IMPACT OF ANNUAL GIVING 2018

THE McGill Fund:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
When I entered McGill in 1985 my parents discouraged me from going to architecture school because they didn’t understand that women could aspire to a challenging career. After one term studying mathematics, I went to see Professor Derek Drummond in the School of Architecture. He enthusiastically encouraged me to apply for a transfer the following year.

Architecture School was, and still is, very demanding but I flourished by studying what truly interested me. The school gave me a thorough foundation in the design process, technologies, and architectural history. We students worked long hours together on campus and I learned as much from these talented people as I did from my professors. They opened my eyes to the wider world of architecture and gave me the confidence to attend graduate school at University College London.

My education prepared me to be a valued member of architectural firms in London and Montreal. After working on the facilities for the Olympic Games in 1978, I moved to New York and was hired to help prepare New York City’s bid for the 1988 Olympics. Today, I am proud to be a founding principal of one of the largest architectural firms in the United States. Thank you, Professor Drummond!

In 2015 I was pleased to become a member of the Faculty Advancement Board and to reconnect to the place where my career started. This has allowed me to understand the way the McGill Fund can make possible programs that provide student access to opportunities that we didn’t have when we were students.

REUNION CLASS GIVING

Classes that have organized reunion class gift programs offer, in addition to increased participation, more leadership gifts, and greater diversity. Classes that have organized reunion class gifts result in increased participation, more leadership gifts, and greater diversity.

...and your loyalty enables us...

Giving for the 1st time
314
For two years
323
For three years
173
For four years
128
For five years or longer
1,104

MESSAGE FROM FACULTY ADVANCEMENT BOARD MEMBER

Mary Jean Baerheim (BArch ’71)

Mary Jean Baerheim (BArch ’71)

Every student who has a story...

Recent graduates Sébastien Hylands and Katherine Dewar try every year to support their alma mater, either through their time or with a donation. Why do they feel it’s important to give? The dynamic couple have powerful memories of their time at McGill, and some of them span several generations.

In 2008, Sébastien Hylands (BEng’11) had a choice to make. Fully bilingual, he could decide to enroll in the engineering program at a top francophone university (École Polytechnique) or choose the renowned Faculty of Engineering at McGill University. His parents’ alma mater. It was a tough decision: they were both excellent schools. But Hylands remembers his decision was cemented on a spring day when he made an impromptu visit to the Faculty administration office in the Macdonald Building. A now-retired administrative assistant, Lisa Lapka, seeing the graduate of Collège Jean-de-Brebeuf in need of information, dropped what she was doing and took him on a full two-hour tour of the facilities.

“I had gone there basically unannounced, just to see if I could get a sense of what the Faculty was like,” Hylands remembers. “Lisa took me around, meeting teachers, going into labs, seeing the club rooms—we went through the entire Faculty. After that, it was decided for me. I think almost everyone has a story of McGill like this. Everyone is proud to be with the school. That’s something we need to cherish, protect, and help to grow.”

For Hylands and wife Katherine Dewar (BCom’11), Montreal natives who both share Québécois and Anglophone ancestry, their sentimental ties to McGill are seen into their family stories. Hylands is the third generation of McGill graduates; his grandfather, Hugh Hylands, came out of Science in 1945, his father Richard graduated in 1980 with a degree in Commerce, his mother has a degree in Economics (awarded in 1961) and his brother left only a few years back with a Bachelor’s of Medicine. Katherine Dewar’s father, Rob Dewar (BEng’88), and mother Julie Lemieux (BEng’88) also graduated from the Faculty. Dewar remembers how much their time at the Faculty of Engineering meant to them.

“My first day at McGill, my father insisted on bringing me to school. He dropped me at the Roddick Gates on Sherbrooke. I remember him saying to me as I left, ‘OK, kids, have fun!’ What I didn’t know was that, after I was gone, he sat on a bench outside the gates for hours, remembering his good times at McGill— which is remarkable because my Dad’s a pretty busy guy!”

Although Dewar did not graduate from the Faculty of Engineering (she transferred to Commerce in 2011), her squisum among the engineers would mark her in many classes. Not insignificantly, Dewar and Hylands met at one of the Faculty’s design teams, the Baja Racing team, where Hylands was captain from 2009 to 2011. Of all her time at the Faculty, it’s the Baja Racing that gave her the strongest memories.

“The Faculty is great at providing clubs to allow you to learn and experience outside the classroom. It really widens your horizons,” Dewar says. “I am grateful to the Baja racing club because it helped me outside the box about what I wanted to do with my career. I realized wasn’t a person for technical details,” she says with a smile. The Dewar–Hylands duo have racked up some impressive professional credentials since leaving the Faculty. After completing his MBA, Hylands found his home at his father’s real estate development business, Kevric, while Dewar is working in the infrastructure investment team at international pension fund manager, PSP Investments. But every year, when it comes time to think about what to make of the year, they find a way of supporting their alma mater.

