



Fall 2017

Congratulations to Professors Barrington-Leigh, Bennett, and Brown.



Chris Barrington-Leigh (McGill School of Environment and the Institute for Health and Social Policy) has been granted tenure with promotion to the rank of Associate Professor at McGill University.



Elena Bennett (McGill School of Environment and Natural Resource Sciences) will be inducted as a new member into the Royal Society of Canada for her work on how best to manage landscapes to provide multiple ecosystem services, the benefits people obtain from ecosystem, including products such as food and freshwater as well as non-material benefits such as places for recreation and processes for flood control.



Peter Brown (McGill School of Environment) received the Herman Daly Award for outstanding contributions to ecological economics and sustainable development, awarded by the U.S. Society for Ecological Economics. Prof. Brown received the award for creating the program called "Economics for the Anthropocene: Re-grounding the human/Earth relationship," a SSHRC-funded partnership between McGill, the University of Vermont and York University.

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- ◆ Welcome new professor, Hamish van der Ven
- ◆ Top 30 under 30 in Sustainability
- ◆ Guest speakers:
Barbara Cosens - Law
Jodi Hilty - Conservation
- ◆ Austin Rikley-Krindle, U1 and youngest elected regional town council official
- ◆ Climate change and endangered species
- ◆ Amazing awards



Corporate Knights

Meet the 2017 Top 30 Under 30 in Sustainability

By CK Staff, Fall Issue 2017

"It will be difficult to induce the profound changes that our society needs by acting alone. It is rather by helping to build solidarity within communities, where everyone will come to put the shoulder to the wheel, that we will succeed in making change."

"While certain political forces seem to pull us back, I do think that we're getting better at having difficult conversations, at deep thinking and learning, and at realizing that sustainability means tackling a full range of problems in order to build more equitable and inclusive societies."

Taking stock of emerging leadership across Canada.



Gabriel Meunier, 26

Montréal/Lanaudière, Quebec

B.Sc. (Ag.Env.Sc.) Major Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation domain (Winter 2013 graduate)

During the day, Gabriel works as the project manager for energy and climate change at the Lanaudière Regional Environmental Council, while in the evening sitting down with citizen groups.

Gabriel has chaired the Équiterre de Lanaudière Action Group for several years. Dozens of the group's actions have helped to increase awareness of sustainability issues among the region's population. He is also a director of Bécik Jaune, a community-based self-service bicycle project, and joined the organizing committee for the provincial consultations regarding pipeline issues and the arrival of the oil sands bitumen in Quebec.

In 2015 Gabriel was honoured at the Gala Florilège organized by the Forum Jeunesse de Lanaudière for his commitment and perseverance to environmental issues in the area.



Amelia Mary Brinkerhoff, 24

Montréal

B.Sc. (Ag.Env.Sc.) Major Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation domain (Winter 2016 graduate)

Amelia is a recent graduate of the McGill School of Environment, where she focused on systems thinking, urban sustainability and food systems. Eager to learn from and be engaged with the Montréal and McGill communities from the start, Amelia collaborated with McGill's head chef to create the new position of student sustainability coordinator for McGill's Food and Dining Services.

During her three years in this position she established long-term commitments around waste, procurement and engagement practices and proved to be a key force behind a culture of sustainable food at McGill. After receiving McGill University's Catalyst Award in 2016 for this work and other contributions to the McGill sustainability community, Amelia was hired to craft the university's new Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. In this role, she facilitates complex, inclusive conversations about strategic decisions and climate action, and aims to strike the balance between earnest ambition and on-the-ground realism.

For a number of years, Amelia has volunteered with the Montréal community organization and food hub Santropol Roulant. She was recently elected to its board of directors, is active with the Montréal YMCA, YWCA and Native Women's Shelter and recently joined the Food Secure Canada Youth Caucus.

MSE Annual Environment Public Lecture Guest

Making the Case for Large Landscape Conservation.

Given climate change and the decline of species globally, the world needs to shift to large landscape conservation. The Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) represents one of the first large landscape collaborative visions in the world, and similar efforts have been initiated around the world. Achieving large landscape conservation requires protecting core areas and connecting them. To do so, requires cutting-edge science, community-based engagement, and enabling policy and management conditions.



In the twenty years since the inception of the Y2Y vision, protected areas in the region almost doubled, management designations on other lands also increased conservation value, and the region went from few wildlife crossing structures to arguably the most progressive wildlife crossing structures. Evidence from science, Y2Y and other large landscape efforts offer a number of lessons of how we need to move forward to continue to achieve conservation at scale.



We also welcomed Barbara Cosens who spoke on *“Indigenous Capacity and Self-Determination in the Review of the Columbia River Treaty: The role of law, resilience, and reconciliation”*.

**Jodi Hilty, PhD
President and Chief
Scientist
Yellowstone to Yukon
Conservation Initiative**

Dr. Jodi Hilty is an internationally recognized wildlife corridor ecologist and conservationist, with over 20 years of experience managing large-scale conservation programs.

