

WINTER 2017-18

THE GIFT OF
A LIFETIME

FROM ONE
GENERATION
TO THE NEXT

Having left Syria, Lina Akbeek, BA'20, gets a fresh start thanks to Cynthia Shewan, BA'65.



McGill

Bequests and
Planned Gifts

A WORD FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Planned giving is truly a special way of giving back. In my role as Chancellor, I have seen what bequests have done for the University, both for students and the professoriate. These gifts have made an immense difference, and this type of support allows McGill to stand out. And for those who prefer not to give up their assets today, planning a future gift is a proactive step they can take to assure that their legacy will make a difference.

I made a bequest to McGill because I thought it would be a good way to help the University plan for the future. Leaving a bequest is a powerful way for alumni to stand up and support our alma mater's commitment to excellence, not just today, but into the future.

Every spring, I have the chance to meet and speak with members of the McGill 1821 Society and the Macdonald Legacy Society at the Principal's annual tea. What I always hear in these conversations reaffirms my feeling that McGill alumni share a particularly strong sense of loyalty. For so many of us, this University is where we launched who we are. Therefore, we want to pay it forward, as previous generations did for us when we were at McGill.

No matter the size of your bequest, you have an ability to make the University great: by planning your legacy, you have the power to make sure McGill remains a world-class institution for future generations of students.

McGill played a vital role in my life and I am eternally grateful. I hope you will enjoy reading these stories from others who share this gratitude and vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael A. Meighen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Hon. Michael A. Meighen, CM, QC, BA'60, LLD'12
Chancellor, McGill University



COUPLE'S SUPPORT HELPS Break Barriers

Daniel Morris's vision deteriorated sharply during the four years he studied at McGill's Macdonald campus.

"When I first started at McGill, I could actually read large bolded font," says Morris, who is now legally blind. "By the end, I had to have my exams read to me because I wasn't able to read for myself."

Morris persevered, earning an MSc in Dietetics and Human Nutrition at McGill, followed by a Graduate Diploma in Registered Dietitian Credentialing in 2014.

"I had such a good experience at McGill, in that it taught me many skills," he says. Morris credits McGill's Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) with helping him reach his goals. It played an essential role in his success, especially with exams, Morris says. Among other aids, he had access to a note-taker throughout his studies – a student doing the same degree.

Through funding from the Quebec government, the OSD even obtained software that could read PDF documents. "That was an enormous plus," he recounts. "When you're equipped with appropriate tools, everything becomes much more accessible."

Today, Morris is a very busy man: he works as a research assistant, registered dietician and massage therapist.

He is also paving the way for others: through a generous donation, he and his wife, Dr. Sophie Gosselin, recently established the first bursary at McGill for students who are legally blind or who have other physical disabilities. Morris's motivation lies in the sky-high jobless rates in developed countries among people who are legally blind.

Morris and Gosselin met hiking a glacier in New Zealand in 2004. They came up with the idea for a bursary while preparing a will, then decided to move ahead with it now, partly to see it mature. They will also be including a bequest in their estate plans to continue their support.

"Part of doing it now is that we feel very grateful for what we have, and are certainly willing to pay it forward," Gosselin says.

Dr. Gosselin, who did her medical residency at McGill and works as an emergency physician at the McGill University Health Centre, says they hope to remove barriers to student success for students who are legally blind.

"We want this assistance to help remove the financial burden that often plagues people with disabilities," says Gosselin, who is also an Associate Professor with McGill's Faculty of Medicine.

“We want anyone who interacts with people with visual disabilities to realize that being legally blind should no longer be a limitation to being involved in scientific work, or to finding good professional employment.”

Dr. Sophie Gosselin

PLANNED GIFTS BY THE NUMBERS

Over the last **5 years** (2013-2017),
planned gifts from **72 donors** totaled
\$17.3 million in new funding for students
through **73 funds** with
100% going to students.

Planned gifts created and enhanced
5 types of aid: Scholarships, Bursaries,
Fellowships, Student Loans, and Fieldwork Funding in
8 areas: Agricultural & Environmental Sciences,
Arts, Education, Engineering, Management, Medicine, Music,
and University-wide support.



GENEROUS BENEFACTORS REMEMBERED

McGill University is profoundly grateful for the bequests, both large and small, that it has received from alumni and friends. Following is a list of bequests that the University received over the course of the last fiscal year, which ended on April 30, 2017.

Estate of Margaret Edna Anderson	Estate of Prof. Margaret Ginzburg
Estate of Ruth E. Atto	Estate of Harold Goodman
Estate of Manuel Batshaw	Estate of Lorna Haworth-Henry
Estate of James A. Butler, M.D.	Estate of Betty Lynne Komar
Max E. Childress, M.D.	Dr. Robert Melville MacAllister
Estate of Nancy F. Cockfield	Dr. Joy Harvie Maclaren, C.M., "New Sun"
Hélène Cooper (née Peck)	Dr. Mary E. McGregor
Maurice Corbeil	Sylvia Grove McLernon
Estate of Carol Bennett Crocker	Estate of Kevin O'Neill
Estate of Lydia A. (Nancy) Drury	Robert P. Raynsford Jr.
Estate of Douglas Edwards	Sarah Segall
Deena Eliosoff	Estate of Dolores P. Shipman
Estate of Paul-Marcel Gélinas	Estate of Sonya Ward

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE: Dana Unninayar



"In the summer of 2014, my father and I drove in from Toronto to visit McGill for the first time. I remember walking through the Roddick Gates and being amazed by the majesty of the entrance and the vibrant campus colors. It was during this trip that I truly fell in love with McGill. I felt inspired and my sights were set – this was where I wanted to be, this was where I belonged.

