A brighter future relies on the brightest minds, yet higher education receives only 1% of all charity donations.
PAY IT FORWARD

PHILOSOPHY THAT GETS TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

When Sandrine Mugetzwankwazi was born in 1999, she was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect called Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). The defect caused a malfunction of her heart. Luckily her parents were able to afford the necessary and expensive surgery. Sandrine had the procedure when she was four years old.

Today, Sandrine leads a happy and healthy life. Just 18 years old and she is completing a double-DE in Music and Social Science at Marianopolis College while simultaneously working as a music professor and Archambault Music School. Perhaps her proudest achievement, however, has been founding the VSD Cure Foundation.

The VSD Cure Foundation raises funds to pay for Rwandan children with VSD to get the corrective surgery they so desperately need. Each operation costs $5,000 and there are presently 2,000 children waiting to have the surgery. Sadly, 15 to 20 of these children per week are in danger of dying while they wait there is no mistaking the real need for so many children and their families.

Sandrine has channeled her love and passion for music into her most recent fundraising initiative. This past February she organized a piano concert, the goal of which was to raise $5,000. In the end, the concert surpassed its goal by raising a total of $6,800.

We are proud to count Sandrine as a member of our Marianopolis community – one of the many students who inspire us every day.

STEM SUMMER CAMPS: BRINGING FUN BACK TO EDUCATION

I NERC (New Education for Rural Development) is a non-profit organization whose main purpose is to give African youth the opportunity to realize their potential through STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education using an innovative curriculum.

In 2014 INERC offered its first ever STEM summer camp to Rwandan kids. The camp attracted 100 students in 5th and 6th graders.

One of the main goals of this camp was to introduce students to new career opportunities in STEM fields, as well as to increase their understanding of the importance of STEM education. Additionally, the camp aimed to provide high-quality educational content that could be taught in a fun and engaging way.

The entire team at INERC is working on making dreams realities for these children. Among the key team members are Marianopolis alumnae Rebecca Bresnahan ’10 and Nadia Furniel ’11.

Rebecca signed up with INERC by volunteering as an Empowerment Agent in Summer 2014! Since then, she has joined the INERC team as Director of Empowerment. Before taking on this project, Rebecca had been working as a teacher. Among the key team members are INERC’s executive director, Meredith Bray. Rebecca’s volunteer work has also allowed her to travel quite a bit. She has volunteered in Japan, Haiti, Nepal, Malawi and Thailand.

Nadia volunteered at INERC in 2014, together with Rebecca, as an Empowerment Agent. She has come to be its Director of Communications. She has completed a degree in Linguistics and English Literature at McGill University. Nadia previously volunteered at

The Foundations annual goal is to raise $150,000. Sandrine and her team are in the process of reaching that goal and they continue to accept donations online. More fundraising initiatives from the VSD Cure Foundation are still to come. To keep up-to-date on all the great work that is being accomplished, please be sure to ‘like’ the Marianopolis College Alumni Association’s Facebook or LinkedIn pages.

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IN SUPPORT OF EXCELLENCE — FOUNDATION FINANCIAL UPDATE

W hen I was hired in April 2014, my mandate was very clear to me. I needed to launch The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation and increase both its donor base and financial donations. The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Marianopolis, its main purpose being to raise funds to finance scholarships and bursaries for students (giving great students the opportunity to shine, regardless of their financial situation), we identified a key weakness (we have not, historically, been very good at fundraising) and we targeted our greatest dividends and several other activities familiar to alumni donate to The Foundation, dated April 13, 2015, by incoming Fall 2015 student Rodrigo Escobar. Rodrigo qualified for one of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation Entrance Scholarship Awards. In thanking the Foundation for the following dividends and several other activities familiar to alumni donate to The Foundation, dated April 13, 2015, by incoming Fall 2015 student Rodrigo Escobar. Rodrigo qualified for one of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation Entrance Scholarship Awards. In thanking the Foundation for the subsequent 12-month period, I still have to ask: where are all of you hiding? Our donor pool is still quite small compared to the thousands upon thousands of graduates that have walked through our doors at the College. It just does not make sense.

The graduation year with the most donors: 1986 and 1993. The graduation year with the oldest donor: 1940. And the graduation year with the youngest donor: 2016 (that bodes very well for the future). Let me leave you with an excerpt from a letter addressed to the Foundation, dated April 13, 2015, by incoming Fall 2015 student Rodrigo Escobar. Rodrigo qualified for one of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation Entrance Scholarship Awards. In thanking the Foundation for the subsequent 12-month period, I still have to ask: where are all of you hiding? Our donor pool is still quite small compared to the thousands upon thousands of graduates that have walked through our doors at the College. It just does not make sense.

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THE CLASS OF ’64 celebrated its 50th anniversary reunion with a lovely luncheon at Cafe des beaux-arts in September 2014.

PARDO MUSTILLO ’76 attended Concordia University and later went to Vanderbilt University. He is now Vice President, Mobility Solutions and Alliances at a mobile technology company called Norse Technologies.

