Your generosity in action.

2016
Thank you for your generosity.
Standing outside the Desautels Dean’s Office is an elegant marble sculpture named Commander in Chief. Created by Peter Monk, BCom’58, and generously given to the Faculty by Peter and his wife, Joan, BA’58, after they established an endowment to support entrepreneurship, the elegant artwork is also a reminder that philanthropy has shaped Desautels into a leading management school.

Desautels is thriving. We are an institution that students around the world can attend with the confidence that they are getting an education that is unrivalled anywhere. The 2015 QS World University Rankings cited Desautels as #1 in Canada for Business and Management Studies. In early 2016, our MBA program jumped 15 spots in the Global Financial Times MBA Ranking. Those are just the rankings. Beyond those comparisons are our management thinkers – our Desautels professors – who are shaking up the status quo and having a direct impact on the world. From research on health management, to teaching social entrepreneurship, to creating the Dobson Cup competition for McGill entrepreneurs to compete in and hone their skills, Desautels is leading like never before. And none of this would have been possible without you. Whether you are giving your wisdom, or opening your networks to our students and professors, or providing the financial support that builds our programs, your contributions are catalysts that shape the Faculty.

There is another trend that I’m noticing around here. Philanthropy has become contagious at Desautels. Our donors support us generously, and then they go and do something amazing: they become even more involved.

Eleven years ago, our former Dean, Peter Todd, dreamed big: he set out an ambitious plan for the Faculty to draw upon its resources and strengths and become one of the best management schools in the world. He knew that this would require strategy, vision, and support. Then, in 2005, a landmark gift from Dr. Marcel Desautels, LLD’07 energized this Faculty like no other gift could. Dr. Desautels’s gift established the Faculty as a management thought leader, created student and faculty awards, and opened the possibility for the Faculty to expand into the building next door. His generosity has also motivated others donors to give back. Dr. Desautels has continued to be an involved and passionate ally of the Faculty.

In this report, you will read about Tim Thompson, MBA’90, another donor who is committed to us in a variety of ways. Tim gives his time to lecture as a Global Expert Panel member in courses, he has created a network of TD employees made up of McGill alumni, and he has provided pivotal support to the MBA program. Then there is Samer Saab, BEng’93, MBA’96, another Global Expert Panel member and a Dobson Cup judge, who has supported the Dobson Centre and the MBA program. Don Lewtas, BCom’75, the Chair of the Desautels Faculty Advisory Board, has directed support toward career services, as well as to the new building. And the list goes on.

Thank you! Your contributions are infectious. They shape Desautels and inspire our entire family of students, professors, alumni and parents to follow your example.

Thank you,

Isabelle G. Bajeux-Besnainou
Dean and Professor of Finance
Desautels Faculty of Management
McGill University
Turning 50 is quite a milestone, and Desautels took the golden anniversary in 2015 as an opportunity to gear up for the next half-century. The Faculty has set two ambitious fundraising targets: $19 million in support for our new building, and for 50 new student awards. The new building will provide more than 50,000 square feet of space for the Desautels master’s programs and will be housed in the former home of the McGill bookstore on McTavish Street. The awards will help us attract the very best students, and provide them with the tools they need to realize their full potential.

Under the leadership of the MBA Next 50 Campaign Cabinet, capably led by Honorary Chair Marcel Desautels, LLD’07, and Co-Chairs Don Lewtas and William (Bill) Webb, MBA’93, the Faculty has so far secured funding to establish 25 new awards.
The students at Desautels understand how important it is to have a community space in which to meet and exchange ideas. That’s why the Faculty’s Undergraduate Society (MUS) asked fellow students in a referendum for permission to levy a $40 fee per term on top of their tuition. With the plan to move the master’s programs to a new building, more than 10,000 square feet of space will be available for the BCom program. The goal was to create a Bachelor of Commerce Students for a Student Space Improvement Fund, and the measure passed. Students will thus raise $500,000 by 2018 to be put towards the redesign and construction of multiple undergraduate meeting areas in the Bronfman Building.

Now students will have more study spaces overall, plus areas for collaborative work with each other. The flow between BComs and MBA students will be maintained by a concourse that will be built to connect the two buildings. “We decided to create this fund to provide a vehicle to directly improve the space where we study, work, think and interact with each other every day,” Sean Finnell, President of the MUS, told the McGill Reporter. “We want to invest in the future quality of the BCom program and ensure our growing space maximizes how we, as Desautels students, uniquely work – creatively thinking in a highly collaborative and energetic environment.”

