

MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS

FALL/WINTER 2015

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER
**ONE WORD, ONE ACTION,
ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.**



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MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS FALL/WINTER 2015

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MOM – YOU ALWAYS WERE THE PERFECT FAN

I hope you will indulge this very personal editorial.

I lost my mom, Irene D'Amico, on October 7, 2015. As my family and I boarded a flight to Florida on July 15 for a much-needed summer vacation, little did I know that back in Montreal that day my mother would suffer a fall and terrible head injury that would eventually lead to her demise. Upon my immediate return home to Montreal, and throughout the twelve weeks my siblings and I stayed by her bedside until her death at the Montreal General Hospital, my mom lay unresponsive. I lost the center of my world and the one person who loved me unconditionally. As I write this piece, I still cannot believe she is gone.

I am telling you about my mother because she was instrumental in all the success I have achieved to date. But more specifically, she was extremely supportive of my studies and of my educational pursuits. My mother was a lunch monitor and active parent volunteer at Gerald McShane Elementary School and ensured that I was eating properly, getting my homework done and that I was well-rested for the next day. I remember my mother sitting with me and my brother and sister at the kitchen table doing homework every night in our home on Olier Street in Montreal North. I specifically recall the hard time I had in preparing a book report for a novel titled *I, Momolu*. We laughed about that book report many years thereafter – it was always a touchpoint where I would remember the countless hours she devoted to me, ensuring my success every step of the way. She was President of the Parents' Committee at Lester B. Pearson Comprehensive High School and personally delivered my high school diploma to me in hand at the convocation ceremonies held at Place-des-Arts. My mother was an integral part of the Kaleidoscope student exchange course I took with Professor Jean Huntley at Marianopolis College. I will never forget how my mother warmly embraced this rich, cultural

experience and the kindness she showed to my billet, Walter Doyle of Nova Scotia, as she opened her home to him.

My mother was there on April 1, 1987 as I received a telephone call in our kitchen from McGill University's Faculty of Law, informing me of the Faculty's decision to accept me into its National Programme on a deferred basis (yes...someone at the Faculty thought it was a good idea to call me on April Fool's Day to deliver the great news). My mother definitely

At every milestone that moved me closer to my career and to enjoying a life of intellectual rigour and accomplishment, my mom never left my side. She wanted the best for me. She sacrificed her everything for me. Her joy was in my joy, her greatness was in my happiness.



photo: Dino Mazzone & his mom Irene D'Amico

I am keenly reminded every day at The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation that parents are an indispensable part of our students' success at Marianopolis College. It's why we have highlighted the importance of family throughout this issue of *Marianopolis Matters*. There is no greater force than the unwavering support of a parent for his son or her daughter. It's why I care so much about the philanthropic work we do in order to give great students the opportunity to shine.

I miss my mom so much. She had my back like no other. I dedicate this magazine to her and to her memory. If I am of any good or service to my fellow man, and if my life is of any purpose, it is solely because my mother gave me her all. My mother was, quite simply, amazing.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and blessed New Year. Cherish the ones you love. Hug them hard.

— *Dino Mazzone '87*, Executive Director of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation

“...PARENTS ARE
AN INDISPENSABLE
PART OF OUR
STUDENTS' SUCCESS
AT MARIANOPOLIS
COLLEGE.”

deserved to receive a common and civil law degree from the Faculty – I cannot tell you how many times she listened to me fret and worry about my legal arguments as she typed my papers on her Royal manual typewriter (my mother was a professionally-trained Executive Secretary who worked for the famous Dr. Gerald Bull as he established the *High Altitude Research Program* at McGill University and perfected the “supergun”). My mother was there, again, in our new kitchen in Kirkland as I received a telephone call from lawyer Daniel Audet from Lapointe Rosenstein informing me that the firm wanted to offer me an articling position. I was on my way.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR GENERAL

MARIANOPOLIS COLLEGE'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2020



photo: Len Even, Director General of Marianopolis College

Our recent Annual General Meeting was an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments and focus on our five-year strategic plan which was approved by the Board of Governors after an extensive and interactive consultation with the extended Marianopolis community.

Since I will be leaving the College this June after seven rewarding years as Director General and CEO, the implementation of this plan will be overseen for the most part by my successor. At the same time, please rest assured that my colleagues and I will be working hard in the coming months to ensure the plan's success.

BUILDING ON SOLID GROUND Marianopolis will continue to excel in all areas:

Academically, our students repeatedly have the highest average R-Scores in the province and the most R-Scores above 34. Despite representing a small

share of Montreal's Anglophone pre-university graduates, 88% of our students attend their first-choice university, many of them in their first-choice program. They accomplish this while graduating on time at a rate that no other school can rival.

Thanks in large measure to the commitment and professionalism of the women and men of the Marianopolis community, we continue to enhance the student experience. For example, we now provide students with the opportunity to participate in innovative partnerships such as our bilingual exchange with Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, the first of its kind in Quebec, and we have established a partnership with Alliance Sport-Études in support of our student-athletes.

We recognize exceptional students and ensure accessibility through the creation of several scholarships, such as the Director General's Merit Scholarships and the Director General's Student Life Scholarships. We take pride in the fact that one in five Marianopolis students benefits from financial assistance.

The quality of our education is reflected in the learning environment we provide, including a secure campus in a beautiful setting. Recent renovations include the brickwork and new walkway and lighting at the front of the College, to ensure the safety of our students. Next, we will improve the ventilation and air conditioning of our heritage building.

Recently, we have reached historic enrolment levels while attracting top students from across Montreal and managing to keep class sizes small, on average 25% smaller than those at CEGEPs. We are managing our growth deliberately and prioritizing excellence in education. As a result, we are in a sound position for the future. We believe that you will have every reason to continue to be proud to be associated with our college.

2020 VISION: THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

In the next five years, we will focus on the three pillars we have identified as our priorities: transforming

individuals who will change the world; building a cohesive and caring community with a shared mission and vision; and adopting strategies to ensure our sustainability as an independent college.

More specifically, we will:

Provide a **transformative educational experience** through a holistic and learning-centred approach that prepares students for success at university and sparks a lifelong love of learning.

Reaffirm Marianopolis as a **cohesive and caring community**, a network of educators with diverse skills and perspectives who are interconnected by their shared pursuit of the College's Mission and Vision in service to society.

Build on our rich heritage by positioning Marianopolis to thrive and remain an independent college committed to excellence and accessibility in all its forms.

I encourage you to refer to MARIANOPOLIS.EDU/STRATEGICPLAN to learn more.

We have set a clear and ambitious path for ourselves and we face the future with enthusiasm and confidence. Our goal is to continue to provide young people with a supportive and innovative environment that will help them to grow into global citizens who aim for personal excellence. 

— Len Even, Director General of Marianopolis College



COMEDY SHOW FUNDRAISER



photo: Mike Marino

On October 3, 2015, approximately 150 alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Marianopolis College came together at The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation's *Mike Marino – The Presidential Tour* comedy fundraiser. The show took place at Concordia University's F.C. Smith Auditorium and was preceded by a cocktail hour which included wine, delicious Italian fare, coffee, and desserts, all generously provided by our event sponsors.

The show kicked off with Montreal comedian and CJAD Newstalk 800's very own Dan Laxer. Dan has over 20 years of experience in the media industry. He has been a content provider, freelance writer, radio announcer, voice artist, media liaison, teacher and a stand-up comedian. Not one to disappoint, Dan had the audience in stitches as he warmed up the crowd for the evening's headliner comedian, Mike Marino.

