A Message from our Department Chair

Psychology now spans the campus from Stewart Biology Building in the north west to 2001 McGill College in the south east – but we also cast a wide reach across the University in the thousands of non-psychology students we teach, the linchpin courses we offer to programs in cognitive science and neuroscience, and the research collaborations our faculty and students have with researchers spanning ALL faculties at McGill. We continue to be privileged in the extremely high caliber of students in our classes and labs, whom we expect will go on to great things, similar to the impact of their predecessors briefly highlighted in our alumni section. Indeed, to keep pace with the number and energy of students, we now have 13 assistant professors, whose creativity and vitality inspire students and senior faculty alike.

At the same time, we reflect on the legacies of giants. Associate member Brenda Milner turned 100 in July and a two day symposium in September will celebrate her career and the impact she continues to have on research today. In June, we celebrated the legacy of Ginny Douglas, a trailblazer in clinical science and in the place of women in STEMM disciplines. Similarly this Fall, we will memorialize Peter Milner, a pioneer in behavioral neuroscience. May we continue to push the boundaries of science and academic life.

In This ISSUE

- Meet our two new Faculty Members and learn about their work.
- As she turns 100, there’s no stopping the trailblazing Brenda Milner!
- Breaking gender barriers in STEMM: whose responsibility is it?
- Read about the exciting work our Alumni are doing since they left McGill.
Coordinated reductions underlie reward-seeking activity

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s graduate students Sean Reed, Christopher Lafferty, and Jesse Mendoza whose Neuron paper with Dr. Jonathan Britt examined inputs to the nucleus accumbens, a brain area that regulates reward-seeking behaviour.

Gaze following in group settings

McGill Psychology’s postdoctoral fellow Dr. Francesca Capozzi demonstrated that gaze following in small groups is based on a quorum-like principle, whereby the critical level of social information needed is determined by social cues and group size.

Early maltreatment increases vigilance to threat cues

McGill Psychology’s graduate students Aislinn Sandre and Paige Ethridge, along with Dr. Anna Weinberg, uncovered that childhood maltreatment is associated with increased neural sensitivity to ambiguous threatening information in adulthood.

Impression formation is not equal across groups

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s graduate student Sally Xie, Dr. Jessica Flake, and Dr. Eric Hehman for their Journal of Personality & Social Psychology paper exploring how social impressions vary across race, gender, and perceiver vs. target.

The chains on all my people are the chains on me

Findings from McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. graduate Dr. Frank Kachanoff suggest that restrictions to a group’s collective autonomy may have detrimental consequences for the personal autonomy and psychological well-being of group members.
Perfectionism and the pursuit of personal goals

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Emily Moore collaborated with graduate students Anne Holding, Nora Hope, and Brenda Harvey, along with Dr. Zuroff and Dr. Koestner, to examine the motivational factors that link perfectionism with goal progress.

Take two songs and call me in the morning

*Outside Magazine* spoke to McGill Psychology’s associate faculty member Dr. Robert Zatorre on recent findings that certain playlists can boost brain activity and potentially help treat anxiety and depression.

The cost of swiping right

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Gilla Shapiro published a *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, & Social Networking* paper with alumnus Dr. Samara Perez and supervisor Dr. Zeev Rosberger looking at the link between Tinder use and risky sexual behaviors in young adults.

The ups & downs of child-parent relationships

Postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Research on Children and Families, Dr. Melissa Van Wert conducted one of the largest studies on childhood maltreatment in Canada and found that neglect by parents may factor into youth aggression and criminal behaviour.

Reconsolidating perceptual skills

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Matteo Bernabo and Dr. Karim Nader published a commentary on *Nature Human Behaviour* examining evidence that reconsolidation not only occurs in humans, but also underlies visual perceptual learning.

Stress impairs access to autobiographical memories

In a collaboration across research areas, McGill Psychology’s Dr. Signy Sheldon, Dr. Jens Pruessner, and Dr. Jennifer Bartz, along with undergraduate Sonja Chu and Ph.D. candidate Jonas Nitschke examined how acute stress affects memory retrieval.
Analysis of funding data shows leaky pipeline

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Debra Titone and graduate student Mehrgol Tiv examined a crucial question within science and academia on whether a gender disparity exists in opportunity and advancement over the professional lifespan.

Existing cancer drugs may replace opioids

Research by McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jeffrey Mogil in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* presents hope for a new biological pathway that may lead to existing cancer drugs replacing opioids in the treatment of chronic pain.

