Who benefits WHEN YOU give to McGill?
Everyone.

Every year, McGill University is fortunate to count on the support of thousands of donors from all over the world. It is because of this generosity that we are able to ensure that McGill remains a place where global problems are solved, and where students from all backgrounds gain the tools and ambition to create a better, fairer and more prosperous world.

As McGill gets ready to celebrate its 200th anniversary in just three short years, we want to ensure that we continue to offer a diversity of talented students the opportunities that only a McGill education can provide, that we push boundaries and make innovative research advances that change lives for the better, and that we prepare the next generation of students and leaders to forge new paths as their world grows and transforms around them.

As you will see in the pages ahead, we are proud to say that we are well on our way. And we couldn’t do it without you. Thank you.
Because

WHEN YOU
give to

McGILL...
McGill is committed to giving every student an opportunity to gain hands-on experience and develop the skills they will need for an ever-evolving future.

Through funding for internships, field studies, conference and research participation, and the office networks that make it all possible, donors are providing students with access to life-changing experiential learning opportunities.

Every year, with your help, hundreds of students across every program of study get active with their learning – and take their education to the next level.

**MALICK ABDOULAYE ISSA**

Malick Abdoulaye Issa has completed his third year in the Faculty of Arts, where he is majoring in economics, with a minor in philosophy. With support from the Archie Malloch Undergraduate Internship Award in Public Learning, he worked as a summer intern at Atelier Céladon, a Montreal-based organization that helps emerging visual artists.

"From seeing aspects of the curatorial side, to learning how exhibitions are organized internally, to meeting artists at events, my internship gave me new skills and helped me improve on others. A highlight was getting to be part of the Toronto Art Book Fair, where we showcased publications, zines and other works by Atelier Céladon members, and interacted with people across North America who are engaged in the arts and artistic publishing."

**MAÎTHÉNA GIRAULT**

Maïthéna Girault, LMus’17, GrDipPerf’18, is the 2018 winner of the Golden Violin Award. Thanks to support from the Ann and Barrie Birks Travel Award, she was able to perform in the 2017 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition – the largest and most prestigious event of its kind in the world.

Performing as the Milton Quartet, Girault and three other Schulich students won top honours, taking home both the Grand Prize and Senior String Division Gold Medal.

"For a young performer like me, competitions like Fischoff are the perfect goal to strive towards. I found myself happiest, most inspired, and most motivated when working on making my own vision come to life onstage. And you get to hear and meet so many fantastic musicians – there is something to learn from every performer and even more to get inspiration from."

**HELEN LIN**

Helen Lin, a third-year Chemical Engineering student, was one of seven McGill Engineering students who attended the University Scholars Leadership Symposium, hosted by the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand. Her trip was made possible by the Faculty’s donor-supported Student Initiative Fund, part of its Empower program.

"In Bangkok, I had the chance to learn from the world’s greatest leaders and to feel once again like passion is enough to create tangible, sustainable and meaningful change – both within and outside of the McGill Engineering community. Experiences like this are life-changing, and it was such a privilege to be able to attend."

**CHRISTOPHER PATTERSON**

Christopher Patterson, a first-year Bio-resource Engineering student, received funding through the Bieler Family Internship Program to work with the Astrobiology Training in Lava Tubes program (ATiLT) at the Lava Beds National Monument in the Mojave Desert. Most of his time was spent cataloguing potential landing sites for a mission to Mars.

"If we keep up the current pace of technological development and sustain public interest in spaceflight, we may soon be able to look up at the moon and see lights from our colonies shining back down on us. I am excited to be a part of that."

McGill is committed to giving every student an opportunity to gain hands-on experience and develop the skills they will need for an ever-evolving future.
“From seeing aspects of the curatorial side, to learning how exhibitions are organized internally... my internship gave me new skills and helped me improve on others.”

MALICK ABDOULAYE ISSA

“I had the chance to learn from the world’s greatest leaders and to feel once again like passion is enough to create tangible, sustainable and meaningful change.”

HELEN LIN

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MAÎTHÉNA GIRAULT

“We may soon be able to look up at the moon and see lights from our colonies shining back down on us. I am excited to be a part of that.”

CHRISTOPHER PATTERSON
PHILIPPE-ANTOINE BILODEAU

While the challenges of global health and infectious disease are immense, the power to effect positive change often begins with a single student working across borders to make a difference.

Take Philippe-Antoine Bilodeau, a fourth-year McGill medical student and the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Freda M. Omaswa Travel Award for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, established to honour the legacy of an accomplished Faculty of Medicine graduate and promising researcher who passed away in 2016. The award (established by Omaswa’s classmates and funded through McGill’s Seeds of Change crowdfunding platform) allowed Bilodeau to travel to KwaZulu-Natal in northeastern South Africa in 2017 to work with local physicians and medical students.

