presentation of special awards and honours, Zeeshan Mohammad Sardar, BEng’03, MSc’06, MDCM’09, class president, took a moment to share with the audience

how his journey into medicine began. Previously a student in electrical engineering and computer science, Sardar was inspired to study medicine after attending a McGill Mini-Med lecture and developing a passion for bones and joints, an interest that has led him to pursue a residency in orthopedic surgery.

Sardar’s story was particularly appropriate for the day, as Kappy Flanders – the woman affectionately known as the “Mini-Dean” for her role as founder of the popular faculty-based McGill Minis lecture series – received her own degree: an honorary doctor of law for her long and accomplished record of public service. Among her many contributions, Flanders helped to establish the Canadian Palliative Care Initiative and the McGill Council on Palliative Care, as well as being an active volunteer in the Jewish community for many years.

Convocation was also a moment to pay tribute to those who assisted the graduates on their journeys through medical school. A special group of faculty members, called the Osler Fellows, were honoured for having guided, mentored, advised and cared for this class over the last four years. This cohort of Osler Fellows has the distinction of being the first to complete the four-year mandate. Colin Chalk, MDCM’84, from the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, was also acknowledged as this year’s recipient of the Osler Award for Outstanding Teaching.

That afternoon, Rasa Izadnegahdar, MDCM’09, the class valedictorian, eloquently summed up the mixed emotions felt by all the health sciences graduates. He said that their experiences have been as varied as the people they are and the paths they will continue on. But he finished by emphasizing the common goal that they all share: the health and well-being of the people they will serve.

CLASS OF 2009 GRADUATION PRIZE WINNERS

JOHN H. ALTSHULER PRIZE IN FAMILY MEDICINE

- **Jella Angela An**, BSc'05, MDCM'09

J. FRANCIS WILLIAMS PRIZE IN MEDICINE & CLINICAL MEDICINE

- **Michael Joseph Goldfarb**, MDCM'09

E. DAVID SHERMAN AWARD IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE

- **Hanane Benbarkat**, MDCM'09

BRIAN NEWTON MEMORIAL AWARD (OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY)

- **Ruth Zoey Ronn**, MDCM'09

NEWELL W. PHILPOTT PRIZE (OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY)

- **Resa Rosenberg**, BA'05, MDCM'09

MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CUSHING MEMORIAL PRIZE (PEDIATRICS)

- **Maral Koolian**, BSc'05, MDCM'09

MONA BRONFMAN SHECKMAN PRIZE (PEDIATRICS)

- **Cam-Tu Emilie Nguyen**, MDCM'09

PSYCHIATRY PRIZE

- **Yaël Cécile Wolf**, MDCM'09

ROBERT FORSYTH PRIZE (SURGERY)

- **Sagi Haim Kaduri**, BEng'05, MDCM'09

- **Jenny Peih-Chir Tsai**, MDCM'09

CAMPBELL KEENAN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN CLINICAL SURGERY

- **Lauren Lapointe-Shaw**, BSc'05, MDCM'09

H. S. BIRKETT MEMORIAL PRIZE IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY

- **Tamara Mijovic**, MDCM'09

DR. MARK COHEN PRIZE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

- **Jella Angela An**, BSc'05, MDCM'09

RONALD DOUGLAS NAYMARK AWARD

- **Zeeshan Mohammad Sardar**, BEng'03, MSc'06, MDCM'09

ALEXANDER D. STEWART PRIZE

- **Charles Leduc**, MDCM'09

DR. ALLEN SPANIER PRIZE FOR PROFESSIONALISM IN MEDICINE

- **Jonathan Ailon**, MDCM'09

ELIZABETH ANN MUNRO GORDON PRIZE

- **Timothy Lussier**, MDCM'09

REILLY MADSEN MEMORIAL PRIZE

- **Marie-Renée B-Lajoie**, MDCM'09

MCGILL ALUMNAE SOCIETY PRIZE

- **Noémie Savard**, MDCM'09

WOOD GOLD MEDAL

- **Rasa Izadnegahdar**, MDCM'09

- **David Jeremy Kaiser**, BSc'03, MDCM'09

HOLMES GOLD MEDAL

- **Cam-Tu Emilie Nguyen**, MDCM'09



Nicolas Morin



Owen Egan



Nicolas Morin



Nicolas Morin

Top left: David Kaiser (left) and Rasa Izadnegahdar (second from right), co-recipients of the Wood Gold Medal for outstanding clinical performance in the Clerkship Period, pose with Dean Levin and Joyce Pickering, associate dean of Medical Education and Student Affairs.