Mike grew up in New Jersey where he was accurately nicknamed 'New Jersey's Bad Boy of Comedy'. At a young age, Mike knew he would grow up to be a comedian. He graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, which boasts notable alumni such as Grace Kelly, Katharine Hepburn and Robert Redford. Even Mike is not too sure how he ended up in such good company [insert laugh]. All kidding aside, Mike is one of the go-to comedians in the US comedy circuit. In addition to his comedic prowess, Mike has been featured as an actor in television and film [his television credits include *As the World Turns*, *One Life to Live*, *Becker*, *Nikki*, *Frasier* and *Party of Five*, while he has been featured in films such as *Crooks*, *Pizza with Bullets*, *Hangin' in Hedon* and *Steven King's Lucky Quarter*]. Most notably, Mike was a regular sketch player on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

Mike's comedy was drop-dead funny all evening long as he offered up his brand of observational humour, including anecdotes from his own life in an Italian-American family. The audience clearly enjoyed Mike's brash, take-no-prisoners comedy style and by the end of the night it was obvious that no one wanted his set to end. As they say in the business, 'Mike killed'.

The event generated a net profit of more than \$7,600 for The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation, whose mandate is to give great students the opportunity to shine. It is for these great students that we at the Foundation take immense pride in the work that we do each and every day. We wish to give special thanks to all of the event sponsors (Pasta Casareccia, Café Santo Domingo, Groupe PMG and Services Alimentaires Monchâteau), to our videographer Cynthia Cianciusi and to all who attended. A Spring comedy show is on the horizon. Stay tuned for more details! 

DONOR APPRECIATION COCKTAIL

On June 4, 2015, The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation hosted its first-ever Donor Appreciation Cocktail. A handful of the College's most dedicated donors were invited to partake in a casual gathering of cocktails and wine in honour of their contributions to and support of the Foundation. Among the evening's attendees were Tatiana Londono '92, Anita David of the Gustav Levinschi Foundation, Salvatore Mariani of Scotiabank, and Yves Auclair and Mary-Ann Danko,

parents of alumna Gabrielle Auclair '11 and current student Sarah Auclair '17. Also in attendance were members of the Marianopolis College Alumni Association and the Foundation's Board of Directors. The evening was conceived as an opportunity for the Foundation to celebrate the generosity of those who have maintained strong ties with the College, and to nurture these important relationships. The event also allowed some of our major donors the chance to get to know one another.



photo: Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan



photo: Group attending the Donor Appreciation Cocktail

Guests had the pleasure of listening to an eloquent presentation given by invited speaker Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan '64, critically acclaimed author of one memoir and eight novels, several of which are best-sellers. In her speech, Sheila reminisced about some of the defining moments of her life as a young woman, including her time at Marianopolis. Sheila attended the College during the years when it was still a degree-granting institution. She had not initially wanted to attend Marianopolis; the choice was made for her by her mother. Sheila was determined to blaze her own trail, different from her

mother's, and initially resented this turn of events. That all changed on her first day of school, when she was told by the Dean that she was the first arts student of a parent who also attended Marianopolis. "Seeing my mother's absolute joy, I capitulated and accepted with a measure of pride that I was walking in my mother's footsteps, carrying on a proud tradition. The next four years of my life were the happiest years of my youth."

This past September marked the 50th anniversary of Sheila's graduation. She recalls attending her Golden Jubilee reunion and sitting at a table with a judge, two lawyers, two physicists, three women who ran their own companies, and an author. This is a firm testament to Marianopolis' outstanding reputation, the caliber of its students, and its ability to produce future leaders. "There are fine CEGEPs in Montreal, and then there is Marianopolis", Sheila says. Marianopolis, in her opinion, provided her and every other student a solid foundation on which to build.

Sheila also spoke about starting a second career only later in life. It was, in part, her desire to reconnect with her past that set her on this new and different path. Her past, and the time she spent at Marianopolis, also helped inform her decision for the future. Sheila mentioned to those in attendance that she had formalized, through her Last Will and Testament, a bequest to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation. When deciding on the bequest, she

states "I wanted it to be meaningful. I knew that in choosing Marianopolis, I had chosen a blue chip investment. My parents were donors for many years. Marianopolis is a very long tradition in our family."

Many guests left the cocktail feeling inspired by Sheila's words, with a renewed sense of pride and affinity for the College. The first Donor Appreciation Cocktail was a resounding success, reminding our donors of the College's importance and how their encouragement and contribution are essential to continuing the College's legacy.

Sheila's newest book, *Where Bodies Fall*, was launched on October 17, 2015 (note: she named a lawyer in the book after the Foundation's very own Dino Mazzone). The Foundation is grateful for Sheila's attendance at our Donor Appreciation Cocktail and fortunate to have had the opportunity to listen to her recount a fascinating life journey. 



photo: "Where Bodies Fall" by Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan



photo: Len Even, Yves Auclair & Mary-Ann Danko

VIKKI	
Grad year: 2016	Campus: Westmount
Type of degree: DEC	
Program of study: Honours Psychology	
Occupation: Singer-songwriter	

VIKKI GILMORE



photo: Vikki Gilmore

Amidst the bustling halls at Marianopolis College sits Vikki Gilmore '16. An Honours Psychology student and an established singer-songwriter, her cover songs have been recognized by artists such as Emblem3 and Iggy Azalea.

Surprisingly, Vikki's musical talent was not something that blossomed right away. At the young age of seven, she began writing poetry but lacked musical ability. In fact, her family often joked that she sounded like "Mickey Mouse with a cold!" Vikki did not let this stop her; when she was in high school, she enthusiastically joined the concert band in addition to the required music class in order to surround herself with music and gain experience. It is here where she learned how to play the clarinet and realized her passion for live performance after taking part in her high school's annual talent show *Café Cabaret*.



On Vikki's fifteenth birthday, her mother gave her a guitar which she tirelessly played from that day forward - she considers herself a self-taught guitar player. Among some of Vikki's favourite artists, and those that she uses as inspiration when creating her own music, are Simon & Garfunkel, the Beatles, Johnny Cash, Joni Mitchell, Patrick Watson,

Ed Sheeran, Birdy, and Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. As one can see, Vikki is inspired by a variety of artists which in turn makes it difficult to label or classify her own music as a particular genre.

"TO BE ABLE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS ON AN EMOTIONAL LEVEL."

In 2014, Vikki released both her first EP and first single, together with a self-produced video. Not only is Vikki a talented musician, she also gives back to the community - she used the release of her album as a way to raise awareness for Lung Cancer Canada, a non-profit organization based in Toronto, Ontario, whose mandate is to increase the public's awareness of lung cancer and to offer support and

educational resources to patients and their families and caregivers. This particular foundation holds a special place in Vikki's heart because her aunt, who suffered and eventually passed away from lung cancer, befriended many of the great people who are involved in the organization. Lung Cancer Canada was a source of comfort and support during that very difficult time.

Recently, Vikki performed live at the *Marianopolis' Got Talent* variety show, where her talent and passion for music were clear to all within earshot. Many in attendance claimed that Vikki's performance gave them goosebumps - her talent is simply jaw-dropping. If this public's reaction is indicative of Vikki's skill set, it is abundantly clear that she has an incredible future in music in front of her and will - as so many alums who have preceded her - go on to do great things.

Once Vikki completes her schooling at Marianopolis in Spring 2016, she certainly intends to pursue a career in music and to continue her studies in Psychology. Somehow, Vikki hopes to find a way to combine these two disciplines (and passions). When asked what she strives to achieve as an artist, Vikki simply says "to be able to connect with others on an emotional level." There is no doubt that Ms. Gilmore is definitely hitting the right notes. 

MARIANOPOLIS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED WITH YOUR ALMA MATER? ARE YOU LOOKING TO BUILD UP YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK? WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND HAVE A GREAT TIME? LOOK NO FURTHER! THE MARIANOPOLIS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MCAA) IS ALL THAT AND MORE!

