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2016

McGill Arts
Thank you for your generosity.
Our motto is ‘it stARTS with ARTS’ and never has that been truer for the Faculty of Arts at McGill University. Our graduates’ spectacular accomplishments, from the groves of academe to the halls of power, from community development to corporate corner offices, showcase the enduring importance of an education in the social sciences and humanities. Our alumni are Governor General Award winners, Rhodes Scholars, and elected leaders of all political stripes – including Justin Trudeau, class of 1994, Canada’s first Prime Minister from McGill’s Faculty of Arts. Our graduates also continue the tradition of James McGill’s dedication to teaching and research in the service of society. As well, we’ve seen our exceptional faculty recognized for their achievements with appointments to the Order of Canada and l’Ordre du Québec, membership in the Royal Society of Canada, and a myriad of honours and research awards.

What a wonderful environment in which to begin my term as the new Dean of the Faculty. Having spent my academic career at McGill, most recently as the Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada and as the Associate Vice-Principal of Research and International Relations, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the impact of philanthropy, and I understand the value of our community’s role in helping us achieve our goals. It is thanks to donors like you that we are able to offer our students an unparalleled educational experience in a world that is transforming how we teach, learn, and undertake research. We are able as well to attract at the outset the most promising students and scholars from across Canada and around the globe.

We are also focused on interdisciplinary research, from the newly-created Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Media Studies, to the activities linked to the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, the Centre on Population Dynamics, and the Institute for International Development Studies, to name just a few. We are as well embarking on a far-ranging public policy initiative that will bring the Faculty’s expertise and experience to bear on creating teaching, research and outreach programs designed to address the world’s most pressing problems and complex issues. We look forward to the development of professional programs as part of this initiative that will join the Faculty’s excellent schools of Social Work, Information Studies and Religious Studies, our newest member.

What unites our 15 Departments, 20 Centres and Institutes and three Schools is the responsibility to provide our students a wide variety of experiential learning, from the building of new, smart classrooms and innovative teaching methods, to the increasingly popular Arts Summer Internship Program and Arts Research Internship Awards (ARIA). ARIAs provide stipends for undergraduate students to conduct research alongside a faculty member over the summer months, giving them a direct experience in academic work and the ability to develop their writing and research through practical skills. Internship awards like those supported by Lev Buhkman, Elizabeth Gomery and Stefan Fews afford students the chance to work abroad in their areas of specialization, and contribute to initiatives that promote development and social justice.

The programs listed in this report are but a snapshot of how private support helps to shape our academic offerings and to create a future filled with innovation and discovery. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

Thank you sincerely for your support.

Antonia Maioni
Dean of Arts
McGill University
The Lev Bukhman Internship Award is “one of a kind,” says recipient Yuvraj Goswami. Yuvraj was one of six students to receive the award this past year and used the funds to pursue an internship with the Ministry of Labour in the Indian government in New Delhi.

The award, funded by Lev Bukhman, BA’93, is just one example of how donor support can help students get crucial experience abroad, in a very wide range of disciplines.

The Liz Gomery & Stefan Fews Internship Award in Arts is another instance of this type of support. It was established by Elizabeth Gomery, BA’98, BCL/LLB’03, and Stefan Fews, BA’96, BCL/LLB’00, to help students gain firsthand experience related to their fields of study. The couple, who met while studying at McGill, chose to give their award to any undergraduate Arts student undertaking an internship in an area related to poverty reduction. In this way, they feel have honored their alma mater and their time at McGill, while providing a lift for a student whose mission is to work for the benefit of the public.

Speaking of his Bukhman Internship experience, Yuvraj says, “The internship included me working in close proximity with several senior bureaucrats and government officials. All in all, the experience entailed a perfect combination of public-private partnership, where I learned about the expertise of the private sector and the pressures and the enormity of the Indian bureaucracy.”
An international student who is a native of India, Yuvraj says “I saw this opportunity as a landmark in my professional pursuits.” When he returns home after his studies, he would like to work in politics, particularly in policymaking concerning industrial relations. He hopes that his experiences at McGill will eventually help him make a difference in Indian society.