Bottom left: Medical graduates (from left) Jacinthe Lavigueur, MDCM'09, Oriane Ramos-Paque, MDCM'09, and Anne Leblanc, MDCM'09

Top right: Dick Pound, McGill University's former chancellor, with honorary degree recipient Kappy Flanders

Bottom right: Class president Zeeshan Sardar addresses his classmates and their families and friends at the Dean's Awards Ceremony.

Mentors & Mentors-to-Be



Owen Egan

Darla Orchard (left) works on a writing exercise with AQPA member Norm Goodman and student volunteer Krystina Antonecchia, BA'09.

Learning Together

Darla Orchard, BA'88, MSc'91, did not expect to win the 2009 Mentorship Award from the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists presented in May of this year. But for those who know her, it comes as no surprise.

Orchard began her career as an administrator with the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, placing students for clinical training. It was a natural transition when she became a speech pathologist to then train students herself. Affiliated professionally with McGill since 2002, she has developed off-campus satellite clinics for student training, first at the *Centre hospitalier Richardson* in Montreal and then with the *Association québécoise des personnes aphasiques* (AQPA), where she has been since 2008.

With the help of the speech pathology students she is coaching, Orchard has been able to establish regular English-language group therapy sessions at the AQPA for people who suffer from various degrees of aphasia, which is impairment in speech comprehension and production. Typically, it's the students' first experience working with aphasic patients. "The feedback has been very positive," says Orchard. "And the group members love having the students. Many of them enjoy knowing that they're part of training a young professional."

The way Orchard sees it, they are all learning together. "The thing about students is that they keep you on your toes," she says. "I really appreciate what they bring to my clinical practice."

"The thing about students is that they keep you on your toes. I really appreciate what they bring to my clinical practice."

Far from Ordinary

Shawn Cohen, BSc'90, MDCM'94, has only good things to say about his former professor Miguel Burnier, and they agree with each other on many fronts, but not on this: Cohen believes that Burnier has had an extraordinary impact on him and others he has mentored throughout his career. "I'm a very ordinary person," demurs Burnier. Instead, he credits others around him.

Cohen first met Burnier during his interview for his ophthalmology residency at McGill. Burnier was then chair of the department, and Cohen was immediately impressed. "You can recognize when someone is a leader," he says of that first encounter. "It shows right away." Cohen left the interview humbled and not at all sure of his chances of being accepted. It turned out that he was accepted, and since then he has come to know Burnier as a teacher, a mentor and a good friend.

Cohen has been inspired by Burnier's dedication to clinical research. Aside from his investigations into cancers of the eye, Burnier was recently named associate director of Clinical Research at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. "If it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be doing research," says Cohen. Burnier's influence shows: Cohen currently has four different research projects on the go, in addition to his work as a clinician and an assistant professor at McGill.

In February 2009, Burnier stepped down as departmental chair after over 15 years at the helm. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to being in regular contact with residents and students. He does not deny the effects of his influence, only its source, attributing his colleagues, the University, his students and even his country with creating "extraordinary circumstances."

"You can recognize when someone is a leader. It shows right away."



Owen Egan

Shawn Cohen (left) and Miguel Burnier



Leaders of Tomorrow

Marie-Renée B-Lajoie during her internship at the WHO international headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

Marie-Renée B-Lajoie, MDCM'09, is not someone to shy away from a challenge. So when the fourth-year medical student read a posting for an internship with the Child and Adolescent Health and Development program at the World Health Organization (WHO), she decided to apply. To her surprise, she was accepted. "WHO internships are really hard to get," she says. "In the end, I was pretty lucky."

For those who know Lajoie, it's obvious that there was more than luck involved in landing the internship. "I wasn't one of those people who knew since the age of five that I wanted to study medicine," says Lajoie. What was clear, however, was her interest in helping people. A native of Shawinigan, Quebec, Lajoie spent time abroad as a child in countries as culturally divergent as Romania and Haiti, since her father's job required the family to travel frequently. When she returned to Quebec, she retained an interest in the developing world, and a group trip to Peru as a volunteer in a health centre during her teens solidified her desire to pursue medicine. "That's really how I fell into medicine," says Lajoie. "The centre I worked with was overseeing the treatment of malaria in the Amazonian region. I got to travel to raise awareness about malaria – it was an amazing experience."

As well as becoming interested in global health issues during her adolescence, Lajoie was also heavily involved in the local community. While working as a counsellor at a youth centre in her hometown, she began to develop an awareness of the specific health issues facing children and adolescents. When she arrived at McGill to begin her career in medicine, Lajoie continued to work with young people. Together with other McGill students, she formed a group called Sexperts to raise awareness about sexual health among teenagers.

"I think that's when I started to like public health," says Lajoie. "Working for a group, looking at what their needs are, what we can do to help and what is being done elsewhere in the world is really motivating."

