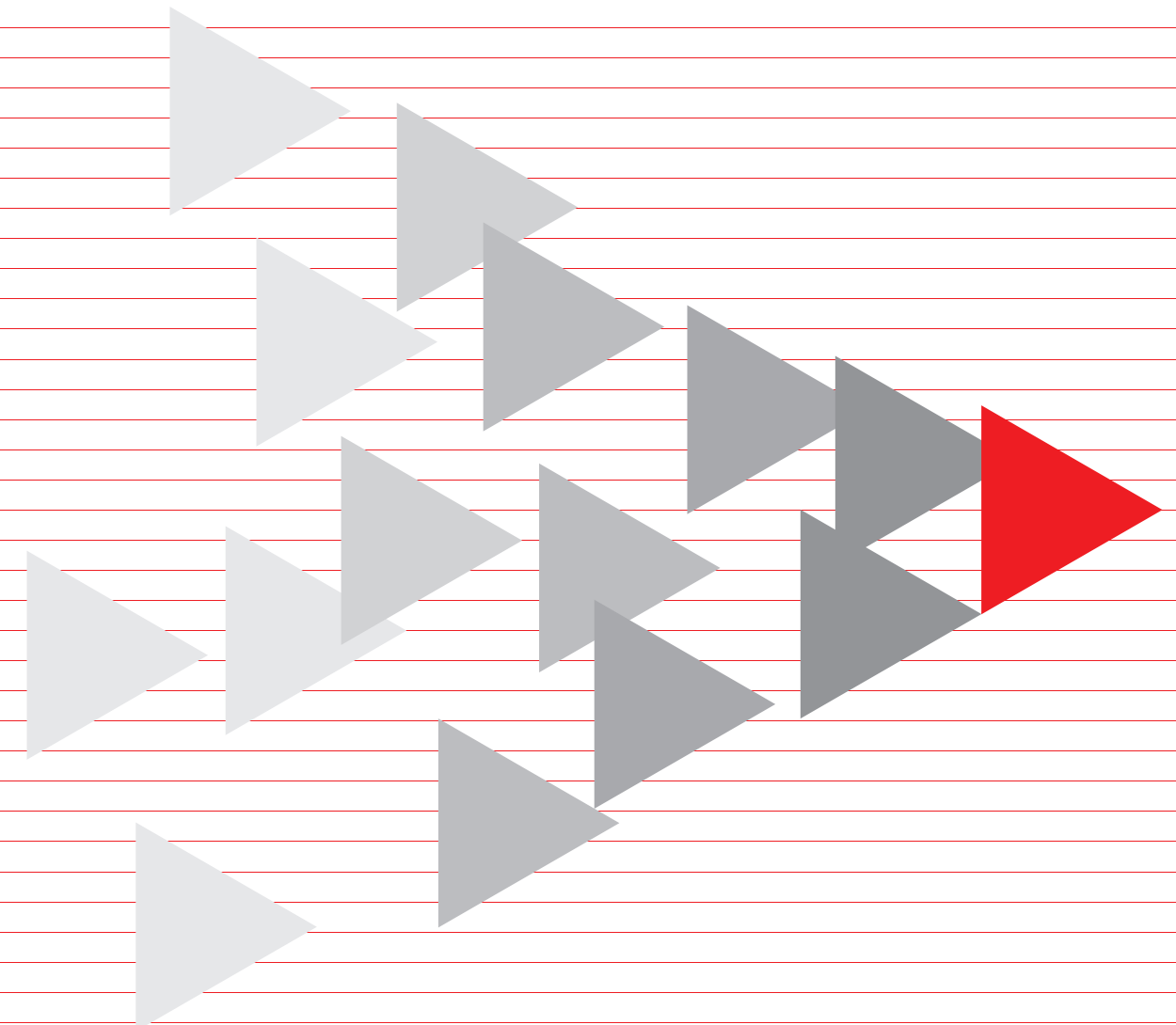


SAMUEL E. ABERMAN — Montreal, Que.: Civil; Captain, Combined Charities; Chairman, Engineering Blood Drive '63; Vice-President, Phi Epsilon Pi '63; Co-Chairman, Civil Society Banquet '64.

SAMUEL ABERMAN, BENG'64, WAS A GRADUATE OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF ENGINEERING. HE BEGAN HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AS A BUILDER AND DEVELOPER IN 1968 WHEN HE FOUNDED DIVCO LTD. FOR OVER FORTY-TWO YEARS HE WAS RENOWNED FOR HIS INGENUITY, KEEN SENSE OF INNOVATION, AND A DAUNTLESS ABILITY TO CONCRETIZE HIS MANY PROJECTS. SAMUEL'S COMPANY DIVCO HAS A CORPORATE MOTTO WHICH PROUDLY STATES "WE HAVE EARNED THEIR TRUST". THIS HARD-WON ACHIEVEMENT, FORTIFIED BY DETERMINATION, FORESIGHT AND COMMITMENT, RANKED SAMUEL AMONG THE RARE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO IMMEASURABLY IMPROVED THE COMMUNITY. HIS LEADERSHIP, DEVOTION TO HIS EMPLOYEES, AND NUMEROUS COMMUNITY PROJECTS WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED.