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NEW BUILDING
Alex Banh, BCom’93
Lawrence Bloomberg, MBA’65
Michael (BCom’77, DPA’78) and Deborah Boychuk
Marcel Desautels, LLD’07
Monica (BED’81) and Mark (BCom’81) Hantho
Dominic Lai, BSc’77, MBA’79
Don Lewtas, BCom’75
Michel Pettigrew, BCom’76 and Ferring Inc.
Norman Raschkowan, BCom’80, MBA’85
Pierre Robitaille, MBA’66
David (MBA’80) and Cheryl (BCom’77, MBA’80) Stenason
Tim Thompson, MBA’90

STUDENT AWARDS CREATED THROUGH THE NEXT 50 CAMPAIGN
Amr Azhari MBA Leadership Award
Cesvet Family MBA Fellowship
Class of 2015 (Cremonese, Savaria, Sobey, Doumet) MBA Leadership Award
Adam Dinkes MBA Leadership Award
J. Keith Drysdale MBA Fellowship
Duerrksen MBA Leadership Award
Daniel Galvao MBA Leadership Award
Josée Goulet MBA Leadership Award
Ip Kim Hung MBA Leadership Award
Dominic K.M. Lai MBA Fellowship
Kelly Family MBA Leadership Award
Mandri-Muggenberg MBA Leadership Award
MBA Next 50 Leadership Award
Rick McCreary MBA Leadership Award
Scott McDonald MBA Leadership Award
Lewis and Margaret Pearl Pugh MBA Entrance Fellowship
McGlynn MBA Leadership Award
Reckziegel Family Leadership Award
Samer Bekai-Saab MBA Entrance Fellowship
The Sandhya and Swati Sharma MBA Award
Markéta Spinkova MBA Leadership Award
Timothy M. Thompson MBA LGBT Leadership Award
Teitelbaum Family MBA Leadership Award
Webb-Wong Family MD/MBA Entrance Fellowship
Mr. Robert Zittrer MBA Leadership Award
DOCTOR OR SKILLED MANAGER?
HOW ABOUT BOTH!
Nirros Ponnudurai is the first recipient of the Webb-Wong Family MD/MBA Entrance Fellowship, created by William Webb and Agnes Wong, MDCM'94, in the spring of 2015 as part of the MBA Next 50 Campaign. The new fellowship is awarded on the basis of merit, community involvement, and dedication to bettering the healthcare system.

Nirros is grateful not only for the Fellowship, but also for having been accepted into McGill’s combination MD/MBA program.

His parents came to Canada from Sri Lanka in the 1980s, and his father worked two manual labour jobs at once in order to give his son and daughter the opportunities that were beyond reach for him and his wife. Nirros’s first degree was in mechanical engineering at Concordia University, after which he worked at the Canadian Space Agency and Bombardier.

“I want to help people. And when you get to manage a hospital or clinic you get to help even more people.”

– Nirros Ponnudurai, candidate in the MD/MBA program

The 24-year-old subsequently achieved the distinction of being the youngest student in his first year of the MBA component of the MD/MBA program. When he completes his years of medical school, he will be able to take pride in having accomplished another first, becoming the first doctor in his family.

He chose the program primarily because he wants to be a cardiologist; but he really enjoys business and managing people. Nirros says, “I want to help people. And when you get to manage a hospital or clinic you get to help even more people.”

Nirros has already spent a fair amount of time helping others: his community involvement has been extensive. He was involved with the Big Brother branch on Montreal’s West Island, where he was a mentor to a child for three years. He went to the child’s school to assist him with work, and to help him overcome social awkwardness. “We helped each other a lot. I learned a lot, too, about compassion and leadership,” he says. He was also a volunteer at the Montreal General Hospital’s E.R., where he prepped stretchers and equipment, and spent time getting to know patients, which bolstered his desire to have a career in medicine.

A volunteer organization he’s still very active in is NOW-WOW, New Opportunities for Wounded, Widowed and Orphans of War. Through them, he has raised money at local events for the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. The funds have gone to initiatives like buying bikes for children and purchasing equipment for farmers.