“From treating patients suffering from tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, malnutrition and snake bites, to going out in the communities to provide care, I had a chance to see what rural family medicine is all about,” says Bilodeau. “My key tasks included seeing patients in the emergency department and various outpatient clinics, and accompanying the mobile clinics which went out into the villages to administer medications.”

Bilodeau, who is also a J.W. McConnell Scholarship recipient, says his internship in South Africa gave him insight into the various initiatives currently in place to fight HIV and TB epidemics, and provided an opportunity to understand the impact of living conditions, income and long-term discrimination on the health of individuals and populations.

“This travel award allowed me to gain a profound understanding of health as a whole, and of the importance of global health,” he says. “I’ve also had the privilege to see what actions are being taken to help fight infectious diseases in South Africa. I believe these experiences will not only make me a better physician, but a better citizen as well.”

In 2017-18, thanks largely to donor funding, 44 students travelled to 21 countries on 5 continents, with over $95,000 in support through the Global Health Travel Awards.
CASSANDRA RICHARDS

When Cassandra Richards sat down with Canada’s Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour to discuss measures to address violence against women in the workplace, she knew that her internship was something special.

“Having the opportunity to talk to Minister Patty Hajdu was exceptional and something I could never have done in a classroom,” says Richards, a third-year law student who interned as a junior policy officer at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations within the Human Rights division in Geneva in the summer of 2017.

Her experience was made possible thanks to funding from the McGill International Experience Awards (MIEA), established by McGill graduates Joseph Schull and Anna Yang in 2013. The opportunity meshed perfectly with Richards’s education, her abiding passion for human rights and access to justice, as well as her extensive volunteer work.

The MIEA internship allowed Richards to take her studies to the next level, learning about the global policies that enshrine human rights and giving her a firsthand understanding of the inner workings of the UN organization.

“My internship was during the time when Canada was working on the Human Rights Council resolution on the Elimination of Violence against Women,” says Richards, a native of Gatineau, Que. “So I was able to participate in the drafting of that resolution and sit in on negotiations with other countries around the world that have similar – or very different – views of human rights, while also learning about the art of diplomacy.”

Richards is now undertaking a second internship, through the Faculty’s donor-supported International Human Rights Internships program, which was expressly designed to increase access to out-of-the-classroom opportunities. She is working in Iqaluit, providing legal services to Nunavummiut residents in the areas of criminal, family, poverty, youth protection and civil law. Through these enriching experiences, she has acquired a profound appreciation for the impact of internships and the value of real-world experience in shaping her education, her career, and her life.

“I have learned so much, both personally and professionally,” adds Richards. “I’m extremely fortunate and grateful to have been able to do that.”

McGILL INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWARDS – FY18

$320K+ funding to students  
92 awardees  
37 countries  
6 continents

In the five years since Joseph Schull, BA’82, MA’85, and Anna Yang, BCL/LLB’87, made their commitment, the MIEA have provided over $1.1 million in funding to more than 340 students from faculties across the University. Through these international experiences, students have been placed in over 50 countries.
Above: Timothy Gibson, recipient of the Eric Mountjoy Fellowship, on Baffin Island, where he spent month-long periods for four summers doing fieldwork.
Opposite page: At left, Fellowship namesake Professor Eric Mountjoy; at right, Timothy Gibson and donor Anita Mountjoy.
Timothy Gibson’s geology research takes place in far-off locations and difficult conditions. But you won’t hear him complain. Thanks in large part to the Eric Mountjoy Fellowship, Gibson spent several months on the northern tip of Baffin Island in Nunavut, completing fieldwork for his geology thesis. Helicoptered into Arctic polar bear territory, he worked on about 20 different sites.

Thanks to this fieldwork, he was able to date an algae fossil that is the first example of a multi-cellular organism to use photosynthesis. It turned out to be about 150 million years younger than scientists had previously thought, about a billion rather than 1.2 billion years old. That discovery made it into the journal *Geology* and to mainstream news in 2017. “Overall, we’re looking at sedimentary rocks, trying to determine their age, and also understand the environments in which they were formed,” explains the new Dr. Gibson – he graduated from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences in spring 2018.

Gibson was the inaugural recipient of the Eric Mountjoy Fellowship in 2013. Although he never had the chance to meet the fellowship’s namesake professor, Gibson feels a certain kinship; in particular, he describes a shared approach to research. “Eric did a lot of the seminal work on the sedimentology of the Canadian Rockies, and he’s definitely an inspiration for me,” says Gibson, who’s originally from West Virginia. “Like him, I’m a sedimentologist looking at big picture questions.”

The Eric Mountjoy Fellowship was established by Earth and Planetary Sciences alumni, as well as colleagues, friends and family of Professor Mountjoy, including his widow, Anita Mountjoy, BN’66, MSc’76. Together, they honoured Professor Mountjoy’s memory by enhancing funding for outstanding graduate students in the department where he made his career.

