

MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS

SPRING 2016 - NEWSLETTER EDITION

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MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS SPRING 2016

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EDITORIAL & IN SUPPORT OF EXCELLENCE FINANCIAL UPDATE

As I write this hybrid editorial and 2015-16 In Support of Excellence Financial Update, it simply does not feel like spring. The weather outside is cold, the wind is blustery and the sky is grey and uninviting. With a winter season that was mild and certainly lacked the punch of last year's offering, and a spring that cannot seem to get off the ground, one has little choice coming to the conclusion that something has changed. I'm hardly the meteorologist, but our surrounding and environment look and feel different than in years past.

And that is often the hallmark of change. Things are not what they once were. We see change every day at Marianopolis College. For example, our College's strategic plan speaks of the 'transformative education' our students experience in their two (in some cases, three) years at the College. We are often told by our graduating students how Marianopolis changed their lives or how their career path – or their life's journey – took shape as a result of having attended Marianopolis, celebrating its 108th year of academic excellence. The story of Emmanuel Cuisinier '15 is one such example (and can be found on page 7). There is no greater feeling or satisfaction than seeing the personal growth these students experience as they mature into young adulthood – brimming with promise and hope.

We are also seeing change in our administrative ranks at the College. Our Director General, Len Even, is leaving Marianopolis at the end of June to pursue new professional challenges. Len has been the College's principal steward for the last seven years and is leaving a strong legacy upon which the College can build. Len arrived at a time in the College's history when difficult decisions needed to be made, and he helped usher in an era of accountability, process and efficiency. I want to acknowledge Len for his support of the Foundation and the mentorship and guidance he provided to me since my arrival at the College in April 2014. I know I speak for the Marianopolis community, and for incoming Director General Christian Corno, when I say to Len (in Dutch, no less) "*dank je*" (thank you).

And change is happening at The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation as well. We are seeing a positive change in how our donors are responding to our appeals for financial assistance, in how the College's faculty and staff have demonstrated a greater engagement in helping us meet our mission statement and in how the Foundation and the Development and Alumni Affairs Office are working more efficiently and in tandem with other initiatives taking place within the College. I can confidently report that the state of the Foundation is good. Permit me to share some statistics for the current fiscal year:

- In a comparison between 03 March 2015 and 03 March 2016, our receipted donations increased by 11.6%, our parent donations were nearly at par and other related revenue increased by 232.8%.
 - The Class of 1980 represents the graduation year with the most donors (13 graduates);
 - Our farthest donor (geographically) is located in Singapore;
 - Our most popular gift remains \$100; and
 - Our largest single donation was \$50,000.
- We continue to work hard at the Foundation and at the Development and Alumni Affairs Office to improve our financial portrait and outreach to alums. Our goal is to build our base one donor and one graduating student at a time. We are proud of the initiatives we have put into place over the last two years since my arrival as Executive Director, but we
- With just over one month remaining in our current fiscal year, the Foundation has already increased its share of receipted donations and other related revenue by 11.6% from fiscal 2015;
 - The Foundation has increased its donor base by 22.2% (as compared to fiscal 2015). This is an extremely encouraging sign. We want to see and hear from more of you going forward;
 - The Foundation's oldest donor is from the Class of 1944 and its youngest from the Class of 2017;



LEADING CHANGE, SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE: THE LEN EVEN YEARS



photo: Len Even, Director General of Marianopolis College

As the tenure of the College's first Director General from outside the ranks of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame comes to a close, we sat down with Len Even to reflect on his experience and discuss his hopes for the institution.

During his two terms as DG, Mr. Even oversaw a dynamic and challenging chapter in the life of Marianopolis, including the completion of the move to its Westmount campus, the development of the College's next strategic plan and a community-wide comprehensive review of the College's bylaws and governance structure. Most importantly, under his leadership, Marianopolis sustained and enhanced its hallmark of academic excellence.

Len Even, 54, was born in Quebec City and raised in Montreal. He received a B.Comm. from Concordia University and an MBA from McGill University before completing post-graduate work in Management and Leadership in Education at

Harvard University. He came to Marianopolis from The Netherlands, where he was Director of the Leiden campus of Webster University, a global, not-for-profit American university, and secured Dutch accreditation for American programs and opened a location in Amsterdam.