Nirros also acquired important people skills while working in volunteer communities. “Sharing your vision is important for leadership,” he says. And he believes that combining his love of medicine with management skills will enable him to have a positive impact for many years to come. “My gratitude for this award goes well beyond its monetary value. The Fellowship will further motivate me to work harder and ensure that I honour Mr. Webb and Dr. Wong’s generosity.”

“W”

“W”
Businesses today need to grapple with societal complexities and issues like never before. Because of the growing need for students to understand societal needs in a business context, the Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management created the Social Economy Initiative (SEI). This program was established, in large part, thanks to an investment from the Social Economy Fund of KPMG, along with support from the Peter and Joan Monk Endowment for Entrepreneurship.

With KPMG’s donation, Executive Director Anita Novak was hired for two years to set up the program. Students from all over the University can take the SEI courses, where they learn how to promote social action using business and management tools.

The SEI Impact Internship Program is one of the best ways to give students the chance to engage in creating social change: They are paired up to work with non-profit organizations over 10 weeks in the summer.

Over the last four years, 46 students were paired with 27 organizations mostly based in Montreal. The groups ranged from Share the Warmth, which is devoted to child and youth development and health, to Equitas, a human rights organization, to Grameen Creative Lab in Germany, an organization that accelerates social business in developing countries.

Commerce student Stephanie Ambrose was matched with Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in downtown Montreal, which has been providing the families of Little Burgundy with social and educational programs since 1927. Stephanie had wanted an internship in a non-profit sector, but was concerned about an unpaid position. The SEI Impact Internship opened the possibility for her by paying her for her internship with the centre.

“When I heard of the Internship Program, I thought it was the coolest concept! The program elevates the whole internship experience,” she says. The internship program is a win-win for both the interns and the host organization. The students are paid through KPMG’s support, and their placements allow them to become more adaptable, hone their management skills, develop their social awareness...
skills and act on community needs. The 23 host organizations have benefitted from the management aptitude and youthful enthusiasm that the interns bring to their operations, which allows these cash-strapped organizations to take on projects that would otherwise not be feasible. “[Tyndale St-Georges] was open to ideas that I brought to the table, and that was really encouraging,” Stephanie adds. “If you have an idea, it can happen really quickly.”

For Stephanie, the internship also dovetailed with an existing passion for volunteering. She has also worked with the youth-run global leadership network AISEC, and helped 80 McGill students intern and volunteer abroad. She has, as well, developed an online tutoring program where McGill students work with Kenyan primary school students, and fundraised for the Kibale Health and Conservation Clinic in Uganda. For these and other achievements, she has been awarded the most recent Greta Chambers Student Leadership Award by the McGill Alumni Association.

Clearly, when creative, energetic students like Stephanie Ambrose benefit from the Social Economy Initiative Program, so many others benefit, too!

HELPING A COMMUNITY REBUILD

When a train derailed in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec in 2013, killing 47 people and devastating the town’s downtown core, a group of students in the Social Economy Initiative course Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation pondered how they could help the town’s citizens. Their idea: Create a business incubation centre in the town that would provide a space where entrepreneurs could meet, exchange ideas and hone their vision for helping the town get back on its feet.

With funding from the Marcels Desautels Institute for Integrated Management, classmates Cécile Branco-Coté, BA’15, and Bernard D’Arche (BA’15) travelled with the Social Enterprise Track to Lac-Mégantic to meet with residents and to refine their idea. After placing first in the Dobson Cup competition’s Social Business Track, funded by KPMG and Peter and Joan Monk’s Endowment for Entrepreneurship, they obtained additional funding and mentorship support, which helped propel their idea forward.

Today, Le Centre Magnétique is a reality. It provides co-working offices, space for retraining and help honing entrepreneurial vision, and serves as a hub for small-scale venture capitalists looking to meet with those ready to rebuild their community.
FACULTY FACTS

{ A FACULTY WITH IMPACT }

2,500 undergraduate and graduate students

100 Professors

30,000 Desautels alumni in 100 countries

12 academic and executive development programs

11 research centres and institutes

{ AROUND THE WORLD }

Chile and Colombia: countries visited by 40 BCom students and alumni on the 2016 Hot Cities of the World Tour

New Zealand: BCom students Rachel Burk, Maripaz Fernandez, Michael Fishman and Deven Sanon took 1st place at the 9th annual University of Auckland’s Champions Trophy International Case Competition

Hangzhou, China: home of Zhejiang University, partner with Desautels’ Global Manufacturing Supply Chain Management program

São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: locations of Desautels’ Summer School Abroad Program focused on the Latin American Business Context

London, England: presentation of Thinkers50 Lifetime Achievement Award to Henry Mintzberg

South Africa: home of Desautels International Internship partner Emzingo
McGILL’S DOBSON CUP: IMPACT ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1,000 startups mentored through the McGill Dobson Cup since 2009
2,200 individual McGill entrepreneurs mentored during this time
125 startups active as of 2016
1,000 jobs created and $35 million raised by these startups to date
87 judge-mentors actively involved in McGill Dobson Cup every year

DID YOU KNOW?

