Redefining success
Students gain global perspectives
Helping launch tomorrow’s leaders
Message from the Director General

I hope this issue of Alma Matters finds you and your loved ones enjoying a wonderful fall.

We at Marianopolis are in the midst of an already bustling academic year and in the following pages you can read all about the many initiatives, student successes and other news here on campus, from University Years alumnae reuniting at the College to no fewer than four of our graduands being awarded the inaugural Horatio Alger Quebec Scholarships.

From news about our sports teams as well as our faculty who have won accolades for their published work, this issue of Alma Matters promises to bring you that much closer to the College. And to be inspired to make a difference in the world, you can read about Class of ‘98’s Agrawal sisters, Miki and Radha, who infuse their socially responsible entrepreneurial work with the sense of community engagement for which they are remembered by many at Marianopolis from their days as Health Science students.

Such social responsibility and a global outlook remain bedrock values at Marianopolis. Indeed, new this fall at the College is a fourth certificate, Environmental Studies, a multidisciplinary offering for students in all areas of study. You will find several other examples in the pages that follow, from our students volunteering to bring health-care services to rural communities in Nicaragua, to studying environmental sustainability in Costa Rica, to gaining global perspectives on trade in Holland.

It is endeavours such as these that make all of us, the members of the Marianopolis community, proud. The College remains the first choice for motivated students seeking to enter the world’s top universities. Our beloved Marianopolis continues to thrive, as do the graduates we send out to the world each June.

I wish you and your families health and a sense of adventure this fall. And please know that we at 4873 Westmount Ave. continue to support students, in the classroom and beyond, each school day.

A community of growth
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New and now

Giving students an international edge

As part of its commitment to offer students a well-rounded global education, Marianopolis College ran two courses abroad in the summer of 2012, Environment, Development and Sustainability in Costa Rica and Global Perspectives on Trade and Society in Holland.

Professor Jean-Michel Cohalan ’98 took students to Costa Rica to experience firsthand the application and challenges of sustainable development. Students heard from university professors and local experts in the areas of environment and development. On a multi-day field trip through Costa Rica’s diverse ecosystems, they explored a variety of sustainable development initiatives and assessed the ongoing environmental challenges facing that country. The course started in late May with sessions at the College. Students traveled to Costa Rica in June.

Meanwhile in Holland, Professor Bruno Delorme led Global Perspectives on Trade and Society. Underscoring the importance of developing a global mindset to better understand global trade perspectives, this course examined differences in world views, values and behaviour, as well as verbal and non-verbal communication. Students began the course in June at Marianopolis, then studied in Holland until early July.

Depending on a student’s program, these courses were available as part of their specific education or complementary courses. Read about how an international studies experience had an impact on Honours Social Science student Nhat An Nguyen ’13 on Page 14. ◊

New: Environmental Studies Certificate

Marianopolis College proudly announces that it will now offer four certificates to students: starting in fall 2013, students in all programs are able to enroll in the multidisciplinary Environmental Studies Certificate.

Certificates are a Marianopolis creation – no other school of its kind offers them. They are also among the value-added bonuses that Marianopolis provides its students: having earned a certificate can strengthen a student’s university application.

“Certificates allow motivated students to integrate their knowledge and enrich their understanding of the chosen theme while completing the requirements for their DEC,” said Academic Dean Christian Corno. “They complement other academic work done and we often hear from our students that they are a highlight of their time at Marianopolis.”

Coordinated by Professors Michèle Saumier and Veronica Ponce, the Environmental Studies Certificate is in accordance with the College’s Mission to “practice responsible stewardship of the natural environment.”

Through a range of activities, students gain in-depth understanding of environmental issues and educate others about environmental topics and their potential solutions.

They do so in collaboration with Greening Marianopolis, the Green Team student club and environmentally-minded groups working outside the College.

The three other certificates are International Studies, Law and Social Justice and Third World Studies. ◊
New and now

Alumna helps students access grants and scholarships

What Katherine Spandinakis ’09 loves best about being the College’s Financial Aid Clerk is helping students in a variety of ways. “It’s much more than financial aid,” says the former Social Science, Commerce graduate. “I do help students navigate the ins and outs of applying for financial aid, but there are many other ways in which the College supports students, such as the laptop-lending program, the Libby Cahill Book Fund, the food bank and our emergency-loan service.” Katherine also helps students apply for external grants and awards, some of which are listed below. Students interested in applying for financial aid are welcome to book an appointment with her in her office, A-123A, Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. The full list of grants is at marianopolis.edu/fa.

The Loran Awards are administered by The Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation. Renewable for up to four years, they go to 30 Quebec college students per year and have a maximum value of $80,000 each. They include an annual tuition waiver, a stipend of $9,000, summer internship opportunities and a mentorship program. Candidates must have a minimum cumulative average of 85% and a record of service and leadership in their school and community. Deadlines: October 16, 2013 for sponsored applicants and October 23, 2013 for direct-pool applicants. loranscholar.ca

Indspire is a Canadian organization supporting indigenous education, established the Building Brighter Futures bursary and scholarship program for First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals pursuing postsecondary studies. Deadline: June 1, 2013 to November 1, 2013, depending on program of study. indspire.ca

Scotiabank Bright Future Young Leaders Award is for students ages 16 to 24 who have committed a 100 volunteer hours during the 2012-2013 academic year in six fields: health, education, social services, arts, environment and sports. Applicants submit an essay on their volunteer experiences. Twelve winners receive a tablet computer and $2,500 is donated to their favorite charity. Deadline: October 31, 2013. scotiabank.com/brightfuture

The Mensa Canada Scholarship Programme rewards Canadian students over 18 who are enrolled in two consecutive semesters of full-time collegiate studies and who follow through with their career strategy. By submitting a 250-word essay on their career goals, students become eligible to win a $1,000 scholarship. Deadline: January 31, 2014. mensacanada.ca