The MCAA meets on a monthly basis to organize a variety of events. The MCAA's most widely-attended and successful event is *Groundhog Day* (a Montreal reunion of sorts – in fact, the Winter 2016 edition will bear a

new name: *Marianopolis Alumni Annual Reunion*). Alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College come together for a silent auction, great food, and drinks. Other events include a Networking Cocktail and a Wine Tasting event. The MCAA, together with the Development and Alumni Affairs Office, organize and execute these events annually – and there is nothing better than organizing great events with a fun and diverse team.

What is not so commonly known is that the MCAA is also involved with current students. In fact, members of the MCAA comprise a panel of judges who select three winners at the College's annual ArtsFest, which takes place every April. The event occurs over a two-week period during which students from all areas of study are invited to showcase their talent

in any art form (visual, literary, musical, etcetera).

One of the main goals of the MCAA is to promote student clubs and projects that will benefit current students at the College. For this reason, the MCAA offers grants to College clubs who meet certain criteria. In the Fall 2015 semester, clubs were invited to submit an application form stating the specific project they required to have funded. This past October, the MCAA awarded \$2,000 in such club grants.

The MCAA also has a presence at the College's graduation ceremony – members of the MCAA Executive distribute the College yearbooks and have the privilege of welcoming the newest recruits to a most exclusive community: Marianopolis alumni. 

ELLIE BORDEN

Speaking of Marianopolis alumni, Ellie Borden '96 is the MCAA Executive's immediate past President. Ellie has truly spread her wings since graduating from Marianopolis and has been involved in many industries, transforming herself at each turn. In 2006, Ellie transitioned from the music industry (*she was quite the rap artist!*) to entrepreneurship, at which point she developed three highly successful businesses. Her businesses lead her to other commercial activities that she had not even considered up to that point: author, NLP Life Coach, regular keynote speaker and Feng Shui Consultant. The final step in her initial transformation was in developing and opening the PowerCircle® Academy which provides workshops, courses and coaching certification for women. If the breadth of Ellie's activities seems exhausting, she has shown no signs of slowing down. It is quite an accomplishment that she is simultaneously working on all of these endeavours.

Did we mention that Ellie is a wife and mother to two young girls? This busy mom will be transforming herself yet again. She has sold two of her three businesses and will be shifting her professional focus to international real estate investment and development with her newly acquired company, Empire Heights Properties – the company has both a Canadian and US presence. Not only is Ellie breaking into a new industry, but she is also relocating to Toronto from Montreal.



photo: *Ellie Borden*

“A STRONG AND PATIENT LEADER, ELLIE IS A ROLE MODEL FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.”

In all of her sphere of influence and activity, Ellie has touched so many lives – but none more so than the indelible impact she has made on the Marianopolis alums that comprise the MCAA, which she has been part of since 2011. A strong and patient leader, Ellie is a role model for both men and women and a Marianopolis graduate of considerable distinction. We have no doubt that while the city of Toronto is a very big fishbowl, Ellie will leave her mark and make us proud.

Alumni who are interested in getting involved in the MCAA should communicate with Christianne Meloche at 514.931.8792 ext.224 or C.MELOCHE@MARIANOPOLIS.EDU. 

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE GUSTAV LEVINSCHI FOUNDATION

Gustav Levinschi came to Montreal from Romania in 1949. Over the years, through determination and hard work, Gustav managed to build himself quite a fortune; however, Gustav never had any children. Wanting to leave a lasting legacy, and to have his wealth serve a purpose, he established the Gustav Levinschi Foundation in 1967. The Gustav Levinschi Foundation raises money for a variety of charities and institutions, focusing on organizations that help society's most vulnerable – children, adolescents and the elderly. The foundation often partners with groups that focus on education and mental health.

Gustav passed away in 1985 following a battle with Alzheimer's disease. Today, the foundation continues to be managed by his family, with Gustav's niece, Anita David, serving as its President. Anita has nurtured a long and supportive relationship with Marianopolis College. Since 2004, the Gustav Levinschi Scholarship is bestowed annually to two students who are able to maintain academic excellence in the face of exceptional circumstances (for more information about one of last year's winners, Jack Rudski '15, see page 10).

The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation is proud and honoured to be associated with this exceptional organization, family and donor. "In meeting with Ms. David over lunch recently, I was made keenly aware of the values and principles of the Gustav Levinschi Foundation", states Dino Mazzone, Executive Director of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation. "I am reminded of the quote which, in essence, states that 'the measure of a society

is how it treats its most vulnerable.' The Gustav Levinschi Foundation is an exemplary testament to the importance of being good and kind to those who most need our assistance." 



photo: *Gustav Levinschi*

“THE GUSTAV LEVINSCHI FOUNDATION IS AN EXEMPLARY TESTAMENT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GOOD AND KIND TO THOSE WHO MOST NEED OUR ASSISTANCE.”

photo: *Anita David*



GRADUATION RINGS AND DIPLOMA FRAMES ARE AVAILABLE.

Contact Christianne at C.MELOCHE@MARIANOPOLIS.EDU.

“ HE HAS ADAPTED AND LEARNED TO OVERCOME HIS HURDLES WITH

GRACE AND TENACITY ”

JACK RUDSKI

JACK	
Grad year: 2015	Campus: Westmount
Type of degree: DEC	
Program of study: Honours Health Sciences	
Occupation: Future genius	



photo: Jack (second from right) and his fellow Marianopolis peers

Perhaps some of you are wondering where your money goes when you donate to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation. The funds collected by the Foundation - gifted by individual donors, parents and alumni - are used for scholarships, bursaries, awards and improvements in and around the College which benefit the everyday lives of Marianopolis College students. A specific and inspiring example of the way in which the Foundation's resources are used can be summed up in two words: Jack Rudski '15. Jack's story is the reason why those of us who work at the Foundation have dedicated our lives to philanthropy.

Having completed his DEC in Honours Health Sciences, Jack is one the newest alums of Marianopolis College. He joins a long line of notable alumni who graduated from Marianopolis before him, including his parents, Lawrence Rudski '85 and Marcy Cohen '85. Like all Marianopolis students, Jack worked hard throughout his two years on campus and strived to do his best in each and every class. He was involved in student life and truly enjoyed his time at Marianopolis. What is unique about Jack, however, is that he was diagnosed at only four months old with type II *oculocutaneous albinism*.

Generally speaking, oculocutaneous albinism results in a lack of pigment in the eyes, the hair and the skin. As there are four different types of oculocutaneous albinism, the severity of the symptoms can vary

“JACK'S STORY IS THE REASON WHY THOSE OF US WHO WORK AT THE FOUNDATION HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO PHILANTHROPY.”

greatly from one person to another. In Jack's case, he has blond hair, blue eyes and very fair skin. Though his symptoms seem to be very mild,

the lack of pigmentation has caused his retinas to be underdeveloped – Jack has extreme near-sightedness, and thus is categorized as a person of low vision.

According to the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), “[n]ormal vision is known as “20/20”. This simply means that the eye being tested is able to see an object at 20 feet as well as any eye with very good vision. If you have 20/60 vision, this means you can see at 20 feet what a person with good vision can see at 60 feet. As changes in vision become larger, most people experience more and more difficulty in their efforts to continue their usual visual activities, even with the best possible glasses or contact lenses. If there is a change in vision between 20/60 and 20/190 it is called being partially sighted or having low vision” (<http://www.cnib.ca/en/your-eyes/eye-conditions/low-vision/Pages/default.aspx>).