Anita Mountjoy, herself a former faculty member in McGill’s Ingram School of Nursing, proved her unwavering support when she set up a bequest in support of the fellowship through McGill’s Bequests and Planned Gifts program. Without the fellowship, Gibson says, “I would have either had to go elsewhere or waited to start grad school at a later date.”

Mrs. Mountjoy was a constant throughout Gibson’s research adventures and successes. She often took him for lunch at local haunt Amelias Pizza, and even attended his thesis defense.

Despite the inherent challenges of the environment, including an August storm that dumped a half-metre of snow on his campsite, Gibson loved the opportunity to work in the Arctic: “It’s an absolutely incredible destination,” he says. “Being there in the summer when the sun doesn’t set, it just swings around overhead, is really energizing; you can potentially work 20 hours a day.” Gibson describes working on sea cliffs, seeing beluga whales, narwhals, and enormous icebergs: a truly unforgettable experience.

“*If you have the skills to access remote areas, there are a lot of outstanding research questions to be solved.*”

**TIMOTHY GIBSON**
Andrew Seinet-Spaulding shone in his debut season as a defensive tackle with the McGill Redmen football team.

He earned numerous accolades, including being named team MVP, making him only the third rookie in the team’s history to win that honour – a milestone initially achieved by Michael Soles, BA’89, who went on to play professionally in the Canadian Football League.

Seinet-Spaulding shares another tie to the famed Redman. The lineman is a recipient of the Michael Soles Football Award, which provides financial assistance to Redmen players in good academic standing.

“I wouldn’t know how I would be in school right now if it wasn’t for the Mike Soles award,” he says.

During his freshman year, Seinet-Spaulding also had a chance to meet Soles, who suffers from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). “He attends all the banquets that we have, so we get the chance to meet him and talk to him. He cheers us on – he’s always with us.”

Soles won 48 awards with the Redmen and played a pivotal role in their unexpected 1987 Vanier Cup victory, before graduating to a successful CFL career. In 2014, his former Redmen teammates looked for a way to honour him and his McGill football legacy. “It had to be memorable and it had to be lasting,” explained former Redmen slotback Bruno Pietrobon, BEng’89, when the Michael Soles Football Award was inaugurated.

Pietrobon and four other former members of the legendary ’87 Redmen team aimed to raise $80,000 on McGill’s Seeds of Change crowdfunding platform to endow the award. They quickly surpassed that, with donations ultimately reaching $250,000. The five organizers, along with Soles, won the McGill Alumni Association’s E.P. Taylor Award for their efforts.

Seinet-Spaulding has his own sights set on playing in the CFL, but his other long-term goal is to become a social worker. That dream is becoming a reality: having finished preparatory courses in Health and Social Services Management at McGill’s School of Continuing Studies, this fall he will shift into the Bachelor of Social Work program in the Faculty of Arts. All he’s wanted to do since he was young, he says, is to help troubled youth.

School and football involve a lot of work, but Seinet-Spaulding says that’s the life of a student athlete. “If you want to play football, you have to go to school. And school’s first.”

...STUDENT ATHLETES SHINE ON & OFF THE FIELD

Seven players, including Andrew Seinet-Spaulding (at right), have received the award named for McGill legend Mike Soles (above, in Redmen days).
The AI4Good Summer Lab has two laudable goals: to get more women working with artificial intelligence and machine learning, and to apply those technologies to solve social problems.

The lab is proving to be a hot ticket, having attracted nearly 50 participants, who came from across Canada to McGill for the collaborative summer boot camp, in its first two years.

“Yes, they learn the tech, but the key thing is that they build a network,” says Michelle Yu, BCom’16, one of several McGill alumni volunteers who help coordinate the program. “The women support each other and become friends. They all have similar goals and care about where one another are going next.”

The AI Summer Lab is an initiative of the OSMO Foundation, McGill’s Reasoning and Learning (RL) Lab, and the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms. It is co-organized with Google’s DeepMind AI lab. Members of the lab’s supporting team, like Yu, come from areas across McGill, including management, science, law, computer science and art.

A leader in the Montreal AI boom, Doina Precup heads up the city’s branch of DeepMind and is an associate professor in McGill’s School of Computer Science. She is also co-director of the RL Lab and an advisor for the Summer Lab. “It’s important to me to help train the next generations of machine learning researchers, to foster diversity and inclusion in the research community through AI projects for social good, and to build up the Montreal AI ecosystem,” says Precup.

“It’s clear she really believes in bringing more women into AI and computer science,” says Yu. “She’s a role model, and she uses her powerful voice to support programs like this.”