Fondation Desjardins Bursaries support students based on financial need, academic excellence and community involvement. Approximately 100 $1,000 bursaries are given to Quebec and Ontario students enrolled in full-time studies each year. Deadline: March 1, 2014. desjardins.com/fondation

Schulich Leader Scholarships are undergraduate scholarships for students intending to enroll in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. The College nominates a candidate who is in financial need, demonstrates academic excellence and shows outstanding community, business or entrepreneurial leadership. Deadline: March 1, 2014. schulichleaders.com

Pauline Belliveau ’13 was among four Marianopolis students to receive the first Horatio Alger Quebec Scholarships, which were awarded in March 2013. Also receiving $5,000 toward their university studies on the strength of their academic records and perseverance in overcoming adversity, were David Garand and Farhan Khan, who studied Pure and Applied Science, and Brandon Colwell, who, like Pauline, studied Health Science.
Donors name Director General’s scholarships

Each year, 10 exceptional Marianopolis students selected from every program of study receive merit-based entrance scholarships.

These renewable $2,500 awards encourage academic excellence among first- and second-year students and, in the case of demonstrated need, may be extended to cover the full cost of tuition.

The Malouf Family Fund and Scotiabank are the first organizations to partner with The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation in providing these awards.

Their significant financial commitments ensure that excellence is recognized and encouraged among all students.

Liana Cusmano, Malouf Scholar, Don Ton-That, Scotiabank Scholar, and Han Li “Jessie” Wang, Scotiabank bursary recipient, and their parents were invited to meet members of the Malouf family, Peter and Carol ’79, Scotiabank representatives Salvatore Mariani, Micol Haimson and Laurence Levy, Director General Len Even and members of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation.

These scholarships were among the over $400,000 awarded by Marianopolis in student financial aid last year. Demand for assistance grows each year.

Feds give donors a break

John Archer ’79

As an incentive to budding Canadian philanthropists, new tax credits are being introduced to help charities broaden their donor base and to encourage new donors to get into the habit of giving. The 2013 federal budget introduces a temporary First-time Donor’s Super Credit (FDSC). The FDSC will supplement the Charitable Donation Tax Credit (CDTC) with an additional 25% tax credit for a first-time donor on up to $1,000 of cash donations. Accordingly, a first-time donor will be entitled to a 40% federal credit for donations of $200 or less and a 54% federal credit for the portion of donations over $200 but not exceeding $1,000.

An individual will be considered a first-time donor if neither the taxpayer nor their spouse or common-law partner has claimed the CDTC or FDSC in any taxation year after 2007. Donations made on or after March 21, 2013 are eligible for the FDSC and may be claimed only once in respect of any one taxation year from 2013 to 2017. The FDSC, as proposed in the 2013 federal budget, will only affect the federal income taxes of Quebec residents. The province of Quebec has not proposed any similar legislation.

On the Quebec side, following the 2013 provincial budget, a fourth income tax rate was created for 2013, which increased the highest combined marginal tax rate to 49.97%. The combined donation tax credit, for donations exceeding $200, has remained at the previously highest marginal tax rate of 48.22%.

To learn how your organization can become a named partner of the Director General’s Merit Scholarships or for information on how you can support The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation, please contact the Director General’s Office, (514) 931-8792 ext. 257.
Double your impact

More than 15,000 Canadian companies offer donation-matching programs. If you or your spouse work for or are retired from one of these companies, you can effectively double your gift to Marianopolis.

To find out if your company offers this free and worthwhile service, simply ask your Human Resources or Finance department, fill in the required form and send it to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation and we’ll take care of the rest!

Parental involvement drives student success

Last year Marianopolis families donated over $400,000 to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation in support of student financial aid, campus resources and activities.

The impact is felt throughout campus and on behalf of our students, faculty and staff; The College extends gratitude for these gifts.

Most parents choose to make a tax-deductible donation along with tuition payment, but many other options exist.

The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation accepts gifts of securities or real estate, gifts-in-kind for raffles and silent auctions, multi-year pledges and monthly contributions by credit card.

In addition to providing financial support, parents serve on committees, speak on campus and volunteer at events.

marianopolis.edu/donate

Volunteering for a cause: David Wu ’12, kneeling left, and Director General Len Even, standing second from left.

Alum meets Director General at fundraiser

David Wu ’12 spied a familiar face in the Beatles cover-band Abbey Lane as he walked on stage to acknowledge the $2,200 that the group raised in support of the charity he co-directs, the volunteer-run Montreal Heart of the City Piano Program, which offers free piano lessons to inner-city children.

“I couldn’t figure out who this one guitarist was. I was sure I knew him but I couldn’t place him. Then I noticed he was wearing a Marianopolis T-shirt,” recalls David, who at the College was a peer tutor, member of the First Aid Team, co-founder of the Classical Music Club, captain of the varsity badminton team and co-captain of the Descendants of the Dragon team. It was in that latter capacity that as a Health Science student he delivered roses to Marianopolis employees and students as part of a Valentine’s Day fundraiser for the dragon boat team.

“I recognized him later that night” in May 2013, he says of Marianopolis Director General Len Even, who has been playing guitar since his teen years. “I remembered how, when the dragon boat team was doing its fundraiser, I delivered a rose for him to give to his wife. I was going around the College dropping off roses and I knocked on his office door. We ended up having a really good chat.

“It was a nice surprise to see him in a band,” says David, who is completing his Bachelors of Science in Anatomy and Cell Biology at McGill University, where he teaches piano for the Montreal Heart of the City Piano Program. “And it was an especially nice surprise that they were raising money for a cause that means so much to me.”

heartofthecity.ca/montreal

Giving back
Annual giving

Thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents*, faculty and staff, students and friends of the College, over $500,000 was raised last year. This allowed The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation to increase its support for scholarships and student financial aid, to ensure ongoing investment in campus facilities and education resources and to provide enriching activities for students and to grow its endowment for the future. Donations are greatly appreciated and help to enrich the Marianopolis experience for every one of our students.