Helping to navigate the world of infertility

McGill Psychology’s associate faculty member Dr. Phyllis Zelkowitz and the CIHR-funded Infotility Team have had a busy year preparing for the launch of a novel infertility app called *Infotility*. Information about the team and project can be found at infotility.ca.

Westworld and the ethical dilemma of sentient machines

McGill Psychology’s adjunct faculty Dr. Stevan Harnad weighs in on *McGill Reporter* on the debate about “conscious machines” and how to treat sentient artificial intelligence.

Tapping in sync

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidates Rebecca Scheurich and Anna Zamm, along with Dr. Caroline Palmer, examined how musical training facilitates synchronization around spontaneous production rates in *Frontiers in Psychology*.

To remember, the brain must actively forget

“Without forgetting, we would have no memory at all” – McGill Psychology’s Dr. Oliver Hardt was featured in *Quanta Magazine* discussing the importance of forgetting.
Meet our New Faculty

**DR. ERIC HEHMAN**

Dr. Hehman’s research examines how individuals perceive and evaluate one another across group boundaries (e.g., race, gender, sexual-orientation, occupation). To address these questions, he takes a multi-method approach, incorporating a broad range of behavioral (e.g., computer-mouse tracking, digital face modeling, group interactions), neural (e.g., fMRI, EEG), and statistical techniques (e.g., multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling).

Dr. Hehman was an Assistant Professor at Ryerson University for three years, and will be bringing the *Seeing Human Lab* to McGill University in the Fall.

You can find him at @hehmanlab | hehmanlab.org

**DR. JESSICA KAY FLAKE**

Dr. Flake’s research focuses on applications and evaluations of latent variable and random effects models for educational and social-psychological research — particularly methodology for measurement, measurement invariance, instrument design, and student motivation and success.

Dr. Flake will be joining McGill University in the Fall.

“McGill is a great fit for me because I am joining a growing quantitative area in a wonderful city. I’m looking forward to connecting with new colleagues at all the great restaurants!”

You can find her at @JkayFlake | jessicakayflake.com
Born on July 15, 1918, four months before the end of WW1, Manchester-born Dr. Brenda Milner emigrated to Canada in 1944 following her undergraduate studies in Psychology at the University of Cambridge, UK. “When we arrived in Montreal, I had to get a job - I wouldn’t have been happy not working. So, I got my first job at the University of Montreal, where I taught animal behavior and the experimental psychology of memory for several years,” she said speaking to Chenjie Xia in 2006.

When Dr. Donald Hebb joined McGill, Dr. Milner convinced him to take her on as a Ph.D. student. He then encouraged her to work with the Neurologist Dr. Wilder Penfield as part of her postgraduate studies.

Working with Dr. Penfield’s patients P.B. and F.C., who came to Dr. Penfield for neurosurgery to treat epilepsy but exhibited profound memory loss following surgery, Dr. Milner used her psychology expertise to probe the reasoning behind this. She was encouraged by Dr. Penfield to stay on at The Neuro instead of returning to her teaching role, to continue working with him and his patients. As Dr. Milner further explained in 2006, “Penfield said to me, “You have to come to the Neuro, we need you!” I never thought the great Dr. Penfield would say “we need you.” But he found me a little office close to the neurosurgical offices. And so, I started working at the Neuro and have stayed there ever since.”

Dr. Milner’s discovery that different areas of the brain are important for forming different types of memory are in large part
thanks to her thorough and methodical long-term studies on patients before and after surgery. Her most famous subject was Henry Molaison, patient H.M., a 29-year-old Connecticut man who underwent an experimental operation performed by Dr. William Scoville called a medial temporal lobectomy. The surgery involved resectioning portions of his hippocampi to relieve Molaison of his severe epileptic seizures. The surgery was partially successful in that Molaison did not suffer from his seizures as frequently, however it left him unable to add events to his long-term memory.

Dr. Milner spent several weeks travelling from Montreal to Hartford to speak with Molaison and to perform some cognitive behavioral tests. Using a drawing task, Dr. Milner noticed that Henry could learn to draw figures more efficiently over time, even though he had no recollection of practicing the skill. This proved long-term memory and motor memory were separate systems in the brain.