How does this affect Jack's everyday life? He cannot drive; he requires help from a variety of visual aids without which he would not be able to see the blackboard – not to mention the increased visual demands made of him when working in

the chemistry and physics labs. In order to cope with all of these visual constraints, Jack has had to learn to compensate by using a variety of visual aids including bioptic telescopes. Allowing him the freedom to experiment and discover what worked best for him at school, Marianopolis professors and lab technicians supported Jack and his efforts at every possible turn. Sometimes Jack would need to sit directly in front of the blackboard in order to see properly. His professors provided him with enlarged handouts, tests and exams. These same teachers would adjust the classroom lighting in order to help Jack reduce both the glare and the strain on his eyes. Most of his professors even went so far as to forward him PowerPoint presentations in advance of the entire semester so that he could print them out and view them at home. During labs, a technician would complete, under Jack's direction, aspects of the lab that Jack was unable to see but which he knew how to properly execute. These are just a few of the measures implemented and the manner in which the outstanding faculty and staff members of Marianopolis College went above and beyond to help Jack obtain a first-rate education. Our Marianopolis community stepped up to the plate to give him all the tools he needed to achieve success.

This magazine would be remiss if it did not also highlight the fundamental role played by Jack's parents in ensuring his achievements at the College. The Foundation's Executive Director, Dino Mazzone '87, was a law school classmate of Jack's mother

Marcy (Jack's number one fan and cheerleader). When Dino organized a meeting with Jack, Marcy and the Foundation staff in anticipation of this article, Dino was struck by the love and unconditional commitment of Marcy to her son. Marcy mentioned that Jack does not feel that his circumstances are “exceptional”. These challenges have been part of his life for so long that he simply manages them to the best of his abilities – he has adapted and learned to overcome his hurdles with a grace and tenacity that is uncommon for someone of such a young age. “It is abundantly clear that Jack is a product of his mother Marcy and father Lawrence. Marcy is an incredible woman who has devoted her time, energy and resources to see to it that Jack be afforded every opportunity in life. Her and Lawrence's steadfast commitment to Jack's success is a testament to family and to the enduring power of love. I am truly moved by the Rudski family story and incredibly inspired by Jack”, states Dino.

At Marianopolis College's convocation ceremonies in June 2015, Jack was awarded the Gustav Levinschi Scholarship – one of many graduation prizes that are distributed to students of distinction and one of several awards that were bestowed on Jack. The Gustav Levinschi Scholarship is given to a student in any program who maintains academic excellence under exceptional circumstances. *[To learn more about the Gustav Levinschi Foundation, please go to page 9 of this magazine].*

If you ever had the inclination to support The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation but have not to date, please think of Jack, the challenges he has had to face, the support he received at Marianopolis and the success he achieved in spite of the great obstacles placed in his way. It definitely takes a village. Help us help the next Jack Rudski. Help the Foundation give great students the opportunity to shine.



photo: Jack Rudski



photo: Jack Rudski (left) with his mother Marcy Cohen and father Lawrence Rudski

YOUR SUPPORT IS SIGNIFICANT \$520,000

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF ALUMNI, PARENTS*, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE, OVER \$520,000 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.

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please report any omissions or errors to Christianne Meloche, c.meloche@marianopolis.edu. Donations to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation are tax-deductible. Gifts received/postmarked before December 31, 2015 will be receipted for the 2015 tax year. For more information please contact Dino Mazzone '87, d.mazzone@marianopolis.edu.

*A special thank you to all those parents and family members who contributed during the 2014-2015 academic year and whose names do not appear in this listing in order to preserve the privacy of current students.

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photo: David O'Keefe (right) on the beaches of Normandy



ONE DAY IN AUGUST

Canadian military historian and Marianopolis professor David O'Keefe is changing the way Canadians understand the Great Wars.



DAVID

Occupation: Canadian military historian and current Marianopolis professor

photo: David O'Keefe

David O'Keefe's book *One Day in August* reexamines the disastrous raid at Dieppe, France, in light of new discoveries and attempts to finally uncover the real reasons behind a seemingly senseless tragedy. On August 19, 1942, Allied soldiers launched an attack against German forces on the beaches of Dieppe. The assault was a major disaster, resulting in the loss of 907 Canadian soldiers. With no substantial explanation or purpose and an incredibly high casualty rate, the battle is regarded as one of the most controversial events of the Second World War. Ultimately, *One Day in August* promotes a new understanding of this seminal moment in Canada's history.

David spent two decades delving into the research surrounding Dieppe. Initially, he wanted to stay far away from that event. However, the tragedy of Dieppe is ubiquitous in Canadian military history; dealing with it was simply inevitable. On a research trip in 1995, he stumbled across a single document that briefly mentioned the Dieppe raid. Being familiar with the story, he immediately grasped the potential significance of what he had just found. This one document grew into 150,000 pages of research. In 1995, much of the documentation in relation to this event was still highly classified. Nevertheless, David continued to follow it as closely as he could before he eventually approached the British government. The evidence he collected, and the possible impact it could have, pushed the government to accelerate its declassification process. The result of the declassification of documents not only confirmed David's suspicions, but opened the floodgates. "It was much more a fundamental shift than I ever expected in this story."

Essentially, David's research connected the Dieppe raid to the activity undertaken at Bletchley Park, the center of the British government's codebreaking efforts. Cryptographers there had already managed to crack the German Enigma machine, allowing them to decipher secret communications and gain crucial naval intelligence. In 1942, however, the Germans successfully shut down the British government's intelligence operations. The Germans introduced a new four-rotor Enigma machine which was, as David describes, "bigger, badder and literally blacked out Bletchley Park for 10 months. The effects of that were almost catastrophic, particularly in the Battle of the Atlantic, the most vital of all campaigns." According to David's research, the Dieppe raid was possibly meant as a cover for a smaller team tasked with a "pinch" mission – going into enemy territory and capturing material related to the new four-rotor Enigma machine.

At the time, this information was classified Ultra Secret and remained so for 70 years. It took time to declassify in part because of the scale of the disaster, but also because "...cryptography [was] so important in [that] particular day and age, that they didn't really want to tip people off about what they were doing and how they were doing it." In the meantime, most people were at a loss to find an explanation that could justify launching an operation that seemed doomed from the start. Upon the release of *One Day in August*, much of the historical community was caught off guard, because of the sheer amount of research as well as the huge shift in thinking prompted by David's discovery. "For years we were trying to figure out what was the intent behind the raid at Dieppe – the most controversial

raid in Canadian history and in the Second World War." Up until now, there were only excuses. The connection to a pinch mission will forever reframe the way we think about Dieppe and give new meaning to that ill-fated battle.

One Day in August became a best-seller within weeks of its publication in November 2013. It has been nominated for multiple prizes, including being shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize, an award presented to the best Canadian work of literary non-fiction. Though it did not win, David is just as pleased with all the positive reception the book has received. "It's fantastic just for the book to be recognized, because it is such an important story for Canadians." David warns that the book is not meant to provide vindication for Dieppe.

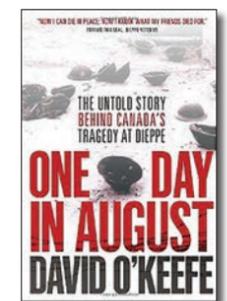


photo: "One Day in August" by David O'Keefe

In light of the newly uncovered research, understanding of what Dieppe was all about has certainly changed, but that does not diminish the tragedy. "Despite the fact that the intentions were altruistic, it was still poorly planned, poorly conceived, poorly carried out.

Nothing is going to change the fact that 907 men were killed in 6 hours." Nevertheless, he does feel that *One Day in August* finally provides some closure to one of the war's most enduring mysteries. The mission was undoubtedly a failure, but the remaining survivors of the battle are relieved to finally have a tangible reason for having been on that beach.

Further to his academic endeavors, David also contributes to a four-part television series called *War Junk*. Unlike the pages of research involved in writing a book, the series presents a more accessible version of history – "more historical entertainment than historical documentary," says David. The *War Junk* team visits old battlefields, examining what is left behind and telling the human story behind it. In some cases they have even tracked down the descendants of soldiers and brought them back to these locations, giving them

an opportunity to retrace their ancestor's footsteps. As an academic, the emotional side of history is not what David is accustomed to, but he has noticed that it is something that really resonates with viewers. "I'm starting to realize that there is more of a fundamental connection emotionally with history than I ever really expected."