Although an internship at the WHO involving children's health issues seemed a natural fit for Lajoie, she arrived in Geneva in March of this year feeling a little intimidated. "I mean, this is the WHO international headquarters," she says. "There are about 4,000 people working here. It's huge!"

“Working for a group, looking at what their needs are, what we can do to help and what is being done elsewhere in the world is really motivating.”

The 23-year-old quickly found her bearings and started work on a project examining treatment options available for children with HIV and the costs associated with their implementation. "What I found so great about this internship," says Lajoie, "is that it's not just about the specific knowledge of my project. I also acquired a lot of general skills." Lajoie finished her six-week internship in mid-April, and, after completing her exams at McGill, she returned for an additional three weeks to finish a proposal related to her project.

After graduating in May, Lajoie started her residency in family medicine at McGill and is thinking about doing a master's in public health after that. She plans to practise in Quebec, but hopes that one day another opportunity to work with the WHO will present itself. With her credentials, that opportunity is well within reach.

Family Medicine



McGill Launches First-of-Its-Kind Program in Canada

The number of Canadian medical students choosing careers in family medicine has been steadily declining over the last decade. And the problem is not just in Canada or in North America, according to Charo Rodríguez, program director of the new master of science in Experimental Medicine – Family Medicine Option at McGill University. Rodríguez, who is originally from Spain, is conducting research on this very topic with colleagues in Europe. “Family medicine research is still underdeveloped,” she says. “There is not only a decline in interest in the profession relative to other specialties but also an under-representation of family medicine as a recognized medical research field.”

Rodríguez is therefore particularly excited about the new master’s option at McGill, which will officially begin in fall 2009. The objective of the program is to increase the research skills and capacity of family physicians interested in carrying out research in their field. Rodríguez took part in the planning process for the program, together with the chair of the Department of Family Medicine, Martin Dawes, and other faculty members, including Miriam Boillat, MDCM’83, Vania Jimenez, BSc’67, MDCM’71, Gillian Bartlett-Esquillant, BS’94, MSc’96, PhD’01, Pierre Pluye and Laura Shea.

“We think that family medicine is a very inclusive field of inquiry,” says Rodríguez. “A characteristic of this program is that we provide research training in quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods approaches. The integration of these three research perspectives is one of the unique strengths of our program.” It is the first program of its kind in Canada and one of only a handful worldwide. Rodríguez believes that it will have a critical impact by making the field more attractive to physicians as well as contributing to the understanding and practice of family medicine.

The new graduate program is just one of the ways that McGill’s Faculty of Medicine has been working to promote family medicine across Canada, and specifically within Quebec. Over the last five years, McGill has helped achieve an exceptional 80 percent retention rate of family medicine residents in Outaouais, a region for which McGill is responsible under the Quebec health care system. In addition, in the summer of 2008, McGill, along with a consortium of partners, launched *Campus Santé Outaouais* to further develop and consolidate medical education and increase the number of graduates in the region.

Other measures taken by McGill to promote family medicine include increasing the number of family physicians teaching in the first 18 months of medical school; extending the family medicine clerkship from four weeks to eight weeks in duration; implementing a required number of days that second-year medical students have to spend in a family physician’s office; and creating a McGill Family Medicine Interest Group, which meets regularly to discuss pertinent issues. McGill is also participating in a round table organized by Yves Bolduc, Quebec’s health minister, on access to family medicine and primary care services in the province.

“I really believe in it,” says Rodríguez about the program. For her, this is just the first step. By the time the first cohort of master’s students finishes, she hopes a PhD option will be in place.

McGill’s Faculty of Medicine has been working to promote family medicine across Canada, and specifically within Quebec.

For more information about McGill’s master of science in Experimental Medicine – Family Medicine Option, visit www.mcgill.ca/familymed/mastersprogram.

Faculty Kudos

Are you a McGill Faculty of Medicine academic who has kudos to share with the alumni community? Email us at communications.med@mcgill.ca.

Photomédia



Owen Egan



Mostafa Elhilali, new inductee to the Order of Quebec (left), pictured with Premier Jean Charest; Moshe Szyf (right) addresses the crowd at the GlaxoSmithKline Professorship in Pharmacology announcement on May 13, 2009.

McGILL'S LATEST CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS (CRC):

- **Andrew J. Reader**, Tier 2 (New), CRC in Positron Emission Tomography Imaging
- **Sven Wassmann**, Tier 2 (New), CRC in Vascular Biology
- **Erik P. Cook**, Tier 2 (Renewal), CRC in the Physiology of Visual Perception
- **François Fagotto**, Tier 2 (Renewal), CRC in Vertebrate Embryonic Development
- **William J. Muller**, BSc'81, PhD'86, Tier 1 (Renewal), CRC in Molecular Oncology
- **Karsten Steinbauer**, Tier 2 (Renewal), CRC in Neurocognition of Language

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION (CAME) 2009 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS:

- **Armand Aalamian**, MDCM'88
 - **Richard Gosselin**
 - **Madhukar Pai**
- **Tommy Alain** was awarded the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) 2008 Jean-François St-Denis Fellowship in Cancer Research.