A PRIZE-WINNING NEUROSCIENTIST THAT ISN’T STOPPING AT 100

Throughout her career Dr. Milner has been awarded prizes for her outstanding contribution to science including the Medal of Honor from the Quebec National Assembly in 2018, the Dan David Prize and the Kavli Prize in Neuroscience in 2014, the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize in 2011, the Norman A. Anderson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010, the International Balzan Foundation Award, the Goldman-Rakic Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Cognitive Neuroscience in 2009 and the Prix Hommage du 50e anniversaire from the Ordre des psychologues de Quebec. She was inducted into the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame in 2012. And, is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and the Royal Society of Canada, and a Companion of the Order of Canada.

At 100 years of age, Dr. Milner still keeps regular office hours at The Neuro. She joined her fellow researchers to watch her beloved English football team in the World Cup this summer, and spent her birthday watching the World Cup final before going to a party in her honor.

As a pioneer of understanding of memory, Dr. Milner will no doubt remember the jubilation and celebration felt the last time England lifted the famous trophy, in 1966. Hopefully England will repeat the feat at the next World Cup. Until then, the field of neuroscience can celebrate the centenarian’s birthday, and look forward to celebrating again next year, as Dr. Milner says, “Rita Levi-Montalcini (the late Italian neurobiologist) is my role model and she lived to be 103. I’m surprised to find myself at 100 years of age but I have every intention of continuing for many more birthdays.”

Written by Adam Tozer and reprinted with the permission of Technology Networks.
Our annual Graduate Student Colloquium in September featured great talks from our Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows to kick off the 2017 / 2018 academic year! We celebrated the accomplishments of our Faculty of Science students at the McGill Undergraduate Research Conference in October.

Thank you to our invited speakers for their distinguished talks during our annual Hebb, Bindra, and Macnamara Lecture Series. Pictured left to right: Dr. Patrick Curran (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Dr. Frances Aboud (McGill University), Dr. Susan Pinker (Wall Street Journal), Dr. Steven Hollon (Vanderbilt University), Dr. Peter Shizgal (Concordia University), Dr. Wendy Berry Mendes (University of California, San Francisco), Dr. Jerome Busemeyer (Indiana University).
This year, we organized various forums dedicated to current issues in academia such as Navigating the Scientific Publishing Industry and Is there Life Beyond Academia. Thank you to our great line-up of speakers, from faculty and alumni to various experts at industry partnerships.

We had a great time celebrating the amazing work of our undergraduate thesis students at our annual end-of-year Undergraduate Poster Day in April! A big hand to everyone involved for a very successful and well-attended event!
While there has been progress toward gender equity across all professional fields, there continues to be a persistent gender gap in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM). In 2012, women made up 57.1% of STEMM graduate students but only 35.7% of full-time faculty. In physical sciences and engineering, the gap persists at the undergraduate level as well.

This has been described as the “leaky pipeline”, the progressive loss of women at every stage of career advancement. Since this implies a linear trajectory where women simply drop out of the career path at some point, a more comprehensive analogy is the “glass obstacle course”. This refers to the invisible barriers, often unseen by the individual experiencing the barriers, that consistently arise over the course of the individual’s career in formal and informal ways.

Participants at the Science & Policy Exchange (SPE) Café, which included McGill Psychology Department’s Ph.D. student Mehrgoz Tiv, were invited to engage in group discussions about the gender barriers they have experienced and/or observed in STEMM, and generate potential solutions that could be implemented at the individual and institutional levels.

These group discussions were guided by the following questions:
1. What barriers do women face in obtaining leadership positions in STEMM?
2. What local/individual solutions exist in your community?
3. What could our institutions be doing to promote women in leadership in STEMM?
Seven gender barriers emerged from their discussions:

- **Family planning**, e.g., women fear that being pregnant and taking maternity leave is perceived as a burden for an employer.
- **Criteria for excellence**, e.g., conventional measures of excellence assume that everyone is on equal footing.
- **Hiring practices**, e.g., women and minorities make up an increasing proportion of Ph.D. holders yet are largely underrepresented as faculty members.
- **Discrimination in the workplace**, e.g., unwanted sexual advances or comments more frequently affect women in science, and occur in accordance with established power dynamics.
- **Role models and mentorships**, e.g., young girls and women lack female role models in leadership positions.
- **Inherent societal biases**, e.g., gendered pronouns used to describe professions assert gender normative roles.
- **Lack of men in the conversation**, e.g., the privileged majority lack awareness and understanding of the barriers encountered by women and other marginalized groups.