Most recently, the *War Junk* team discovered a German machine-gun post on Juno Beach. Using old intelligence maps, aerial photos from then and now, radar and metal detectors, they were able to uncover the bunker that had long been reclaimed by the beach. It is a significant historical find, as this machine was responsible for the death of hundreds of soldiers on D-Day. The Juno Beach Centre already had a command center and an observation post; a fighting bunker was the last piece of the puzzle. Now Canadians will have a greater sense of what

it would have been like to be a Canadian soldier landing on the beaches of Normandy and facing this particular obstacle. The bunker will be fully excavated and made safe for the public to enter; it will undoubtedly become an important pilgrimage site for Canadians.

What's next for this intrepid historian? David hopes that *War Junk* will be turned into an annual series, airing four episodes every year during the week of Remembrance. He is also at work on another documentary about the scouts and snipers of Montreal's Black Watch, of which he is a former member. This documentary will examine the regiment's experience during the last ten months of the war, from landing in Normandy to VE Day, and is expected to be released in Fall 2016. David also continues to work closer to home, teaching a class on the Great Wars at Marianopolis. 

GLOBAL BRIGADES: MISSION HONDURAS

Every year, the Marianopolis College Alumni Association awards grants to several of the College's student clubs or associations (of which there are over 100). In 2015, one such grant was given to Marianopolis Global Brigades, the College's chapter of the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization. Global Brigades is a volunteer organization that travels to developing nations and works to empower the community by providing them with sustainable ways to improve their quality of life. This is the fifth year that Marianopolis students have participated.

In June 2015, a group of 23 students and their chaperones travelled to Honduras for nine days for what is considered a hybrid brigade. The first three days of the trip consisted of a Medical Brigade, where students took care of triage, shadowed doctors as they provided medical consultations, created baskets of medicine and pharmaceutical products and assisted in a dental clinic. This year, for the first time, there was also an eye doctor present and students were able to perform simple eye tests. They also distributed basic supplies like vitamins for kids and adults, gloves, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Most students prefer to include a Medical Brigade in the itinerary because it offers the most hands-on experience – they are able to participate throughout the entire process.

The trip also included a Public Health Brigade, where volunteers assist the community in developing infrastructure and provide training and health education. For this year's team that meant installing concrete floors and a hygiene unit with a water tank, providing the women of the village a safe, clean space to wash without having to wait for it to get dark outside. They also made sure to include members of the local community in the building process, and ensured sustainability by establishing a committee to maintain the infrastructure following the Brigade's departure. Participating student Julianne Chu says "(i)n the Public Health department, we really worked hands-on with the families, and that was a really nice experience because we could actually bond with them and really see the change we were making in their lives." Chaperone Veronique Champoux notes "(i)t is really rewarding because you show up there and you just help them, and they [demonstrate] how impacted they are." As this was Veronique's second trip to Honduras with Global Brigades, the group was able to return to the same area they visited last year. Veronique and six other returning students were immediately recognized by the families they helped, who enthusiastically thanked Global Brigades for changing their lives.

Some of the students on the 2015 trip, like Julianne and Kevin He, are already looking forward to

returning for a second brigade to Nicaragua in June 2016. For most volunteers, joining a brigade proves to be a life-changing experience. "It doesn't mean that whatever you do you always have to keep them in mind, but as our mason was telling us, when you take a shower or go to the bathroom, just remind yourself some days that you were in Honduras and you were able to build yourself this whole thing that you have in your house. For you, maybe it's nothing, but for them it's a whole new level of luxury," states Kevin. Julianne reiterates that the trip was a truly humbling experience, prompting students to take stock of their good fortune in life. 



photo: Global Brigades

"CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME"

photo: 2014-2015 Marianopolis Student Union



MARIANOPOLIS STUDENT UNION

According to Marianopolis Student Union's (MSU) constitution, its mission is "(t)o serve the students' interests by maintaining a peaceful, enriching and enjoyable environment, fostering education and social growth, celebrating our cultural diversity, encouraging charitable endeavors, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability, and representing students within the College and the greater community." This past year, MSU certainly lived up to its goal of encouraging charitable endeavors. Led by President Elly Su '15, MSU generously donated \$5,000 to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation in order to help give great students the opportunity to shine. Specifically, these

monies will go towards funding two bursaries for students in need – funding that is truly needed as demands on financial aid are continuously increasing. A huge THANK YOU goes out to Elly Su and all Congress members for their dedication to the Foundation's cause. As we enter the second half of this 2015-2016 school year, MSU and the Foundation continue to work together to better the lives of Marianopolis students. The silent auction that took place on "Giving Tuesday" (December 1) was one such collaborative endeavor. And there is more to come, as current MSU President Sky Shi '16 and his team have demonstrated to the Foundation that they understand that 'charity begins at home'. 



PAMA FOUNDATION

STEFANIA	
Grad year: 2006	Campus: Côte-des-Neiges
Type of degree: DEC	
Program of study: Social Science	
Occupation: Assistant behaviour analyst	

Stefania Dei Tigli '06 never set out to change the world. After graduating from Concordia University in 2009 with a B.A. in Psychology, Stefania found herself undecided about her future career path. There did not seem to be very many opportunities in the field for a new graduate. So when someone offered Stefania a job as a shadow for an autistic child, following him throughout his day at school and intervening when assistance was required, she accepted. The experience exposed Stefania to a different reality and prompted new career aspirations. She began graduate courses in order to become a board certified assistant behaviour analyst, and now works full-time with children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, providing behavioural therapy.



photo: Pama Foundation Board Members

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurobiological condition that impacts normal brain development. Those who are diagnosed experience communication problems, have difficulty with learning and social interaction, demonstrate a tendency for repetitive or unusual behaviour and have a restricted range of interests and activity. Research is ongoing but the causes are still unknown. Though awareness of the disorder is greater now than ever before, it seems as though the infrastructure needed to support those with an ASD diagnosis has been slow to develop. Because of the broad spectrum of symptoms, each

private therapy sessions is overwhelming. Stefania notes that "the lack of resources, financial aid, and the limitations of the public system put a serious burden on many families."

Witnessing these struggles first-hand inspired Stefania to establish her own foundation aimed at providing direct assistance. The Pama Foundation was created in March 2012, with a mission to help children with ASD achieve their greatest potential, while also offering support and a resource for information to parents. Pama's objective is to raise enough money to provide the equipment and therapy necessary to aid children in their development. Though Stefania's long-term goals, such as establishing her own center to provide free or subsidized services, are currently beyond the foundation's financial capacity, her team has undertaken numerous short-term projects that have had an immediate impact. In its first year, the foundation, consisting of a small group of volunteer directors, raised enough money to give away iPads to children. They have also held sensory-friendly events in order to provide children and their families a way to participate in activities that most people take for granted. "Something that is usually exciting and fun for most kids, like going to the movies, can be a really difficult experience for some." To address

the needs of kids with sensory issues, Pama started hosting a family movie day. They rented a theatre and showed a movie with the lights on and the volume at a minimal level to create a more relaxed environment that would not overwhelm the senses. In December, Pama Clause Day gives the children a chance to meet and take pictures with Santa Clause in a quiet stress-free setting away from the pandemonium of shopping malls.