However, that fall, things changed. My family was in for some tough times. All of a sudden, starting my undergraduate journey at McGill seemed out of reach. But I held on to a glimmer of hope as I submitted an application to the McGill Scholarships and Student Aid Office. I checked my email every day, until one day in the spring of 2015, I received a letter from Ms. Myrosia Cap, congratulating me on being awarded a Greville Smith Scholarship. I was overwhelmed. In a matter of seconds, my dream of attending McGill had become a reality."



On May 3, 2017, Dana told her story to members of the McGill 1821 and Macdonald Legacy Societies' Afternoon Tea with the Principal.

An accomplished student athlete on the synchronized swimming team and an active volunteer, Dana is now in her third year of an undergraduate degree in immunology. Among other honours she has earned during her time at McGill, Dana is the recipient of a Dorothy A. Nichol Scholarship; like the prestigious Greville Smith Scholarships, this valuable student award was established through a bequest.

FROM SYRIA TO MCGILL: The Gift of a New Beginning



Cynthia Shewan, BA'65, has never forgotten how the door opened for her undergraduate studies at McGill.

Longtime student counsellor Rev. Clifford Knowles made it possible for her to attend the university by arranging for a scholarship and bursary.

"That paved the way for me and I made sure that I studied hard and did well, so I was able to have financial funding through scholarships and bursaries until I graduated," says Shewan, who obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Honours Psychology).

Shewan went on to earn a master's and doctorate at Northwestern University in speech-language pathology.

Now, she's creating meaningful opportunities for others at McGill, from Syrian refugees to female students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies.

Lina Akbeek, a student in the Faculty of Arts who is a refugee from Syria, received support from McGill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office last year, through a donation from Shewan. Having left her home in Syria, Akbeek had been living in Jordan and feared her dream of going to university was out of reach.

Joy radiates from her face and emotion fills her voice when she talks about how thrilled she is to be at McGill – and how grateful she is to the donor who supported her.

"There are no words to explain how happy I am and the feeling inside of me. It's just amazing," says Akbeek, now in her second year of a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in international development studies.

"I've been given this opportunity. It opened a door for education, for being happy and safe and being able to learn. I've been learning a new thing every single day and that just means a lot to me, to experience it all."

Thanks to Shewan's generosity, Akbeek's financial support is continuing this school year, along with funding for other students from similar circumstances.

"I think their plight is just so dismal and I can't support all of them, but maybe I can make a small contribution to a few," Shewan says of students like Lina.

Over the years, Shewan, who grew up near Montreal, has given back generously to McGill. Her recent major gift has created an endowed bursary at McGill – the Cynthia Shewan STEM Bursary – for female students pursuing studies in STEM fields.

She supports McGill's Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (IGSF), and has also established a bequest for McGill in her estate plans, which will further augment all of her generous initiatives.

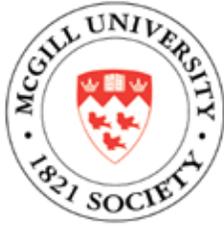
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Lina Akbeek, BA'20





McGILL 1821 & MACDONALD LEGACY SOCIETIES



McGill University owes its very existence to the foresight of a generous planned gift. The University was founded in 1821 with a bequest from the estate of Scottish-born Montreal merchant James McGill.

Today, the McGill 1821 Society and the Macdonald Legacy Society recognize and honour all alumni and friends who have chosen to remember the University in their estate plans, or through another type of planned gift.



From left to right: Susan Reid, Donna Henchey, Anna Galati, Cynthia Gordon, Christina Vroom, and Nella Malacria

LEGACY GIVING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 WHO IS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE TO LEAVE A BEQUEST?

Everyone! Leaving a bequest in your estate plans is an easy and meaningful way to establish a legacy. Your bequest will make a lasting impact on the University for years to come, without affecting your finances during your lifetime.

3 CAN I ESTABLISH AN ENDOWED FUND THROUGH MY BEQUEST?

Certainly! An endowed fund creates a lasting legacy, since it ensures that the designated purpose of the bequest will be supported in perpetuity. Family members can add to an endowed fund in honour of a donor, as well.

2 CAN I DESIGNATE MY BEQUEST TO A SPECIFIC AREA THAT REFLECTS MY INTEREST?

Absolutely! We want to make sure that a person's gift makes the impact that he or she envisions. To ensure that, we encourage our donors to complete and share with us a Confidential Statement of Future Intent. This document sets down the donor's instructions for how the gift is to be used, and it represents the best way to align your gift's future impact with the vision you have today.

4 HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT BUILDING MY LEGACY THROUGH A PLANNED GIFT?

We'd love to help you! Please contact the staff of the Bequests and Planned Gifts office using the details provided below.