Participants at the SPE Café advocated for change at two primary levels – the individual/local level and the larger institutional/policy level. At the individual level, solutions for each barrier surrounded a common theme: creating awareness and dialogues around these issues by building local support groups for those affected and by educating others. At the institutional level, concrete steps can be taken to promote equity and diversity by having institutions commit resources to combating gender barriers. At both levels however, active participation by individuals and leaders in positions of privilege and power are ultimately needed to create the culture shift needed to close the gender gap.

In addition to creating a fairer society, new research is proving that diversity leads to better ideas, better research, new technologies, and a better economy. Universities are starting to create equity working groups and implementing required equity training for academic hiring units, signalling that the voices of the underrepresented are being heard and that institutions are open to change.

*The summary of this report has been reprinted with the permission of the Science & Policy Exchange Team, and was authored by Mary-Rose Bradley-Gill, Sara Ferwati, Lauren Fromont, Nicole George, Vanessa Sung, and Mehrgol Tiv, and generated from discussions among mostly female undergraduate and graduate STEMM students at the SPE Café in December 2017.*

Congratulations to our Ph.D. students for successfully defending their theses this past year. Pictured left to right: Dr. Emilie Auger, Dr. Junie Carriere, Dr. Nicola Hermanto, Dr. Anna MacKinnon, Dr. Sébastien Nguyen, Dr. Sara Quinn, Dr. Sarah Rosen, Dr. Anna Zamm, Dr. Jane Zhang. Not pictured: Dr. Amélie Bernard, Dr. Laurence Giouard, Dr. Darren Mercer, Dr. Olga Savina, Dr. Dorothee Schoemaker, Dr. Gilla Shaprio, Dr. Kathleen Vincent.
“Education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.”

Join us in giving a hearty congratulations to our 2017 / 2018 Ph.D. recipients! Pictured left to right: Dr. Karim Bouayad-Gervais, Dr. Jungkyu Park, Dr. Megan Cooper, Dr. Frank Kachanoff, Dr. Michele Morningstar, and Dr. Malak Abu Shakra.

In our first ever Spotlight Series, we featured McGill Psychology’s clinical Ph.D. candidate Kristin Horsley and her work with Universities Canada and Cossette Health to forge novel collaborations and advocate for interdisciplinary research in Canada.

Ph.D. candidate Miriam Kirmayer has been on quite a roll lately! Along with being a regular contributor on Psychology Today through her blog Casual to Close, Miriam has provided articles, interviews, and commentary on The New York Times, Vogue, CBC, The EveryGirl, CNBC, Connecte Psychology, and MyDomaine this past year, working towards her goal of helping others create meaningful relationships and fulfilling lives.

Looking for a new podcast for your winter walks home? Join McGill University’s Ph.D. candidate Rackeb Tesfaye on Broad Science, as she and her team focus on telling science stories from diverse and underrepresented perspectives.

Our McGill Psychology graduates organized a number of well-attended social events throughout the year. From the 5k Color Run at Parc Jean-Drapeau to the Grad Picnic In The Park at Parc Jeanne-Mance, our students had a great time taking in those #summervibes!
The McGill Psychology Department was well-represented at many national and international conferences this past year – American Psychological Association conference on Technology, Mind, & Society in Washington, DC; Canadian Psychological Association Annual convention in Montreal, QC; Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, & Cognitive Science in St. John’s, NL; European Conference on Eye Movements in Wuppertal, Germany; Gender Summit in Montreal, QC; International Association for Relationship Research in Fort Collins, CO; International Conference on Learning & Memory in Huntington Beach, CA; International Congress of Applied Psychology in Montreal, QC; Lady Davis Institute Scientific Retreat in Montreal, QC; Nonlinear Dynamics symposium in Montreal, QC; Object Perception, Visual Attention, & Memory in Vancouver, BC; Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC; Society for Affective Science in Los Angeles, CA; Society of Behavioral Medicine in New Orleans, LA; Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research in Montreal, QC; Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Atlanta, GA; Vision Science Society in St. Pete Beach, FL. Congratulations to all our graduates for their successful presentations!
Congratulations to McGill Psychology Students’ Association (MPSA) for all of their well-attended events throughout the year! From fostering collaboration through meet-and-greets and mentoring sessions, providing guidance through career planning and graduate student panels, and playing host to *The Cocktail Party Effect*, their annual end-of-year semiformal, the MPSA has been a driving force in bringing our undergraduates together, and we are proud to celebrate their great work!