Mr. Even's legacy ensures that Marianopolis continues to thrive as an independent college that honours the values of its founders. Here's what he had to say about staying ahead of the curve, the power of choice and the importance of not always playing it safe.

Marianopolis Matters:

Looking back to July 1, 2009, when you first took office, did you feel the need to make big changes?

Len Even: My appointment was one of a series of new beginnings for Marianopolis: the College had recently relocated to a new campus and had

know there is still plenty of work to do and many opportunities to realize. This is my life's work and purpose. We are in need of your financial support, your volunteer hours and of your feedback as to how we can be the best at what we do. Help us give bright students the opportunity to shine!

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

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launched its first strategic plan after celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2008. New century, new campus, new priorities, new leadership. It was made clear to me from the start that Marianopolis needed someone at the helm who would focus on moving it forward.

This was an institution steeped in tradition and undergoing a renaissance. From my perspective, Marianopolis was also coming of age and experiencing some growing pains, much like its students: seeking more independence from their parents but not yet full-fledged, self-governing adults, discovering who they want to be and how to stand out from the crowd, wary of making mistakes or choosing the wrong path.

So my approach was to be a good listener as I developed my thoughts about the future. This meant being patient (difficult for me!), providing support and structure, making sure there is enough money in the bank and a solid roof over our heads. But most of all, it meant creating an environment where people are comfortable taking risks and occasionally making mistakes. My colleagues are probably tired of hearing me say that I would rather be 7 for 10, than 2 for 2. I think it's better to try new things and risk failure now and then, rather than playing it safe all the time.

MM: You're leaving the College in a strong position despite various challenges in the Quebec education sector over the past few years. How has Marianopolis managed to stay ahead of the curve?

LE: Yes, it's been an eventful time for Quebec schools: educational reforms, student boycotts, public sector strikes, leaner budgets, fluctuating enrolment in colleges across the province due to demographic changes, a greater diversity of special needs and learning styles, etc.

Despite all this, Marianopolis is thriving because we have remained true to our core and focused on what we do best: preparing young adults for success at their university of first choice and beyond. Our unwavering resolve is to provide the best educational experience, with our distinctive approach that combines academic rigour, individualized support and lots of fun!

MM: What stands out for you as the most important achievements during your tenure?

LE: First and foremost, our students continue to impress me. Consistently ranked #1 in Quebec in terms of incoming high school averages, they are talented, curious and engaged. They achieve the highest average R-Scores in the province and the most R-Scores above 34. Nearly 9 out of 10 of our students attend their first-choice university, many in their preferred programs, and, despite the College's small size, they occupy a big share of admissions to competitive university programs like medicine and law.

During my time here, we reached historic enrolment levels thanks to our stellar reputation and outstanding recruitment efforts, while keeping our class sizes 25% smaller than those at CEGEPs, about 30 students per class on average. We remained accessible by growing our financial aid and scholarships by 30%

to over \$400K each year and maintaining stable tuition through modest annual increases. We supported long-term sustainability by reducing our debt with over \$5M in loan payments and investing heavily in our historic campus. We continually expanded our academic offerings by, among other things, introducing two new certificates, creating a new Social Science profile in Math and Finance, conducting several new international courses and launching strategic partnerships with Alliance Sports-Études, Collège Jean-De-Brébeuf and École de musique Vincent d'Indy.

We were able to do all of these things because of our incredible team right across the campus. If Marianopolis is the best college in Quebec, it's thanks to our people — our faculty, staff, managers, Board of Governors and many other volunteers and donors. Their expertise, their work ethic and their collaborative and caring approach are daily examples to our students and the envy of their peers.

"[...] MARIANOPOLIS IS THRIVING BECAUSE WE HAVE REMAINED TRUE TO OUR CORE AND FOCUSED ON WHAT WE DO BEST [...]"

That's why it was important to me to build an employee appreciation program at Marianopolis. Working here already had many rewarding benefits, but I'm very pleased to have founded a few new traditions, like our annual Service Awards, when we gather to say thank-you to each other on a personal basis, to recognize individual contributions and to remind ourselves why we do what we do.