For corporate sponsors of the lab like Microsoft, which also supports the RL Lab, this kind of philanthropy is an investment, helping create a knowledge and talent pipeline for the future. As Montreal becomes a hub of AI research and innovation, corporations like Facebook and Good Ventures have also given generously to McGill’s tech initiatives, helping cement its place in Montreal’s AI evolution.

Six weeks go by fast for Summer Lab participants. Midway, a weekend hackathon is open to the public. “There was such great intermingling in the teams,” says Yu, discussing the most recent event, held at Desjardins Lab. “What was really surprising was that there was no group that was just men.”

For the last three weeks, participants work on an AI project to tackle a social problem. This year’s projects included a Braille-to-text converter, an application to identify gaps in access to health services across Montreal and Quebec using demographic data, and methods to use AI for optimizing power grids based on energy consumption.

“It’s kind of a tech sisterhood, where the women really push each other to do better,” says Yu of the lab environment.

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“**We know that people insert unconscious biases into the technologies they’re building, so that’s why gender balance is so important if we want products that are accessible and fair.**”

**MICHELLE YU**
In the mountains of Rwanda, Ernest Habanabakize is making things grow.

It’s no easy task: while 80% of the Rwandan population relies on agriculture, the country’s mountainous landscape makes soil erosion and the impact of drought constant threats to food security and sustainability.

For his master’s project, the Water Resource Management student is helping to understand how the use of radical terraces – gradated planting systems that reduce erosion – may have an impact on water quality in catchment areas further downhill.

Habanabakize came to McGill from his native Rwanda through the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, which provides academically talented young people from sub-Saharan Africa with access to a world-class university education. The program began in 2013, and McGill has already welcomed 81 MasterCard Foundation Scholars from 16 countries. The first cohort graduated in 2017.

“I wouldn’t be here if it was not for the MasterCard Scholar Program,” he says. “And that’s what has pushed me farther, to go and give back.”

Crucially, the program’s built-in component of internships back in Africa has allowed him to stay connected to his work in Rwanda. Before coming to McGill, Ernest worked as a community development professional on an Oxfam initiative that is developing disease- and drought-resistant strains of the tree tomato plant.

“We were grafting the existing variety to the wild variety, just to see what would happen,” he explains. “But we had a tremendous outcome – and our farmers are now enjoying high production from that variety.”

Habanabakize explains that once developed, this grafting work is simple: something that independent farmers can replicate for themselves. So the impact is quick to take effect. Habanabakize also leads agricultural workshops that help farmers, especially women, increase production and move from subsistence farming to bringing their products to market as entrepreneurs.

Scholarship support has allowed him to keep all of this valuable work going, in what spare time his studies allow. “It stems from the spirit of giving back to those who need it the most,” he says. “It stems from the fact that I was helped, to be who I am and where I am today.”

Now, Habanabakize is looking forward to graduating with his master’s degree this coming semester. It will be his second McGill certification: already quadrilingual, he completed an English proficiency certificate at the School of Continuing Studies in 2017.

“Generosity can have a substantial impact on the lives of many,” Habanabakize says. “Looking back on my life, I am a strong believer in the fact that all great progress is fueled by great compassion.”

Working with non-profits in Rwanda, Ernest Habanabakize (left) helps smallholder farmers develop plans to mitigate climate change effects on their farming activities.
“When you lead, and you want to help, you will see that the entire world aspires to help you, too. So, that’s what I see – and I believe in that world. And I will keep working very hard to grow my career, but also to keep helping the world to be a better place for everyone.”

ERNEST HABANABAKIZE
16 | WHEN YOU GIVE TO McGill

...WE IMPROVE HOW WE
DIAGNOSE AND TREAT
ILLNESS AND DISEASE

These transformative gifts, all celebrating milestone anniversaries this year, have dramatically enhanced collaboration between researchers and health care professionals across McGill and its hospital network. By uniting areas of strength, these gifts multiply our experts’ ability to develop a deeper understanding of disease and deliver more effective treatments to patients.

The impact of these visionary gifts is a new era of sharing knowledge and collaborating towards goals that benefit us all. As the years have shown, when walls come down, successes go up.

5-year anniversaries

Rossy Cancer Network

Linking centres of expertise to improve patient experience and reduce the burden of cancer

Ludmer Centre for Neuroinformatics and Mental Health

Using a big-data approach to lead discovery in neuroscience and advance the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders

10-year anniversaries

Francesco Bellini Life Sciences Building

Brining top Science and Medicine teams to work together under one roof as part of the McGill University Life Sciences Complex

Rosalind & Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre

Recruiting renowned scientists from around the world to join McGill and contribute to a cancer-free tomorrow

With gratitude to the Rossy Family Foundation, the Irving Ludmer Family Foundation, Francesco Bellini, and the Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation for their willingness to lead the way.
...NEW FRONTIERS
OPEN UP FOR STUDENTS
AND RESEARCHERS

In 2017-18, nearly 30,000 alumni and friends gave generously to McGill, laying the groundwork for the next wave of innovative teaching and research at the University. Among these contributions were visionary gifts that are driving discovery in neuroscience, finding new pathways for fighting infection and disease, and building innovative approaches to retail management using artificial intelligence. The initiatives they support explore the challenges facing the world’s democracies and promote global partnerships in architecture. And their generosity is expanding opportunities for students through scholarships, experiential learning and funding for student entrepreneurs.