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You can’t fail unless you give up.
Dynamic duo slices up success
Rosalie (Dumont) Amron ’11

Miki and Radha Agrawal ’98 are socially responsible entrepreneurs who are out to change the way people think about business. The identical twins, who studied Health Science and competed on the Demons soccer team while at Marianopolis, are the brains behind Super Sprowtz, an educational tool for promoting children’s nutrition, and Thinx protective underwear. Based in New York City, they are about to launch a third restaurant.

When did you decide to quit your day job and start your own company?

Radha: Both of us were investment banking analysts when 9/11 happened. After that, I realized life is too short and started asking myself, “What makes me happy and what can I give to the world?” After a few years of working with TV directors, promoting consumer products I didn’t believe in, I helped Miki open Slice. It was our first business together and I noticed that kids would come in and order cheese pizza, never with vegetables. So I designed a children’s menu that has superhero vegetable characters called Super Sprowtz. I watched kids run up to the counter, over and over again, all excited about ordering vegetables and I had like, my aha moment. Super Sprowtz was born from this menu, I started writing books and from there I raised almost three and a half million dollars of investment capital. We reach one million families a week through television and (the) internet, have a permanent exhibition at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan and our products are sold in over 100 stores.

Miki: When I graduated from Cornell, I worked in investment banking for a couple of years and then left that to play soccer with the New York Magic, but hurt my knee in the first game of the season and had to stop. I worked a bit in film production like my sister, and then my stomach started hurting all the time. I couldn’t eat my favorite foods anymore, like pizza and ice cream. I was like, “I can’t believe they don’t make pizza with better ingredients for people with allergies and issues.” I started to think of alternatives to cheese and at the time the fake cheese tasted really gross and then I found that I could eat cheese in Europe but I wasn’t able to eat cheese in America because of (what) American manufacturers put into food was making me sick. So, I thought if I use organic, hormone-free products, then maybe I will be okay. I tried it and I was totally fine. So I knew I was onto something. That’s why I launched my first small restaurant in the Upper East Side, Slice, and then I opened Wild in the West Village and now we are opening one in downtown Las Vegas in partnership with Tony Hsieh, the CEO of zappos.com.

What does your typical day look like?

Miki: Today, I had an interview with Oprah Magazine for my book, which was awesome; I was in Boston meeting with our patent lawyer for Thinx. I had three interviews, went on two radio shows and met with an investor. I had a couple of great strategic meetings with women’s groups, I wrote an article for Entrepreneur magazine, and that’s just today.

How did you come up with the concept for Thinx? What do you hope to achieve with it?

Miki: We founded Thinx with our friend Antonia Dunbar after a trip to Africa. We met this young girl there on a weekday and asked her why she was not in school. She said “This is my week of shame.” She, along with 67 million girls in Africa and millions of others around the world, start off by missing one week of school every month because of menstruation. We partnered with an organization called AFRIPads, so for every pair of Thinx we sell here, we distribute seven washable cloth pads to girls there.

Your Thinx Kickstarter campaign was wildly successful. Why did you choose to raise money that way and would you do it again?

Radha: We launched in February of this year and raised over $120,000 with crowdfunding campaigns in total. I would do it again, absolutely. I think that crowdfunding helps prove your concept is a viable one.

Miki: It makes sure people are interested in what we are doing.

What would you say is the hardest part in creating a start-up?

Miki: Everything is hard. Raising money is hard. Execution is everything, but finding good, honest, hard-working people is the hardest.

Radha: You really need to build a movement, and a movement starts with someone telling another person about what we are doing to really elevate the conversation.

What is your take on Millennials?

Miki: With tools like the internet and Google, they have access to a great deal of knowledge. But, because they have it so easy they have trouble pushing through things. As soon as they hit a roadblock … they don’t pound and pound, chipping away until they get through a tough task. I think that if pushed to have a stronger work ethic and a thicker skin, Millennials could change the world because they are so savvy.

What makes a business successful?

Radha: We need to redefine success. Instead of saying, “This is all about me,” it should really be “What about we?” What’s really going define and create success is building a we-based community.

What would you tell someone who has an idea for a business?

Radha: Ask yourself, “Is what I am doing different enough and important enough, that I will be able to work on it passionately 24/7?” Get mentors in your industry and ask questions. Put a list together of everyone you think of, your friends and family that you can approach with your business plan. All my first investors were friends. Even if they don’t care about your concept, they will invest in what you do: people invest in people. Starting a business is all about perseverance and not burning out. There is no such thing as failure; you fail because you give up.

Miki and Radha Agrawal ’98 hosted a Marianopolis reunion at their flagship Manhattan restaurant Slice in December 2006. They are pictured with Humanities Professor Jean-Michel Cohalan ’98 and Astrid Lewis Reedy ’89.
New kids on the block

Getting youth involved in Westmount's City Council builds community
Marisa Samek ’11

One can define community as the intersection between newer and older generations. This is the kind of community Julia Carbone ’99, recent graduate from Duke University School of Law and a current PhD candidate, is working to build in Westmount, where she grew up. She is bringing adults and youth together by creating a platform to engage high school and CEGEP students in civic affairs. “Westmount needs to make use of its young minds, young voices and young energy,” says Carbone. By working with neighbourhood schools and cornerstones such as the Westmount YMCA and the Westmount Public Library in tandem with the municipal government, Carbone wants to harness the vitality of Westmount’s teens and pre-teens to establish a Westmount Youth Council where young people can work with adults to create the neighbourhood in which they want to live.