DR. LAURIE BETTITI ’83 went on to McGill University to complete a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and then a Bachelor of Social Work. Dr. Laute then went to graduate school, studying Psychology at UQAM where she obtained a Masters and a Doctorate in Psychology together with postgraduate training in sex therapy. For the last 10 years, Dr. Laute has hosted a nightly radio show about sex and relationships on DAD 100 AM. Dr. Laute is also the President of the Sexual Health Network of Quebec and past president of the Canadian Sex Research Forum. In September 2014, Dr. Laute released her first book The Sex Bible for People Over 50 and since then has been lecturing across North America on the subject of sex and aging.

CLAIRE HUANG KINSEY ’95 is delighted to announce that her partner Rob’s first book, which Claire helped edit and for which she drew the maps, placed second for the 2014 Dayton University Peace Prize and was a finalist in the US National Book Awards. Contoured Land Contoured Memory: Israel’s Jews and Arabs and the Obstacles of Cartesianism has received critical acclaim from reviewers of diverse political perspectives. Visit publishingfor more information.

JASON STARR ’81 received a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and Entrepreneurship from McGill University. Jason is currently juggling a full-time job at Globe Electric Company and acting as the head coach of the McGill Redmen football team. Thus in Jason’s third year as head coach, and this year the team won the National Championship.

DOMENICO ANDREA MARCONE ’82 earned his Bachelor of Engineering from Concordia University in 2000 and his Master’s from John Molson School of Business. He married his sweetheart, Sabrina Zito, on September 3, 2015. He is currently working at Royal-Healy Canada Ltd as Manager Export Control.

GENEVIÈVE HELEN (GENNY) MARILLEY – 2008 —

Genevieve passed away suddenly on Sunday, October 26, 2014 at the Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry, Northern Ireland following a hard-fought battle with adrenal cancer. Born in 1950, Genevieve grew up in Montreal surrounded by a close-knit and large family. She was survived by her parents and five siblings: John (Patricia), Christopher (Deonna), Anne Marie (Mark), Matthew (Sharon) and Oscar and Altan, in Derry and Donegal. While raising her own family, Genny worked with young people to help ensure a good life start for their children. Geny will be remembered for her quick wit and wonderful story-telling for her great sense of fun and adventure; for her enduring commitment to community and social justice. She is deeply missed by her best friends and by all who loved. A most beloved caretaker. Mature beyond her years and wonderfully articulate, Genny is keenly aware of the responsibility of maintaining the high standards expected of the ‘Manropolis’ mark and of preserving the tradition and values of past. In fact, Choi views The Papercut as a form of archival system, forever suspending in time the opinions of students who came before him and his peers.

Over the years, The Papercut has tackled the issues of the day—Conversations Lurking Visibility on Campus Students Say” (January 20, 2013); “ Mourning the Death of Quality Education” (March 25, 1998) and “ Give A Book, Get A Book” (February 1, 1995). Although currently funded in part by the Marianopolis Student Union, Choi believes that a review of articles past underscores that the newspaper’s writers had (and continue to have) the independence and liberty to freely express their points of view. Choi highlights one writer who recently used vulgar language to effectively communicate the message at hand and that the newspaper is not beholden to any sacred cows— the College included.

As would be expected, The Papercut is available online (theapercut.ca). But there is something particularly special about holding a copy of the newspaper in your hands—yes, it is certainly still very much a print publication! And Choi is not surprised by this fact. “Students made this newspaper. My friends made this. They feel a connection to the story.” Choi notes that research demonstrates that an individual retains more information while reading when physically holding a book or document. Marianopolis Matters did its own fact-checking too! Choi is night on the money (probably not, but more likely). Choi@marianopolis.ca — 2008 —

The Papercut is celebrating its 20th anniversary. However, this publication finds its roots in its predecessor offerings. The Paper, The Medien and Minors Never — the College’s all-student periodical founded more than 50 years ago. Inception aside, one thing that has never become dated is the commitment by the newspaper’s writers to deliver a quality product with meticulous attention to detail.

This seems uniquely qualified to be The Papercut current editor-in-chief. Beyond his years and wonderfully articulate, Choi is keenly aware of the responsibility of maintaining the high standards expected of the ‘Manropolis’ mark and of preserving the tradition and values of past. In fact, Choi views The Papercut as a form of archival system, forever suspending in time the opinions of students who came before him and his peers.

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A SMALL REMINDER THAT COULD MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

IF YOU’VE YET TO DONATE TO OUR ANNUAL APPEAL, PLEASE DON’T MISS OUT; WHEN MARIANOPOLIS MISSES OUT, THE WORLD MISSES OUT.

Marianopolis graduates go places and get things done — like long-time Clint Eastwood collaborator and camera operator Stephen Campanelli ’78, or 18 year-old Nivatha Balendra ’14 who presented a new strain of bacteria at the World Economic Forum in China that could revolutionize the clean-up of oil spills.

We appreciate all levels of support: one-time donations, monthly contributions or even your time.

To avoid vandalizing your newsletter with scissors or searching for envelopes, we encourage you to make your donation online.

marianopolis.edu/donate