100 DONORS are recognized on the Desautels Donor Wall for contributions of $100,000 or more to the Faculty

SOCIAL MEDIA MEMBERSHIP

14,500 fans follow the Faculty across Desautels’ Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram pages

KEY DATES

1906 Management education begins at McGill University within the Faculty of Arts and eventually becomes the School of Commerce
1920 First graduating class of the BCom program
1965 First graduating class of the MBA program
1971 Samuel Bronfman donates the Bronfman Building to house the recently renamed Faculty of Management
2005 $22-million donation from Marcel Desautels, CM, O.Ont., LLD’07, allows Faculty to invest in curriculum, renovate facilities, enhance career services and hire new professors
A STELLAR SUPPORTER

Tim Thompson, MBA’90, is a stellar example of an alumnus who is generous with his resources, time and influence. In recognition of this, the McGill Alumni Association has presented him with the 2016 Alumni Student Engagement Award.

Thompson, chief operating officer of TD Asset Management in Toronto, returns to McGill regularly to guest lecture in classes for MBA and BCom students. He was also a keynote speaker for the Desautels MBA Orientation week in August 2014.

Thompson reaches out to other alumni and to those in his business network, urging them to get involved with Desautels students, and to give support in whatever ways they can. He has nurtured strong ties between his employer and Desautels, which has led to TD recruiting many of the Faculty’s graduates.

He is involved with Desautels student organizations, such as the OUTlook on Business Club, which supports the professional development of LGBTQ students, as well as Desautels Capital Management, a university-owned, student-run investment firm.

Last but not least comes Thompson’s generous financial commitment. He established the Timothy Thompson Fellowship in 2010 for exemplary students entering the MBA program. More recently, he has supported the MBA Next 50 Campaign by funding a meeting room in the new home for the Desautels MBA program, and a new MBA Leadership award for a student who shows strong leadership and commitment to the LGBTQ community. Thompson will also make himself available to meet every recipient of his awards.

Although diversity and inclusion are now more the norm in the business world, Thompson keenly remembers feeling that he couldn’t be fully himself when he was a student. In an interview with The Globe and Mail, Thompson said “back in 1990, if there had been an award [like this] it might have allowed me to bring my whole self to school.” Since those days, however, society has evolved. Thompson is now happily married and a very busy parent of three young children.

The impact of Thompson’s philanthropy is clear. Shobhita Soor, BSc’10, MBA’15, BCL/LLB’15, the first recipient of the Timothy Thompson Fellowship in 2012, stated that his generosity, “speaks to the value of giving back and the importance of strengthening our fellow beings through education – a path that I hope to follow through my life.” As a member of the team that won the $1-million Hult Prize in 2013 with a project for developing a new food source for undernourished communities and with a recent mention on the Forbes 2016 30 Under 30 list, she is already on the right course to making an impact on the world.
Tim Thompson with Timothy Thompson Fellowship recipient Shawn Errunza, BEng’10, MD/MBA’19
The Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship in the Faculty of Management was created in 1988 thanks to the John Dobson Foundation. The Centre is behind all courses in entrepreneurship at Desautels, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and provides a wide variety of resources for entrepreneurial training, from mentoring to workshops to creative labs.

The Dobson Centre’s work is now benefiting not only the province of Quebec, but the entire country. What’s more, as a springboard for projects ranging from solar backpacks to reusable female condoms, to customized tailoring with the use of mobile 3D scanners, the Centre’s Dobson Cup has served to focus the incredible energy, talent and ideas of pioneers in Montreal.