I am also particularly proud of the heritage video we created. One of the most memorable moments for me occurred during one of our community assemblies to kick off the academic year. On our auditorium's giant screen to a packed house of teachers and staff returning from their summer vacation, we showed a video I commissioned about the College's heritage and mission. It was really great to be all together, to watch our teachers, students, alumni and sisters of the Congrégation talk about where Marianopolis comes from and what it means to them. We now show this video as part of our orientation to every new employee we welcome into our ranks.

It was also very important to me grow the College's culture of leadership and participation at all levels — for everyone, no matter their sphere of influence, to get involved, to get their hands dirty, to take initiative. On a personal level, I'm proud to have built a solid leadership team with whom I've worked closely every day. They have supported me in my efforts, humoured my imperfections and, yes, challenged me when they disagreed. I will miss them, and I cannot thank them enough for a rewarding seven years.

MM: How do you see Marianopolis moving forward in the years to come? What are your hopes for the College?

LE: Many things already make the College great. My hope is that Marianopolis continues to flourish by truly embracing the advantages of private education. "Private" doesn't mean "elitist" or "exclusive." It's about choice. As J. K. Rowling famously wrote, "It's our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." Well, we get to choose our exceptional students and employees. We get to choose where and how we dedicate our resources and energies: smaller class sizes, incredible and accessible teachers and support staff, flexible and individualized services. As a private college, we are committed to remaining financially accessible, but we simply cannot compete with zero tuition. The flip side is that public colleges cannot compete with us, with the many value-added benefits that we offer. Thanks to everything Marianopolis provides, our students have the kind of opportunities that only a great education can give them.

And speaking of choice, as I wrap up my term, I'm thrilled with our Board's choice of Christian Corno as the next Director General. He has served Marianopolis as a faculty member, as professional staff, and since 2012, as an exemplary Academic Dean with whom I have collaborated closely. This is a natural next step for him and for Marianopolis and I'm happy to be leaving the College in such capable hands.

MM: What's next for you?

LE: After 25 years in education, I'll be returning to my professional roots in the business community. I'll be keeping my home base here in Montreal so that I can cheer on Marianopolis' progress!

Honour Len Even with a donation in support of the Director General's Scholarships. Learn more at MARIANOPOLIS.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID and give at MARIANOPOLIS.EDU/DONATE. 

NEWS & NOTABLES

On April 12, 2016, **CAROLINE EMBLEM '57** was awarded the 2016 Prix Hommage bénévolat-Québec at the National Assembly in Quebec City. This prestigious distinction recognizes the many years of volunteer work Caroline has undertaken, including work at St. Mary's Hospital, L'Institut de réadaptation Gingras-Lindsay-de-Montréal and the School of Social Work at McGill University. Caroline, one of the "University Years Ladies", continues to dedicate her time and energy to Marianopolis College and is an active alumna. Congratulations, Caroline, on a most deserved honour. The whole of our Marianopolis community shines brighter because of her achievements. Caroline is pictured with François Blais, Quebec's Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity and Pierre Arcand, Quebec's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (and MNA for Mont-Royal, Caroline's provincial riding).



The Honourable **EVA PETRAS '71**, a puisne judge of the Superior Court of Quebec, judicial district of Montreal since 2006, has been appointed Associate Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec. The appointment took effect June 30, 2015.

STEPHEN CAMPANELLI '78 received the 2016 Society of Camera Operators (SOC) Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented on February 6, 2016 at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, California, by none other than Clint Eastwood, a long-time collaborator and friend. This is not Stephen's first trip to the podium. He won an award as Camera Operator of the Year in 2012 for the film *J. Edgar*. This latest award underscores Stephen as being one of the very best in the industry, and is an amazing testament to all the hard work he has done over so many years.

BARBARA FARINA '92 was one of a handful of special guests invited by Liberal Senator David Smith to mark his retirement from the Senate

of Canada. On May 10, 2016, Barbara spent a day in Ottawa where she participated in a series of events to mark this special occasion. "Senator Smith has been a wonderful mentor and friend to me for many years. His legacy will note his many worthy contributions to the Canadian political landscape."