- **Hugues Barbeau** was the recipient of the 2008 Reeve-Irvine Research Medal for his investigations into spinal cord repair.
- **Howard Bergman**, BSc'67, MDCM'69, was named vice-president and scientific director of the *Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec* in April.
- **Farhan Bhanji** was co-recipient of the CAME 2009 New Educator Award.
- **Franco Carnevale**, BScN'78, MSc(A)'83, MEd'86, PhD'94, MSc'97, received the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing's Outstanding Contribution to European Nursing 2009 Award and has been appointed a lifelong member of the organization.
- **Mostafa Elhilali**, PhD'69, received the first-ever 2009 American Urological Association Lifetime Achievement Award in April. He was also appointed an officer of the National Order of Quebec in June.

- **Philippe Gros**, PhD'83, won a 2009 Killam Prize from the Canadian Council for the Arts for his trailblazing research in the field of genetics.
- **Michael Kramer** received the 2009 Earle W. Crampton Award for Distinguished Service in Nutrition.
- **Michael J. Meaney** was the 75th Annual Salmon Lecturer at the New York Academy of Medicine in December 2008.
- **Brenda Milner**, PhD'52, DSc'91, was shortlisted for the National Sciences Engineering and Research Council's Herzberg Gold Medal. She was also promoted to a grand officer of the National Order of Quebec in June.
- **Heather Munroe-Blum** was appointed as officer of the National Order of Quebec in June.
- **Bernadette Nedelec** was awarded the Harvey Stuart Allen Distinguished Service Award by the American Burn Association in March.
- In November 2008, a research team led by **Sonia Seminic**, with co-researchers **Luisa Ciofani**, BScN'81, MSc(A)'90, **John Kayser**, BScN'98, and **Danielle Hone** received the Prix Marie-France Thibaudeau from the *Fondation de recherche en sciences infirmières du Québec* for a clinical study entitled, "Improving Perinatal Tobacco Use Screening, Documentation and Referral Practices Among Hospital-based Perinatal Nursing Staff."
- **Moshe Szyf** was awarded the inaugural GlaxoSmithKline-CIHR Professorship in Pharmacology, funded by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. and CIHR.
- **Mark A. Ware** received a 2009 Neuropathic Pain Research Award from Pfizer Canada.

2009-2010 FACULTY HONOUR LIST FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

- **Renzo Cecere**, BSc'86, MDCM'90, Surgery
- **Kenneth Doyle**, MBA'83, Emergency Medicine
- **Lucy Gilbert**, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Roland Grad**, MDCM'84, Family Medicine
- **Nancy Mayo**, MSc(A)'78, PhD'86, Physical and Occupational Therapy
- **Hema Patel**, Pediatrics
- **Celia Rodd**, Pediatrics
- **Jeffrey Wiseman**, BSc'72, MDCM'76, MA'05, Medicine



From left: Jeffrey Wiseman, Nancy Mayo, Kenneth Doyle, Lucy Gilbert, Roland Grad, Yvonne Steinert, associate dean of Faculty Development, and Renzo Cecere (missing from photo are Hema Patel and Celia Rodd)

Owen Egan

Global Launch



Lauren Andrews

Enjoying a cocktail at the New York Dean's Rounds event are (from left): Linda Del Greco, Naemi Stilman, MDCM'81, Nathaniel Rudykoff and Richard McCarthy, MDCM'84.

By the end of this calendar year, Dean Richard I. Levin will have travelled some 20,000 kilometres, visiting hundreds of alumni, from coast to coast and across international borders, with the Dean's Rounds tour. Along the way, he will stop in cities like New York, Edmonton, San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Montreal, Boston and Toronto – all as part of the official launch of Medicine Alumni Global. With the tagline “Mapping the future of health care together,” this new Faculty of Medicine alumni program is designed to reach out to our over 19,000 alumni across North America and around the world as we engage in critical dialogue about the opportunities before us in today's global health care climate.

As part of this initiative, the Faculty of Medicine is especially delighted to announce the inaugural 2009 McGill Medicine Alumni Global Awards to honour the exceptional talents of alumni, including those from the schools of Nursing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Communication Sciences and Disorders. From serving the world's poor to pioneering major scientific breakthroughs, from orbiting space to traversing the most remote regions of our planet, the alumni we want to recognize are creating the future of health care delivery today. (See the advertisement on page 17 for more details.)