Dr. Hilty has spearheaded several ground-breaking initiatives, including developing the scientific basis for expanding Canada’s Nahanni National Park, guiding policy toward protecting the “Path of the Pronghorn,” the first U.S. federally-designated wildlife corridor, and conducting the science that proves the need for expanded land protections in the trans-border Crown of the Continent area linking Montana with Alberta and British Columbia.

**Barbara Cosens
Professor and
Associate Dean of
Faculty,
University of Idaho
College
of Law**



YourLocalJournal
Photo by James Armstrong

Austin Rikley-Krindle (left), who strongly supports initiatives such as Hudson Heartbeat Community Farm, is seen here chatting with farm directors, Rébecca Phaneuf-Thibault and Loïc Freeman-Lavoie after a recent farm tour.

Global Health Scholars Award

Congratulations to Tassia Araujo, a third year BSc Honours student majoring in Environment-Ecological Determinants of Health.



The McGill Global Health Scholars program is designed to provide opportunities for McGill undergraduate students to learn about global health through research and outreach projects.

Tassia is involved in a research project, "Exposure to Indoor Residual Spraying Insecticides to Control Malaria and Child Health in South Africa: The VHEMBE Study, with Dr. Jonathan Chevrier (Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health).

Austin Rikley-Krindle, a first year MSE student, has recently won a seat on the Hudson Town Council (Hudson, QC) as a District 2 councilor. This makes him the youngest elected official in the region to date, being only 19 years old.



One of his passions is to help restore Pine Lake back to a beautiful state. After the Pine Lake dam broke, during tests on the water in the lake, he realized there were also environmental issues happening. Pine Lake is an integral part of the watershed, filtering water flow and removing pollutants. Recognizing his town's need to focus on growth to recreate a strong foundation for its citizens, businesses, and future, he started attending town meetings in an effort to obtain a more global view of topics discussed.

Austin's election platform stated that his "goal if elected is to foster a relationship that incorporates the strong Hudson values of charm, nature, and independence, using innovative, creative and modern thinking. I bring the council a fresh young perspective who is not afraid to think outside the box. As a McGill university student, I have access to the latest research on sustainability, planning and ecological economics. On a daily basis, I have conversations with professors who are studying, teaching and are implementing these new practices."

Austin is currently in his first year of his B.Sc. Degree, majoring in environmental studies and policy at McGill University. The MSE looks forward to guiding him in his research interests.

Vivian Lewin Field Study Endowment Award

Congratulations go out to Isabella Siemann, a second year BA Joint Honours student in Environment and English Literature, for being awarded the Vivian Lewin Field Study Endowment. It is awarded to meritorious MSE undergraduate students to support students who wish to take a McGill recognized field study program abroad, or have a pre-arranged independent course or honours course that involves field research abroad.



"To the generous donors of the Vivian Lewin Field Study Endowment Award,

The African Field Studies Semester will offer direct exposure to my favorite areas of study, ecology and evolution, in a setting that demands cultural awareness. As an aspiring science journalist, the amalgamation of field research experience, cultural immersion, and interaction with a world completely different from my own will give me the opportunity to develop my own critical thinking skills and journalistic style. Because writing is such a powerful tool, I hope to investigate science through writing: combining interviews, research, and visits to field sites. It is one thing to be hired as a writer, but it is another thing entirely to publish quality, culturally-appropriate articles.

This field study will give me the opportunity to reach this standard, while recognizing that with writing, there is no end to improvement. The Vivian Lewin Field Study Award will allow me to take further Swahili language courses over the summer for further immersion, invest in journalistic equipment (a high quality camera and a professional website), and ultimately shape what will likely be the most defining moment in my professional, personal, and academic development- which would not be a possibility for me without this award.

Thank you for donating. I hope to pay it back through my work."

Isabella

**Introducing
Hamish van der Ven,
Associate Professor,
MSE & Political
Science.**



**We welcome him to the
MSE team!**



Hamish is interested in global environmental politics, transnational governance, international political economy and corporate social responsibility. His research seeks to explain why private actors get involved in global environmental governance and under what conditions they will create credible regulatory solutions to environmental problems.

This award aims to recognize the integral and valuable contribution that academic advising makes to undergraduate student life at McGill. Advisors provide guidance to students, assisting them in making informed academic choices in light of their learning, career and life goals. Advisors help students succeed academically by providing timely, accurate and coherent information about University regulations and program requirements, and by working, as appropriate, with other University services and resources.



**Congratulations
to Kathy Roulet, MSE Program
Advisor, for winning the Dean of
Students 2017 Award for
Excellence in Undergraduate
Academic Advising.**



Anthony Ricciardi, Professor, MSE and the Redpath Museum, wins the 2018 Frank Rigler Award.

First presented in 1984, the Award recognizes and honors major achievements in the field of limnology by Canadians or those working in Canada. Emphasis in selection is given to established aquatic scientists with a proven record of contribution to the field of aquatic sciences, whose work is widely recognized for its influence and importance.

