

AlmaMatters

WINTER 2011

MARIANOPOLIS
COLLEGE



Top teachers
weigh in on
math reform

Energetic
volunteers
give back

Diverse clubs
enhance
studies



Message from the Director General

It has been gratifying to see the reaction of Marianopolis students to the media attention that long-time mathematics professor Jean-François Deslandes has been receiving since he was named one of the top instructors at colleges and universities across North America. Students have told me that they are not the least bit surprised at the idea that at Marianopolis they would be taught by excellent and devoted instructors. Throughout the decades, Marianopolis has chosen faculty who are not only experts in their field but who are also exceptionally focused on their students.

That latter quality stands out for me from when I was a student. While earning my MBA at McGill University, I had the good fortune of being in the statistics class of Prof. Morty Yalovsky, who went on to serve McGill as Vice-Principal Administration & Finance. I consider him my most memorable professor because while he taught a subject that many found tough, he made sure to be approachable and helpful. Those are the same two adjectives often used by Marianopolis students to describe their favourite professors.

That's the spirit that can make a good student particularly great and it is what one remembers as a highlight of one's schooling long after graduation. I hope you enjoying reading in this issue of *Alma Matters* about some of our excellent and caring Marianopolis faculty. They are part of what defines the Marianopolis experience. For all their dedication, we thank them.◇



MARIANOPOLIS
COLLEGE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Len Even". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Len Even

Learning from the best

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Parents welcomed



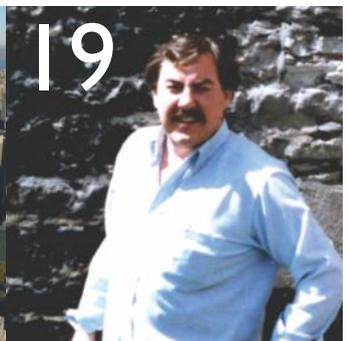
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Cherished memories



Maya Johnson '03 (right) of CTV News Montreal and master of ceremonies for this year's Speaker Series, with Concordia University's Dr. Mourad Debabbi after his lecture on November 24. Featuring experts speaking on the theme of global citizenship, the free public lecture series began in October with Dr. Ari Van Assche from HEC Montréal, and continues in 2011 with upcoming guest speakers Dr. Trygve Ugland from Bishop's University and Dr. François Couturier from Université de Sherbrooke.

Speaker Series 2010/2011

Series presenter



Associate partners



February 23

March 16



Dr. Trygve Ugland
Bishop's University
Travel, discovery and political ideas

Presented in collaboration with



Dr. François Couturier
Université de Sherbrooke
Bringing health and hope through global medical aid

Presented in collaboration with



MARIANOPOLIS COLLEGE

Master of ceremonies:
Maya Johnson '03, CTV News Montreal

6:30 p.m. refreshments
7 p.m. lecture

Marianopolis College Auditorium
4873 Westmount Ave.
Westmount, QC H3Y 1X9

marianopolis.edu/speakerseries

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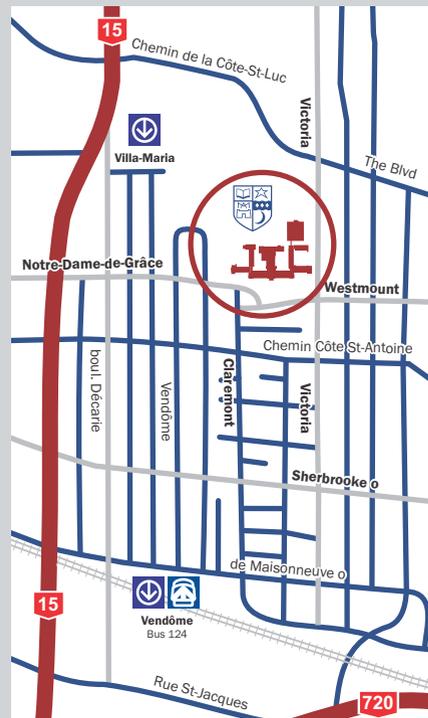
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Mark your calendar