Medicine Alumni Global is supported by an esteemed group of alumni and friends who form the Dean's Leadership Council. Comprising accomplished academics and clinicians from some of North America's most prominent medical schools, the Council will help broaden the reach of the Medicine Alumni Global program.

Stay tuned for more information about Medicine Alumni Global and the Dean's Rounds tour or visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/alumnicorner. Together, we will map the future of health care.

DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- **Richard I. Levin**
Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine, McGill University
- **Arnold Aberman**, BSc'65, MDCM'67
Professor and former Dean of Medicine, University of Toronto
- **John C. Beck**, BSc'45, MDCM'47, MSc'51, DSc'94
Professor Emeritus of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles
- **Richard L. Cruess**
Professor and former Dean of Medicine, McGill University
- **Haile T. Debas**, MDCM'63, DSc'05
Executive Director, Department of Global Health Sciences
Former Chancellor and Dean of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
- **Victor J. Dzau**, BSc'68, MDCM'72, DSc'08
Chancellor, Health Affairs, Duke University
- **Abraham Fuks**, BSc'68, MDCM'70
Professor and former Dean of Medicine, McGill University
- **Joseph Martin**, DSc'94
Professor and former Dean of Medicine, Harvard University

Honorary Members

- **Hélène Ezer**, BSc(N)'68, MSc(A)'77
Director, School of Nursing, McGill University
- **Maureen J. Simmonds**
Director, School of Physical and Occupational Therapy
Associate Dean (Rehabilitation), Faculty of Medicine, McGill University



Lauren Andrews

Dean's Leadership Council member Richard Cruess (left), with James Mead, MDCM'58, and Sylvia Cruess



Homecoming 2009



Nicolas Morin

The Medicine class of 1973 poses for a photo during McGill's 2008 Homecoming. This could be you and your classmates!

Do you remember taking anatomy classes in the Strathcona building or hiking up the steep hills of Pine Avenue West on your daily sojourn to McIntyre? Perhaps you recall the exciting feeling on your first day of clerkship.

Share your fondest McGill memories with the ones who helped make them special. Join us for this year's Homecoming, from Wednesday, October 14, to Sunday, October 18, for five days of fun and reminiscing with old friends, colleagues and faculty members.

Be sure to attend the entertaining Leacock Luncheon, the popular Classes Without Quizzes lecture series and the festive Martlet, Jubilee and James McGill dinners for classes celebrating milestone anniversaries. Homecoming has something for everyone, and most events are open to all graduates and their guests.

The Faculty of Medicine will host its own festivities starting on Friday, October 16, with the annual Dean's Reception and the medical seminar presented by the Medicine class of '84. The Dean's Reception will be held for the first time ever in our new state-of-the-art Life Sciences Complex. Don't miss the chance to join friends, faculty and staff in a tour of the Complex. The reception is open to all Medicine alumni, including those from our affiliated schools of Nursing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The reception will also feature the much-anticipated announcement of the winners of the inaugural McGill Medicine Alumni Global Awards. (For more information about this awards program, see the advertisement on page 17.)

The 2009 Homecoming brochure, available in August, will provide full details on the weekend's many events as well as registration information. Be sure to book early as space for certain activities is limited.

Class reunion plans are under way for alumni who graduated in the following years: 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1999. Class representatives will mail reunion itineraries and other pertinent information to alumni as plans unfold throughout the summer.

To learn more about this year's schedule of events, please visit the Faculty of Medicine's Alumni Corner website at www.medicine.mcgill.ca/alumnicorner or contact Emily Kingsland at 514-398-1299 or emily.kingsland@mcgill.ca.

We look forward to welcoming you home!

Medicine Class Representatives and Reunion Committees

- 1949 Lawrence Hampson, BSc'47, MDCM'49, MSc'53
- 1954 Ian Hutchison, BA'50, MDCM'54; Robert Paulette, BSc'52, MDCM'54
- 1959 Jack Cohen, BSc'55, MDCM'59; Paul Rosman, BSc'55, MDCM'59
- 1964 Philip Beck, MDCM'64; Joel Paris, MDCM'64
- 1969 Frances Griffiths, BSc'65, MDCM'69; David Holbrooke, BSc'64, MDCM'69
- 1974 Emmett Francoeur, MDCM'74
- 1984 Michael Shevell, BSc'80, MDCM'84; Roland Grad, MDCM'84; Darius Bagli, BSc'80, LMus'80, MDCM'84; Mitchell Shiller, BSc'80, MDCM'84; Olga Huk, BSc'80, MDCM'84
- 1989 Ramin Khorasani, MDCM'89
- 1999 Mai-Anh Le Van, BSc'95, MDCM'99; Marc Zerey, BSc'95, MDCM'99, MSc'03

Nursing Class Representatives and Reunion Committees

- 1979 Madeleine Buck, BScN'79, MSc(A)'87; Nancy Feeley, BScN'79, MSc(A)'86, PhD'01
- 1999 Sara Bélanger, BScN'99; Geneviève Aubé, BScN'99

Volunteers are needed to organize reunion activities for the Medicine classes of 1979, 1994 and 2004. For more information, please contact Emily Kingsland at 514-398-1299 or emily.kingsland@mcgill.ca.