A year in giving

2017

MAY 12 The Bensadoun School of Retail Management is established through a $25-million gift from the Bensadoun Family Foundation

JUL 18 The Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship receives $2 million from the John Dobson Foundation in support of the McGill X-1 Accelerator program for startups

SEPT 26 Alumnus Peter Fu donates $12 million to the School of Architecture; the school is subsequently named in his honour

OCT 23 The Azrieli Centre for Autism Research is created to foster innovative therapies and better understanding of autism spectrum disorder thanks to a $16-million gift from the Azrieli Foundation

NOV 7 The Max Bell School of Public Policy is established to train the next generation of policy leaders for Canada and the world, thanks to a $10-million gift from Max Bell Foundation

NOV 17 BMO Financial Group and the McConnell Foundation donate $3.25 million to the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal

2018

MAR 14 A record $1,878,453 is raised in a single day during McGill24

MAR 22 Seeds of Change, McGill’s crowdfunding program, celebrates closing its 100th student-led project

APR 26 A $15-million gift from the Doggone Foundation to McGill and the MUHC is targeted to support the fight against infectious disease and immune threats

APR 30 The McGill Fund closes a record year with $12.1 million raised from nearly 26,000 donors

MAY 3 Garvin Brown and Steffanie Diamond Brown endow a chair in Democratic Studies at the Max Bell School of Public Policy with a $5-million gift

JUN 20 The Irving Ludmer Family Foundation provides $10 million in additional funding to bolster brain research and establish a Global Brain Consortium at the Ludmer Centre for Neuroinformatics and Mental Health

JUL 12 The Chan Kwok Wai Foundation helps create a new Learning Commons with the latest technologies and digital resources in the Faculty of Education, thanks to a $1-million donation
YOUR IMPACT
2017-18

THE BIG PICTURE

$173M raised
29,486 donors

10 new members welcomed to the James McGill Circle, which now includes

275 members who have each given $1 million or more

Individual Donors
34.9% from Quebec
16% from the rest of Canada
49.1% International

THE Mcgill Fund
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Nearly 26,000 donors gave a record

$12.1M to The McGill Fund (↑ 5%)

Best-ever #McGill24: nearly
$1.9 million raised (↑ 34%)

Donations of $250 or less
added up to $2.3 million in gifts

POWERFUL LEGACIES
97 donors contributed a total of

$6.3M in planned gifts
STUDENT SUCCESS

3,600 need-based bursaries and loans granted to students

1 in 6 full-time degree students received some form of financial aid

1,000+ first-year undergraduates received entrance scholarships and awards

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

McGillConnect online mentorship platform membership ↑ almost 30%

6,654 McGillConnect members had 2,348 coffee chats/meetings, and exchanged 17,686 messages

16,976 alumni attended

415 events around the world

POINTS OF PRIDE

- 41,000 students from 150 countries
- No. 1 Medical/Doctoral University in Canada for 14 consecutive years – Maclean’s 2019
- No. 33 in the world – QS University Rankings 2019 (only Canadian university in top 35 for 16 years running)
- Over 275,000 living alumni in over 180 countries – including over 9,200 new alumni from the Class of 2018
- 144 Rhodes Scholars (including 2 more this year – bravo, Alexander Lachapelle and Clare Lyle!)
- 12 Nobel Prize Winners
- 5 astronauts (including 1 more this year – congratulations, Jennifer Sidey!)
Thanks to alumni and friends, McGill’s top-ranked MBA program has a new home: the Donald E. Armstrong Building.

The creation of a new building for the Desautels Faculty of Management’s MBA program – one of two hallmark projects in the MBA Next 50 Campaign – involved major renovation of the three-story building previously occupied by the McGill Bookstore, plus construction of a concourse level linking the Armstrong and Bronfman buildings below ground.

Named after Professor Donald E. Armstrong, PhD’54, the founding Director of McGill’s Graduate School of Business who launched the MBA program in 1963, the new facilities add nearly 50,000 square feet of teaching, study and meeting space for students – a space gain of some 20 per cent. The undertaking was entirely funded by donors, who, to date, have contributed $16.2 million towards the project’s $17.6-million goal.