January 11-14

Winter 2011 registration

January 17

Classes begin

January 19-21

Marianopolis Theatre Company presents *Romeo and Juliet*

February 3

Groundhog Day reunion and silent auction

February 7

Admissions information evening

February 16

Winter Concert

February 23

Speaker Series, Dr. Trygve Ugland, Bishop's University

March 14

Prix d'expression musicale Concert

March 15

New York City Reunion

March 16

Speaker Series, Dr. François Couturier, Université de Sherbrooke

February 28-March 3

Spring Break

April 7

Health and Wellness Day

April 11, 26 and May 5

Spring Concert Series

April 18

ArtsFest *Dirty Laundry* faculty and alumni cabaret

April 20

ArtsFest Concert

May 5

Young professionals networking cocktail

June 15

Class of 2011 graduation ceremonies

Health and Wellness Day

Need a massage for your stiff neck? Ever wondered what your most bizarre dream really means? Want to find out about the latest fitness and nutrition trends? Join us for the first Marianopolis College Health and Wellness Day taking place on April 7, a full-day of activities dedicated to promoting health and wellness education among the Marianopolis and greater Montreal communities. Interactive kiosks, guest speakers and live dance demonstrations will show you new ways to stay healthy while having fun. Visit kiosks from each health theme in the Exhibit Hall to complete your Health Passport and be eligible for one of the day's grand prizes. Then relax and mingle at the evening's cocktail reception to celebrate well-being in all aspects of life. For more information on sponsorship or volunteering opportunities, contact event organizer Katie Kostiuik '98 at k.kostiuik@marianopolis.edu or (514) 931-8792 ext 224.

Alumni Association supports students, engages graduates

Jacqueline Di Bartolomeo '10

The Marianopolis College Alumni Association (MCAA) reaches out to students and alumni to make them aware of the extensive network to which each graduate belongs and gives back to the College in many ways. A member of Student Congress attends all meetings to represent student interests, and following recommendations from the student representative last year, the association put a grant system into place to fund student club activities. The applications picked up speed this fall with seven clubs applying for support. Six clubs were selected to receive up to \$400 to help fund activities such as organizing conferences and attending competitions. The association is also pleased to once again sponsor the campus-wide ArtsFest competition this spring with cash prizes awarded to student artists.

With a view to providing enhanced services to alumni and increasing awareness among students, the association formed a committee this fall to improve branding and marketing and

seeks input from the community. They will present recommendations for upcoming events and initiatives based on alumni and student feedback.

The association meets at 5:45 p.m. the first Thursday of every month and new members are always welcome. To send your suggestions or to get involved, contact Anneliese Papaurelis '88 at a.papaurelis@marianopolis.edu.

Partnership triumphs over rivalry

Amanda Ip '11, liberal arts

This January, the curtain will rise on the Marianopolis-Dawson InterCegep Theatre Troupe's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This joint venture is the brainchild of second-year liberal arts student Rachel Gibian, one of four executives of the Marianopolis Theatre Company, who recruited Dawson students Rebecca Gibian and Adam Capriolo-Morris. The production will explore numerous traditional rivalries and in Rebecca's words, "Our project isn't just about bridging the gap between Montagues and Capulets, it's also about bringing together Francophones and Anglophones, Dawson and Marianopolis to create something meaningful." With the Montagues speaking English and the Capulets speaking French, students will be able to practice their French language skills and French-speaking students will have the opportunity to act in their native tongue. The second of four productions by the Marianopolis Theatre Company, this collaborative adaption seeks not only to entertain and educate, but by featuring talented and passionate students, it seeks to produce a powerful piece of art. "We weren't interested in putting on the play just for the sake of being in a play. What we wanted was to create something that was truly relevant to our audience", says Rachel. *Romeo and Juliet* runs from January 19-21 and will be the first community event held in Marianopolis' new black-box theatre and multi-purpose venue retrofitted from an old gymnasium earlier this year. ♦

Giving back



Véronique Monet '84



Helen Law

Newest volunteers give their time and talents

Elisabeth Livingston

Marianopolis is thrilled to welcome 15 new faces to its volunteer boards, all of whom bring their own brands of leadership, enthusiasm and commitment to higher education to the table. The boardroom table, that is.

Joining the College's Board of Governors is Hugh Cawker, professor of music and humanities; Eileen Chen '11 and Niki Fonseca '11, president and vice-president of the Marianopolis Student Union; Clare O'Neill, CND; and Dr. Sanjay Sharma, dean of the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University.