Carbone credits her Liberal Arts studies at Marianopolis for her passion for community-building. The College’s small classes of motivated students along with dedicated and knowledgeable teachers created the kind of solid community and support system that she wants to establish in Westmount, a community which encourages dialogue between generations, one where long-time residents and the new kids on the block learn from one another.

When Carbone presented her proposal to City Hall in May 2013, Westmount Mayor Peter Trent showed great enthusiasm for the idea: “There was no hesitation,” she recalls. “He really felt that this kind of project was long overdue.” Developing a youth-engagement strategy means giving young people real responsibility in their neighbourhood; the opportunity to perform community service, involvement in policy-making and receiving guidance to complete independent projects. “The first step in developing an opportunity for youth engagement is to establish a committee of interested stakeholders—youth representatives, City Council representatives, community organization representatives and school representatives.” To get the project off the ground, she is rallying volunteers from those stakeholders, encouraging schools to offer academic credit for students who join the council and planning to start an awareness campaign in September.

Carbone envisions a symbiotic relationship between students and members of municipal government: the young offer a fresh perspective and the established professionals offer the wisdom of experience. “Everyone needs a solid community and support system.”

To submit alumni news, please email alumni@marianopolis.edu.
Nurturing motivated students

Dr. Stewart Daly explains why he left research at McGill to teach at Marianopolis

If Albert Einstein was correct when he posited that “It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge,” then Stewart Daly is a supreme artist indeed.

Professor Daly has taught Biology and Organic Chemistry since 2001 and served as chair of the Science Department. More to the point, this is a man who rarely eats his lunch alone, as lunchtime and office hours tend to be a busy time in his office, where students like to congregate for impromptu study sessions as well as, yes, lunch.

“There are a number of things I really enjoy about Marianopolis and at the top of the list is the students,” he says. “They are very attentive and ask challenging questions, which at times goes beyond the material we are studying. They make the learning experience fun for both themselves and us as teachers.

“As well, the size of the College is very attractive,” says Professor Daly, who holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Western Ontario. “We’re a small college. I try to get to know my students by name by the second week of class, which drives some of them nuts.” It was his initial interactions with former Marianopolis students that compelled him to leave an assistant professorship at McGill University’s Department of Medicine to come teach at the College. “At McGill and the Montreal General Hospital Research Institute, the Marianopolis graduates always stood out in their enthusiasm, motivation and desire to learn. Interacting with them made me think of expanding my teaching career.”

He remains happy about that decision: “Teaching at Marianopolis extends beyond the classroom. Here, if we choose to, we can have the unique experience of a teacher and a mentor. Our open-door policy means I have the opportunity to spend numerous hours each semester talking to students about their academic path and their future careers. The students feel comfortable walking into our offices and discussing anything with us.” Even at lunchtime. ☺

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Marianopolis studies sustain activist

Nhattan Nguyen’s studies at Marianopolis College were capped off by his being named one of 20 recipients of the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship, Canada’s best recognized environmental entrance scholarship.

During the summer after his first year at Marianopolis, Nhattan took the international course Environment, Development and Sustainability, experiencing firsthand the application and challenges of sustainable development in Costa Rica. On a multi-day field trip through diverse ecosystems, he and his classmates explored a variety of sustainable development initiatives and assessed the ongoing environmental challenges facing that country.

“That course was an amazing opportunity to learn different approaches to sustainable development,” he says. “These lessons were of great value when I participated in the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development in Brazil right after the course.”

Nhattan began his last semester at the College by coordinating a youth committee during a two-week international environmental summit by the United Nations Environment Program in Kenya. His studies at Marianopolis (Honours Social Science with an International Studies profile) support his plan to continue doing environmental work in the global arena after he graduates university.

“I hope to pursue my studies in international development and cooperation in university. The United Nations’ Post-2015 Development Agenda is going through some hot discussions now and I would like to participate in these global dialogues,” he says.

Given to students entering their first year of post-secondary studies who have distinguished themselves through academic excellence, environmental community service and volunteer activities, the $5,000 scholarship is applied toward educational expenses.

Tradition brings international success

Marianopolis College’s Model United Nations Club (MariMUN) scored big at not one but two international competitions during the second half of the 2012-2013 academic year. At a competition sponsored by McGill University in late January, Liberal Arts student Brandon Silver was recognized for his strong showing in the American War on Crime/Government Committee, while Arts and Sciences student Emma Pask received an honorable mention for her impressive work on the Frost/Nixon Committee.

Farther from home, the Marianopolis delegation stayed toe to toe with some of the most experienced Model UN debaters at the university level at a prestigious event that brought to Melbourne more than 2,000 university students from 65 countries.

“We were recently ranked fourth in Canada and among the top 50 in the world,” says Brandon. He and fellow debaters Yacine Sibous and Luohan Wei were singled out with awards at the Harvard University-sponsored competition in Australia. MariMUN was the first delegation from any Quebec higher-education institution to compete at World Model UN, before any universities or other CEGEPs joined in.

To participate at such a high level, delegates must conduct extensive research so they can familiarize themselves with debate topics as varied as NHL bargaining agreements and international children’s rights.

MariMUN is one of the College’s nearly 100 student clubs. Its 50-plus students compete locally and internationally on what for decades has been a path leading from Marianopolis to the world’s top International Relations and Political Science university programs.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2013, the club is a Marianopolis tradition. For many high school students trying to decide which school to attend, it is a deciding factor for choosing Marianopolis.
The College’s Robots champs received a hero’s welcome after winning a prestigious competition three years in a row.

Robotics

How can students score a hat trick in an event that is not tied to athletics? Easily if the students in question are members of the Marianopolis College Robotics Team.

For the third consecutive year, the College’s Robotics Team won the Overall Category at the Canadian Robotics Competition, besting 28 provincial high schools, CEGEPs and vocational training schools.

“We were totally going for the hat trick,” says team co-captain Kevin Li, a Health Science student and member of Student Congress. “It’s amazing to see how far we have come. We’ve had so much fun.”

