



# Library Matters @ McGill

VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2008

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

Library Ambassador, Deena Zeplovitz, at the Freedom to Read Week display in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. The display featured examples of banned books and showcased eye-catching new print reference books, including a resource on banned books.

## FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



**JANINE SCHMIDT,  
TRENHOLME  
DIRECTOR OF  
LIBRARIES**

Spring still seems some distance away as we continue to experience record-breaking falls of snow. A few birds were heard in early March but ever-mounting piles of snow beat down any first green shoots of spring which had the temerity to appear. The students have their heads down completing assignments and preparing for examinations. We are busy ensuring they have everything they need. Louis Houle and I began March, if not Spring, by representing the Library at an important training session for graduate students who want to gain knowledge and skills in teaching. The session on March 8 was the first training program of this kind held at McGill and was entitled *Learning to Teach: a professional development work-*

*shop for graduate students.* The event was designed to help students new to teaching, as well as those who want to prepare for their future as research and teaching faculty members. The aim of the sessions was to ensure that aspiring teachers feel more confident about their teaching skills and strategies. The conference was organized by McGill's Teaching & Learning Services (TLS) and Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). A general introductory session was followed by interactive sessions focusing on such topics as *Engaging students through interactive strategies, Preparing and delivering effective presentations, Facilitating effective discussions: face to face and on-line* and *Information searching techniques in the*

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age of Google.

It was an excellent day and we would all benefit by thinking more about our communication strategies with students and designing effective course outlines for our information skills programs.

Our Principal, Heather Munroe-Blum, spoke on March 10 at Montreal's Council on Foreign Relations on the role of strong universities in a globalized economy, and the dependence of Quebec's success on the success of its universities. The Principal spoke convincingly of the need for a passion for education, excellence and innovation and of the need for im-

proved government support. She talked about the value that universities add to the economy of Montreal and Quebec and of the worldwide influence of McGill. The Library adds value to McGill's achievements and to the teaching, learning, research and community activities and therefore to the globalized economy. We must do our utmost to help McGill, and Quebec, grow and develop. Principal Munroe-Blum referred to the top six Quebec "brands" most recognized internationally. One of them is of course McGill—and the others? Bombardier, SNC Lavalin., Hydro Quebec, Cirque du Soleil—and of course Celine Dion. McGill represents Quebec—and Canada—to the world.

## Library Matters @ McGill

The *Library Matters @ McGill* newsletter seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovation 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)

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**Rebecca Nicholson**, [rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca](mailto:rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca)

## WHAT'S NEW

### LORIE KLODA HONOURED



**Lorie Kloda** (Life Sciences) has been awarded the Thomson Scientific/MLA Doctoral Fellowship for the year 2008 by

the Medical Library Association. Lorie is currently on leave from the Life Sciences Library, pursuing a PhD in the School of Information Studies at McGill. Congratulations, Lorie!

### STAFF NEWS

**Stéphanie Simard**, began work as Liaison Librarian at Schulich Library of Science and Engineering in March. She replaces Tara Mawhinney while she is on maternity leave. Stéphanie has an MLIS from McGill, and worked in IT before studying librarianship. She comes to us from the Career and Placement Service at McGill.

Also in March, **Mohammad Amirzad** joined the Library's Planning

and Resources team as Finance Administrator. Mohammad has worked for the Faculty of Medicine and the Accounting Department at McGill and has experience in customer service, retail and buying. He has a BCom from McGill and is working toward completing his Chartered Accountancy qualifications at McGill.

### A NEW ARRIVAL

**Adia Katherine Byrne** was born to **Tara Mawhinney** (Schulich Library) and **Chris Byrne** on March 17, weighing 7lbs 11 oz. Congratulations Tara and Chris, and welcome Adia!



### YORK LIBRARIAN RECALLS MCGILL

**John Dupuis**, author of the blog "Confessions of a Science Librarian," recalled his time as a practicum student at Schulich Library, when it

was still the Physical Sciences & Engineering Library, in a recent interview.



John is currently head of the Steacie Science & Engineering Library at York University in Toronto.

"So, it was back to school for a Library and Information Science degree at McGill; while there I worked at the McGill Physical Sciences & Engineering Library for a practicum placement and got bitten by the science librarian bug," he tells the science blog "A Blog Around the Clock" ([scienceblogs.com/clock/](http://scienceblogs.com/clock/)).

"It was a great place to work with a passionate, committed [*sic*] staff dedicated to helping faculty and students. Luckily, when I graduated a job came open at York in the science library and the rest, as they say, is history."

To read the whole interview, visit [scienceblogs.com/clock/2008/02/science\\_librarian\\_in\\_a\\_confess.php](http://scienceblogs.com/clock/2008/02/science_librarian_in_a_confess.php).

## WORKING THE THANKATHON PHONE LINES

BY CHRIS LYONS (OSLER LIBRARY)

For the past few years, several Library staff members have joined together for an evening with other McGill volunteers at Martlet House to do something very important for the University: thank those who contribute to McGill's Alma Mater Fund.