The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation welcomes Riccardo Catalano, chair of mathematics; Elyse Desforges, member of the College's centennial gala organizing committee and wife Charles de Kovachich '81; Charlene Laprise Weiser '75, corporate counsel for Positron Industries and parent of Evan '12; and Corry Terfloth, former member of the MAB-Mackay Foundation Board of Directors.

Two Foundation directors also assume new roles this year. Véronique Monet '84 is appointed vice-chair and will take over as

chair in fall 2011. A private banker with RBC Wealth Management, Véronique joined the Foundation in 2008 and has lent her energy and collaborative spirit to projects such as the capital campaign, the centennial gala and the major gifts committee. Helen Law, partner at Law & Wong, CA becomes Treasurer after serving on the Foundation since 2009 and working as a key contributor to the annual giving committee. Helen is a former president of the Montreal Chinese Hospital Foundation and the mother of three Marianopolis graduates: Matthew '04, Lawrence '07 and Tabia '09.

The Alumni Association is proud to introduce new executive officers Connie Galatas '04, president; Jesse Rémillard-Steiner '00, vice-president and Rebecca Brosseau '10, secretary. They are joined by new members Olivier Bastien '04, Jacqueline Di Bartolomeo '10 and Jeffrey Scott Latchman '97.

Marianopolis bids farewell to its outgoing members on each board. The Board of Governors extends sincere thanks to Mary Liistro-Hébert, Blair Morris and Joyce Roberts, CND for their dedicated stewardship of Marianopolis traditions and their insightful guidance for the future. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges Liliane Comeau '69, David Gameroff '79 and long-standing treasurer Michael Livingston for generously sharing their time, energies and acumens to foster a growing culture of philanthropy at Marianopolis. The Alumni Association recognizes Jean-Michel Cohalan '98, Chris Korah '06, Li Li '99, Mannon Malo '82 and Eric van Eyken '02 for helping to keep the College's alumni network strong and dynamic. ◇

Recognizing excellence, encouraging success

The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation is proud to award scholarships to 99 students this year. Six top students in their programs have received \$1,000 entrance scholarships, 81 have received academic awards and 10 students were given Director General's Merit Scholarships covering full tuition. Marianopolis also thanks the Roasters Foundation for conferring their Award of Excellence to the two top first-year students in recognition of their hard work in high school. ◇

Josephine Badali, CND (left) and Board of Governors chair John Ryan officially inaugurate the College's new black-box theatre and multi-purpose space with a ribbon cutting and ceremonial toast during the Marianopolis community's Annual General Meeting on November 2.





Wayne Clasper's counter is the first point of call for a network of student services: information and supplies, jobs on campus, counseling and health programs, clubs and activities, and friendly advice for everyday problems. And our students really know: Wayne is there for you. Supporting Marianopolis means helping Wayne and his team put students first.

Students come (here) first

You know the many reasons why the College has earned its strong reputation: a uniquely motivating atmosphere, small class sizes, exceptional and dedicated faculty and staff, many clubs and fun activities, friendships and life-lessons that last well beyond your short time here. You know firsthand how the relationships forged at Marianopolis and the skills learned inside and beyond the classroom help our students grow and succeed.

But here are some facts about Marianopolis that may surprise you:

- **1 in 5 students rely on financial assistance** to study at the College and this number continues to grow.
- Over a **quarter of a million dollars** in aid is awarded to students each year.
- Many also benefit from non-financial **support services** such as the laptop and book lending program, campus food bank, printing credits, emergency support and assistance to students living on their own.

Your contribution allows the College to invest in the aid programs, facilities and activities that are essential to providing the Marianopolis experience that you remember, and that our students still count on today. But there is always more to be done, and just like our students, our faculty and our staff, Marianopolis always strives to exceed expectations.

Whether Marianopolis is where you met your best friends, or it's where an incredible teacher helped you see the world from a different perspective, or it's where you could go when everything else was going wrong, there are many reasons to give. And here is one more: **the Alumni Association will donate an additional \$20 to each new or increased donation of \$20 or more**, so your gift can have an even greater impact.