The competition encourages teamwork and collaboration through the creation of a project that integrates robotics, science, math, multimedia, arts and crafts, language arts and computer skills.

As such, participating in the Canadian Robotics Competition means students get to apply the theories that they learn in the classroom in an engaging, hands-on way, says Science Department Chair Simon Sabik, who, along with Physics Professor Dominique Paradis, mentored and helped prepare the 16-member team for the competition.

“Between October and February, the students worked for the competition during every free moment they could find, including most of the winter holidays,” Professor Sabik says.

The Robotics Team is also made possible in part thanks to the Marianopolis Plan for Success, which helps students achieve their learning goals and enriches their experience at the College. It also enables the College to continue to put student success at the heart of every endeavour.

To view the video that the Marianopolis Robotics Team created for the competition, check out the College’s Youtube channel, bemarianopolis.◊

Caring on a global scale

In preparation for their nine-day medical mission to Nicaragua, members of the Marianopolis Global Brigades Club were led by veteran “brigadíers” in first-aid and triage training. (L-R) Wesley Chan ’13, Kim Jiang ’13, André St-Jacques ’12, Sylvia Zhu ’13, Hey Rim (Grace) Ha ’14, Ling Yu Meng ’13, Agnes Wong ’14 and Eanjalin Kamaleswaran ’13.

What better way to start summer vacation but by helping people in need of medical help? That’s what 16 Marianopolis students and André St-Jacques ’12 did in June in Nicaragua.

Also with them on the medical mission were Physical Education Professor Anne Jeannet and Mathematics Professor Caroline El-Chaâr. Working under the umbrella of Global Brigades, the world’s largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization, they helped set up a medical clinic at a school, where they dispensed care to about 200 villagers each day. They also built a latrine for two homes as well as a kitchen floor.

In order to fund their project and buy medicine for the clinic, the members of the Marianopolis Global Brigades Club raised over $10,000.

“Between our year-long meetings and many fundraisers, we were able to bond as a group, which helped our work in Nicaragua,” says Koray Demir ’13, who took part while also serving as president of the Marianopolis Student Congress and a student representative on the College’s Board of Governors.

“It was a seriously humbling privilege to be able to bring in resources and services that unfortunately are unavailable in developing countries. It was an awesome opportunity and I know many of us are looking forward to doing similar things in the future.”

Club members are seeking a medical doctor to accompany them on their next volunteer medical mission, in June 2014. Medical doctors from any area of specialization interested in volunteering should contact alumni@marianopolis.edu.

The Global Brigades experience is open to first- and second-year students in any program of study. Interested students are invited to MIO club president Hey Rim Ha ’14.◊
Events

Networking for alumni

After graduation, Marianopolis alumni benefit from a powerful network. The Development and Alumni Affairs Office keeps in touch with more than 20,000 alumni worldwide and offers a variety of services to support networking and mentoring. The Marianopolis College Alumni Association organizes events, supports student clubs, sponsors an art contest during ArtsFest and awards prizes at convocation.

Professional recruiters Daryl Dagenais ’80 and Katia Rojko of Vertex Human Resource Solutions, Amin Noorani ’85 of Noorani and Partners and Michel Ohayon of Barbara Shore and Associates shared interviewing secrets with about 60 alumni from all years on May 2, 2013 at Decca 77, a popular downtown Montreal eatery. The annual Young Professionals Networking Cocktail provides a forum for networking and features guests who can help career-focused alumni develop essential skills for business success.

Each November alumni gather for a food and wine themed event at popular Montreal restaurant. This year’s event, tentatively scheduled for November 14, will feature a foodie trend. Details will be posted on the Alumni Association’s Facebook and LinkedIn groups in early October. Tickets sell out each year so alumni are encouraged to reserve in advance.

The Groundhog Day Pizza Extravaganza, the Montreal reunion for all alumni, takes place on February 6, 2014. This well-attended event features a silent auction, jazz and gourmet pizza and is sponsored by Bierbrier Brewing Inc., Barefoot Wine and Metro Fletcher.

Reuniting friends

Alumnae from all years enjoyed the Spring Fling cocktail on campus on April 18, 2013. The organizing committee planned the event to coincide with the annual ArtsFest spring concert featuring students and alumni.

Known affectionately as The Party Girls, the committee is comprised of Barbara Byrne Auclair ’50, Barbara Handfield Barbeau ’59, Caroline Smart Emblem ’57 and Marie-Claire Paré Holland ’63. They are already hard at work organizing a get-together in early summer 2014.

The Class of 1963 celebrated their 50-year anniversary with a week of activities in Montreal. The event was attended by alumnae from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, New England and Hong Kong.

The festivities began on June 4 with a dinner hosted by Mary Cullen Lewis and continued with a brunch at the home of Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré, then a cocktail dinatoire and campus tour followed by dessert at Marie-Claire Paré Holland’s home.

The event wrapped up on June 6 with a walking tour of Old Montreal led by Sister Joyce Roberts and Sister Pat Simpson and lunch at Jardin Nelson. The College thanks the organizing committee for their hard work in organizing such a successful event: Carol-Ann Kreivy Grazys, Marie-Claire Paré Holland, Mary Cullen Lewis, Frances Charette Phelan and Beverley Robinson Strachowski.

Volunteers are sought to help plan upcoming reunions, including for the Class of 1964, which celebrates 50 years in 2014. The Development and Alumni Affairs Office can help locate class members and organize the event.

To volunteer, donate a prize, sponsor an event or get involved, please contact Anneliese Papaurelis ’88, (514) 931-8792 ext. 202, a.papaurelis@marianopolis.edu.
Hildegard Proeska-Boivin ’72 pursued studies at McGill University in Education, concentrating in Early Childhood Education. Glad to announce she has retired after 37 years of teaching kindergarten for the E.M.S.B. , Hildegard admits, “I will miss the children. Each year was different and each child was special. I credit my Marianopolis teachers who were my true role models for methodology and patience.” She looks forward to devoting more time to volunteering at school, at swim meets, catching up on her reading and traveling to her favourite island, Barbados.