Barbara is pictured with Senator Smith in his Ottawa office (famous for its walls lined with amazing photographs and other political memorabilia).

GINA BENTO '96 has been working for the U.S. Embassy in Canada, within the U.S. Department of Commerce division, at the Consulate in Montreal. In this capacity, she advises the U.S. Ambassador, U.S. Consul Generals and diplomatic officials, and endeavours to strengthen U.S.-Canada relations. Gina has contributed to fostering opportunities for U.S.-Canadian commercial flows, helping the Embassy to achieve billions of U.S. exports to Canada and billions of Canadian investments in the U.S., promoting job growth and prosperity for both countries. She was a pioneer in executing President Obama's SelectUSA Initiative in Canada, which led to Mission Canada and herself receiving numerous awards and accolades as one of the U.S.'s top producing posts worldwide. Gina's work has been highlighted twice by President Obama himself during the SelectUSA Summits in Washington, DC in 2013 and 2015, and has appeared in the media. Gina wishes to thank the faculty and staff of Marianopolis College for their unparalleled commitment to students' success.

SHOBHITA SOOR '07 recently made Forbes' 30 under 30 Social Entrepreneurs list. Together with her teammates in the MBA program at McGill University, she helped create Aspire Food Group. Aspire has developed a business plan that involves using insects as an efficient and sustainable food source for undernourished communities. Their vision won them the social-entrepreneurship Hult prize in 2013, which includes a \$1 million award. "If anyone had told me while I was at Marianopolis that after eight years of university, I would be an insect farmer, I would have probably thought they were crazy. Today, I am part of what I believe to be a major food revolution — the edible insect industry. Edible insects are extremely resource-efficient to produce, extremely nutritious to eat and desired by many communities around the world, which makes them a great candidate to address food and nutrition security. Having an openness to opportunities has allowed me to embrace the innovative and, in the end, have

an extremely stimulating and fulfilling job. If I stayed within the confines presented to me by a traditional career path following law school or an MBA, I would have never found my place in the social-enterprise world creating a company that will forever change the way we eat. I gain the most satisfaction from a job that is centered around creating worldwide impact on an industry that affects so many people."

ERIN LITTLE '08 & DANIEL NOVAK '08 recently decided to leave their corporate jobs and pursue careers as entrepreneurs. After dating for three years they decided to start their first business together in August 2015. The business, Marché Elm, is an online marketplace for the best natural, eco-friendly and ethically sourced body-care products made in Quebec and nearby. They believe the personal care products we use should be effective while not harming us, animals or the environment — both in their production and use. They are keen on supporting local producers who source their ingredients ethically and promote organic farming. Check out their



website marcheelm.ca and follow them on Facebook to find out where they will be hosting their next pop-up shop! Use promo code «marianopolis» and get 10% off your first online order!

ANDRÉ ST-JACQUES '12 graduated from Psychology at McGill University in 2015. As part of his honours thesis, he studied perfectionism among students and its effects on their well-being. He hopes to continue shedding light on student mental health by working as a research coordinator in the McGill Human Motivation lab next year.



Following his undergraduate degree, André recently began medical school at Université de Montréal. "I'm absolutely passionate about learning how to support and motivate people. Through this passion, I've discovered that the fields of psychology and medicine overlap to a great degree. The best doctors are the ones who understand not just the presenting problem, but also their patient's goals and motivations." André credits much of his success to the remarkable support and guidance he received from Pauline Grégoire, Anna Forlini and Anne Jeannot, to name just a few members of the amazing Marianopolis staff.

On February 13, 2016, **MARIANOPOLIS MODEL UN (MARIMUN)** enjoyed a wonderful morning greeting Ambassador Michael Lawson, U.S. Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. Ambassador Lawson gave the opening remarks at MariMUN 2016 at Marianopolis College. **DINO MAZZONE '87**



had the distinct honour of having a coffee and fascinating conversation with the Ambassador – “easily one of the most accomplished and interesting individuals I have ever met.” Pictured with Dino (from L-R) are the Ambassador,

Marianopolis student and MariMUN Secretary-General, **MR. FRANCIS NGABIRANO '16**, and Marianopolis alum and Commercial Specialist, Department of Commerce – International Trade Administration at the Embassy of the United States of America in Montreal, Ms. Gina Bento '96 (see Gina's write-up on page 5).