Alumni Moments

Sharing the successes of our alumni with the McGill Faculty of Medicine community

Claudio Calligaris



Reunions and Recognition at the MAA Honours & Awards Banquet

McGill is fortunate to have a large base of dedicated people who, each day, strive to make it a better place to learn, to work and to grow. In mid-May, some of these inspiring individuals were recognized at the Honours & Awards Banquet held annually by the McGill Alumni Association (MAA) to celebrate alumni, faculty members and staff who have been outstanding volunteers in the service of the University.

The Faculty of Medicine was well represented. "I'm extremely honoured," says Saul Frenkiel, BSc'67, MDCM'71, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology and winner of the David Johnston Award, named in honour of former McGill principal David L. Johnston. Dedicated and eternally optimistic, Frenkiel has co-chaired the Department of Otolaryngology's Annual Head and Neck Fundraiser since 1995, raising over \$1.8-million for the Head and Neck Oncology Endowment.

Also in attendance was Irving Fox, BSc'65, MDCM'67, winner of the E.P. Taylor Award for outstanding voluntary service to the McGill Annual Fund. Fox helped organize the Medicine class of 1967's 40th reunion in 2007, which raised over \$80,000. He is currently the co-chair of the Alma Mater Fund Council

for the Boston region. "I was absolutely flabbergasted," says Fox about finding out he had won the award. "I just do my work quietly and I don't expect anything – except to feel good that I am helping McGill."

The Medicine class of 1981 was honoured with the D. Lorne Gales Award. Nancy Epstein, MDCM'81, was there as the class representative. "We had a terrific *esprit* in our class," she says, which is a feeling that has continued throughout the many reunions that the class has celebrated together. Epstein and her classmates organized a Homecoming Medical Seminar for their 25th anniversary reunion in 2006, and together they have raised over \$109,000 to support students.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Arnold Steinberg, BCom'54, LLD'00, who has spent over 50 years serving McGill in a variety of capacities, particularly as a champion and supporter of the Faculty of Medicine, McGill's teaching hospitals and the Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute. Steinberg was recently appointed McGill's new chancellor and will be formally installed at fall convocation in November. "I love the University," says Steinberg. "It's been the joy of my life."

F. JOHN SERVICE, MDCM'62, professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Minnesota, has received The Endocrine Society's 2008 Distinguished Physician Award for his contributions to the treatment of diabetes and hypoglycemic disorders. Service is renowned for developing intensive insulin therapy, as well as for successfully balancing teaching, research and patient care in his 40 years at the Mayo Clinic.

From top: Saul Frenkiel accepts the David Johnston Award from Ann Vroom, BA'67; Arnold Steinberg (left) with Linda Crelinsten, McGill Medical Simulation Centre assistant director, and Gordon Crelinsten, BSc'68, MDCM'70, associate professor of Medicine; Medicine alumnus Irving Fox; members of the Medicine class of 1981 (from left) François Bertrand, MDCM'81, Nancy Epstein and Henry Olders, MDCM'81



Courtesy of McGill Archives

Snapshot of a Life: There Is a Story Behind this Picture

"I wasn't afraid of anything because I didn't know enough to be scared."

The woman who thought she didn't have a chance at a scholarship, graduated cum laude with a BA in 1949. But the story doesn't end there. Feeling that she could make a better contribution to society if she had more education, Tremblett decided to go to medical school. Money was tight, and she supported herself by doing all kinds of odd jobs, including working part-time at the University bookstore and babysitting, which she preferred because she could study when the children were in bed. Things were still hard, but McGill came through for her again with another scholarship and a bursary.

In 1951, Tremblett remembers learning how to saw a cadaver's fingers, which her classmates assumed would make her faint. She quickly proved that she is not the fainting kind. After finishing her medical degree at McGill, she interned and then worked as a general practitioner in

Newfoundland for a few years and went on to study pathology at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She was a pathologist at the Northside General Hospital in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, until her retirement in 1991.