As you know, higher education in Quebec is a tremendous bargain compared with elsewhere in North America, but this comes at the cost of lower revenues and rising deficits. Each year McGill struggles to provide a world class education despite this. What makes such a tremendous difference, though, is the remarkable generosity of alumni and others. The McGill Alma Mater Fund is large, and the income helps us to provide the resources that make a big difference in the quality of life at McGill. Just think of the joy we all feel at being able to offer comprehensive services, build such great collections and renovate our spaces; now imagine trying to do all this without the extra money that our donors provide.

I like doing the Thankathon because I'm grateful, but I also do it because it's fun. Volunteers are matched to donors, so I get to contact Library ones. It's great to call someone and tell them that you are *only* calling to thank them and *not* asking for more money. Their initial shock, mistrust and disbelief is quickly replaced by appreciation for the gesture. This is often followed by pleasant

and sometimes touching stories about why people have chosen to support the Library. One father explained to me how he gives annually because of his daughter. It seems that she wasn't a very motivated high school student and he despaired about what would happen when she started at McGill, but according to him, she 'lived in the Library' as an undergraduate and is now doing a PhD in psychology. As a Library staff member it's nice to find out about how we sometimes have such a positive effect on people without even knowing it. There are also the funny moments. I've always felt that Montreal is really just a small town, so I wasn't surprised when I ended up calling one of my colleagues, but I was a bit taken aback when I called a donor who works at Martlet House and found out I was using her office.

The organizers of the Thankathon also make a tremendous effort to make it a pleasant evening for the volunteers. First off, they provide a buffet, which in itself ensures that I come back each year. Throughout the evening there are also prizes drawn. I was the big winner this year—receiving a stainless steel barbecue set that puts my little hibachi to shame. Thank goodness it is stainless steel though, as it doesn't look like I'm going to be using it any time soon! Everyone also gets a parting gift for having come out. Given all this, three hours a year is not too much to give considering the wonderful returns.



JUST THINK OF THE JOY WE ALL FEEL AT BEING ABLE TO OFFER COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, BUILD SUCH GREAT COLLECTIONS AND RENOVATE OUR SPACES; NOW IMAGINE TRYING TO DO ALL THIS WITHOUT THE EXTRA MONEY THAT OUR DONORS PROVIDE.



***“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”***

— Mason Cooley, U.S. aphorist.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU: OSLER LIBRARY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

BY THE STAFF OF OSLER LIBRARY

Welcome to the Osler Library, one of McGill's best kept secrets. Pam Miller, Lily Szczygiel and Chris Lyons have been keeping the Oslerian flame alive and themselves out of trouble for a collective total of almost 40 years. We decided that it might be fun to try and guess who we are, or at least find out what you think of us, by having you do the following quiz: we each wrote our answers for each of the profile questions, then scrambled them up. The person who is able to correctly attribute the most answers to the right staff member will receive a copy of one of our publications; the first runner up will win two copies. Email your answers to [lily.szczygiel@mcgill.ca](mailto:lily.szczygiel@mcgill.ca). The contest will end a week after *Library Matters* is published. Good luck!



Pam Miller, Lily Szczygiel and Chris Lyons

## 1. Where were you born?

- Montreal
- Montreal
- Montreal

Talk about making the beginning easy!

## 2. What part of town do you live in?

- Westmount
- Park-Ex
- NDG

## 3. How long have you worked at the library?

- 3 years
- 12 years
- 22 years

## 4. Do you have any pets?

- No, but would love to own a dog one day.
- We live in a zoo. We have one cat, a canary, two very noisy budgies, a gecko, two iguanas, a turtle and several fish. Oh, and we have a squirrel that's nested on our back balcony.
- Only allergies.

## 5. What is your favorite place in Montreal?

- Mount Royal.
- I can't think of any place in particular. I love Montreal. It's a great walking city. My favourite place

is the family's country home at Lac Gagnon.

- There are so many favourite places that it's hard to say—most of them are second hand bookstores.

## 6. What is your favorite dessert?

- If I had to name only one, it would be cheese cake.
- Anything chocolate.
- Anything with chocolate.

## 7. What are you reading and/or listening to?

- I enjoy all kinds of music. Lately it's been the Saturday Night Fever track by the Bee Gees. Don't ask me why. The Five People you Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom.
- The Naming of Names: the Search for Order in the World of Plants, by Anna Pavord. I enjoy listening to anything with Daniel Taylor
- I'm reading The Gospel of Germs by Nancy Tomes. It's about the popularization of germ theory in the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and how it changed behaviours. It's a social history of medicine work. I'm listening to lots of Grateful Dead concert recordings thanks to the thousands available on the Internet Archive ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)).

## 8. What are your other interests?

- Travelling, book collecting, architecture.
- Music, gardening, cross country skiing, swimming, grandchildren.

- Long walks, theatre, movies, travelling, drawing.

## 9. What is your pet peeve?

- CBC Radio 2's new programming...too much jazz
- No response
- Delays and wasting time.