“We want to give back to a place that we value and believe in,” explains Dewar. “If you can provide a better education in your own backyard, that’s a nice way of making a difference. McGill has meaning in our lives, and in our parents’ lives.”

Hylands concurs. “When you are studying at McGill, you don’t realize how important the institution actually is. But the downtown location, the four seasons, the education, the social life—all universities dream of offering this to their students but not many have it. It’s something we need to be very proud of as Montrealers. McGill is one of our emblems.”
The experiential learning skills derived from the McGill Formula Electric team have helped Ella Reifsnyder find her true calling as an engineer.

Ella Reifsnyder (BEng'20) gritted her teeth as Ella Reifsnyder's experience on the MFE Team helped drenched again. It was still running when engineering students looked on, the car was shut. Their vehicle had shorted out during this much-dreaded trial. The car must stay running under a simulated rainstorm for two more minutes after the taps are turned off, please don’t turn off, was Ella’s only thought for the next two minutes. After what seemed like an eternity, it was still running. Competition’s like these have their white-knuckle moments, but this is what makes Ella tick: deadlines, teamwork, debugging a problem. The MFE team has shaped her passion for applied sciences and transformed her career goals. The team is a group of as many as 220 students from across the Faculty, all dedicated to designing, constructing and racing an electric vehicle. In 2017, the team merged with the older McIT Racing team, which ran its car on a traditional gasoline-powered engine. But as sponsor interest in Electric vehicle cars dwindled away, the team developed/ecological sunscreen pods with a unique coating that replaced plastic packaging. The fact that she was quickly and easily able to manage a diverse team of people she had never met before came as a bit of a surprise - she never considered herself to be an outgoing person before.

“I learned from my experience with the MFE how to run these meetings, so I could basically walk into that room and after one meeting I could organize 15 students to come up with ideas,” Ella says.

Ultimately, however, Ella has come to understand that all work on more complex projects than sunscreen. She has become “a bit addicted” to the types of challenges she has found on the MFE. In fact, she has been chosen to be co-captain of the team next year. Looking ahead to life after graduation, she is seeking similar opportunities in her field of study.

“There is this company in Montreal that builds medical devices in the same way that MFE builds its cars: researchers hand the company an idea and engineers then design and create a prototype for them,” she explained. “It’s the OCD part in me, I’m finding the most interesting. Not the brute research, but how to create something that can actually have an impact. This is what I want to do.”

Ella’s story is an example of how your gift can impact the lives of students. Your generous donation to the McGill Fund helps our students become tomorrow’s leaders.

A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION

When the Class of ’83 decided to go for a fundraising record, they found support from facaway friends, some of whom have spread far and wide, living in all four corners of the globe. But no matter where their careers may have taken them, they all share the feeling that their years at McGill had a profound effect on their lives—something they are eager to share with the next generation of students.

In 2008, the Class of ’83 held their 25th reunion and to cap off their silver anniversary, they took a group picture. Ella looked at the photo and set her sights on a big target. The biggest, in fact: they would beat the largest class gift ever, a title held by the Class of ’82.

Ever since their student days, Ella had been president of the Engineering Undergraduate Student Societies, and had also been at the centre of numerous activities: flag football, scavenger hunts, or blood donation drives, to name a few. But to kick off this latest challenge, she knew he couldn’t do it alone. He needed an anchorman. And he found one in his old Mechanical Engineering classmate Sultan Ali Allana (BEng’83).

Sultan arrived in Montreal from his native Pakistan in 1979 and during his five years at McGill University, he returned only once to his home country, as student-life representative. In Montreal, “McGill was a big fun place,” recalled Sultan. “We made friends, we laughed, we challenged friends to squash games, we ran races which we never won and we got our iron rings which after 30 years I can’t find.”

Although he may not have been able to find his iron ring, Sultan found in Ella a ready partner to take up the challenge of topping the achievements of their predecessors. It was a towering goal to reach. The class of ’82 had raised over $303k for their 40th reunion, at the time a record for the University. Surpassing that standard would mean their classmates would have to do a bit less ‘tough’ and Sultan was ready to do his part. He contributed the first gift, and took a leadership role in the campaign and contacted his old network of international class members, many of whom still carried fond memories of their years at McGill.

Engineers, it must be noted, are a competitive bunch. Once the challenge was accepted, the classmates began to motivate one another with their donations, which were given as leadership gifts to the annual fund (now called the McGill Fund, multi-year pledges, or one-time large gifts). The fundraising went on for a period of five years, but near the end of the campaign in 2013, time and energy in the core group were in short supply. Their goal of $500k seemed tantalizingly out of reach.