Magaret Gagné, who is in her second year of Political Science, went to the Children of Bududa program in Uganda, where she learned to use education as a tool to empower youngsters who otherwise could not afford school. Enrica Ferrarotti, a third-year Political Science student, worked with Sapa O’Chau, a social enterprise in Vietnam that aims to reintegrate minority groups into Vietnamese society.

Both the Gomery/Fews award and the Bukhman award were established to help students get hands-on experience in fields, including microfinancing, governance, health and welfare, and self-sustainability. Without the support offered by such awards, students would struggle to cover the costs of airfare or lodging, making it impossible for them to participate in such experiences.

Moreover, internships can have an impact not only in students’ lives but also in the global contexts in which they work. By interning with NGOs and government organizations around the world, McGill’s interns can have a lasting effect on fields such as development and social justice.

“I saw this opportunity as a landmark in my professional pursuits.”

- Yuvraj Goswami, Lev Bukhman Internship Award Recipient
Giving Guidance to Student Interns

Internships are necessary for undergraduate students to gain practical experience, and a great way to use one’s summer in a productive way.

- Phoebe Warren, Arts Internship Recipient
Phoebe Warren, a second-year Political Science and History major, spent a summer interning in London, England with Liberal International, the international federation of liberal political parties. Like many of her peers, she understands how vital the hands-on application of knowledge and skills is for academic growth and adds that, “internships are necessary for undergraduate students to gain practical experience and a great way to use one’s summer in a productive way.”

Providing Internships is a priority for the Faculty. In order to help guide students through the process, the Faculty established the Arts Internship Office (AIO). Each year, the AIO helps over 200 students research and secure local and international internships in their fields of study.

The office provides guidance on how to apply and interview for postings, prepare for their work environments, and understand the locales where they will complete their stints. It also provides around-the-clock support for students while they are abroad as well.

Donor support plays a significant role in the program; private giving has helped create the awards that defray travel and lodging expenses (see the article on the internship awards created by Lev Bukhman and by Liz Gomery and Stephan Fews, on page 4).

The awards are granted to students based on criteria relating to the student’s fields of study, future career plans, academic standing, and financial need.

“Like most internships, unfortunately, mine was unpaid,” says Phoebe, “but the AIO provided financial support for me and my family to make my goals possible.

I am grateful that the AIO was willing to put their time and money towards my future – it is one of the best resources available in the entire McGill community.”

During her internship at Liberal International, Phoebe was involved with human rights working groups acting on LGBT and women’s issues, which fostered her career ambitions to advance LGBT rights in developing countries.

Given the impact that the AIO's programs have had, it is easy to understand why students were quick to rally around the office when it recently lost its operating funding in the wake of reductions in government funding to McGill and other Quebec universities. With students, including Phoebe, acting as ambassadors for the program, the AIO launched a crowd-funding campaign on McGill’s Seeds of Change platform, raising over $10,000 from 150 donors in a little over four months.

The student ambassadors played a crucial role in extending the reach of the campaign to younger audiences through social media and on-the-ground initiatives. Phoebe explains, “all of the student ambassadors had benefitted from the services of the AIO and want to see it succeed.”

Moving forward, the AIO is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of its program, and donors Elizabeth Gomery and Lev Bukhman have stepped up to help by leading the development of a fundraising campaign that hopes to provide $5 million for an endowment to support the AIO in perpetuity.
PHILANTHROPY CHANGES LIVES
Indigenous Access McGill (IAM) is not your typical McGill program. Established in 2007, IAM takes a holistic approach to supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Social Work students to flourish at McGill. It also helps build bridges and promote understanding of Indigenous issues amongst the larger McGill community.

The program was established in response to the findings of a 2006 research study by the McGill School of Social Work, which explored educational and professional development needs in the Quebec communities of Kahnawake, Kanehsatake, and Nunavik. Researchers found that Indigenous students faced multiple barriers to attending mainstream post-secondary schools, resulting in their underrepresentation in undergraduate and graduate programs.