Pama also hopes to throw yearly fundraising galas. In October 2014, the foundation hosted a Casino Night Fundraiser, which raised over \$10,000. "For our first-ever fundraiser, it was a really nice evening," says Stefania. "We were able to spread awareness, have fun, and raise money for a great cause." The money raised during Pama events is used to keep giving back to the children and building toward future goals. The events serve another purpose as well: to nurture a sense of community and cultivate a network of support among families that are faced with similar challenges. Stefania believes that those elements



photo: Stefania Dei Tigli

child will exhibit different degrees and combinations of symptoms. Therapy must be highly individualized and specific to each case; as a result, private sessions are often the better alternative. Yet therapy is still not covered by insurance. Those looking for financial help are faced with long waiting lists and numerous restrictions in order to gain access to already limited funds. For many families, the cost of doctor's appointments, special programs, and

are crucial to positive growth and development. In fact, that is one of her fondest memories from her time at the College. "Marianopolis is actually where I decided to narrow my studies to Psychology. The College made everyone feel like we were capable of great things and could succeed in whatever path we chose. For such a large campus, Marianopolis really made us feel at home and part of a big family."

An autism diagnosis can be devastating news to a parent. But Stefania wants people to know that it does not have to be. With the right support "many of these kids are able to learn, to be independent and social." Part of Pama's mission is to dispel the misconceptions many people have about children with special needs. "Being able to speak verbally is absolutely not representative of how intelligent a person is. Some of the non-verbal kids I have worked with over the years have been the brightest." She points out that every child is different and will respond to therapy and develop in his or her own

way, but that people should not be surprised at what these children can accomplish. "They have interests, they are curious, they are always absorbing information from their environment even though it doesn't always seem that way."

"THEY MAKE EACH DAY DIFFERENT AND INTERESTING."

Stefania hopes that her work, and that of the Pama Foundation, will not only encourage people to rethink how they approach those with special needs, but will help those children and their families understand that life with autism is possible. "I hope that Pama can inspire people not to give up or feel helpless. It doesn't end with a diagnosis. That is really just the beginning and there is so much potential in all of these children. ASD is just a label. I hope Pama can lead by example in giving these people a voice in society." For now, she continues to work towards fostering development in the children under her care. "I am proud to simply be able to work with these kids every day. They make each day different and interesting."

To learn more about Stefania's great initiative, visit PAMAFUNDATION.ORG

TATIANA LONDONO GRATITUDE BURSARY

This year, The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation had the great privilege to introduce the Tatiana Londono Gratitude Bursary. Established by Marianopolis alumna and major donor Tatiana Londono '92, this bursary is awarded to two incoming female students who demonstrate a marked need for financial assistance.

Often times, we give to a charity but do not know exactly where our money is going. For this reason, Tatiana wanted to get involved at a grassroots level, to donate to a charity and ensure that money was being received directly by someone who needed it. She also wanted to give back to the school that had given her so much. She recalls that when she was in high school and applying to colleges, Marianopolis was not a popular choice among her peers. But she was attracted to the College's reputation for excellence and was adamant about going there. It ended up being an experience that changed her life. For the first time, she felt she was among like-minded people who were focused on achieving a

quality education, but who also enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere of student life. "What a difference in education from public school. We had to catch up, but I wanted to be a part of that. When I went to Marianopolis, I realized this is what I wanted – to be a part of that tradition." Tatiana's current



photo: Tatiana Londono

success, she believes, can be traced back to her time at the College. "I really do believe it started at the Marianopolis level, when I started loving school and loving going there. Marianopolis pushed the excellence out of me."

Of course, Tatiana's road to success was not always easy. Attending a private school came with some financial difficulty. Though her parents both had good jobs, Tatiana also worked part-time in order to be able to attend Marianopolis. "If we wouldn't have had the money, I would not have been able to experience that life-changing thing." Now, Tatiana wants to give two deserving young women the same chance. She chose girls because she feels that they always have to work a little harder and face different pressures than boys do. Initially, she also wanted these bursaries to be awarded to two girls who live with a single mother, who had to get by without the support of their father. "When I saw these applications I was really touched, because I just couldn't believe the income of some of these homes. Yet these moms were going to work their butts off, along with the girls who were working part time, to be able to go to Marianopolis, because that's how important it was to go to the College."

Tatiana read every single application and selected two girls who persevered through exceptional circumstances. "Someone who has to work hard to make sure there is food on the table needs my help. They shouldn't have to suffer to have the life-changing experience that I had." For Tatiana, working while attending school in order to help pay for tuition was normal. She wonders, however, if some girls coming from the public sector would feel the same way, and recognizes that under different circumstances the added pressure of a part-time job can be extremely difficult to maintain. Tatiana wants to help these girls to come to the College and not have to worry about the extra burden from a part-time job affecting their stress level, so that they can focus solely on their studies.

Among the twenty-five applicants, Tatiana chose young women with remarkable stories who both exhibit a great deal of potential, excel in their academic endeavors, and demonstrate an incredible resolve for overcoming adversity. "These two young women seem to have the highest potential for stress level. I saw two girls who have it the hardest and who are the most talented, and I wanted to make their lives easier."

"MARIANOPOLIS
PUSHED THE
EXCELLENCE
OUT OF ME."

One of the chosen recipients, Aminata Baldé '17, was born in Guinea, West Africa. At two years old, her mother decided to move the family to Canada. At that time, Aminata's mother was just divorced and pregnant with a second child. Aminata's younger sister was later diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder. About a year ago, Aminata's sister suffered a near-fatal seizure. She remained in intensive care for three months, and was then transferred to the Marie Enfant Rehabilitation Center, where she continues to live due to her fragile condition.

For Aminata, living with a single mother and a disabled sister was extremely difficult

and demanded many sacrifices, yet she never let unfortunate circumstances define her path or keep her from achieving her goals. She excelled at F.A.C.E. High School and her hard work was rewarded when she was accepted to the Honours Law, Society and Justice program at Marianopolis. Though she and her family were thrilled with her acceptance, it also brought a fair share of anxiety. The financial needs of her sister's condition are demanding enough – with a single source of income, it would be incredibly difficult to cover all the costs of books and tuition as well.

Before receiving the Tatiana Londono Gratitude Bursary, Aminata had always thought that attending the College was just an unrealistic dream. However, after participating in Open House and Student for a Day events, Aminata was certain that she was meant to go to Marianopolis, even though she had no idea how she would convince her mom, or even herself, that they could manage the fees. With the guidance of the Financial Aid Office at Marianopolis

College, Aminata was able to find a way to make her dreams become reality. "I am now able to afford the education that I always wanted to have. There are fewer boundaries for me, my experience at college is much more fulfilling, I can participate in activities and save up money for my second year at Marianopolis, and even for University. These seem like little things, but they are all possible as a result of Miss Tatiana Londono's generosity."

The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation and the recipients of this generous bursary are immensely grateful to Tatiana for providing these two inspiring young women the chance to shine! We are thrilled to count Aminata among our newest community members and know that she is on the path to accomplishing great things. We ask that you turn to the back cover of this magazine, see Aminata's great smile and that you please give serious consideration to contributing to the Foundation's Annual Giving Campaign. Help change someone's life. 

photo: Aminata Baldé



WINTER/SPRING 2016

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

4th

Marianopolis Alumni Annual Reunion
(The event formerly known as Groundhog Day)
5:30 p.m. in F-105

11th

Winter Concert
7 p.m. in the Marianopolis Auditorium

MARCH

16th

Prix d'expression musicale
7 p.m. in the Marianopolis Auditorium

17th

Prix d'expression musicale back-up date
in case of a snowstorm on March 16

24th

Jazz Concert
time TBD at Upstairs Jazz Bar – 1254 MacKay

APRIL

7th

Spring Recital
7 p.m. in the Marianopolis Auditorium

14th

ArtsFest Concert
7 p.m. in the Marianopolis Auditorium

28th

Spring Recital
7 p.m. in the Marianopolis Auditorium

MAY

TBD

MCAA's Networking Cocktail

TBD

High Tea for the University Years Ladies

FOR DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS, REGISTER AT ALUMNI@MARIANOPOLIS.EDU OR "LIKE" MARIANOPOLIS COLLEGE ALUMNI ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR NETWORK.