When it was founded in 2009, the Dobson Cup attracted only 14 teams. In 2016, by comparison, the competition attracted 147 entries. The growth in the number of teams has paralleled the Faculties represented, as well. In 2016, students from nine Faculties (Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Continuing Education, Dentistry, Desautels, Engineering, Law, Medicine, and Science) participated. “In the last three years, things have just exploded,” said Renjie Butalid, Marketing and Operations Advisor of the Dobson Centre. The competition has become an opportunity to export training in entrepreneurship across both of McGill’s campuses. In fact, students from other faculties represented 73-percent of the participants in this last incarnation.

Over time and with increased participation, organizers realized the Cup needed to divide into categories to accommodate all the great entrepreneurial ideas. Now there are four tracks – Social Enterprise, Small or Medium Enterprise, Innovation-Driven Enterprise and, new this year, a Health Science category.

There are many donors who have contributed to the over $100,000 in prize money now available; many also offer their services as mentors. Tim Tokarsky, BSc’88, has been a judge and mentor with the Dobson Cup since its inception, and in 2015 his support created the first McGill X-1 program. This summer program allowed several teams of McGill start-up companies to accelerate their growth so as to be ready for investment funding in the fall. The McGill X-1 program continued into 2016.
The Grit Prize, funded by Samer Bekai-Saab, BEng’93, the MBA’96, is given to the team that has shown tremendous dedication to getting their business venture off the ground. According to Ahmed Huneidi, Alexander Haque, Kimberly Alizadeh, Andrew Boyd and Lyle Whyte – team members of one of the 2016 prize-winning teams, Polar Labs, “The award has not only helped us with funding but, more importantly, convinced us of our idea’s potential and the importance of persistence, self-belief, and hard work.”

Some of the other impressive concepts that have surfaced through the competition include equipment to measure the delivered dose of medical radiation for cancer treatments, instant food mixes for refugee populations, and the world’s first electric snowmobiles. Some teams put forward proposals for new services, such as a boutique travel company for Colombia, mail-order clothing rental, or Canada’s first free online legal information clinic. Teams have devised new consumable products like a Yerba Mate soda. And if you’ve enjoyed the Jersey cow milk Greek-style CULT yogurt for breakfast, take a little satisfaction in knowing the Eastern Townships business got a nudge from the Dobson Cup.

One especially exciting development from 2015’s competition was the “Soular” Backpack, which won second place in the Social Enterprise Track and captured the Innovation Prize at the Oxford Africa Conference in May 2016.

The business model was proposed by Salima Visram, BA’15, who grew up near the impoverished village of Kikambala, Kenya. Students in the village have no electricity by which to do their homework at night, and kerosene is expensive and dangerous. Visram thought about how the students walk to and from school in the hot sun, and imagined a knapsack with a solar-energy panel to feed a battery that could be hooked up to an LED light at home, providing hours of after-dark light.

Visram worked full time to turn her idea into a tangible product that this past spring was distributed to students at the Kibera School for Girls in Kenya, situated in the largest slum in Africa.

Within one year, with Visram’s hard work and the support of the Dobson Centre, hundreds of families have been put on their way to saving money and ensuring a better education for their children.

[Image of children with “Soular” backpacks]
Just as the student body at Desautels is international, so is their outlook. Students are increasingly keen on opportunities to go abroad, and with the help of private support, the Faculty can respond to their needs.

In honour of Peter Todd, the former Dean of the Faculty, the Peter and Connie Todd International Internship was set up specifically to find ways for students to engage in meaningful internships with organizations around the world.

Staff members and faculty were eager to contribute to show their appreciation for their much-admired former Dean. More than 200 gifts from staff, faculty, and alumni created a sizable endowment that ensures that a cohort of Desautels students will have a funded international internship.

With the new critical mass of funding, the Faculty was able to forge a partnership with Emzingo, a socially and environmentally committed leadership development company. With its help, students are placed in developing countries (South Africa, Peru or Brazil), giving them an excellent chance to gain forward-thinking, culturally sensitive training.

Sufanah Hamza, BCom’16, went to the township of Soweto in Johannesburg to work at an Early Childhood and Community Development Centre, where she helped the Centre develop strategies to resolve its funding challenges. She spent her first week in immersion programs to learn about the country’s history and culture. “This was crucial,” she says, “as providing advisory services to a local NGO with no knowledge of how South Africa worked would have resulted in disastrous solutions.” She even learned some Zulu.
By interviewing and observing the Centre’s stakeholders (parents, employees, accountants and board members), Sufanah helped the organization channel its strengths, overhaul its branding and effectively use a budgeting tool, while building a better funding strategy.