On behalf of all our students, we thank you in advance for your generosity. www.marianopolis.edu/donate ◇

Parents receive a warm welcome

On September 7, hundreds of parents were welcomed on campus for the College's first Parent Information Evening. Thanks to a general assembly, workshops and guided tours, families of first-year students got an inside look at the network of services designed to support their sons and daughters in every aspect of their Marianopolis experience. Faculty and staff were on hand to present key topics of interest as well as to answer all manner of questions: "What is the mysterious R-score? Where can my child go for extra support? What activities are available outside the classroom? How do I stay informed about their progress in school now that they are becoming an adult?"

Associate Academic Dean Claude Bélanger explains that the main goal of the evening was to help parents understand the key differences between high school and CEGEP. "While students have more freedom and more choice, they also have more accountability and must become independent learners. It is my belief that family support can play a tremendous role

in helping young adults to make the most of their college years. We hope that parents found the information evening a useful resource in helping them become collaborators in the academic success and personal growth of their sons and daughters."

With this in mind, parents learned three important ways to contribute to their child's experience at Marianopolis: stay informed, get involved, and give back. Joining the new Parents Network helps parents stay informed with email updates, news and invitations to events. Parents are also encouraged to get involved on campus as guest speakers, career mentors, or fundraising volunteers. Finally, donations from parents are essential in providing financial support for students in need, as well as funding for facilities and educational resources that may not be covered by tuition fees or government subsidies. Thanks to the generous support of parents last year, over \$300,000 was raised for the Marianopolis Millennium Foundation benefiting the College and over 1,800 students. ◇

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Thank you

Going the distance for his students



L-R: Joella Martire, science chair Stewart Daly, Raven Spiralos, math professor Jean-François Deslandes, math chair Riccardo Catalano, Nikita Ber and Stamatis Kouniaris take an end-of-term breather.

Jean-François Deslandes spins his own unique brand of teaching and students are enjoying the ride

Rosalie Dumont '11, liberal arts

Jean-François Deslandes has been teaching mathematics at Marianopolis College for the last ten years. In that time he has managed to become a favourite among students, having been voted among the best teachers in North America on Ratemyteacher.com. Deslandes tells us about education and reveals his secret that makes him so popular with his students.

RD: What is it that makes your classes so popular? What is your secret?

JFD: I think, or perhaps I hope, it has to do with the attitudes I adopt and the atmosphere I try to create in class. I am not the students' boss, and I am not the "beholder of mathematical truth." I'd rather they perceive me as a partner who is just there to help make sense of this thing called math. I do not play the "role" of teacher in class. I prefer being seen as a motivator: a motivator to do better, to dig a bit deeper and to find interest in what students are learning.

RD: What should students expect from a good teacher?

JFD: They should expect their teacher to do his/her best to be clear in explanations, to be receptive to new ideas and to adapt to the students' ways of learning. I do not teach a science group, an arts and sciences, or a commerce group in the same manner because they all learn differently. Most of all, I think students should expect their teacher to care about their success and recognize that the material they are learning can be difficult, and that if they are struggling, it may not be due to lack of effort. In fact, most students, regardless of how they do in terms of their grades, really do want to learn and do well.

RD: Is there such a thing as a "bad" teacher? What makes a teacher good or bad?

JFD: I think some people should not be teachers. Some are attracted to teaching because of the months off in the summer and the "short teaching days". These people have not chosen the right profession and usually do not last very long. Good teachers have a passion for their subject. *Great* teachers have a passion for the *people they teach*. They'll put in extra hours to be available for their students. It is the interaction with these young adults that makes every day at work enjoyable and different.

RD: What advice can you share with other teachers about math and other subjects?

JFD: There are things you must do as a teacher: having well prepared lectures, a plan in terms of topics to cover, organized material and exercises. I like the dialogue and the humour with my students, but many of my peers would perhaps find my approach too informal, and that's OK. I think that, as a teacher, you must be genuine, consistent, and be true to your values. In short, you should be the same person in class as out of class.

RD: What brought you to Marianopolis? Why teach here?

JFD: It is Marianopolis that found *me* in 2000. I had been teaching for three years at Dawson's Continuing Education and was coordinator of the Math Help Center at HEC Montréal when Éric Bernier, who was responsible for Human Resources at the time, found me. I loved Marianopolis the minute I walked in. The welcome was warm and it was wonderful to be in an environment where discussions among faculty were less about collective agreements, and more about teaching.

RD: What has surprised you most about teaching?