Heather Marinos (née Blundell) ’78 is pleased to announce the release of her book, Casualties of the (Recession) Depression. In her own evocative and mince-no-words style, Heather argues that American economic activity has not returned to close to normal levels. Through a writer’s lens, the reader can catch a glimpse of some of the poignant moments in the lives of the people most affected by this economic downturn, the middle class. Heather takes the reader on an American odyssey from 2006 to the present day, through a collection of vignettes and scenes, punctuated by her passionate commentary. Heather lives in the eclectic South Florida village of Coconut Grove, with her husband, Nick. heatherjoanmarinos.com

Gerard M. St-Cyr ’79 earned his Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in marketing from McGill University. He also studied international negotiations at Harvard University, general management at the Wharton School of Business and finance at the Singapore Institute of Management. He is CEO and board member of Dentist Select, a dental company he has been leading for over two years. Fluent in English and French, he is conversational in Spanish and has working knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia and Malayu, languages he acquired from his extensive international experience working in operations, sales and marketing in the flavor, fragrance and specialty chemicals industry. dentistselect.net

Lorraine Briscoe ’79 in November 2012 volunteered for three weeks in an orphanage in Cartago, Costa Rica through Cross Cultural Solutions. She wanted to get out of her comfort zone in a big way and to give back. She was a little overwhelmed as she went there not knowing any Spanish and joked that her sign language improved as a result. Despite not knowing the language she was able to connect with the children: “All they need is a smile, eye contact and being called by their name. The kids are so full of hope and love.” She wrote a blog of her experience, which included feeling an earthquake and attending a Costa Rican funeral. On weekends she had free time to travel around the countryside. What she missed most while away was her privacy. “It was summer-camp living and I realized how much I value my alone time.” She has since registered for a Spanish class at McGill University.

Carole Teitelbaum ’80 graduated from McGill University with her Bachelor in Political Science in 1983. Shortly after graduating, she instinctively knew that fashion was her passion and made the bold career move to follow her dream in retail at Suzy Shier Inc. In 2007 Carole transitioned from the fashion apparel world to embark on a new adventure in the beauty industry. She successfully introduced Bath and Body Works to the Canadian market with record-breaking sales results. She spent the next four years building the brand, the team and expanding the chain to 70 stores across Canada. Carole is a member of the Global strategy and leadership expert panel at McGill’s Faculty of Management, where she guest lectures, judges business case competitions and acts as a mentor for graduating students. Carole lives in Montreal with her sons Matthew ‘12 and Jeremy, who is completing grade 11 at Selwyn House.

Charles de Kovachich ‘81 has recently joined Richardson GMP Limited in its Montreal office as Vice-President and Investment Advisor. Charles and his team have been offering long term investment and financial advice to wealthy Canadian families for over 25 years. In addition to his professional activities, he has a long history of community involvement demonstrated by his active membership in Canada Company, his being on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Railroad Museum in St-Constant and his active fundraising for the Montreal Sinai Hospital Foundation in Montreal. He has recently been appointed Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery in Montreal, a position conferred by the Minister of National Defense.

Licia Canton ’82 is a self-employed communications specialist by day and a writer of essays and short stories by night. She is the author of the collection Almond, Wine and Fertility and the editor-in-chief of Accenti Magazine. She holds a doctorate from Université de Montréal and a Master of Arts from McGill University. This May and June, she was a guest lecturer at several universities in Italy, enjoying a unique opportunity to travel with her daughter Liana Cusmano ’14.

Romy Schnaible ’85 earned her Master in Educational Psychology and Counseling from McGill University. Her expertise in teaching and instructional design led to a career in the field of organizational change management. A recent addition to the transition team at the Jewish General Hospital, her focus is on the “people” side: designing ways to manage the change process according to plan and building on best practices in employee communications and engagement. She lives in Montreal and is an avid reader, runner and yogi and enjoys spending time with her large and busy family and her friends.

Melanie Notkin ’89 moved to New York City in 1993. She is the founder of SavvyAuntie.com, the multi-platform lifestyle brand for aunts and godmothers, the niche she’s dubbed PANK® (Professional Aunts No Kids). She is the national bestselling author of Savvy Auntie: The Ultimate Guide for Cool Aunts, Great-Aunts, Godmothers and All Women Who Love Kids (Morrow 2011). Her next book is Otherhood (Seal Press / Penguin Canada, early 2014). Connect at facebook.com/SavvyAuntie or @SavvyAuntie on Twitter.

Dr. Jolan Kovacs ’90 is the project coordinator and co-founder at KoA Communications with husband and music director Aldo Mazza. This spring, in collaboration with the Cuban Ministry of Culture, they organized a concert tour and cultural exchange in Havana with members of the Westmount Youth Orchestra and their dedicated conductor, Jean MacRae. Jolan is a Faculty Lecturer at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. For over 20 years has organized international music events through Kosa Music. kosamusic.com
Paulina Flores Rutenberg '92, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Honours in Languages and Literature, from The University of Western Ontario in 1996 and went on to study Interior Design at The International Academy of Design, where she graduated in 2002. With sister Daniela Flores McEntyre '94, Paulina founded and co-owns PFR Design - Inspired Living, specializing in upscale residential design with her collections available to purchase online. A self-proclaimed curator of "the finer things in life" she is a busy mother of four married to Bruce Rutenberg '92. Her home was recently featured in the magazine Urban Expressions. www.pfrdesign.com