According to IAM Coordinator Courtney Montour, “It was clear that a range of support systems for Indigenous students needed to be put in place, such as child care, support from family, employers, and the community – especially for those travelling far from their homes in northern Quebec – help with writing and study skills for mature students returning to full-time education, and the opportunity to support each other and share experiences.”

IAM is able to provide many of these resources.

As recently retired School of Social Work professor Michael Loft explains, the program offers a support system that brings together a team of advisors who mentor and tutor students in every aspect of their studies. This also involves maintaining ties to Indigenous alumni from the School of Social Work, who play an important role in encouraging the next generation of Indigenous students on their path in higher education.

The program works to strengthen ties between Indigenous and McGill communities, and to create a welcoming space for Indigenous Social Work students. To this end, IAM has been active in introducing Indigenous content into McGill curricula. The most prominent example of IAM’s curriculum development activities is the creation of Indigenous Field Studies (IDFC 500), a four-week intensive course (including one week in Kahnawake, Mohawk Territory), for students in Social Work, Medicine, Anthropology, Law and the Indigenous Studies Minor. One of the key objectives is to enhance relationships between soon-to-be professionals and the Indigenous communities they may one day serve or work alongside.

“I know all of us left the course […] with a greater understanding of colonialism and the resilience of Indigenous communities. But I think we also left with the drive to change the systems that were built to oppress Indigenous people,” says Portia Larlee, BSW’12.

The course honours Indigenous knowledge keepers and Indigenous ways of knowing and learning. While on Kahnawake Mohawk Territory during Week 3 of the course, students learn from Elders and community members. They participate in many activities, including an interactive wampum presentation on Mohawk history, a visit to a Mohawk (kanien’kéha) immersion elementary school, an introduction to Kahnawake’s restorative justice program, and a daily thanksgiving address (Ohen:ton Karihwatehkwen).

“Talking about Indigenous ways of knowing in the classroom does not compare to seeing it in action on the land,” says Arts student (Indigenous Studies Minor) Chris Gismondi.

Indigenous Access McGill is a sense of community. According to Montour, “many Indigenous students are now the first generation in their families to attend a post-secondary institution. The experience can be overwhelming. This is where IAM comes in. With the help of donor support, IAM is able to provide one-on-one support and a connection to campus resources as well as other Indigenous students.”

A key supporter of the program is Gael Eakin, BA’61, who has been a generous donor to McGill, and to the Faculty of Arts, for many years.
8,668 students enrolled

7,454 undergraduate
1,176 graduate
38 postdoctoral

2,884 men
5,784 women

2,976 Canada (Quebec)
2,531 Canada (outside Quebec)
1,059 USA
1,789 Other International

4,665 native English speakers
1,273 native French speakers
1,328 other

Hello! Bonjour! こんにちは こんにちは

12 Arts graduates won seats in the House of Commons in Canada’s federal election of 2015.

- Justin Trudeau, BA’94 (Prime Minister of Canada)
- Jim Carr, BA’79 (Minister of Natural Resources)
- Karina Gould, BA’10
- Scott Reid, (PhD’95 Political Science)
- John McCallum, PhD’77 (Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship)
- Arif Virani, BA’94
- Julie Dabrusin, BA’94
- Angelo G. Iacono, BA’88
- Matthew Dubé, BA’11
- Brenda Shanahan, BSW’07
- Michael Levitt, BA’93
- Francis Scarpaleggia, BA’79
The Indonesia Social Equity Project is the third official cooperation project between McGill and the State Institutes of Islamic Studies.

The International Community Action Network worked to establish 11 rights-based community practice centres in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the Middle East.

The Faculty of Arts collaborates with the International Hellenic University to offer summer studies in Greece.

Exchange programs with: University of California, University of Tokyo, National Taiwan University, Shantou University (China), Tsinghua University (Beijing), Université Jean Moulin Lyon III, Université de Geneve, and Kyoto University.