JFD: I am still surprised by teaching. Students make every day different. Thirteen years of teaching have flown by and I still feel the same excitement I had in 1997 when I took up the profession. I guess that's what surprises me most, and that for which I'm most grateful.

"Love him"
"Amazing"

RD: What is it about mathematics that you love so much? Did you always want to be a teacher?

JFD: I love the fact that mathematics touches upon so many different disciplines. Math is used in science, but also in commerce, economics, and social sciences. You can find applications to real-life situations that will appeal to students in every program. I have always wanted to be a teacher: I helped friends with their math or physics when I was in high school, I taught golf to kids at my local golf course and I coached soccer, an activity I still continue to this day. There is just something about working with others, regardless of the subject, that gets me going.

RD: Are you concerned about students from the reform entering your classes?

JFD: Students from the reform who have entered the college this year seem to be coping well with the transition, so far. The math and science departments are well-prepared with data from diagnostic tests that all incoming math and science students wrote at the beginning of the semester. Necessary changes were made to ease this group's integration, and we are ready to deal with whatever differences or challenges reform students will bring.

RD: What do you know about the reform? What, in your opinion, are the strengths and weaknesses of the post-reform students?

JFD: In principle, the reform will eventually allow students to make interdisciplinary links, which is fantastic. More applied, or situational, problems are being covered. In other words, the reform tries to establish "What can we do with math?" However, this objective is accomplished, at the expense of the "How do we do math?" aspect. Basic algebra skills are not sufficiently seen and reinforced. Algebra is the basic grammar of mathematics, and it is difficult to write a book before having learned how to order words.

RD: What would be the single most important thing a person should consider when choosing a career as a teacher?

JFD: You must like people. It sounds so strange to say this, but teaching should not be that far from having an interesting conversation between friends. You can challenge your friends to improve, and accept that they challenge your ideas also.

RD: How would you justify the importance of higher education mathematics when most students could argue that they will never use this level of math in real life?

JFD: I love the quote from *Candide*: "Il faut cultiver son jardin." Learning is about personal growth. Any higher education course encourages a student to open his mind, to develop good work ethics and to be organized. The topic is not as important as the learning the process of learning, reasoning and thinking critically. ◇

"By far the best teacher in the world"

Alumni



Sandra Morais '71, math teacher at Villa Maria for 17 years is pictured here with secondary III students Chelsea Oki-Gillan, Georgina Papaurelis, daughter of Anneliese '88, Frédérique Laberge, Simone Diamond, daughter of Scot '79, Alexa Dias and secondary V student Alexia Yeow who hopes to attend Marianopolis in September.

Ready for the reform

Adjusting for the first wave of students

Jacqueline Di Bartolomeo '10

Primary school students are having difficulty adapting to the rigors of high school under the reform, according to a Villa Maria math teacher.

Sandra Morais '71 said that she is seeing students that haven't covered the basic skills needed to understand high school math. "Things that you expect a child to know in grade 7 ... are visited instead of taught," she explained. "There's too much project-based learning at times, in the primary school setting, and so there are a lot of difficulties there." Morais added that as homework and drill are being phased out of some grade schools, students might be unprepared for the rigors of high school education.

Villa Maria hands out a basic skills workbook to complete during the summer for all incoming students. In August, they undergo a math readiness assessment based on the concepts covered in the book. If at that point students are identified as weaker than average, they can be put into a math help centre, assigned a peer tutor, or invited to visit the teacher during office hours.

As of yet, the challenges students have had to face in high school haven't translated to the CEGEP level, according to the math and science chairs at Marianopolis. The math and science departments have conducted diagnostic tests for the past two years on incoming students at orientation. "We used the same test that we did last year on non-reform cohort as a baseline," said Riccardo Catalano, chair of the math department. Half the students wrote a traditional multiple choice exam, while the other half wrote a problem-based test. Out of the five areas tested, two were found to be weaker for reform kids: algebra skills and exponentials & logarithms.

As science chair Stewart Daly highlighted, because the test was given at orientation, both departments had time to adjust curriculum in function of the results. "Based on some recommendations from the ministry we had already made some changes to the course outlines," Catalano added. Neither has seen a noticeable difference in grades for science students over the semester, although they emphasized that it is still too early to tell. "The only thing we're seeing with the students in science is that they're a little bit more nervous," Daly said. "I think that's partly because they're not used to the way we're teaching compared to the way they used to be taught." They have seen a slight dip in the performance of social science and commerce students, according to Catalano, although he admitted that may be due to the higher number of students accepted into the programs this year.

