

# Library Matters @ McGill

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[www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/](http://www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/)

## FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



Mary-Beth Campbell, Penny Aubin, Kelly Gallacher winners of Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff  
(Photo by Owen Egan, courtesy the McGill Reporter)

At the recent Convocation, not only were the Governor General, a hockey legend and literary champion honoured but so too was our own champion, Penny Aubin. McGill University recognized three exceptional individuals with honorary degrees - Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, Montreal Canadiens hockey legend Jean Béliveau and Canadian literary champion Judith W. Mappin received honorary degrees of Doctor of Letters and Doctor of Laws. Five Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Services were also recognized at the afternoon Convocation ceremonies. Penny Aubin did the Library proud. Penny has worked for the past 18 years as a Library Assistant in Library Technical Services. She processes multimedia as well as solving challenging problems in acquisition and cataloguing of audiovisual materials. Penny has distinguished herself by her dedication and commitment -

and her prodigious knowledge of many languages. As well as more familiar European languages, she has also acquired dexterity and skill in Hebrew, Old Provençal, Old Norse and Old Anglo-Saxon. Penny's award is a reflection on all the work that is done by so many staff within the Library. Every day, dozens of staff work behind the scenes to ensure that our outstanding collections can be accessed by students and staff at McGill. There are others who work up front ensuring we provide services of excellence. Congratulations to Penny and to all who ensure that the McGill community is able to use the Library's resources to conduct research, undertake teaching and support their learning.

Further recent press articles have reminded us of the need for preservation of our digital records. The December issue of *Popular Mechanics* refers to the possibility of a digital ice age. A modern multimedia version of William the Conqueror's Domesday Book, a survey of life in medieval England, was compiled in 1986 by the BBC and stored on laser discs so that details of life in the 20th century would be available. It is now difficult to access and use. However, the original Domesday Book, written on parchment in 1086, is still in readable condition in England's National Archives in Kew. Maps compiled digitally and transferred to later formats are often slightly altered by new software. Most of us have experienced difficulty with attempting to use old Word files using later versions. One can only speculate what will happen to content compiled on blogs. The role of the Library in ensuring the preservation of records, in print or digital formats, remains vital. It is an area for us to address in our planning as we undertake new endeavours. We can help ensure a thaw in the digital ice age.

**Janine Schmidt,**  
Trenholme Director of Libraries

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### E AND E - TO EXCHANGE AND ENCOURAGE

The *Library Matters @ McGill* newsletter, brought to you by the *you never heard it from us* editors, seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovations and information from McGill Library staff at all levels.

The newsletter is published monthly. The latest issue, as well as an archive of past issues, can be found at [www.mcgill.ca/library/about/pubs/newsletter/](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/pubs/newsletter/).

We welcome your contributions. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the issue month. Send your input to the *you never heard it from us* editorial team:

**Louisa Piatti**, [louisa.piatti@mcgill.ca](mailto:louisa.piatti@mcgill.ca); **Cecilia Tellis**, [cecilia.tellis@mcgill.ca](mailto:cecilia.tellis@mcgill.ca); **Rebecca Nicholson**, [rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca](mailto:rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca)

## WHAT'S NEW

### Happy tidings

**Natalie Waters**, Liaison Librarian (Schulich), gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, Thomas Gereard Gasior, on August 12, 2006. Proud new dad is Natalie's husband Kevin Gasior.

**Michelle Ayotte** (Gov Info) and **Peter Santlal** (Humanities and Social Sciences) welcome their second child, Lana Gabrielle Santlal, born September 18, 2006.

**April Colosimo**, Liaison Librarian (Schulich) was married to Paul Yee on October 14 in Montreal. The happy couple traveled to the Bahamas by way of Miami for their honeymoon.

Congratulations to you all!

### Staff news

❖ Two longstanding and valued members of staff, Sheila Farthing and Joe Swift have indicated their intentions to retire. We thank them both for their dedicated service and commitment over many years. We shall say farewell to them appropriately in due course and wish them all the best in the next stage of their lives.