*Photographs by Brock Jenken, and reprinted with the permission of the MPSA.*

Congratulations to undergraduate Stephanie Simpson whose submission with Dr. Signy Sheldon was voted as one of 2017’s Highly Commended project in the Psychology category of The Undergraduate Awards!

McGill Psychology undergraduate students published the *PSI Journal Issue VIII*, their annual student-written and student-reviewed publication that highlights the insightful research that our undergraduate students completed either independently or through a supervised project.

Two hundred and twenty-two McGill Psychology undergraduate students earned their Bachelor’s degree in June and we couldn’t be prouder of all of their accomplishments in their time with us. We wish them all the best as they embark on their careers and future studies!

*Credit to undergraduate Julia Fuoco for her beautiful artsy graduation cap.*
Alumni in the News

#BeyondAcademia

Former McGill Psychology undergraduate and University of Pennsylvania’s postdoctoral fellow Dr. Anja Jamrozik explores the replicability crisis in psychology.

Recognition for their longstanding contribution

Congratulations to McGill Psychology alumni, Virginia Commonwealth University’s Dr. Kirk Warren Brown and University of Toronto’s Dr. Stéphane Côté, on being named Society for Personality and Social Psychology Fellows for 2017.

Championing scientists for their innovative work

This past year, McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Carleton University’s Dr. Marina Milyavskaya was named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science and awarded with prestigious funding by Mental Health Research Canada.

To bae or not to bae? That is the question of dating

McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Registered Psychologist Dr. Natsumi Sawada found that when the behavioural immune system was activated, it put the brakes on our drive to connect with our peers socially.

You can’t fight prejudice with name calling

McGill Psychology alumnus Dr. Nour Kteily talked to Vox about his work on breaking the cycle of collective blame and retribution by highlighting hypocrisy. The hard part, however, is getting people to realize they’re the hypocrites.
Recognizing socioemotional expressions in youth

McGill Psychology alumnus and Registered Psychologist at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Dr. Michele Morningstar examined whether youth who experience symptoms of depression are likely to misinterpret vocal expressions of happiness and anger.

Comparing social attention in the lab & the real-world

Congratulations to McGill Psychology graduate alumnus and University of Alberta’s Dr. Dana Hayward for receiving the CSBBCS / CPA CJEP Best Article Award for her paper with postdoctoral fellow Dr. Francesca Capozzi and Dr. Jelena Ristic.

Epistemic companions: development of shared reality

McGill Psychology alumnus and Columbia University Ph.D. candidate Maya Rossignac-Milon recently proposed a framework outlining the development of shared reality in close relationships.

Supporting world-class doctoral students

Congratulations to McGill Psychology alumnus and Concordia University graduate student Jean-Philippe Gagné for winning the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate scholarship!

Daily meditation practice exerts beneficial effect

Recent Ph.D. graduate Dr. Julien Lacaille examined daily meditation practice and determined that its beneficial arises from increasing an individual’s ability to respond mindfully to experiences of daily life.

Honorary Degree in Doctor of Laws

Congratulations to McGill Psychology alumnus Dr. Monique Jérôme-Forget for her Honorary Degree in tribute to her public service as a Member of Quebec’s National Assembly, Minister of Government Services, and President of Quebec’s Treasury Board.
Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s graduate program coordinator Giovanna LoCascio, who celebrated her 45th anniversary here with us at McGill! Gio has been the lifeblood of our Department for many decades now and we can’t wait to celebrate more milestones in her honour!

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Caroline Palmer and Dr. Robert Zatorre on being elected as Fellows of The Royal Society of Canada. This high honour is bestowed to internationally-renowned and diverse scholars in recognition of their outstanding scholarly, scientific, and artistic achievement. We are thrilled to celebrate their induction and their decades of work in music cognition.

The Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research has chosen to recognize a career of outstanding work, by giving McGill Psychology’s Dr. Debbie Moskowitz the second ever Lifetime Achievement Award for her foundational contributions to the fields of personality, assessment, person-by-situation interactions, psychopathology, and quantitative methodology.

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Bärbel Knäuper was awarded with the Distinguished Contributions to Health Psychology Award from the International Association for Applied Psychology this past year.