Since the high schools are now teaching based on competency, they are theoretically more in line with how the CEGEP system operates. However, Daly pointed out that CEGEP professors can only do so much to adjust their teaching styles to accommodate the change, as they ultimately must prepare the students for learning in a knowledge-based university milieu. He said, "We do a juggling act where we try to accommodate both, but our goal is to get those students prepared as best as possible for university. That's our final goal and that's how we also base what we do at Marianopolis." ◇



Mitch Rothfleisch '82 shows students the notches in his belt that kept him motivated as he lost 180 lbs and reclaimed an active balanced life.

A step in the right direction Alumnus shares his weight-loss journey with students

Anneliese Papaurelis '88

When Mitch Rothfleisch '82 was a Marianopolis student, he confessed that he didn't think much about his weight or physical fitness. Outside of class, Mitch devoted himself to table tennis, and made it to the Canadian national team in 1984. "I was an all or nothing kind of guy," explains Mitch during his talk to the College's Health Club in November. "Keeping active was easy with a full course load in commerce studies and a busy training and competition schedule."

Over the years however, Mitch spent less time competing, and more time building Banda Sports, his sporting goods equipment import and distribution company in Montreal. He travelled extensively, meeting suppliers and customers often in restaurants, devoting himself single-mindedly to expanding and growing the company. At the same time, Mitch experienced another, less desirable expansion: "I never had a dramatic weight gain. I just kept gaining about ten pounds each year, until one day I realized I weighed 392 pounds," Mitch admits to students.

Following a serious consultation with his doctor in 2005, Mitch joined Weight Watchers and began working out at the gym near his home. At first, he was barely able to stay on the elliptical machine for 30 seconds, but he went back every single day for 630 days until he had lost 180 pounds. Lunch meetings were replaced by conferences in or near a gym. Mitch found he had more energy to go out with friends and he returned to the table tennis circuit and claimed the number one ranking in Canada in the over-40 category in 2008. Work still demands a lot of attention, and with newborn twins at home, Mitch admits that he can only get to the gym about three times a week, but insists on fitting exercise into every day. Mitch enjoys sharing his story and can be reached at mitch@ping-pong.com. ◊

Give your Marianopolis diploma the treatment it deserves

Official Marianopolis College diploma frames are available through the Development and Alumni Affairs Office beginning January 17.

Solid cherry frame includes a blue suede double mat with silver embossed Marianopolis crest. Diploma not included.

To order, please contact
alumni@marianopolis.edu

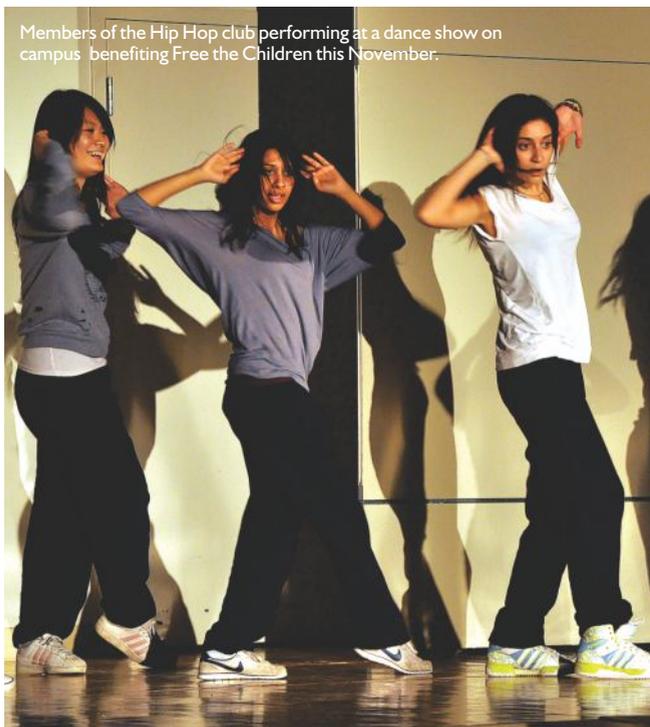
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Orders can be picked up on campus by appointment, or shipped within Canada for an additional \$30.00.