BOARDSEAT

Calling all lovers of social media: the newest forum in which individuals can build relationships is finally here. And the best part is that it has been developed by two Marianopolis alums – Greg Silas '87, who recently operated a military contracting company in Afghanistan and was looking for a new venture, and Peter Grech '87.

BoardSeat was conceived back in 2011 when Greg and Peter, friends for more than 30 years, discussed the idea over lunch. Peter, who at the time was working as an executive recruiter, had noticed that most of the people he worked with had very few trusted colleagues with whom they could discuss problems that required solving. It was with this goal in mind that they developed their prototype along with a programming team in Pakistan.

The basic concept cleverly combines digital technology with face-to-face relationships in order to classify participants into small groups, which they refer to as "Societies," with members who all have similar goals.

The dynamic duo describes their concept as a combination of Facebook, LinkedIn and Meetup.com – a new "relationship-building service for business professionals." The design and main focus of BoardSeat is meant to draw in people who are serious about building new professional relationships, not enhancing existing ones.

As this is a new and growing concept, BoardSeat is currently creating a membership wait list for interested parties in major cities. Once they "achieve a critical mass in each major city, they will launch in that city enabling members to form or join Societies."

What's more, Greg and Peter launched a Kickstarter campaign in November 2015 to support this new endeavor. Unfortunately, only \$58,369 had been pledged towards the established goal of \$175,000. Consequently, the funding goal was not reached. But Greg and Peter are not discouraged. "We knew from the outset that Kickstarter was a 50/50 chance due to the nature of BoardSeat and we purposely worked on branding, messaging, graphics, [etcetera] so that they can be used

for the next stage of BoardSeat which includes traditional equity fundraising and a relaunch of our messaging and value proposition," says the duo. If you would like to learn more about the project, visit www.BoardSeat.com.

"A NEW RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING SERVICE FOR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS."



photo: Peter Grech & Greg Silas

"A TRUE FAMILY BUSINESS!"



photo: Huma Oureshi, Shaan Yusuf and their two daughters, Maya and Sara

MAYA & SARA: HAND-CRAFTED WOOD WEARABLES

After Huma Oureshi '00 graduated from Health Sciences at Marianopolis College, she continued her studies in Mechanical Engineering at Concordia University. Ever since she entered the workforce, Huma has been working as a Mechanical Engineer in the aviation industry. In fact she has now landed a position as Design Engineer at an aerospace company in Seattle where she and her husband, Shaan Yusuf, have built a life together along with their two daughters, Maya and Sara. Since their move to Seattle, Huma and Shaan have also managed to launch their first family business, Maya & Sara, an eCommerce store specializing in eco-friendly wood wearables.

Their inspiration came after immersing themselves in the culture of the city that they now call home. This led to them selecting sunglasses as the "perfect Seattle accessory," since Seattleites wear their sunglasses no matter the weather. Huma then chose watches as a compliment to the sunglasses. To her surprise, the watches have become their most popular item. The most amazing part of these products is that they are one of a kind because they

are made of wood, which always varies from piece to piece.

Huma works closely with her suppliers in the creative process of developing new products, and is in control of the company's social media, while her husband manages the website and the supply chain. Of course, Maya and Sara themselves have put their seal of approval on all the products their parents have developed and have even been involved in selecting the wrapping papers and other supplies to help with the packaging – a true family business!

The natural beauty that surrounds Huma and Shaan in Seattle has manifested a love for nature and the environment. With that in mind, Maya & Sara has taken on the initiative of giving. Initially, the company partnered with Plant-it 2020 to return to the earth what they have taken from it. For every product purchased, Maya & Sara planted a tree in the name of the purchaser. The trees were planted in locations which were both in desperate need of reforestation and as near as possible to the purchaser.

More recently, Maya & Sara started planting Moringa trees through Trees for Life International. The Moringa tree grows easily and, what's more, its leaves are nutritionally packed and have been used both medicinally and as a source of food for millennia. In fact, each Moringa tree will provide food and nutrition to millions of people in the developing world. Maya & Sara just launched its 1000 Moringa Tree Project, the goal of which is to plant 1000 trees by June 2016. These unique wood wearables are both fashion-forward and allow their consumers to give back to the earth.

Keep your eyes peeled for the company's future goal – to start an initiative in which clean wood-burning stoves will be provided to people in need. As you can see, Maya & Sara have several plans to improve the world in which we are living.

Maya & Sara launched its Fall 2015 line which features both new products and favorites from previous seasons. If you would like to find out more about Maya & Sara, or to purchase your own wood wearables, visit www.mayasara.com.

NEWS & NOTABLES

MADELEINE POULIN '59 is this year's recipient of the prestigious Prix Judith-Jasmin *Hommage*. Madeleine was recognized with a lifetime achievement award. Each year, the Prix Judith-Jasmin recognizes the best journalistic work in Quebec (whether in print, television, radio or social media). Madeleine, a pioneer in Quebec journalism, was formerly foreign affairs correspondent for Radio-Canada. Many journalists – and particularly female journalists – are on record stating that they owe much to the road paved by Madeleine. The Prix Judith-Jasmin, introduced in 1974, is awarded by the Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec (FPJQ) in partnership with the Reader's Digest Foundation of Canada.



RACHEL MARTINEZ '79 is proud to announce that her work was selected as a finalist for the 2015 Governor General's Literary Awards. Rachel's translation of *Ma vie (racontée malgré moi) par Henry K. Larsen* by Susin Nielsen was one of five pieces selected for the award in the category of French Translation. This is the third time that Rachel's work has been recognized by the Governor General's Literary Awards.



ROY EAPPEN '80 was accepted into Medical School directly from Marianopolis. He is now an Endocrinologist at St Mary's Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at McGill. Roy has been a loyal member of the Marianopolis College Alumni Association for the last seven years, among a number of other volunteer boards. In 2012, Roy

was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his service to volunteer organizations. He is also very involved in Conservative politics. This year, Roy's inner geek came out when he attended the Las Vegas Star Trek Convention. Roy still has many fond memories of Marianopolis.



RHONDA MULLINS '85 is proud to announce that she has won a 2015 Governor General's Literary Award with *Twenty-One Cardinals* a translation of Jocelyne Saucier's *Les héritiers de la mine*. Her work has been selected as a finalist in previous Governor General's Literary Awards, including her translations of Èlise Turcotte's *Guyana* in 2014, Hervé Fischer's *The Decline of the Hollywood Empire* in 2007, and Saucier's *And the Birds Rained Down* in 2013, which was also a CBC Canada Reads selection in 2015. Since graduating from Marianopolis, Rhonda has studied at Concordia University, University of Ottawa, and McGill University.



LARRY MARKOWITZ '88 was the keynote speaker at the Marianopolis Leadership Development Evening. The primary objective of this annual event, organized by the Marianopolis Young Leaders' Organization, is to expose students to the successful traits of leaders and entrepreneurs. This year's theme was "Passion: The importance of pursuing your true calling in life" and Larry's speech was entitled "Following your Passion: The Key to Success".



GUILLAUME BOISSET '89 has published his first novel, *For a Pipeline to the Coast* – a science fiction adventure story tackling, in an innovative manner, one of the most burning issues of the day. For more information on this novel, or to purchase, please visit the Amazon Kindle Store.

PAUL GRAIF '89 went on to obtain his Bachelors in Political Science from Concordia University. Paul has been a Sportscaster on CTV Montreal since 2008 and is the News Director at K103.7 FM Radio in Kahnawake. He has 25 years of experience working in the media.