Once again Sultan stepped up his game, and made yet another gift to successfully conclude the campaign.

“I felt strongly that I owed a huge gratitude to the institution for making me what I had become,” Sultan reflected, when asked what motivated him to give so much of himself to the campaign. “I felt compelled to give back. It was this spirit that motivated me to come forward and rally the cause of giving and become part of a group that put in a large program that was participatory and carried a promise of assisting those who aspired to excel.”
Sir William Dawson College, a temporary school set up for WWII vets in the late 1940s, is a short-lived and little-known passage in McGill University’s history. But for alumni from the Faculty of Engineering’s Class of 1953, it was the gateway to their studies and the start to 70-year-long friendships.

The cots and kitchen crockery were still rolling through the gates on September 28, 1949, at Sir William Dawson College, the satellite school for McGill University that had been hastily carved out of a decommissioned air force training school at St. Johns, Quebec. Know-St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, McGill University Principal P. Cyril James had been given only two weeks to get the school operational for the academic year, and now, on that cool September day in front of rows of soldiers’ barracks, an assembly of academics and military personnel shared the field for the lowering of the Royal Canadian Air Force ensign and the raising of the McGill flag. Built to accommodate the rapid influx of young veterans returning from the Second World War, during its brief five-year existence this temporary campus would be home to some 5,000 young men eager to restart their lives.

Not all the students were veterans. In the rank and file at the College were a 5,000 young men eager to restart their lives.

It was perhaps due to the Spartan conditions, or the ad hoc feel of their education, but a spirit of optimism, camaraderie (and a bit of tomfoolery) took hold at Dawson. Spontaneous piano playing that would spiral into all-night parties, legendary water fights, floor hockey mayhem—Dawson was a bit unchained.

“At Dawson we lived together, ate together, studied together and played together,” Wolofsky reminisces. “It was not just about coming to class in Dawson Hall; it was about sharing an experience. It built a certain collegiality.”

That collegiality would only grow during their years on the main campus at the Faculty of Engineering, when those Dawson students mingled with the rest of the cohort from the Class of 1953 who came from schools such as Loyola College. It was a spirit that would continue afterwards for six decades and counting.

Jackson and Dubuc are currently the core committee that is preparing for the Faculty’s 65th anniversary in 2018 to celebrate their 65th. It’s a class spirit that would continue afterwards for six decades and counting.

On their 50th anniversary in 2003 the class began fundraising for the Faculty. Over the years, these funds have snowballed to over $400,000 dedicated to undergraduate scholarships and SURE research awards. It’s the kind of success that earned them the D. Lorne Gales Award in recognition of their commitment to create a legacy for the class. This philanthropic effort was spearheaded by a core of four members: Guy Champagne and Michael Tucker, along with Wolofsky and Jackson.

“I give to the Faculty because I want the students there to feel a responsibility to McGill, to remember that McGill started them off,” says Wolofsky. “I hate to think that students would leave the Faculty without something that binds them.”

“Our reputation has been tied up with McGill,” adds Jackson. “It’s a matter of pride for us that the university has flourished, and we want to support that.”

Their reunions are all the more meaningful given the advanced age of their class. “Our in memoriam list may soon be longer than our class members list,” said Dubuc. Some dear friends like Doug Pollock who have been instrumental to the success of the reunions have passed on, but nonetheless an impressive 11 classmates and 10 guests will be returning in October 2018 to celebrate their 65th. It’s a class spirit that never left them, and never will.

On their 50th anniversary in 2003 the class began fundraising for the Faculty. Over the years, these funds have snowballed to over $400,000 dedicated to undergraduate scholarships and SURE research awards. It’s the kind of success that earned them the D. Lorne Gales Award in recognition of their commitment to create a legacy for the class. This philanthropic effort was spearheaded by a core of four members: Guy Champagne and Michael Tucker, along with Wolofsky and Jackson.

“I give to the Faculty because I want the students there to feel a responsibility to McGill, to remember that McGill started them off,” says Wolofsky. “I hate to think that students would leave the Faculty without something that binds them.”

“Our reputation has been tied up with McGill,” adds Jackson. “It’s a matter of pride for us that the university has flourished, and we want to support that.”

Their reunions are all the more meaningful given the advanced age of their class. “Our in memoriam list may soon be longer than our class members list,” said Dubuc. Some dear friends like Doug Pollock who have been instrumental to the success of the reunions have passed on, but nonetheless an impressive 11 classmates and 10 guests will be returning in October 2018 to celebrate their 65th. It’s a class spirit that never left them, and never will.
“Education is not a form of entertainment, but a means of empowering people to take control of their lives.”