On April 20, 2016, Marianopolis College's **ITS DEPARTMENT** hosted a Spaghetti Fundraiser to benefit The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation. They cooked and served a pasta lunch for the College's faculty and staff and raised \$1,790 to be applied towards student financial aid. For those who attended, it was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with each other and continue to foster the relationships we cherish here at the College.

A huge thank-you to **DAVID WELLS '79** and the entire ITS Team: Silvia Candet, Anthony Cristofaro and his wife, Mena Cerrone, William Eachus, Philippe Godley, Adam Groening, Janet Macklem, Frank Mezzanotte, Jemmot Pharoah and Stephanie Wells.



• WE WILL MISS •

HUGH JAMES MCQUEEN HUSBAND OF RETIRED MARIANOPOLIS TEACHER JOSEPHINE MCQUEEN

Hugh James McQueen died peacefully in his sleep on December 17, 2015, after a long and distinguished career in metallurgical engineering. Born in Scotland, he fled World War II bombing threats with his mother (Patricia) and sister, only to be torpedoed in the mid-Atlantic, losing all possessions. Because of war constraints, his father (James) was only able to join the family five years later. The family settled in Montreal, where he attended Loyola College and McGill University, eventually going on to Notre Dame University in Indiana for his doctorate. He taught engineering briefly at École Polytechnique de Montréal and then for 47 years at Concordia University, where he published hundreds of research papers and also initiated a program of courses in social and ethical aspects of engineering. He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife of 55 years, Josephine, his daughters Mary, Anne, Monica and Carol, his sons Peter and Paul, seven grandchildren, his sister Mary (Marie) Reidy and his nephews Martin, James and Thomas.

JANET INDUNI '76

Janet Elizabeth (Austin) Induni, of Essex, passed away on January 17, 2016, following a long and courageous battle with cancer at Vermont Respite House in Williston. She was born on November 29, 1955, in Verdun, daughter of Elizabeth (Graham) Austin and the late Roy Austin. Janet received certification from the Royal Conservatory of Music, University of Toronto in Piano and Music Theory,

She graduated from Marianopolis College in Music Arts. She was an accomplished Classical Piano player. After moving to Vermont, Janet returned to college and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Theory and Canadian Studies from the University of Vermont. For several years, she was the secretary treasurer for the Vermont Genealogy Society. Janet worked as an Import Specialist U.S. Customs Service before transferring to the position of a security specialist with Homeland Security. Janet loved sports and always rooted for the New York Giants, and after the Expos moved from Montreal she adopted the New York Yankees. She was also an inveterate dog lover and travelled all over



New England entering her shelties in competitions for both agility and obedience. She is survived by her husband Noel Induni, mother Elizabeth Austin, stepson Kurt Induni, stepdaughter Deborah Induni, brother-in-law Peter Murray and wife Michele, sister-in-law Lois Whitney, six stepgrandchildren Kate, Melanie, Sarah, Courtney, Brandon, Ben, several nieces, nephews, cousins and her five sheltie “children” Reser, Banu, Epi, Mitzi and Indigo.

UNA MCDONALD AND RAYMOND MCDONALD, BELOVED PARENTS OF PATTI MCDONALD '78

Una passed away peacefully on February 29, 2016, at St Mary's Hospital. Beloved wife of Raymond, who passed away 54 days later on April 23, 2016, at the Stillview Pavilion of the West Island Palliative

Care Residence. Una and Raymond were parents to, and are survived by, Patti (Lou Chapman) and Terri (Dan Cloutier), grandparents to Caitlin (Alex Davidson), Fiona, Isabelle and Madelaine, as well as their respective brother, sisters, nieces and nephews.