“I am so grateful to our Desautels alumni and friends for stepping forward to help create a space that will enhance MBA education for the next 50 years, and inspire current students to give back to our program in the future,” said recent graduate Nitzan Leibovitch, MBA’18.
Asked what she considers most memorable in her career, Dr. Brenda Milner, PhD’52, DSc’91, doesn’t immediately point to awards or discoveries: “I think the really exciting thing was, long ago, getting a permanent job at The Neuro. It was the opportunity.”

At age 100, Dr. Milner still remembers the uncertainty of being a young academic. After beginning her doctoral work at Cambridge, she had suddenly married and moved to Montreal in 1944. The plan was to stay for one year.

She found herself teaching and completing her degree in psychology – a field still in its early days, and not yet fully integrated into the scientific work being done at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital (The Neuro).

“When I started here, I just had to sort of make a little way for myself, literally, around the surgeons,” she recalls.

Dr. Milner recounts that her supervisor, the famed psychologist Donald Hebb, MA’32, DSc’75, had told her that no psychologist could survive for long at The Neuro. But when Dr. Hebb persuaded Wilder Penfield to allow him to take on one graduate student, she got her break. Soon after came an invitation to study an epilepsy patient in Connecticut; Dr. Penfield approved the appointment, and even found funding to cover the cost of her train ticket.

Those early chances made all the difference: the patient in Connecticut was H.M., the subject upon whom Dr. Milner based her revolutionary research into memory and the brain.

Now, all these years later, she is laying a path for others. In addition to her longtime support of her department at The Neuro, she has planned a legacy gift that will create a new source of support for post-doctoral researchers.

Dr. Milner hopes that funding from her bequest will give the next generation of bright young scientists more time to distinguish themselves in their post-doctoral years.

“It’s a time in a young scientist’s career when they need money, a very critical time, when these people have gotten addicted to the research life,” she explains. “If those people really are destined to be scientists, this will give them the time to show it.”

100 years, 116+ awards... and counting
Ask Dr. Edward Abrahams how he got to McGill, and he’ll be the first to tell you it was a circuitous route. He had already been through two New England schools for his undergraduate degree, the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, and the Navy from 1943-46, before beginning dental school at McGill as a veteran on the G.I. Bill in 1948.

It wasn’t easy as a father of two by day and a cab driver by night. But Dr. Abrahams persevered, graduating with his DDS in 1953. “Nobody else in my family ever went to university,” he explains. “Education has been the most important thing in the world, as far as I’m concerned.”

For Bess Zafran, the road to McGill was literal: driving to McGill for an accepted student visit, with her brand-new passport in hand, was the first time she’d ever left the U.S. She fell in love with McGill, yet knew her family could never afford the cost. But as she and her mother drove back into New York, she got the message that she’d been awarded the first Heather Munroe-Blum Leadership Award. Thanks to the scholarship, named after McGill’s Principal Emerita, Zafran was getting a full ride to her dream school. “It felt too good to be true,” she says. “We had to pull the car over!”

Zafran graduated with the Arts class of 2018, and like Dr. Abrahams, who made his first gift to his alma mater shortly after graduation, she was eager to give back. When she got her first call from the Phonathon office, where she had worked for three years as a student, the proud new alumna made her first gift: a symbolic $20.18.

Every year, thousands of alumni like Zafran and Dr. Abrahams give back to McGill, and the collective impact is tremendous. “So many grads like Dr. Abrahams give year after year,” says Zafran, “and I think people underestimate the power of the contributions that they make.”

“But there are so many people like me who wouldn’t be able to be at McGill if it wasn’t for that generosity.”

In May 2018, 65 years after he graduated, Dr. Edward Abrahams returned to campus for his granddaughter Rachel’s convocation. He also met Bess Zafran, another 2018 grad, and one of McGill’s newest donors. His impression? “The kid is terrific!”

Bess Zafran loves connecting with fellow alumni: “When I meet other graduates, we always have something in common: that we went to McGill. So now, that’s always where I jump from – and it leads in hundreds of different directions!”
Grassroots initiatives gain crucial support through our Seeds of Change crowdfunding platform – and project leaders, often McGill students, learn that they really can change the world. The following fundraisers, all in support of student-led community outreach programs, are just four among more than 100 inspiring Seeds of Change success stories that are making a difference.

HEART OF THE CITY PIANO

81 donors
$5,083 raised

Research has shown that music education enhances children’s learning skills across the board, but the cost of lessons and access to instruments are prohibitive for many families.

McGill student volunteers are helping to change that. Once a week, tutors with the student-run Montreal Heart of the City Piano program take their musical talents to elementary schools in underprivileged neighbourhoods to give free piano lessons. The team includes students from many faculties, from Science, to Education, to Arts, and is part of a national organization that brings music education to children who wouldn’t otherwise have the chance to receive private instruction.

Thanks to the Montreal chapter’s Seeds of Change crowdfunding campaign, students at four Montreal elementary schools – two English, two French – will have greater access to keyboards on which to practise their developing piano skills.