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jessica Flake who was named as Assistant Director and the Chair of the Methodology & Analysis Committee of The Psychological Science Accelerator (PSA). The PSA is a distributed network of laboratories designed to crowdsourced research projects to accelerate the accumulation of reliable and generalizable evidence in psychological science.
McGill Psychology’s Dr. Debra Titone received an award from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science in recognition of her service on the executive committee from 2015 to 2018. Here’s to her incredible commitment and tireless leadership during her time there!

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jelena Ristic for winning the *Women in Cognitive Science Mentorship Award* for her many years of developing the research and publication skills of female graduate and undergraduate students in cognitive science.

A big congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Mathieu Roy for being appointed a *Tier 2 Canada Research Chair* in Brain Imaging of Experimental and Chronic Pain. Dr. Roy also received a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation’s John R. Evans Leaders Fund for research infrastructure that will help him carry out his world-class work.

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Sarah Racine has been named a *Rising Star* by the Association for Psychological Science, a designation is presented to outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research careers.

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Caroline Palmer for her $1.65 million research grant from NSERC / CRSNG’s Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) for her research and training program on *Complex Dynamics: Accelerating Discoveries in Brain and Behavior*.

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Ross Otto on receiving a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Dr. Otto’s grant aims to build an inter-disciplinary laboratory examining the computations, psychology, and psychophysiology of human decision-making.
In Memoriam

DR. PETER MILNER

Dr. Peter Milner was a British engineer, who worked on the development of radar and nuclear energy during World War II, and in the fall of 1944, he came to Canada to work on atomic energy. Upon his arrival, he became fascinated by the study of the brain after he was exposed to the theoretical ideas of McGill Psychology’s Dr. Donald Hebb. He became a graduate student under the supervision of Hebb and in 1956, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the McGill Psychology Department where he stayed for his entire distinguished academic career.

In 1970, he published a textbook called “Physiological Psychology” based on his lecture notes and this textbook soon dominated the field and helped define the study of Behavioural Neuroscience. In 1999, he published “The Autonomous Brain,” a monograph that presented a novel view of how behaviour is generated by the brain’s spontaneous activity guided by input from internal and external inputs. Along with being an outstanding neuroscientist, Dr. Milner also trained numerous graduate students who made their own contributions to the field, for which he received the Gold Medal for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Canadian Psychology from the Canadian Psychological Society in 2005.

Dr. Milner passed away on June 2nd, 2018, just shy of his 99th birthday.

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DR. VIRGINIA DOUGLAS

Dr. Virginia Douglas was born into a Scottish family where “education was everything.” She completed her B.A. in English and History at Queen’s University, but quickly developed a keen interest in experimental psychology. She soon after completed her Master’s Degrees in Social Work & Psychology and her Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Michigan.

For most of her years at McGill University, Dr. Douglas held a clinical position at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, which provided her direct interaction with individuals with attention deficit disorder / attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD / ADHD). In the early 1970s, Dr. Douglas made major contributions to the understanding and treatment of ADD / ADHD, and as a result of her research, the diagnosis of the disorder was formalized into the medical literature. Dr. Douglas also pursued her efforts to improve both academic and practical understanding at the international level, promoting child psychology in Cuba and travelling across China as a member of Canada’s Science-Technology organization.

Her career was spent as a Psychologist and Professor Emerita at McGill University, where she served as the first female Chair of the Psychology Department and as the second female President of the Canadian Psychological Association. In 2004, she received the Association’s Gold Medal for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Canadian Psychology. She was a trailblazer and pioneer for women in Canada who wanted to work in science and psychology.

Dr. Douglas passed away in her residence on December 8th, 2017.

Reprinted with the permission of McGill Reporter.
For more than 90 years, we have been graced by a highly diverse and talented array of students. We are proud of our former undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and non-majors, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in psychology, related fields, or other professional endeavors. We are also proud of our long-standing record of excellence in training the next generation of psychologists, neuroscientists, clinicians, and students who use their knowledge of psychological science to enrich other fields.

Gifts from our alumni and friends provide valuable support for scholarships and student aid, equipment and infrastructure, and research projects and program development. However you choose to support our department, your generosity is both essential and truly appreciated.

Keep in touch!

Hearing from our former students and alumni is important to us, so please keep in touch through our alumni mailing list, and our facebook and twitter pages.

The McGill Psychology newsletter was created by the 2017-2018 Development Committee, chaired by Dr. Mathieu Roy, and designed and edited by McGill Psychology graduate students Effie Pereira and Anne Holding. Questions or comments regarding content or submissions for future editions are welcome at mcgillpsychmedia@gmail.com.

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