On campus



Members of the Hip Hop club performing at a dance show on campus benefiting Free the Children this November.



Faculty and staff in back row L-R: Alex McDonnell '01, Rocco Iafigiola, Richard Adler '01, Alain Léger, Jean-Michel Cohalan '98, Mike Murphy '92, Richard Myette, Pat Baker. Students in front row L-R: Daniel Abbey, Hamid Sadr, Justin Asfour, Luke Anderson-Trocme, Shwan Shaker. Missing Marianopolis Mo-Bros are professors Hugh Cawker, Jérémie Vinet and student, Lucas Michalopoulos.

The making of a student club

Rachel Gibian '11, liberal arts

It is well known that students achieve top marks while at Marianopolis, but what some may not know is that their focus on schoolwork is often balanced by an equal commitment to a wide variety of club activities. During their time at the college, students are encouraged to pursue a variety of diverse extracurricular activities limited only by their imaginations: students may take the initiative to champion a humanitarian cause, to compete in sports or to present a musical or theatrical production. At the beginning of each year, the students are encouraged to create clubs. They must present a plan and budget to Student Congress for approval, and then must select and put into place executive members to manage the club. Their success depends on the following three things: planning, budgeting and most of all, recruiting members.

The spirit of the student body is best witnessed at the beginning of every semester, when clubs have the opportunity to present their upcoming projects in the hopes of recruiting new members. The sheer volume of students that show up for "Join the Club Day" is astounding, and this past September, over 1,000 students filled the gym to peruse the displays or to present student-run initiatives to the crowd. Some students join as many as seven clubs. Says Amanda Ip, a second-year liberal arts student, "When I arrived at Marianopolis, I quickly realized that joining clubs was a great way to meet new people. Now that I'm in my second year, I'm really enjoying being an active member of five clubs and introducing new students to activities that I love. They are all big commitments, but even in the most hectic weeks, I find I still look forward to meeting with fellow members during activity period." ◇

Mentoring students. Building community.

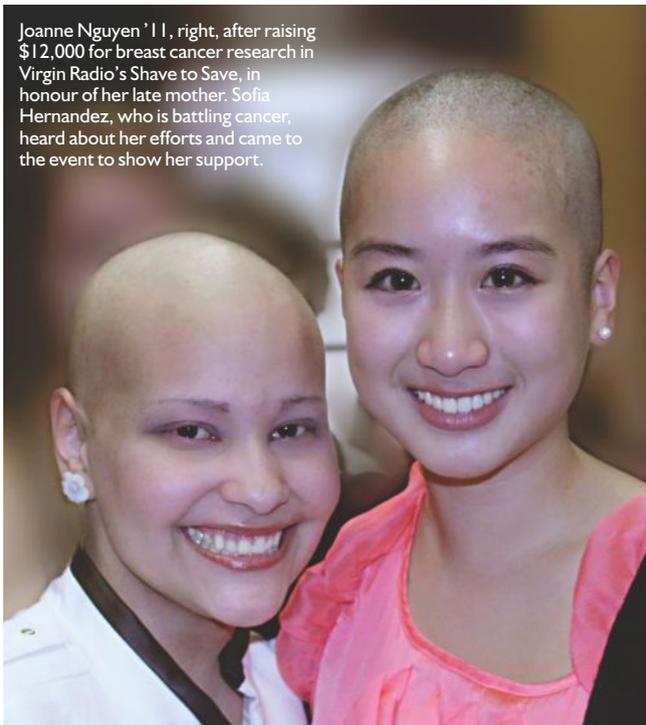
Anneliese Papaurelis '88

Joining together with students to support a worthy cause, organizing activities, and mentoring clubs are just a few of the ways that faculty at Marianopolis stay accessible to students outside the classroom and office hours.