“The main motivation was that some children didn’t have pianos at home,” explains Shanil Wijesinghe, BA’18, a former Heart of the City co-director. Volunteer tutors would sit with students for an hour of piano work, and then discover the next week that the children hadn’t been able to rehearse at home. “The idea was to find a way to get keyboards to their homes so that they can practise.”

The money raised through Seeds of Change is enough for about nine new keyboards. Heart of the City initially bought one and tested out its keyboard-lending program at a pilot school. It plans to buy the additional instruments and begin lending them out in fall 2018.

The new keyboards are a step up: they have 88 keys, which are weighted to closely simulate what it’s like to play on an actual piano, Wijesinghe says.

Students display their piano skills at recitals held at the end of each semester, most recently in April at the Schulich School of Music’s Pollack Hall. When they ask if anyone wants to play again, “There’s a little bit of a pause,” he says. “And then, they all raise their hands.”
EAGLE SPIRIT CAMP

173 donors
$5,308 raised

Eagle Spirit Camp is a popular summer draw, welcoming Indigenous youth to McGill as an introduction to post-secondary studies. For the ninth annual edition, a Seeds campaign helped cover the high travel costs for students from Nunavik, the northernmost region of Quebec. This July, during the new Eagle Spirit Science Futures Camp, 11 Indigenous high school students from communities across Quebec learned about science through two lenses – traditional and western – and were encouraged to consider careers in health. The campers were closely supported by seven Indigenous junior and senior counsellors – many of them former campers themselves.

BRAINREACH

122 donors
$12,129 raised

When BrainReach volunteers visit schools in Montreal and remote Indigenous communities to teach neuroscience workshops, they go equipped with props like calves’ brains. Graduate students in McGill’s Integrated Program in Neuroscience run the award-winning community outreach program. In 2018, they turned to Seeds of Change and surpassed their fundraising goal by a mile. That generosity enabled BrainReach to undertake a second trip this year to Inuit and Cree communities in northern Quebec. Funding also added new teaching materials, including electrodes for an electrophysiology lesson that’s a hit with students.

LET’S TALK SCIENCE

36 donors
$2,366 raised

Students in Grades 6 to 8 bring STEM smarts to the Let’s Talk Science Challenge at McGill, an annual event that shows the accessibility (and fun!) of science, technology, engineering and math. The McGill branch of the national student-led outreach program turned to the Seeds of Change fundraising platform in order to create a higher quality event that’s drawing increasing interest, says doctoral student Maxana Weiss, MSc’18, administrative coordinator of Let’s Talk Science at McGill. How does it go over with the kids? “They love it.”

In 2017-18, 40 Seeds of Change projects raised $336,202 from 2,427 generous donors.
On March 14, 2018, the worldwide McGill community celebrated McGill24. Alumni, friends, students, parents, and faculty and staff united in support of the causes that matter most to them, raising nearly $1.9 million. From the remarkable participation of our newest alumni, to a fourfold increase in McGill24 events around the world, our third annual day of giving surpassed previous McGill24 campaigns and remains the largest single-day fundraiser for a Canadian university.
ON MARCH 14, THE GLOBAL Mcgill Community Came Together Like Never Before.

One gift was made every 19 seconds from donors in 45 countries.

From classrooms to charging stations, 150 tags drew attention to over 50 on-campus resources funded by donors.

Our digital campaign reached over 1 million individuals on social media.

1,750 people made their first-ever gift to McGill.

The class of 2018 made 311 gifts, more than any other graduating class.

McGill24 Events Around the World

From Sydney to Vancouver and everywhere in between, members of the McGill Alumni Association held 26 events in 11 countries, gathering 879 participants to celebrate this day of giving:

- Beijing
- Berlin
- Boston
- Burlington, Vt.
- Cairo
- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Hong Kong
- Kingston, Ont.
- Kuala Lumpur
- London
- Los Angeles
- Montreal (2 events)
- New Delhi
- New York City
- Ottawa
- Paris
- San Francisco
- Shanghai
- Shenzhen
- Sydney
- Tel Aviv
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Washington, D.C.
...OUR FACULTIES CAN THRIVE

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

In summer 2018, through the Bieler Family Internship Program, 57 students went on internships in 14 countries on six continents; 37 of these students received financial assistance totalling $49,165.

$3.1M+

The Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre received over $3.1 million in support. This new sustainable food production and environmental stewardship centre will open in the fall of 2019.

FACULTY OF ARTS

The Faculty of Arts Internship Office granted over $340K in funding to more than 100 students in 2018; many of the Faculty of Arts Internship Awards were established through private support.

The Dean of Arts Development Fund supported 46 projects, including student-led initiatives such as the Students in Mind Mental Health Conference, the Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society and the Fridge Door Gallery.