Agreements with the University of Guadalajara and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to sponsor research, conferences and exchanges.

More than $500,000 was raised for the Dean of Arts Development Fund, which allowed the Faculty to finance:

- Arts Internships and Research Awards
- Student advising: To ensure a successful integration into campus life, an effective and well-staffed student advising program is vitally important.
- Numerous conferences and talks: Allow for opportunities that transform the university experience and take learning beyond the classroom
- Student-run publications: The wide-range of journals acts as a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas on a variety of topics.
- Plays and theatre productions
- Work Your B.A.: A series of workshops and panel discussions featuring McGill alumni, aimed at preparing Arts students for the workforce.
- Women in House: Offers female McGill students a two-day trip to Ottawa, during which participants spend a day shadowing a female MP or Senator.
A New Way of Looking at Montreal
Professor Pascal Brissette, Director of the Quebec Studies Program, recalls that the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal (CIRM) was founded out of a need to expand research in an often overlooked field.

He felt that the contribution of McGill to Quebec Studies could be stronger; and he realized that Montreal didn’t get enough attention from an interdisciplinary perspective.

“So I connected the dots,” he says. “What if an interdisciplinary and interuniversity centre on Montreal is actually the best contribution McGill could make to Quebec Studies?”

CIRM brings together researchers from several Quebec universities to contribute to a better understanding of Montreal as an urban space. The Centre focuses on interdisciplinary research in economics, health, language, governance, history and culture. Making this knowledge accessible to the general population is at the heart of the Centre’s mandate.

One example of this is a volume, to be published in 2017 and coincide with the 375th anniversary of the city Montreal, about how societies live together. This research was developed in collaboration with key actors in Montreal society, such as urban planners and key figures in city governance, and it addresses a range of issues from how language affects Montreal’s use of space to the development of new methods for citizens to register their opinions about city policy.

The development of the publication, as well as CIRM’s public lectures and conferences, create an open environment where the Centre can act as a bridge between research and civil society. This helps citizens, municipal administrators, entrepreneurs, and organizations share their needs with researchers and enjoy the benefits of research conducted in a university city.

Similarly, CIRM’s existence is leading to new relationships with the City of Montreal, says Professor Brissette. “In September 2015, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre named an Advisor to Higher Education. To my knowledge, this is the first time that the City of Montreal has turned directly to universities to tell them what its needs are and how they can help it develop and compete with other North American universities.”

Two months later, CIRM entered into a partnership with the Montreal Smart and Digital City office and with the office that runs Faire Montreal (an interactive platform for citizen projects that aim to improve city life). Those are just some of the signs that a channel is definitely open between the city administration and universities.

As Montreal approaches its 375th anniversary, CIRM has several projects that aim to involve researchers and students in Montreal’s development. One pilot project is a series of seminars on “community-driven research,” which would allow students to work with community organizations as volunteers. The students would bring their expertise in an area of Montreal Studies to the organization, while at the same time getting concrete experience in their field.

The Faculty of Arts is seeking private support to enable CIRM to continue, and expand, such exchanges between university students and city organizations. This and other initiatives will allow CIRM to forge a deeper understanding of the city’s culture, history, and governance as well as opening up communication between universities and the public.
14 | PHILANTHROPY CHANGES LIVES
McGill’s Department of East Asian Studies was established in 1968 and is now one of the world’s leading research and teaching centres devoted to the languages and civilizations of China, Japan, and Korea.

One of the department’s most wide-reaching initiatives is the Ming Qing Women’s Writings Digital Archive and Database Project, which launched in 2005 under the direction of Grace Fong, Professor of Chinese Literature.

Almost 5,000 collections of writings by individual women were recorded in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) periods. However, less than a quarter of these texts have survived, and those that have are located in rare book archives in China, which are difficult to access.

The Ming Qing Women’s Writings Digital Archive and Database Project digitizes these texts by employing new technology that provides high-quality, searchable documents. In this way, the project preserves valuable texts for future generations of scholars and makes the documents accessible online for researchers and interested groups around the world.