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GENEROUS GIFT FROM THE ABERMAN FAMILY IN HONOUR OF SAMUEL ABERMAN.



## THE FIFTH ANNUAL SAMUEL ABERMAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016  
4:00 - 7:00 PM  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MACDONALD ENGINEERING BUILDING LOBBY

MESC McGill Engineering Student Centre

Faculty of Engineering  
University Advancement Office



Faculty  
of  
Engineering





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## TARIQ FANCY

FOUNDER OF RUMIE

## THE FIFTH ANNUAL SAMUEL ABERMAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

### THE PROGRAM

- 4:15 PM WELCOME  
Professor Mohamed Meguid  
Associate Dean Student Affairs,  
Faculty of Engineering
- 4:20 PM DEAN'S REMARKS  
Professor Jim A. Nicell  
Faculty of Engineering
- 4:35 PM PRESENTATION  
BY TARIQ FANCY
- 5:20 PM QUESTION PERIOD
- 5:50 PM RECEPTION

Tariq Fancy is Founder of the Rumie Initiative, which uses technology to leapfrog global access to education. Rumie was founded in 2013, awarded World's Best Social Startup in 2014, and is the subject of a January 2016 Harvard Business School case study. Rumie is working with partners in 15 countries and has just launched a project for Syrian refugee children.

Rumie previously worked in technology investment banking in Silicon Valley before becoming youngest Partner at a New York private equity firm, where he led early investments in developing countries to leapfrog landlines with mobile phones. Tariq has published economic research on how to drive innovation in Canada. He holds an Honors BA with Distinction from Brown University, including one year studying PPE at Oxford University, a Masters in Economics and Public Policy from Sciences Po Paris, and an MBA with Distinction from INSEAD. Tariq speaks four languages.

The following is an excerpt from a Paul Hunter Toronto Star article that explains how Tariq Fancy's Rumie Initiative is helping children in the developing world to learn, despite their lack of access to traditional schooling.

#### Tariq Fancy believes he can change the world.

So much so that the Torontonian abandoned a very lucrative salary as the youngest partner at a Wall Street investment firm and turned in his keys to a loft in Manhattan's Greenwich Village so he could come home to share a two-bedroom apartment over a noodle house on Baldwin St., earn no salary and chew through his savings.

He did all that because of his faith in The Rumie Initiative, a non-profit organization he began in 2013 to educate children in developing countries. Rumie distributes tablets preloaded with textbooks, interactive lessons and other instructive tools to areas where access to education is either limited or non-existent.

A special emphasis is placed on getting them into the hands of girls in places where it is often impossible or dangerous for them to attend school. In 2014, a priority was Liberia, where Ebola forced the closure of schools.

The tablets are ingenious and impressive. They can hold up to 10,000 textbooks and be updated online. But they are designed to be self-contained and used in areas where there is little or no Internet access. Due to long battery life, it costs less than a dollar a year to keep them powered.

"A library for the cost of a book" is how Fancy describes one of the tablets.

"The simple goal is to lower the economic barriers to an education," says Fancy, who exudes contagious passion for the project.

"The one thing that can improve the world the most is education. There are so many problems we could solve — climate change, human rights, poverty, war . . . The best way to solve them is to educate a billion kids who are underserved today. If you give tomorrow's adults all the tools, they'll be able to solve all those problems."

So why does a man who was educated at four different universities—Brown, Oxford, the Institute of Political Science in Paris and the international business school INSEAD—who is entering his prime earning years, pack it all in for an idealistic dream?

Fancy said it was a combination of both boredom and the sense he was "living somebody else's dream . . . I think there are diminishing returns at some point in making money. As long as you're comfortable, the real focus ought to be on what actually makes you happy, what excites you."

Some insight into Fancy's life helps understand what drives him. His parents are from Kenya and of South Asian background. His dad worked for Air Canada, so he spent much of his youth travelling cheaply. He grew up with a well-honed sense of the bigger world and its disparities.

There were also personal experiences that dramatically shaped Fancy's perspective. He recalls two of his mother's brothers, both brilliant. One was healthy and became a top lawyer; the other took ill, was in a wheelchair and struggled to pursue his education in Nairobi before dying relatively young.

It troubled Fancy that someone "super intelligent, super capable" didn't get adequate access to education.

"I've been lucky in life. I'll never be living on the street, I don't think, but I don't want to live with regrets. If I can give the next five years to something I'm absolutely convinced will change the world, I'll just do it. I don't care if I have to work 100 hours a week or burn through my savings or whatever. That emotional push gives you lots of strength."

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