Collective support from donors created 2 endowed chairs:

The St. Andrew’s Society/McEuen Scholarship Foundation Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies

The Phrixos B. Papachristidis Chair in Modern Greek and Greek-Canadian Studies
Alumni Dr. Lancelot Brown, DDS’88, and Dr. Anthony Mair, DDS’87, kick-started the Faculty’s entrance bursary program, supporting the creation of the Caribbean Entrance Bursary at

$120K

Class of 2007 graduate Dr. Jung-Wan Martin Kim, BSc’03, DMD’07, gave a generous gift to renovate the reception area in the Undergraduate Teaching Clinic, where services are provided at about half the cost of private care.

6,187 patients were treated as part of the donor-supported Service to the Community program staffed by faculty, alumni, students and volunteers, and operated through a variety of clinics.

Donors supported 18 top Desautels professors with Faculty Scholar Awards for leading-edge research.

The McGill Dobson Cup is fully funded by philanthropy. Since 2009, 1,000 startup companies have participated; 153 of these companies are still in existence, and employ 1,350 people.

BCom students participated in summer internships through the Soutar Career Centre, all funded by support from donors.
...AND THRIVE...

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Supported by the Rossy Family Foundation and the P. Lantz Initiative for Excellence in Education and the Arts, the Faculty welcomed 100+ students, faculty and artists to launch the open-access McGill Art Hive Initiative.

In memory of her parents Luciana and Attilio, Francesca Brotto, BA’75, MA’77, made a $60K gift that will help remove barriers for Indigenous students through the Faculty’s in-community program in Kahnawà:ke.

Thanks to donors, 15 undergraduate students went on life-changing exchanges to far-off destinations including China, Sweden, Ireland and Australia.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Lydia Lawand, a doctoral student in Mechanical Engineering, was the first of three inaugural recipients of the McGill-UAE Fellowships in Science and Engineering, created through a landmark gift from the Crown Prince Court of the United Arab Emirates.

Thanks in part to donor funding, over 50 students on the McGill Formula Electric team gained the experience of a lifetime when their single-seat electric race car placed second overall in the Formula SAE Electric competition.

The Faculty’s donor-supported EngInE initiative has awarded over $195,000 to 18 student and faculty projects with business and social impact potential.
This year, donors helped raise 45% of a $100,000 goal to create the Melville Undergraduate Research Bursary in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, in honour of Dr. Kenneth Melville, MDCM’59, the first Chair at McGill from the developing world.

The Dr. Ray Hakim Family Prize for Clinical Innovation in Health Care awarded a total of $55K to two teams to implement novel ideas to improve health care, locally and globally.

The Faculty of Medicine’s Indigenous Health Professions Program, created to attract more Indigenous students to careers in the health sciences and to better serve Indigenous communities, celebrated its official launch.

A new Corporate Professorship will bring outstanding expertise in business law to the Faculty in 2019, thanks to a pooled gift of more than $1 million.

Renovations to two classrooms in New Chancellor Day Hall created state-of-the-art learning environments. Alumnus Don Meehan, LLB’75, financed one project, while the Classes of 1974, 1975 and 1976 pooled their reunion gifts to finance the other, named for late Professor Emeritus John W. Durnford, BA’49, BCL’52.

The Law Class of 1992 raised $120K in memory of classmate Nathan Schipper, BCL/LLB’92, for an award to help defray expenses related to internships, with preference given to students interning in Israel.
The Catherine Thornhill Steele Visiting Artists Series supported over 40 visiting international musicians to perform and teach, including the Canadian Brass ensemble, conductor Kent Nagano and clarinetist David Krakauer.

Through the Science Undergraduate Research Awards, 91 students received a total of $591,500 towards summer research experiences in academic settings; the Faculty also increased funding to each student by $900, thanks to donor and researcher support.

Alumni Feng Qian, MSc’01, PhD’05, and Beibei Zou, MLIS’01, MSc’05, gave $500,000 to the School of Computer Science, half of which has created the first-ever research experience fund for undergraduate students at the School.

This year, 25 donors gave nearly $100,000 to establish a new annual memorial lecture in honour of late Professor Allan S. Hay, past Tomlinson Chair in Chemistry.

The new Hnatyshyn Foundation Christa and Franz-Paul Decker Fellowship in Conducting, worth $15,000, will be awarded annually to an exceptionally talented Canadian graduate student.

The School launched the Graham Sommer Competition for Young Composers, an exciting new event for Canadian composers 35 and under, with prizes totalling $45,000.
Because

WHEN YOU
give to McGill...
...you support

OPPORTUNITIES THAT OPEN DOORS
RESEARCH THAT CHANGES LIVES
INNOVATION THAT DRIVES PROGRESS
EDUCATION THAT SHAPES FUTURE-READY STUDENTS
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF CHANGING HOW WE UNDERSTAND OUR WORLD