Funded through a generous gift from the Henry Luce Foundation of New York, the project has given a huge boost to research on women’s history and Chinese culture by providing free access to these digitized images and searchable data of women’s literary collections and anthologies.

The database’s creation has coincided with recent growth in interest in Chinese women’s literature, history, and culture among scholars and students in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, North America, and Europe. The writings have opened up critical perspectives and enriched scholars’ knowledge of many aspects of Chinese culture and society, and thus have the potential to spark groundbreaking research.

As Professor Fong explains, “in the past decade, graduate students and researchers at McGill as well as those from all over the world have produced innovative scholarship using the rich materials and digital resources freely available on the website.”

She says the database, which has approximately 200,000 monthly users, “has enabled new research into the life experiences and cultural achievements of women in imperial China.”
New Centre Provides Home for Collaboration and Unity in the Humanistic Social Sciences
How do you best carry out research on the “big questions” like global justice, democracy, and globalization?

Professor Jacob Levy, Director of the new Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds states, “research on big international questions is much more likely to be careful and responsible when it’s grounded in an understanding of a number of different parts of the world, one at a time.” The new Centre has an impressive array of researchers with expertise in a wide array of fields.

A generous gift of $3.4 million from Dr. Yan P. Lin, who received his PhD in Engineering from McGill in 1992, was the catalyst to establish this ambitious initiative. By focusing on the bridges between cultures, temporalities, and disciplines, the Centre is exploring how the fundamental ideas, systems, and institutions that govern our lives came about.

The Centre will be housed in the Faculty of Arts, but will work closely with the Faculties of Engineering and Law to bring together leading scholars in five research groups: Global Antiquities; Transitions and Global Modernities; Constitutional Studies; Global Justice; and Democracy, Space, and Technology.

“The hope is for a new home for the humanistic social sciences at McGill that would incorporate existing research clusters, encourage new ones, and generate collaborations and exchanges across these various fields,” says Professor Levy.

For Professor Levy, what makes the Centre unique is not only the span of disciplines and historical eras that the researchers cover, but the geographic areas covered by this expertise. He says, for example, “Both the ancient and modern historical clusters include scholars of China and of China’s interactions with the rest of the world, and not just scholars of the ancient Mediterranean or of European modernity.” He adds that when you factor in expertise in “Latin America, Turkey and the Middle East, South Africa and Australia, our group includes expertise on most regions of the world, which I think is especially important for the study of global orders, globalization, and global justice.”

Professor Levy adds that many of the research groups working in the Centre already existed, but hadn’t formalized their relationships until they discovered key points of overlap in their work. For instance, the Constitutional Studies research group discovered an important crossover with the Global Antiquities group, which will provide a historical understanding of ancient Greek politics, and by extension the seeds of many of our current political systems.

The inclusion of researchers from the Faculty of Engineering may not seem obvious, but is vital. According to Professor Ipek Tureli of the School of Architecture, “there are many different strands of research on space and technology at the Schools of Architecture and Planning in the Faculty of Engineering. Some of these examine transportation and communication technologies, and more specifically how they re-order spatial and thus social relations, while others focus on the use of advanced technologies in the production of structures that support physical spaces.” As a result, the Centre will be able to explore the design of our cities, streets, and public spaces.

Recently, the Centre held an inaugural lecture by Orlando Patterson, a historical and cultural sociologist from Harvard University, entitled “Freedom and Contestation in Western Culture: From the Ancient Greeks to America’s Tea Party” to great acclaim. In the near future, we can expect numerous conferences, workshops, and public lectures on law and religion, international justice, and global relations to be held at the Centre.
A Grad with a Passion for Development

D’Arcy Williams, BA’15, is a perfect example of how opportunities in the Faculty of Arts can lead to fascinating career paths.