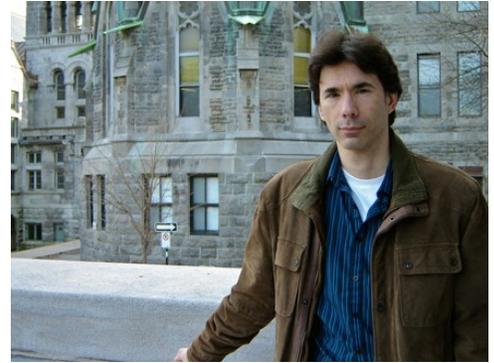
<http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2017/11/anthony-ricciardi-wins-frank-rigler-award/>

The Office of Sustainability is proud to recognize the diverse efforts that take place at McGill to grow toward campus sustainability.

<http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/about/catalyst-awards/2017-awards>

The office continues to recognize one outstanding student with the Emerald Key award. The Emerald Key is given out to a student who has made an outstanding and enduring contribution to the sustainability movement at McGill University.

Anthony Ricciardi, professor of Invasion Ecology and Aquatic Ecosystems, has been named the recipient of the 2018 Frank Rigler Award, the highest honour given by the Society of Canadian Limnologists.



Ricciardi is affiliated with the Redpath Museum, the McGill School of Environment and the Faculty of Science. His research seeks to develop a predictive understanding of species invasions, using a combination of field experiments, empirical modelling and meta-analysis. By looking at lakes and rivers, he examines why some species are better invaders than others, why some cause greater impacts, and why some ecosystems are more vulnerable to invasion.

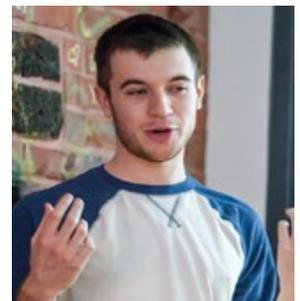


7th Annual Catalyst Award and Emerald Key Winner

John Lindsay

B.Sc.(AgEnvr) Hons. Envr. - Renewable Resource Mgmt. Graduate May 2017

John graduated as an honours student in Environmental Science (Renewable Resource Management) in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Academically, he used lessons learned from the multi-disciplinary environment program to create two research courses to study sustainable institutional food procurement. One was an applied student research project with eight other students, called 'The Real Food Challenge', which seeks to use third-party certifications to shift away from industrial junk food toward sustainable 'Real Food' in campus cafeterias.



The other was his honours project, titled "Socially-Sustainable Food Procurement for McGill University", where he has researched theoretical and practical limitations and opportunities to improving the social sustainability of food procurement at McGill.

John's experiences with McGill Food & Dining, the McGill Food Systems Project, the McGill Farmers' Market, Santropol Roulant, and the McGill Sustainable Procurement team has allowed him to learn about operational barriers to improving campus sustainability. Through his work as Food & Dining Sustainability Coordinator, John has expanded the scale and impact of food and waste education initiatives while improving food procurement auditing and reporting to better assess and actualize changes in institutional food procurement.

Over the past year, John has taken great interest in improving the scope and impact of fair trade on campus. His efforts helped make us the Fair Trade Campus of the Year, awarded by Fairtrade Canada, No. 1 among the 21 designated fair trade



Climate change and human-primate conflict: Predicting impacts on endangered species in China and Uganda.



The earth's climate has warmed significantly as the result of human actions and environmental changes are predicted to increase. It is estimated that 75% of all tropical forests present in 2000 will experience temperatures that are higher than the that presently supporting forests by 2100. Also, approximately 8% of all species are predicted to be driven to extinction by climate change.

But how does the scientific community help mitigate impacts? Previous research on the ecological impacts of climate change have been handicapped by not being long-term since it was not until the 1990s that the scientific community recognize the existents of climate change. We have formed a team to address such questions, focusing on endangered mammals in southwestern China.

We intend to use the lessons learned by the Canadian team over the last 30 years in Africa to guide the development of new program in China. The Canadian group was "lucky" and in 1989 when we started working in Uganda, we were given the data collected since 1970. This allowed us to document changes in mammal populations, plant community structure, plant nutritional value, disease, and their interactions. This team was "lucky" a second time as the site became a hotspot for climate change; the region now 4° C hotter than in 1900. Unfortunately, the Canadian team could not evaluate the mechanisms of the change, nor could they establish experiment to determine those mechanism, as we did not know climate was changing in 1989.

Our bilateral exchange will work in two sites in China to study the mechanisms driving the cascading ecological change associate with climate change at the ecology-to-mechanism level and with experimentation. With this type of knowledge the scientific community can contribute to the construction of informed management plans.

Main Investigators:

Colin Chapman
Professor,
MSE & Anthropology

Raja Sengupta
Associate Professor,
MSE & Geography

Research Team:

Pengfei Fan
Yang Liu
Fei Hangan
Ma Changyong



Golden snub-nosed monkeys (*Rhinopithecus roxellana*)
Endemic to the mountainous forests of central and Southwest China

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Gregory Mikkelson (Philosophy)

Anthony Ricciardi (Redpath Museum)

Raja Sengupta (Geography)

Renée Sieber (Geography)

Ismael Vaccaro (Anthropology)

Hamish van der Ven (Political Science)

Faculty Lecturers

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Your support helps us to address the environmental challenges of our time.

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