Tremblett is retired, but her story continues. She now travels widely on "adventure-type excursions." She has been to the Arctic, Greenland and Iceland, and she has crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a cruise-style sailboat. Once, she took a five-week trip around India by herself. This past March, she sailed on a tall ship around French Polynesia.

Near or far from Montreal, she never forgets how McGill changed her life. "It took a chance on me, and for that I am eternally grateful," she says. Apart from her many philanthropic gestures, which include supporting three children through World Vision, she has even left a gift to McGill in her will. "You can't always pay it back," she says, "but you can pass it on."

The story starts in 1945 in a four-room school in Bonavista, Newfoundland. A young woman named Hilda Tremblett, BA'49, MDCM'55, was finishing secondary school and thinking about her future. One of her teachers encouraged her to apply for a McConnell Scholarship to attend McGill University. Tremblett did not think she stood a chance, but she dutifully filled out the application form, sent it off and promptly forgot about it. That summer, she went to St. John's and took a teacher training course. It was, she says, what many Newfoundlanders did in those days. In the fall, she started teaching in Greenspond, a small community across the water from her hometown. Seven days into her new career, she received a telegram from her father. She had won a McConnell Scholarship. Her life was about to change.

Over 60 years later, the memories come flooding back as Tremblett looks at a photograph of herself as a young woman, newly arrived at McGill. She says now that she had no idea what was in store for her. "I grew up in a Newfoundland outpost," she explains.



INAUGURAL MEDICINE ALUMNI GLOBAL AWARDS

Nominate someone for a McGill Medicine Alumni Global Award

Award Categories:

Lifetime and Career Achievement Award

Presented to an alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine who has enhanced the reputation of McGill University through a lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership

Alumni Award for Community Service

Presented to an alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine who has made outstanding contributions to the betterment of local and/or global communities

Young Alumni Award

Presented to an alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine who, within 15 years of graduation, has made important contributions to society and to McGill University

Nomination deadline:

September 1, 2009

Announcement of winners:

October 15, 2009, during McGill's Homecoming celebrations

Nominees can be alumni from the Faculty of Medicine, including the schools of Nursing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

For more information, visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/alumnicorner/awards or phone 514-398-5924.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Tell us about a career move, a recognition you've received or a contribution you've made to the health field.

To submit an alumni moment, please email communications.med@mcgill.ca, phone 514-398-5283 or send a letter to:

**Faculty of Medicine
Communications Office
McGill University
3640 de la Montagne, Room 102
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 2A8**

Alumni Moments



Daring to Draw

“I’m an octogenarian ophthalmologist with a passion: art!” proclaims Sean B. Murphy, MDCM’47, in his book *Dare to Draw: La passion du dessin*. Inspired by the late neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield, who wrote novels later in life, Murphy found a pastime that was just as fulfilling. An avid patron of the arts throughout his medical career, he decided when he was in his 50s to explore life as an artist. And that he has done, traversing the globe to draw, sketch and paint, while documenting his amateur foray with the purpose of inspiring others to embark on their own art adventures. Fondly reminiscing about what he refers to as his “second career,” Murphy admits, “I’ve learned to see, to really see. For an eye surgeon, that is no small disclosure.”

Dare to Draw: La passion du dessin is available for purchase in Montreal at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Boutique and Bookstore and the Visual Arts Centre, as well as online at www.amazon.ca and www.amazon.com.

Taking a break from a meeting in Belgium a few years ago, Murphy sketches while an audience of curious cows looks on.

Bringing Knowledge Back to McGill

Sero Andonian, BSc’97, MSc’99, MDCM’02, started his undergraduate degree at McGill in 1993. Now, 16 years later, he has returned to the same institution to work on the cutting edge of laparoscopy in the field of urology. In 2008, Andonian received the award for the Best Laparoscopic Paper at the World Congress of Endourology in Shanghai, China, for his research project on the brain activity of medical students and experts performing simulations of laparoscopic procedures. Andonian conducted the study during his fellowship in endourology at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center, under the supervision of Louis R. Kavoussi – a pioneer in laparoscopic urology. The research was funded in part by the Quebec Urological Association Foundation. With this experience under his belt, Andonian has returned to his alma mater as an assistant professor in urology at the Royal Victoria Hospital. He is excited about this next move in his career. “I love McGill,” he says. “It’s an honour to come back.”



Daniel Burke

DAVID REICH, MDCM’89, is the new chief of the Division of Multi-Organ Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia. An internationally recognized leader in solid organ transplants, and especially in complex liver surgery, Reich is well known for his achievements as a clinician, educator, scientist and administrator.

A History in Letters

For microbiologist Robert Murray, MDCM’43, DSc’07, his collection of family letters was nothing more than an ancestral record. But for historian Donald Avery, these correspondences were a treasure trove. Murray’s father, Everitt G.D. Murray, was an eminent microbiologist who established the Department of Bacteriology at McGill University in 1931. Murray followed in his father’s footsteps and developed the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Western Ontario.