❖ Anne Avery has moved to the Law Library. She joins the team there and will make a valuable contribution. We all thank her for her dedication to service in the past through the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, where she has worked in the Serials and Microform Services area since 1994. Her work has taken her through many public and technical positions within the McGill Library system.

### Planning documents

The document *Renewal and Reorganization: a framework for further discussion* has been updated and the latest version is available on the Common network drive in the **planning** folder. This is the document the Director took around to all branches and sections in the summer and fall. The Director says that the discussions

with staff were extremely helpful and comments were integrated into the final version of the document.

Also in the **planning** folder on the Common drive, is a shortened version of the **Strategic Plan, 2005/6**, developed by the Thirty Plus group during their planning session last year. (See the September 2005 issue of *Library Matters @ McGill*.)

The Director has indicated that she will be scheduling sessions in the Winter term, so that all staff can be further involved in the planning process.

### Consultants update

The recent work of Kathleen Shearer in making recommendations for our further **digitization activities** was extremely useful. The Director has indicated that she will shortly be announcing the composition of a committee to undertake further work on our planning in this area.

Charlotte Stewart recently retired from McMaster University, having been the Interim University Librarian, and the Associate Librarian, Collections, for some years, and has been with us for two weeks (beginning November 12) and will scope out the **cataloguing backlog** and provide us with advice on potential solutions. In this project, Charlotte will be assisted by Christine Oliver, Head, Library Technical Services.

### New Associate Director positions

Work is proceeding on the appointment of the five new **Associate Directors**. Cathryn Lohrisch has been appointed as the recruitment consultant. Cathryn is a graduate of McGill with extensive experience working as a search consultant in the educational environment. She will be assisted by Alex de Greef, a local Montreal recruitment consultant. The five Associate Directors will take responsibility for one of the following areas:

Client Services, Humanities, Law, Management and Social Sciences

Client Services, Sciences, Health and Engineering

Collection Management Services  
Planning and Resources Services  
Library Technology Services

One Advisory Committee will be appointed to offer advice on the selection for all five positions. Further information on the composition of the Advisory Committee will be communicated once this has been finalized. Any enquiries about the positions should be directed to Cathryn Lohrisch (lohrisch@sympatico.ca). Any inquiries about the process can be directed to Carole Renahan.

### Construction work continues

The work on the former **reference area in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library** continues. There have been delays in the completion of the power supply and in the receipt of new furniture. Hopefully, it will all be completed by the end of November. Much to the delight of our users, the diligence and patience of staff has resulted in these improvements. Further work will be done on the second floor to install additional shelving in the former journals display area. This will ease some of the space issues in relation to collection storage. A small committee is working on the implementation. Once new microform readers will be acquired they will be placed in the Government Information Service area as well as adjacent to the area where microforms will be stored.

### Name the new E-Zone!

The selection of an architect to work on the **new E-Zone** in the area formerly occupied by the Blacker Wood Library is being finalized. We need a name for this area. Learning Hub has been suggested. Further suggestions for an appropriate name are sought and yes, there will be a prize for the name selected. Please submit suggestions to Bruna Ceccolini.

## OPENING THE “WINDOW OF SHANGHAI”

by Macy Zheng (Humanities and Social Sciences)



A ceremony to open the “Window of Shanghai” was held October 25 in the Director’s Office, McLennan Library.

Montreal and Shanghai became sister cities in 1985 and since then many cooperative activities have been carried out between the two cities. “Window of Shanghai” is a program initiated by the Shanghai Library to promote friendly relationships with overseas libraries which either have cooperative programs with the Shanghai Library or are in the sister cities of Shanghai.

To begin the “Window of Shanghai” project, the Shanghai Library sent approximately 500 books to the McGill Library as the first batch of gifts. Another 200 volumes will arrive during the next two years. The titles were selected by the faculty members of the East Asian Studies Department at McGill. These books cover various subject areas such as literature, culture, arts, economy, architecture, religion and history.

The Deputy Director of the Shanghai Library, Mr. Deming Zhou, and the Trenholme Director of McGill Library, Ms. Janine Schmidt, “opened” the “Window of Shanghai” at the ceremony. Faculty members of the East Asian Studies Department, Professor Grace Fong and Professor Robin Yates, expressed their appreciation of the gift. Macy Zheng, the East Asian Studies Liaison Librarian outlined the project and expressed McGill’s interest in other cooperative programs between the two libraries in the future.