Williams, who grew up in Accra, Ghana, before moving to Washington, D.C., came to McGill to pursue a BA in International Development Studies. By his second year, he was eager to put the development skills he had learned in the classroom to use and secured an internship through the Arts Internship Office. Williams spent three months working with a local organization in Nepal to implement a UNICEF micronutrient powder program that fights malnutrition in children.

The experience opened up subsequent internship and job opportunities that “would eventually shape my life and career,” says Williams.

In the final years of his degree, Williams partook in McGill’s Canadian Field Studies in Africa program, joining 25 McGill students on a four-month field study during which they explored issues of conservation, development, environmental management, geography, and anthropology in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. “This trip provided me with the valuable and practical insight to complement the theoretical frameworks of an International Development Studies degree,” says Williams.

After completing his studies, he served as an intern at the Clinton Global Initiative, and has now moved on to a role in External Relations & Communications at Population Services International, an NGO based in Washington, that develops communications to motivate individuals to adopt healthy behaviours.

Williams has also proven himself as a social entrepreneur and has founded two non-profit initiatives: Heart City Apparel and #Shovels4Refugees. The former was established in 2014 as a response to “the pervasive and visible problem of homelessness around Montreal,” he says. In an effort to harness the beauty of Montreal’s public art for a social good, Williams and co-founder Matt Dajer searched out street artists, had their artwork transferred to clothing, and for each unit sold donated a portion of the sale to a charity helping the homeless.

“The initiative now supports local artists on a global level and allows them to give back to their cities,” as Williams says.

Similarly, the idea for #Shovels4Refugees, a campaign to raise money for Syrian refugees by shovelling streets and driveways during a blizzard last winter, came to Williams while living in Montreal. He says, “in my final year at McGill I was the Co-President of McGill Students for UNICEF and was actively involved with raising money for UNICEF’s Syrian Refugee Crisis Relief Fund.”

Williams pitched his idea to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and not long after, he recalls, “D.C. got hit by a blizzard and was swallowed by two feet of snow. We had to shovel snow non-stop for four days, but the campaign raised $1,800 U.S. for the IRC local office in Silver Spring, Maryland.” The campaign was so successful that Williams is now working alongside the IRC to expand the #Shovels4Refugees initiative across the east coast of the U.S.

With each new project that he undertakes, Williams bears in mind a lesson he learned as a child: “that you should always try your best to leave every life situation better than when you found it.” This “Grad to Watch” is certain to do more good when he takes up his next role, as a Community Health agent in Cameroon.
In 2015, the Sylvie Desrochers Venne Memorial Language Arts Bursary was established to honour a beloved McGill graduate. Sylvie, who was always passionate about languages and literature, received her BA in Modern Languages from McGill in 1983. After finishing her degree, she put her linguistic skills to good use in her career in hospitality, travel and tourism. When she passed away in April 2015 after a year-long battle with cancer, her husband, Daniel Venne, and their two daughters, Kathryn and Alyssa, created a bursary to honour her memory.

The bursary is awarded by the Scholarships and Student Aid Office on the basis of academic standing and demonstrated financial need. It aids undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts, particularly students pursuing language programs offered by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC). In this manner, the bursary carries on Sylvie’s life-long scholarly interest in the Humanities by providing new generations of students the opportunity to study languages at McGill.

The bursary is part of a program at McGill that helps donors establish student awards to commemorate their loved ones in a special fashion. Within the year of an immediate family member’s death, McGill will help to create a legacy for them by reducing the cost of endowing an award from $60,000 to $20,000.

For more information on this initiative, please contact the Faculty’s Director of Development, Debbie Dankoff, at debbie.dankoff@mcgill.ca or 514-398-6590.
Since 1821, McGill has been offering outstanding educational opportunities to students from across the globe, pioneering new areas of research and discovery, and changing how we understand the world. As we approach our University’s 200th anniversary, McGill’s professors, researchers and students continue to tackle the biggest questions in science, culture and human endeavour.

Looking towards McGill’s third century, we hope you will join with us in celebrating and supporting this important work as we embark on The Road To 200 and beyond, and as, together, we create an even better world and a brighter future.