## 10. What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

- "The mind is everything, what you think, you become"
- "A vision without a task is but a dream, a task without a vision is drudgery, a vision and a task is the hope of the world." I've seen this attributed to various sources.
- "Aequanimitas" from Osler's coat of arms/ or something like, "It is not important to learn how to swim, what is important is clinging to the wreckage." (John Mortimer, Clinging to the Wreckage, a Part of Life, badly misquoted)

## 11. What is one thing that people do not know about you?

- In India I was allowed to drive a railway steam engine. People were unbelievably hospitable throughout the country, but this was perhaps going too far, even though I felt incredibly lucky.
- I once danced with Canadian choreographer Brian Macdonald. (He briefly taught ball-room dancing to children of McGill graduates.)
- No response.

## STAY CURRENT WITH ALERTS

BY APRIL COLOSIMO (LIFE SCIENCES LIBRARY)

To keep up to date in areas of interest set up alerts in the different products available through McGill Library. Alerts are also a current awareness tool that we can promote to graduate students and faculty who need to stay on top of the literature published in their field.

Many may already be receiving table of contents alerts of their favourite journals by email or RSS feed, but are perhaps not aware that this feature is also available for a growing number of databases.

To use an example, the My Alerts option in Scopus provides both search alerts and document citation alerts.

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Similarly, get notified when a document is cited by email or RSS feed. Click on the button Abstract and Refs under the title of the document and

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#### RELATED BOOK AT THE LIBRARY:

*How LIS professionals can use alerting services*  
Oxford: Chandos, 2006  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Z674.4 F68 2006

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Friends of the Library present  
**The Hugh MacLennan Memorial Lecture:**

### *"The Lives of Writers"*

presented by **Eleanor Wachtel**

Thursday, April 17, 2008

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Moyse Hall, Arts Building, McGill University

853 Sherbrooke Street West

Reception to follow. RSVP to 514-398-4681 or by email to [rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca](mailto:rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca)

#### **Eleanor Wachtel**

Renowned arts journalist Eleanor Wachtel was born and raised in Montreal, where she studied



Eleanor Wachtel

English literature at McGill University.

She has hosted CBC radio's award-winning "Writers & Company" since its inception in 1990; was host of "The Arts Tonight" between 1996 and 2007, and now takes an in-depth look at ideas in the arts in "Wachtel on the Arts".

Wachtel has contributed to best-selling publications, co-edited two books (*The Expo Story* (1986) and *Language in Her Eye* (1990)), and co-

authored *A Feminist Guide to the Canadian Constitution* (1992). Her thoughtful, engaging interviews have been published by Knopf Canada and HarperCollins in three different "conversation collections".

Wachtel has received wide recognition for her work, including six honorary degrees—received most recently from Dalhousie University and Simon Fraser University. In 2005, she was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

*The Hugh MacLennan Memorial Lecture series was established in 1992 with help of a 5-year grant from the M.E. Hart Foundation, and receives ongoing support from the Friends of the Library.*

## CARING FOR THE COLLECTION

A recent meeting between Liaison Librarians and Collection Services emphasized the importance of “care and management of the Collection,” a phrase encompassing all aspects of collection management, from collection policy development to preservation.

Collection Services outlined its strategic goals for 2007/2008: to acquire, organize and preserve outstanding print and electronic collections of information resources to support curriculum outcomes and research productivity, paying particular attention to online backfiles and reserves. Plans to improve communication between Collection Services and the branches through branch visits were also discussed.

The main policy and procedural mat-

ters discussed at the meeting are listed below.

- **Allocations** – Funds need to be encumbered by the end of March to ensure materials arrive and are paid for in this budget year.
- **Collection Development Policies** – Please create, review, and re-evaluate policies.
- **Course Packs** – The Library obtains at least one copy of each course pack which is placed on reserve. However, encourage faculty to use myCourses (WebCT Vista) to link up to electronic journal articles instead of Course Packs when available.
- **De-Selection Policy** – Can be found on the U drive at **U:\Common\Collection Services\Policies**.

- **Duplicate Copies** – Please indicate if you are ordering a duplicate or replacement copy of something that the Library currently owns in print or as an e-book, or the Library will return the order to the person ordering, assuming they are not aware it is a duplicate.
- **Multiple Copies** – Multiple copies of heavily used textbooks are provided. The general guidelines are one copy for up to 50 students, two for 51 to 100, three for 101 to 150 and four for over 151.
- **Out of Print** – Vendors may keep checking up to 18 months for out of print items and these can not be canceled by Collection Services. Watch out for notes in GOBI that say that requests can not be cancelled.
- **Use the 0 Circ Reports** – Found at **U:\Common\AlephReports\0 Circ Reports** to review collections. Use the weekly hold alerts to make decisions about purchasing additional copies.
- **Videos** – Public performance rights are obtained when possible.
- **YBP GOBI new release information** – new version released last week; training available in April.



***“I can't afford to waste my time making money.”***

– Agassiz, Jean Louis Rodolphe  
(1807 - 1873),  
Swiss naturalist