To acknowledge receipt of the gifts, a gift plate has been placed in each book. All people in Montreal are welcome to use the books in the library. These books can be accessed by

searching McGill’s online catalogue. Members of the Shanghai delegation were very impressed that the professors and students at McGill are so enthusiastic about the teaching and learning of Chinese culture, and they were glad that the books they sent to McGill will be very useful to McGill Library users.

## A PAT ON THE BACK

to Macy Zheng from Wayne Peng of Shanghai Library

Dear Macy:

First, on behalf of the delegation, our deputy director, Mr. Zhou Deming, I would like to thank your library, your colleagues and faculties involved in this project and Ms. Schmidt for all your passionate work and considerate arrangement for the successful unveiling of Window of Shanghai. Secondly, I would like to sincerely thank you again for the time and energy you spend on the project. It is only by your enthusiasm that makes this ceremony possible and our visit fruitful.

The delegation returned to Shanghai on last Sunday. Today, my colleagues and I are still talking about the warm ceremony you gave us. It's an occasion that will be long remembered. We were impressed by your faculty members great interests in our books and we were convinced that our donated books would be effectively utilized and friendship between our two libraries will be deepened. For librarians, what will be more inspiring than through utilization of the books?

Concerning the further cooperation between our two libraries, if your library have any good idea, please tell Xuyan and let us promote together. If we can start from document delivery, you can always find us on OCLC or you can leave my colleague's contact information to your interlibrary loan staff. My colleague's name is Ms. XIA lei, lxia@libnet.sh.cn.

Finally, please remember us to all your colleagues, especially your supervisor and Ms. Schmidt. Thank you for your warm receiving!

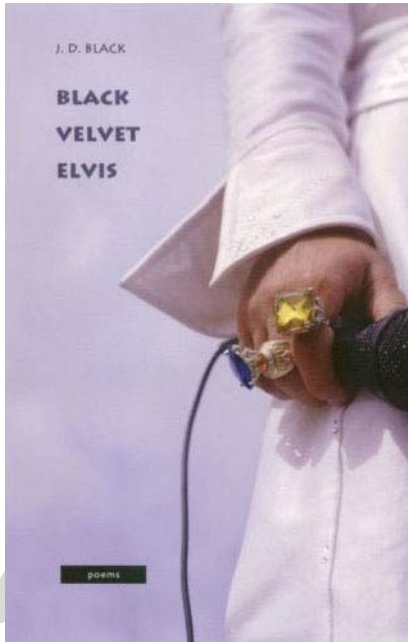
Sincerely Yours,

彭伟 (Wayne Peng)  
Document Supply Center  
Shanghai Library



# FROM JOHNNY JELLYBEAN TO ELVIS: INFLUENCES AND THE POETRY OF JOHN BLACK

By Louisa Piatti (Nahum Gelber Law)



John Black, Audio-Visual Collections and Services Coordinator at Marvin Duchow Music Library and a native Montrealer who credits Johnny Jellybean\* as an influence, has produced a slim volume of poetry. While most of us associate John with his work in the Music Library, he has published his first collection with the intriguing title *Black Velvet Elvis*.

The jacket blurb starts with this sentence: "The King himself puts in a cameo appearance at a rural Quebec Gas-Bar de la Nuit where the glowing ends of several dozen cigarettes counterpoint an urgent bass line to the syncopated doo wop of several tens of thousands of fireflies."

One particular poem  
B l a c k

*Velvet Elvis or Gas Bar dans la nuit* begins:

*The King grins down from the gas station wall,  
benignant presence over the cash register,  
blessing villagers and passing travellers  
through cracked, grime-mottled, grease-  
streaked glass.*

Other poems, in more difficult forms from rondeau to haiku, have titles such as *Antiheroic couplets*, *String* and *Reply to Robert Frost*.