“I have come out of this experience truly knowing what I want to do in my career, which is to help people and organizations do things better. I will be starting my consulting recruitment soon and am looking forward to it, especially because of my experience during this internship,” Sufanah says.

I have come out of this experience truly knowing what I want to do in my career, which is to help people and organizations do things better.”

– Sufanah Hamza, BCom’16

ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

It is particularly fitting that the Peter and Connie Todd International Internship is housed within the Soutar Career Centre, named for the late Ian Soutar, BEng’58, who gave generously both to Desautels and to the Faculty of Engineering. Soutar’s support was especially critical in the development of the two faculties’ career centres.

The Soutar Career Centre is very successful at finding students internships — it arranges about half the paid internships among the BCom students — but there is more to its work than that.

The Career Services team goes beyond helping graduates land jobs, and aims to give students the tools they need to build their careers.

Specialists provide coaching in areas like marketing and finance, and there is a mentorship program in which students are carefully and thoughtfully matched with professionals who can give them advice, many of whom are alumni. As well, alumni have lifetime access to the Centre.

The Executive Director of the Career Services team, Marie-José Beaudin, likes to tell students: “Personal success is yours to define. It depends on your ownership and determination. If you drive with passion, we’ll help you navigate the road to success.”
RECENT GRADUATE TO WATCH: WILSON LAPointe

HEALTH CARE IN HAITI: CREATING CHANGE
Wilson Lapointe was galvanized by his mother’s death in an inadequately run hospital in his native Haiti, in 2004. The tragic and untimely event left Lapointe with a fierce desire to improve the system. This only intensified when he worked in emergency relief after the Haiti earthquake of 2010. Then a chance meeting with a McGill grad put him on the path he is now pursuing.

Lapointe was working in Haiti for a Portland (Oregon)-based NGO called Medical Teams International. He discovered the Healthcare MBA at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) while doing a web search, and subsequently began a correspondence with Professor Jim Huntzicker, who teaches in the Division of Management at OHSU, and is a graduate of the first cohort of the International Masters for Health Leadership (IMHL) program at McGill.

Lapointe wound up visiting Portland and meeting Huntzicker. They talked about the Healthcare MBA, but Huntzicker also mentioned the IMHL, sensing it was a more appropriate program for Wilson. Leslie Breitner, Academic Director of the program, says that its goal is “to help develop people who will transform the way health care is delivered around the world. Jim thought it ideal for Wilson.”

Lapointe was eager to go, but didn’t have the means. Besides tuition fees, international students incur the costs of frequent travel to Montreal, since the program runs five 12-day modules over 18 months. Huntzicker felt so strongly that Lapointe should be part of the program that he rallied colleagues and friends from his university to fully fund Lapointe’s studies. Huntzicker later became Lapointe’s advisor for his final master’s paper.

Lapointe appreciated the opportunity to explore health management issues in depth, and to be able to exchange with students of nearly a dozen nationalities. McGill’s is “such a vibrant program,” he says.

Lapointe hopes to bring his skills to managing hospitals in Haiti, which are often run by executive committees made up of foreign citizens because so few locals have the training or experience required. He will also fight for hospitals to not charge people more than they are able to pay. “We have no insurance. When people are sick they are on their own,” he says.

Currently, Lapointe is the finance and program manager of a community health clinic in Gonaives, run by the Haiti Foundation of Hope. Lapointe spends his time getting to know and understand the community’s medical problems, which frequently involve ailments like glaucoma, cataracts, high-blood pressure, and childhood pneumonia.

Lapointe appreciated how practical the IMHL modules were. For instance, “he was taught how to apply the principle of appreciative enquiry – to seek out “the best of people doing their best. You focus on what helps you, you reach for the positive within the community,” Lapointe says.

You are taught to seek out the best of people doing their best. You focus on what helps you, you reach for the positive within the community.

– Wilson Lapointe, MMGMT’16, graduate of the the International Masters for Health Leadership program

He applies this to his clinic’s child nutrition program. Instead of bringing in outsiders to teach mothers, he seeks out the best so-called “positive deviant,” in other words, the one mother in the community who manages to feed her child well with available resources.

Wilson says, “I’m grateful to be part of the McGill community. I felt very honoured to have had my professors. They brought the best out of the best in the world. For these people to take their time and give money to help me, I give a big thank you.”
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.