Daniela Flores McEntyre '94, with a background in early childhood education and specializing in the Montessori method, pursued a career in curating a selection of luxury goods and services for PFR Design, a company she runs and owns with sister Paulina Flores Rutenberg '92. PFR Design is a luxury online boutique carrying distinguished European inspired home decor accessories, tabletop and distinguished children's decor and inspired educational and high-end toys. Facebook.com/PFRDesign.InspiredLiving. Pinterest/pfrdesign

Leah Lipkowitz '96 completed a triple concentration from McGill University and is the brains behind Montreal Home Magazine, which launched in 2009 along with its French counterpart Maison Montreal. With a focus on design, architecture and landscape, it is the city's first English-language publication of its kind. Building on this success, Leah launched Toronto Home in 2011. Leah's goal is to extend her formula to other Canadian cities. She is currently developing her fourth publication, Vancouver Home. Leah is the weekly design correspondent on Global TV Montreal every Tuesday morning at 8:40 a.m. She plans to devote more time to other facets of her business model, including seminars, coaching and establishing a broader media presence. leahlipkowitz.com

Sean Henry '97 is a reporter and anchor for CBC Television and Radio, based in Windsor, Ontario and currently working in Montreal. He studied journalism at Concordia University. He worked as a reporter and host for the Youth News Network in 2000, then Global Television in Quebec City before moving to the CBC in 2005. He is also a yoga instructor and performs aerial silks, hammock and hoop with a Windsor group called Sky Society. While he is in Montreal, he is taking a break from teaching yoga, but still trains on aerial silks, and practices Jiu Jitsu.

Gillian Essien '98 would like to announce the birth of her first child and son Harrison on January 22, 2013. She has been living in London, England for eight years, where she teaches chemistry at one of the country's top boys' schools. She was inspired to be a chemistry teacher by one of her Marianopolis chemistry teachers, Professor Brian Boire. The birth of their son has made Gillian and her husband refocus priorities and they plan to move back to Canada by 2014. They are looking forward to swapping London city's rain and fog for a fresh outdoor Canadian lifestyle.

Julia Carbone '99 lives with her husband in Westmount, raising their 22-month-old twins, Hannah and Rafael. She is completing her PhD in law at Duke University and works as legal counsel for a pharmaceutical sales forecasting software company. She is actively involved in the community as a board member of the Westmount Municipal Association and member of Westmount's Community Life Committee. Julia's efforts focus on establishing a youth engagement strategy to provide high school and CEGEP students with mechanisms to get involved in Westmount's political and community life.

Jeremie S. Clarke '02 recently joined SSQ Financial Group in Toronto as their HR Business Partner. In this role, Jeremie supports strategic initiatives, affects the creation and roll-out of policy and manages all aspects of HR in the Toronto office. With offices in Vancouver and Calgary, Toronto represents the largest satellite office with over 120 employees. Jeremie is married with two children, a 2-year-old daughter and 4-month-old son.

Polina Minatcheva '06 continued her piano studies at McGill University where she gained experience in solo and collaborative repertoires, as well as choral conducting and vocal technique. At her graduation in October 2012, she was already a mother of a five-month-old boy named Gabriel. She enjoys family life and working on building her portfolio as a concert organizer and is still active as a choral, instrumental and vocal accompanist.

Alessandria Di Nardo '08 graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from McGill University in 2012. She has given many performances in England, France, Denmark and Hungary, as well as Italy, where she won numerous national music competitions. Alessandria resides in Florence, where she is pursuing a Master’s degree at the State Conservatory of Music Luigi Cherubini.

Katarzyna Chmielarz '08 is a 2011 graduate of the Art History and Studio Art program at Concordia University. With various endeavours in painting and stage design as well as performance through dance and acting, Katarzyna is a multifaceted artist, eager to explore the possibilities of total creative expression beyond aesthetic and theatrical boundaries. By co-founding the LeMur Project, she has achieved the means to produce art beyond a canvas and into people’s living spaces, transforming people’s lives. lemurmontreal.com

Vitaly Terekhov, Economics professor, has been a member of the Speak with Style Montreal Toastmasters club for six years. Vitaly uses the club as a lab for experimenting with new ideas, teaching techniques and jokes. After trying them first at the club, he brings them to the classroom. He uses humour extensively in his teaching because he finds that humour engages students, piques their interest and makes learning enjoyable for everyone. In November of 2012, he won Humorous Contest of District 61 of Toastmasters International, a championship of humorous speeches held annually in Quebec, Eastern Ontario and Northern New York State.

Leon Jorge Medina Rangel ’08 is studying Art History and Studio Art at Concordia University. He has, and continues to explore with different mediums and means of artistic expression, from ceramics to musical performance within and beyond visual arts, always pointing at the correlation and interaction between people through art. His passion is LeMur, a joint effort with Katarzyna Chmielarz ’08.

Elspeth McMurtry ’08 earned a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Cognitive Science from McGill University in 2012. She teaches Irish dancing with the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing and at SIAMSA, an Irish music association based in Montreal, and also works at Tiffany & Co. Elspeth will be starting law school in September.

Cristina McHenry ’08 was honoured to be chosen as one of the United Irish Societies
princesses at the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Montreal. Cristina earned her Bachelor in Psychology and Neuroscience from Concordia University. She conducts research on the neuroscience of aging at Université de Montréal’s Centre de recherche de l’institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal. She has volunteered for the past three years in the memory clinic at the Jewish General Hospital. Also president of Brain Awareness Montreal, she volunteers to educate the public on neuroscience. brainawakenessmontreal.com

Amanda Palombaro ’09 graduated from McGill University in December 2012 with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting. Amanda started working full time in January 2013 for KPMG, in the Audit Group. She volunteers for the Centaur Theatre as a member of a new committee that is being formed to fundraise and spread awareness about the theatre to a younger demographic.