Work on the selection and editing of the poems was done by Dr. Eric Ormsby, former Director of Libraries and Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill, and currently Chief Librarian at the Library of The Institute of Ismaili Studies. Dr. Ormsby is himself a world-class poet and essayist.

This volume published by Porcupine's Quill ([www.sentex.net/~pq1](http://www.sentex.net/~pq1)), is available through the University of Toronto Press (ISBN 0 88984 2779 96pp. sewn paper. \$16.95).

Should you wish to contact John he can be reached by email at [john.black@mcgill.ca](mailto:john.black@mcgill.ca).

\* If you are not a native Montrealer who is of the baby boomer generation, you might have to ask someone about Johnny Jellybean—the squawk box, Enzo Pesta and Morty the 140 year old mailman.....that was reality television.

A party was held at the end of August in the Government Information Services department. Departmental staff and invited guests gathered to wish farewell to Maryse Lemoine who had worked as Government Electronic Resources Librarian for the past two years. Maryse left McGill in September to pursue graduate studies in Geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at York University.

At this same party we expressed our good wishes to Michelle Ayotte, a Library Assistant in the Government Information Services department, who was taking maternity leave. Michelle and her husband Peter Santlal (Humanities and Social Sciences) welcomed their daughter Lana Gabrielle born on September 18.



*If knowledge can  
create problems, it is  
not through ignorance  
that we can solve them.*

- Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ Friday, December 1, 2006 – *Pilates/Yoga Day in memory of Mila Voynova, McGill Instructor*. From noon until 7 p.m., the McGill University Department of Athletics will host a Yoga/Pilates Day in memory of Mila Voynova and in response to suggestions from grief-stricken friends, colleagues and students who wanted to celebrate Mila's life. The McGill community and the general public are invited to drop in and participate in a yoga and/or Pilates class. Classes will run on the hour and will last 45 minutes. There is a \$2.00 admission charge with the added opportunity to donate to the *In Memory Fund* established in Mila's name. Proceeds will be donated to the Domestic Violence Unit of McGill's School of Social Work and will fund a memorial bench to be erected outside the Athletics Complex. See [www.mcgill.ca/vpadmin/fitness/](http://www.mcgill.ca/vpadmin/fitness/) for more information.
- ❖ Friday, December 15, 2006, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – *Farewell reception for Robert Clarke and Diane Koen*, Faculty Club Billiard Room, 3450 McTavish Street. RSVP by December 8 to [rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca](mailto:rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca) or by phone to 514-398-4677, Office of the Director of Libraries.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*Do you have anyone you wish to nominate for the 2006-2007 Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support staff?*

The following was sent on behalf of Professor Heather Munroe-Blum, Principal and Vice-Chancellor:

Dear Colleagues,

As we prepare to pay tribute to the winners of the 2005-2006 Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff at our fall Convocation on November 10, I invite you to look to your employees and colleagues and consider nominating deserving candidates for this year's Awards. With your support, one person from each of the five categories:

Managers, Clerical, Technical, Library Assistants, and Trades and Services, will receive the 2006-2007 Principal's Award for Administrative and Support Staff and a \$5,000 gift.

Receiving the recognition and congratulations of our colleagues - especially those who fully appreciate the demands, challenges, and complexities of providing the University's administrative and support services - is always gratifying. I encourage you to help recognize someone who truly embodies McGill's commitment to excellence by nominating them for the 2006-2007 Awards.

For information about the quick and simple nomination process and all related information, please visit [www.mcgill.ca/vpadmin/awards/](http://www.mcgill.ca/vpadmin/awards/) or contact Lydia Martone [lydia.martone@mcgill.ca](mailto:lydia.martone@mcgill.ca) or 398-7142 or Rosalia Felice [rosalia.felice@mcgill.ca](mailto:rosalia.felice@mcgill.ca) or 398-5341.

Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, December 20, 2006.

For more McGill events, consult:  
[www.mcgill.ca/calendar/](http://www.mcgill.ca/calendar/)

Janine Schmidt,  
Trenholme Director of Libraries,  
cordially invites you to the

Annual Festive Fête

Tuesday, December 19, 2006  
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Redpath Hall



*November always seemed to be the Norway of the year.*

-Emily Dickinson