-ANONYMOUS

THANK YOU.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

FOUNDER’S CIRCLE
Leon Fattal
Kai Y. Wong
Lorne M. Trottier

PRINCIPAL’S CIRCLE
John M. Bishop
James & Barbara Brodeur
Gewurz Family Foundation
Michael John Green
Louis C Ho
Bonnie & Daryl Howard
Charitable Foundation
Peter Javvis
Robert MacLean
Ram & Durga Panda
John Saabas
Morris Shohet
Louis & Anna Viglione
A Scott Taylor
Dave Winship

GOVERNORS’ CIRCLE
James & Mrs. Julia Adams
Andre Allaire
Dick Brown
Ahmad Ali Ettehadieh
Donna Fairservice
Bill Fletcher
David T. Fung
Dr. Alfred Genuel
Thomas M. Hamblin
Rod Hayes
Geza Joos
Nestor Lewskyj
Ken MacKenzie
& Dorothy Hansom Tim
Ian McClachlin
Tim O’Meara
Beverly and Arthur Mendel
Nevine Nassif
Frank Panazello
David W Peat
Allan and Linda Stephens
David Mei-Tzou Ting
Mazika Zelenka Roy

CHANCELLOR’S CIRCLE
The Bawcock Family Foundation
John Broughton
Cara Campbell-Hoisak
Guy B. Champagne
Louis Clement
Nandini Dasgupta
Robert Dewar
Carl Diotati
Glenn Dobby
Fernando Di Caprio
Jim Fraser
Phillip Gooch
Stephen S. Hassan
Zhu Liu and Liying Jiang
Robert J Robinson
George Rodney Tailt
Jacques E Samson
Edmond Tascherieu
Martin Therault
Gregory Vance
In honor of Robert Wehmeyer
Hal Wilson
Michael Winship
Gary Whitelaw

DEANS’ CIRCLE
Jacques Adam
Mahmoud Jawad Al-Daccak
Constantinos Apostolidis
Majd Bakar
Alex G Balogh
Jim Bell
Marcel Belliveau
Dominic Bergeron
Maier Blostein
J.J. Andre Boutin
Wayne Bryce, P.Eng
Hugh Cameron and Heather Hume
Graham Candler
Patrick Cavanagh
Antoine Chagnon
Huan-Wei (David) Chen
John W M Cheng
Paul Cheung
William Cosgrove
Alex Davidhanian
Edith & Giuliano Di Francesco
Dave Ellis
Damien Faucher
Donna M. Feng
Timothy D. Fitzpatrick
Dr Andre Foisy
Mat Fokas
John Forsey
Rodney Foss
Charles Fowler
John W Francis
Vincent Francouer
Anthony Funnness Smith
Edward Galotti
Michel A. Habib
Leslie E. Hajdo
Bill Harker
Dan Hewitt
Tareck Horchani
Dennis Howes
Jercy Yen Wen Huang
Michel D Ingham
Lawrie Jackson
Nell Jonas
Dean Journeau
Nozman Kadanoff
Jeffrey Kadashoff
Marvin Krasnow
Michel Labonté
Mr. Ernest J Laidlaw

Come Lague
Edward Lambert
Brian R Lambert
Timothy Lark
Chris Lawrence
David K Lee
Dennis C Y Lee
Qinglan Li
Charles Lin
Julianna Elizabeth Lin
Gordon Littlejohn
Kizby Losch
Harald Ludwig
James Madgett
Simon Margel
Jack Mark
Denis Martin
Hugh McKay
Charles Meubus
Donald Mooney
Kian L Moozor
Steven Nador
Jan Nessay
Anthony R. Nichols
Marc Novakoff
Kristine Ortmann
Pierre Pacurar
Carol and Filip Papich
Naser Partovii
Noorman Pearl
Tony Petrelli
Henry Polkki
Gordon A Read
Dr. J. S. Rjorordon
David Rodier
John Ross
Hal Rosser
Paul Russo, PhD
J Gordon Routley
RISP
Hesham Said
John Sarudjics
Stephen Saunders
Jay Scott
William Seath
Jacqueline Anne Seto
Edward Sexton
Marc Simons
Edward N Shadeed
Michael Shannon
Nuggiahalli Shyamprasad
Colin Soul
Gordon & Myrna Spratt
Krishna Srinivasan
Paul Stanfield
Bill Stedman
Ritchie Tabachnick
Stafford Tavares
Peter Tekker
Rene B Testa
Nickolas J. Themelis
John D. Thompson
Roger Uqahart
J A La Valliere
Serge Vezina

Joseph Vilagos
Nels Voll</p>