Vanessa Tan ’09 graduated with her Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and International Business from McGill University in 2012 and works at Export Development Canada in Ottawa. Her curiosity and drive to learn enable her to seek new opportunities. She dedicates her time between work and studying, as she is pursuing her CPA level 1. She has developed a great love for fitness and healthy eating and integrates them both in her new lifestyle.

We will miss…

Anne-Marie Mulcair C.N.D. ’49 (Sister St. Francis Maria) passed away on December 25, 2012. She leaves to mourn her CND family, her loving sister Barbara and cherished nephews, nieces and cousins in both the Dausahaan and Mulcair families. Sister entered the Congrégation de Notre-Dame in 1950 and spent the early years of her ministry teaching in the schools of the Montreal Catholic School Commission. This was followed by several years as Principal of St-Paul’s Academy and as Vice-Principal of St. Pius X Comprehensive High School. After her retirement from teaching and school administration, she ministered to women in need Chez Doris shelter. In 1999 she moved to Villa Marguerite in Pierrefonds, where she assisted in the ministry of the Retreat Center.

Patricia Sessenwein (née Murphy) ’50 passed away on September 5, 2012 after a brief illness. Beloved wife of John for over 57 years, she will also be missed by her five children, their families and many nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her son Michael and brother Daniel Murphy. She enjoyed a long association with both the St. Mary’s Hospital Auxiliary and the American Women’s Club of Montreal. She enjoyed her bridge, golf and tennis with the ladies and she had an irreplaceable interest in everyone and everything, but most important to her of all was her family. She will forever be remembered for her style, elegance, wit and intelligence, as well as her unshakeable strength and faith.

Clara Guardo (née Paradis) ’56 passed away on June 15, 2013. Wife of Jean H. Paradis, she leaves to mourn her children, Michel, Bruno and Alexandre, her grandchildren, her great-grandson, Taylor, her sisters Lea and Elsa and many other relatives and friends. She graduated from Marianopolis cum laude and was valedictorian and editor of the yearbook. In 1965 she was responsible for establishing Chateauguay’s first library and civic centre and during the late 1960’s and early 1970’s she taught English as a second language to recent immigrants to Canada. Clara was passionate about life, with interests that included art, music, ballroom dancing, travel, bridge, reading, cinema and, above all else, her family and friends.

Genevieve “Gigi” Kierans ’77 passed away on July 13, 2013 after a courageous 16-year battle with ALS. She is missed by her husband Ron, her parents Steve and Christine, brothers Jerome ’78 and Christopher ’81, her sister-in-law Gina and her nieces Anjelica and Celeste. She grew up in Montreal, was educated at Sacred Heart School and Marianopolis, and received her B.A. from Queen’s University. Fluent in French and Spanish, her life included years in publicity writing for the film and entertainment industry and she was a prize-winning author of fantasy fiction and co-editor of Mythspring, a published anthology of Canadian myths and tales told.

To submit news or get in touch with someone appearing in this issue, please contact alumni@marianopolis.edu.
Demons season highlights

Marianopolis College’s sports teams closed out the 2012-2013 season with a solid win for the badminton team who won the season as well as the regional and Ethique Sportive banners. The women’s volleyball team advanced their divisional ranking to section three and received the Ethique Sportive banner and the Marianopolis academic team of the year award. The Marianopolis academic athlete award went to Mimi Vo ‘13 and Philip Palisaitis ‘13.

The following students were nominated to the regional all-star teams:

Volleyball: Jingru Miao ‘13, Derrick Courtney (coach).
Soccer: Kimberly Fontes ‘13, Katerina Barberio, Lauren DePoli, Roberto Sciortino ’13, Thiago Silva, Peter Dranias ’13.

MVPs: Yuan Kun Lu ’13 (badminton); Adrian Carlesimo ’13, Ricardo Liganor ’13 (rowing); Kimberly Fontes ’13, Roberto Sciortino ’13 (soccer); Jessica Michelin ’13, Erik Samuel ’13 (rugby); Philip Palisaitis ’13, Julie Kochan ’13 (basketball); Mimi Vo ’13, Jingru Miao ’13 (volleyball).

MIPs: Minghong Deng (badminton); Mark Tartamella ’13 (rowing); Jennifer Meterissian, Anthony Serhan (soccer); Bianca Bruzzese, Henry Zhao ’13 (rugby); Charles-Antoine Lessard-Tremblay, Paula Giannone ’13 (basketball); Flora Chen, Yi-Teng Zhang (volleyball).

Fairplay award recipients: Jakub Qazi (badminton); Brad Jipa (rowing); Katerina Barbiero, Kendra Bradshaw ’13, Paul Gregorio (soccer); Melissa Vitagiano, Luke Anthony Gavita ’13 (rugby); Mackenzie Speak ’13, Joseé Crouda, Ashley Espinaro ’13 (basketball); Sarah Desnoyers-Zorko ’13, Jonathan Dellar-Fernandez ’13, Olivier Laforgé ’13 (volleyball).

Rookie of the year awards: Lesly Lam (badminton); Brad Jipa (rowing); Olivia Wilkie, Roberto Sciortino ’13 (soccer); Gabrielle Durocher, Warren Spruzenieks, Nicholas Jonas (rugby); Julien Sirard, Emilie Palisaitis (basketball); Yi-Hong Shao, Justin Wong (volleyball).

Mark your calendar

October
  21 Fall Concert

November
  14 Food with friends alumni cocktail (TBC)

December
  23 End of session

January
  9 Registration begins
  16 Winter 2014 classes begin

February
  6 Groundhog Day Pizza Extravaganza and Silent Auction
  11 Winter Concert

March
  3-7 College closed for spring break
  19 Prix d’expression musicale (snow date March 20)

April
  14-25 ArtsFest
  17 ArtsFest Concert
  22 Spring Recital

May
  1 Spring Recital
  8 Young professionals alumni networking cocktail (TBC)
  9 Deadline to confirm attendance at convocation
  29 End of session

June
  12 Convocation

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