DENISE MILLER

Denise Miller passed away on March 16, 2016. Denise worked as Administrative Assistant to the Director General of Marianopolis College between 2008 to 2011, and helped current Director General Len Even enter the Marianopolis community in 2009. Denise was highly skilled, generous of spirit and hard to miss. She was energetic, helpful and, especially, an incredible organizer. She will be missed by her loved ones, including her sister Claudette, who is another member of our Marianopolis family, as well as by those of us fortunate enough to have worked with Denise.

ALESSIO DI RICO '13

On April 8, 2016, Alessio Di Rico passed away at the age of 21. He leaves behind his mother Sandra (Giovanni), his father Renato (Sara), his brother Gianni, his grandparents Lodia, Elvira and Gennaro, his aunts Patricia and Gabriella, his uncles Piero and Casimiro, cousins, other family members and friends.



EMMANUEL CUISINIER

I graduated from Marianopolis with a feeling of achievement and readiness for my next steps in life. I came to the College because I wanted - I needed - to be challenged. Coming from a French background, I spoke very little English and the only previous experience I had was a two-week immersion with a foreign family during the summer before I started studying at Marianopolis. The first time I set foot inside the school, I knew that this was the place where I wanted to begin my path in life. I was thrilled by the university look the classrooms had, by the library and most of all by the people who were there.

“THERE IS
SOMETHING IN THE
AIR THAT MAKES
YOU FEEL YOU
ARE THERE FOR
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ESPECIALLY TO
SUCCEED.”

I was challenged a lot. It was hard for me to switch from French to English in what felt like the snap of a finger. I faced my worst flaws at the College. I failed one course in my first semester and three others in my second semester, all because of my level of English. What this school offered me felt like a whole different world in which all I had to do was dive in and immerse myself. I made friends with native English speakers. I acted in a Shakespeare play and

became the president of the Philosophy Club, where I produced podcasts together with the Radio Club. All of this allowed me to become fully immersed in the English part of Montreal. Truth is, I even felt as though I discovered a new culture because of how different the francophone sphere of Canada is. It even made me happier to be Canadian.

I owe a lot of my academic success to the English monitors and tutors I had in my first year. I was lucky enough to take classes with talented teachers that made me develop a deep admiration for Shakespeare and other English writers. The monitors took the time to answer my questions and help me solve my issues regarding the language or the course content. In fact, everybody took the time. I was truly impressed to see how knowledgeable my teachers were regarding the course materials and how they were able to convey their interests to us. Obviously this does not happen to everyone. Some people do not always take the classes they want, and I did get bored sometimes. However, somehow the teachers' enthusiasm made the hours seem less long.

One of the reasons I realized the value of this school, and perhaps why I would send my children to Marianopolis (if I ever have any) is that I was at peace there. There is something in the air that makes you feel you are there for your own good, especially to succeed. Sitting down at a table in the library among the other students focused on their work made me feel motivated to work and study hard. I was also at peace there because I never encountered any problems. Except for the large workload and the stress of midterms, I could tell that the only problems I had were from my personal life, but never directly from the school. People are nice, respectful, and I was happy to feel like I belonged to a community. It really is a community that I am proud to be part of.

I entered Marianopolis College with goals and huge flaws. I graduated with the feeling that I was ready for my life-long ambitions, with a love for the academic world and feeling freshly improved overall. After my two and a half years, I was accepted to the Sorbonne University in Paris which, unfortunately, I could not attend for various personal reasons. But I believe that I was accepted to the Sorbonne because of how my experience at Marianopolis shaped me. I am now an undergraduate student in Philosophy at Concordia University, hoping to become an academic in philosophy or to work in the field of law. I would like to thank Marianopolis and those in the Registrar's Office who accepted my application when I was in my last year of high school, as well as those individuals in the Financial Aid Office who deemed me eligible to receive tuition credits and encouraged me to apply for various bursaries offered in Quebec. I do not come from a rich family and surely I would not have been able to attend Marianopolis if I did not have the financial help that the College provided to me. It is because of Marianopolis College that during these two and a half years I was able to network with many people, meet my best friends, gain wonderful life experiences and, most of all, to know what kind of life I want to live. 📖

— Emmanuel Cuisinier '15

EMMANUEL	
Grad year: 2015	Campus: Westmount
Type of degree: DEC	
Program of study: Social Science: Law, Society and Justice	





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