Father and son wrote to each other over the years about the challenges they encountered in scientific medicine. The book portrays Murray’s transition from student to successful academic and his father’s impact on microbiology at McGill. Avery, along with Mark Eaton, compiled their written exchanges, along with other family and professional letters, and in January 2009, *The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930-1964* was published by the Champlain Society. “Now our family letters are a part of Canadian social history,” says Murray, who turned 90 this year. “What an odd, but exciting feeling.”

The book is available at the McGill Bookstore or can be ordered online through the Champlain Society’s website: www.champlainsociety.ca.

Key Dates

Medical Education Rounds

All Medical Education Rounds will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Jonathan C. Meakins Amphitheatre, McIntyre Medical Sciences Building (5th floor), 3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, Montreal.

- November 19, 2009: *Mindful Practice* by Ron Epstein
- December 10, 2009: *Innovations in Medical Education: Teaching Scholars Program Graduation*, featuring Paola Fata, MDCM'95, Christine Meyers, MDCM'95, Jay Nadeau, Teresa Valois and Patrick Willemot, BSc'97, MDCM'00

For more information about these and other workshops or to register, contact the Faculty Development Office at 514-398-2698 or visit www.mcgill.ca/medicinesfacdev/programs.

Centre for Continuing Health Professional Education (CCHPE)

McGill's CCHPE offers several series of fully accredited presentations for medical students, physicians, medical and surgical residents, and other health care professionals.

The Thursday Evening Learning Series features presentations on hot topics in medicine, delivered by leading health care professionals. The upcoming 2009–2010 calendar will include talks on endocrinology, respirology, otolaryngology, emergency medicine, ophthalmology, lifestyle and nutrition and more. The presentations will be held at the Charles Martin Amphitheatre in the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building and can be viewed online as webcasts.

- September 10 to December 10, 2009, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The CCHPE also offers weekly rural Web conferences for health care professionals in remote areas. The interactive presentations are held each Wednesday (in English) throughout the academic year and are posted on McGill's CCHPE website. More than 700 lectures are currently available online.

For more information and to register, visit www.cme.mcgill.ca or email cme.specialevents.med@mcgill.ca.

McGill Mini-Med Lectures 2009

- *Sense and (Non)Sense*: Learn about the merits of the human sensory system and its potential shortcomings.

All Mini-Med Lectures will be held in the Charles Martin Amphitheatre, McIntyre Medical Sciences Building (6th floor), 3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, Montreal.

October 21 to November 25, 2009

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

For more information about Mini-Med, visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/minimed.

Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital 75th Anniversary Celebration & Gairdner 50th Anniversary Celebration

November 1 to 4, 2009

For more information, visit <http://apps.mni.mcgill.ca/MNI75>.

HOMECOMING 2009

October 14 to 18

25th Anniversary Medical Seminar, presented by the Medicine class of '84

October 16, 2009

8:00 – 11:30 a.m., McIntyre Medical Sciences Building (6th floor), 3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, Montreal

Dean's Reception

October 16, 2009

4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Life Sciences Complex-Bellini Atrium, 3649 Promenade Sir William Osler, Montreal

School of Physical and Occupational Therapy

Alumni Wine and Cheese Reception

October 16, 2009

4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Hosmer House, 3654 Promenade Sir William Osler, Montreal

For more information, email admincoord.pot@mcgill.ca.

Tours of the McGill Medical Simulation Centre

October 17, 2009

Hourly tours from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

McGill Medical Simulation Centre, 3575 Avenue du Parc, Suite 5640, Montreal

For more details, see page 15 or visit

www.medicine.mcgill.ca/alumnicorner and navigate to "Homecoming 2009 Schedule of Events."

DEAN'S ROUNDS

Hosted by Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine Richard I. Levin, the Dean's Rounds cocktail receptions for Faculty of Medicine alumni and friends will be held in various cities across North America.

- September 14, 2009, San Diego*
- September 15, 2009, Los Angeles*
- September 17, 2009, San Francisco*
- September 18, 2009, Seattle*
- October 16, 2009, Montreal (during Homecoming 2009)
4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Life Sciences Complex-Bellini Atrium, 3649 Promenade Sir William Osler
- October 28, 2009, Toronto
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., University Club, 5380 University Avenue

* Time and venue to be confirmed

For more information, visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/alumnicorner/events.htm or phone 514-398-3206.

For a complete listing of alumni events in your area, visit www.alumni.mcgill.ca/aoc/events-travel.

medicine alumni en route to
HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 14-18, 2009

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