KEVIN VORA '00 recently finished his PhD at Harvard where he developed technology for futuristic materials like invisibility cloaks, then founded a polling startup called Votetrends focused on increasing engagement between citizens and political entities. Kevin has now co-founded a new startup called HelloToken which helps bloggers and publishers make more money. HelloToken just closed its first round of institutional funding and the company is being recognized in several publications, including TechCrunch.



ELIZABETH COTIGNOLA '03 attended McGill University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a minor in International Development. After brief stints at an investment research company and as a legal assistant at a law firm here in Montreal, Elizabeth attended law school at Loyola University in Chicago, where she earned a Juris Doctor in 2011 with an emphasis on international and comparative law. She is licensed to practice law in the states of Illinois and Massachusetts, with admission to the Law Society of Upper Canada pending. After law school, Elizabeth began her career at a firm in Chicago where she practiced commercial litigation. She has since returned to Montreal and recently worked in-house for Pratt & Whitney Canada on the South Shore, where she advised the company's various business units on issues related to export controls and international trade compliance.

JOHN PAPAGIANNIS '04 pursued his studies at Université de Montréal in Law and is now a corporate lawyer at Dentons Canada LLP's Montréal office. John's practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions

as well as general corporate law. Outside of work, John is an avid cyclist and often participates in the Ride to Conquer Cancer, a two-day cycling fundraiser which involves biking from Montreal to Quebec City.



MARGHERITA BARBAGALLO '06 obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History with Distinction from Concordia University in 2010. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor from the University of Ottawa in 2013, during which time she worked in the legal department of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the Senate of Canada. While in law school, she served as Editor-in-Chief for the *Ottawa Law*

Review. Margherita was called to the Ontario Bar in 2014 and is currently working as a civil litigation lawyer in Toronto, Ontario.



ELSA JABRE '07 discovered her true passion for photography shortly after joining Concordia University. She started by working for the school newspaper as a photojournalist and discovered her passion for capturing portraiture and fashion. Eight years later, Elsa works full time as an Account Executive for Insight, which she



calls her "day job", and on weekends and evenings she photographs weddings, children, portraits, and fashion editorials. You can view her work at <http://photogenicbliss.ca>

MARISA CORONA '09 is currently studying in the civil and common law program at McGill University's Faculty of Law. She is completing her degree on an exchange in Paris at l'Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. She graduated from McGill University in 2012 with a joint honours degree in Political Science and Sociology and from Marianopolis College in 2009 in the Arts and Science program. She will be articling in the Montreal office of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.



• WE WILL MISS •

LYNDA FYFE-HUDON '62

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

Lynda Fyfe died in her 75th year at the West Island Palliative Care Residence after a most courageous battle with cancer. Dearly beloved mother and best friend of Chantal (Andrew Mavis). Loving wife of the late Dr. William Gossage. Lynda was predeceased by her parents, Winifred and Francis Fyfe and by both her siblings, Dorinda Brow and James Fyfe. Lynda leaves to mourn many friends and cousins who rallied round her throughout her illness. She was surrounded by love and compassion. Lynda was a well-respected English Teacher on the West Island for over thirty-five years. She inspired many and was able to share her love of both literature and life.

SHEILAEAGH MACDONALD '67 (NÉE NESOM)

Sheilaeagh MacDonald passed away peacefully on Friday, October 16, 2015 at the age of 69. Beloved wife of Richard of 42 years. Loving mother of Andrew (Meghan). Cherished grandma of Mairin. Very dear friend of fellow Marianopolis alumna Elizabeth Behrens '67.

LESLEE HOPE GELBER '85

Leslee Hope Gelber passed away on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Beloved daughter of Connie and Eleazer. Loving sister and sister-in-law of Richard and Lily of Shanghai, Andrew and Sarit, Jacqueline and Mark Wiltzer. Cherished aunt to eight adoring nieces and nephews. Leslee will be sadly mourned and fondly remembered by her aunts, uncles, many cousins and friends.

ANTHONY BORRELLI HUSBAND OF HONORE KERWIN-BORRELLI '68

Anthony Borrelli died peacefully on June 26, 2015 surrounded by his family after a brief battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife Honore and four children, Michael (Katia), Paul (Cheryl), Heather (Michael) and Andrea (Fabio), and nine grandchildren, Ian, James, Alexandra, William, Jasmine, Isabella, Anthony, Emilia and Laura. He is also survived by his sisters and brothers and sisters- and brothers-in-law, as well as many beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. The Borelli family wishes to express its deep gratitude to the West Island Palliative care for their kindness in the last days of Anthony's life as well as the Lakeshore Oncology team for their excellent care and family support.

IRENE D'AMICO MOTHER OF DINO MAZZONE '87 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARIANOPOLIS MILLENNIUM FOUNDATION

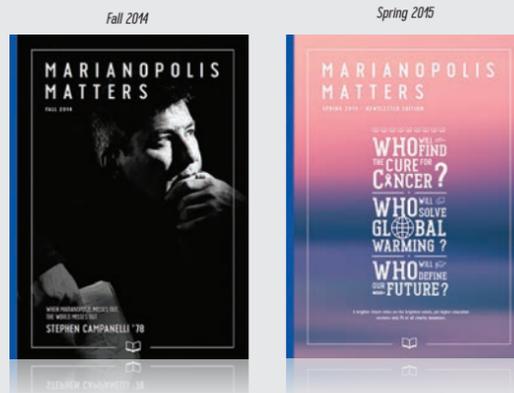
With courage, dignity and grace, surrounded by her loving family, Irene D'Amico passed away on October 7, 2015 at the age of 72. Absolutely extraordinary mother and mother-in-law of Jeremy Quirk (Elaine Gamboa), Dino Mazzone '87 (Barbara Farina '92), Paola Mazzone '88 and Diego Mazzone '90 (Cinzia Angeloni '90). Doting and amazing grandmother to Julia, Michael, Julian, Matteo, Maia, James and David. Sister to Carmela Campanelli, Joseph D'Amico and Rosanna Moody. Predeceased by her parents Antonio D'Amico and Filomena D'Alete, her sister Santina Abate and brother Giovanni D'Amico. "Nella", as she was known to many, will be deeply missed by all her nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, relatives and friends. The D'Amico-Mazzone family wishes to express its special thanks to the doctors as well as the outstanding teams of residents, nurses and orderlies from the ICU and the 14th Floor of the Montreal General Hospital for their outstanding care, commitment and compassion.



— IF YOU —

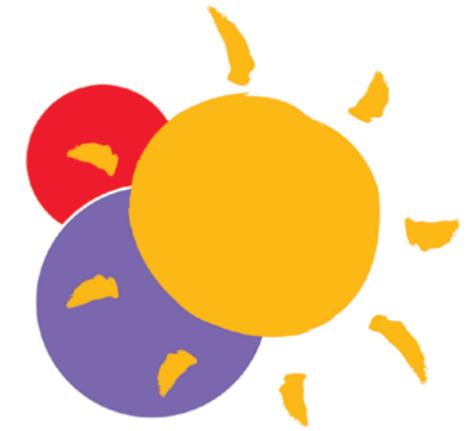
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THE MARIANOPOLIS MILLENNIUM FOUNDATION



Marianopolis College is renowned for attracting the best and brightest students. However, many of these students would be unable to enroll were it not for the financial assistance provided by our donors. Aminata Baldé, who recently commenced her studies at the College thanks to the Tatiana Londono Gratitude Bursary, describes in her own words why every dollar given to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation is a true investment in the future.

IF YOU'VE YET TO DONATE TO
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"I had heard of Marianopolis – its work ethic, its academic standards – and always thought that attending this school was an unrealistic dream. My family couldn't possibly afford the tuition. Despite this, convinced that Marianopolis was the college for me, I attended the Open House and learned about financial aid, scholarships and bursaries. Unexpectedly, there was a solution to my family's situation and an opportunity to afford the education I always wanted to have."

– Aminata Baldé

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