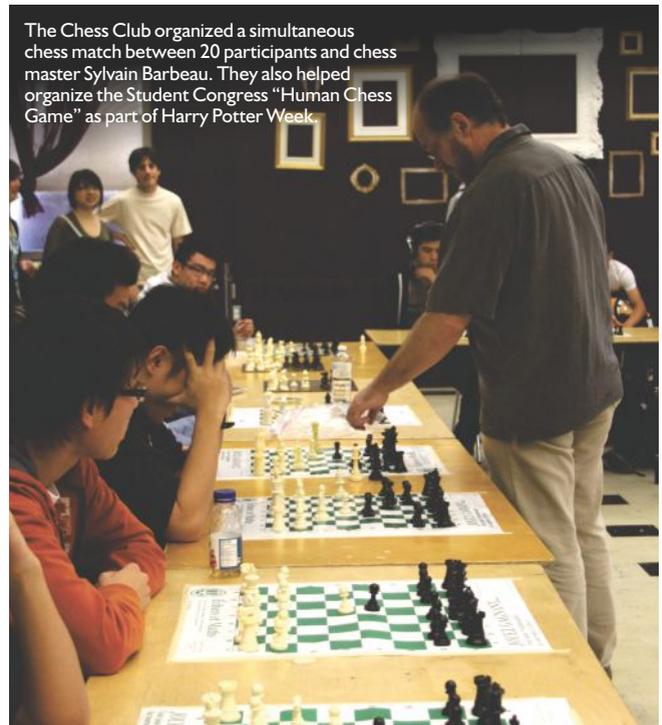
For the second consecutive year, counsellor Pat Baker and social science professor Jean-Michel Cohalan '98 spent the month of November cultivating moustaches to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer research. A dynamic group of 10 dedicated colleagues and 5 bold students, the "Mo-Marianopolis" team raised over \$4,200 for the Movember campaign this year. "The value of the Marianopolis experience extends well beyond the classroom. Being able to collaborate with students helps foster constructive relationships and builds students' leadership skills," says professor Cohalan.

The 78-member Take a Hike club is comprised of equal numbers of faculty, staff and students, and club mentor professor Annie Jeannet sees benefits for both faculty and students in these activities. "These outings allow students to see us as more than a *teacher* and encourage deeper personal connections. They see us as regular people who like the same things they do... The fun and bonding that occurs on these hikes is often a lasting one and long-term friendships develop."

Professor Jeannet also volunteers her time during exam-period to offer free relaxation sessions to the entire community where she takes great joy in seeing the positive results. "Calmer, more relaxed students, staff and faculty become more efficient, pleasant and positive as we wrap up the semester. It's a win-win situation all around." ◇



Joanne Nguyen '11, right, after raising \$12,000 for breast cancer research in Virgin Radio's Shave to Save, in honour of her late mother. Sofia Hernandez, who is battling cancer, heard about her efforts and came to the event to show her support.



The Chess Club organized a simultaneous chess match between 20 participants and chess master Sylvain Barbeau. They also helped organize the Student Congress "Human Chess Game" as part of Harry Potter Week.

Students benefit from helping others

Dalia Ramirez-Côté '11, liberal arts

The many causes supported by Marianopolis students every year indicate the students' strong desire to contribute to society. The college provides a supportive platform for students wishing to organize events and fundraisers, making it easy to get passionate about a cause and be involved. Students get creative when finding ways to mobilize support: a masquerade party, food and clothing drives, a loonie-line challenge, a vow of silence, a talent show and 21 bake sales took place this semester, raising funds for Autism Awareness, Free the Children, Global Brigades, Pakistan relief efforts and several others. Next semester, Marianopolis students are partnering with McGill University to support the "Change Montreal" campaign for the new MUHC. Their "Pulse: Diversity in Design" event will take place in February and will feature performances by students and showcase fashions from cultures around the world.

At this year's "Shave to Save" event, second year science student Joanne Nguyen raised \$12,000 to support the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation and had her head shaved by a Lacoupe hairdresser with Tony Stark from Virgin Radio as MC. Says Nguyen on the importance of philanthropy at the school: "It seems to me that Marianopolis stands out from other CEGEPs because of how motivated the students are to promote different causes. It's so astonishing how many clubs there are." The experience helps students develop organizational skills, raise awareness of various issues that concern the student population and society as a whole, and in some cases motivates them to continue philanthropic endeavours well after graduating. Joanne adds that, "seeing people's efforts inspires others to pursue their own projects. I get a sense that those who organize (fundraisers) here will move on to bigger and greater things in their future." ◇

Want to learn more? There's a club for that

Mark Weissfelner '11, liberal arts

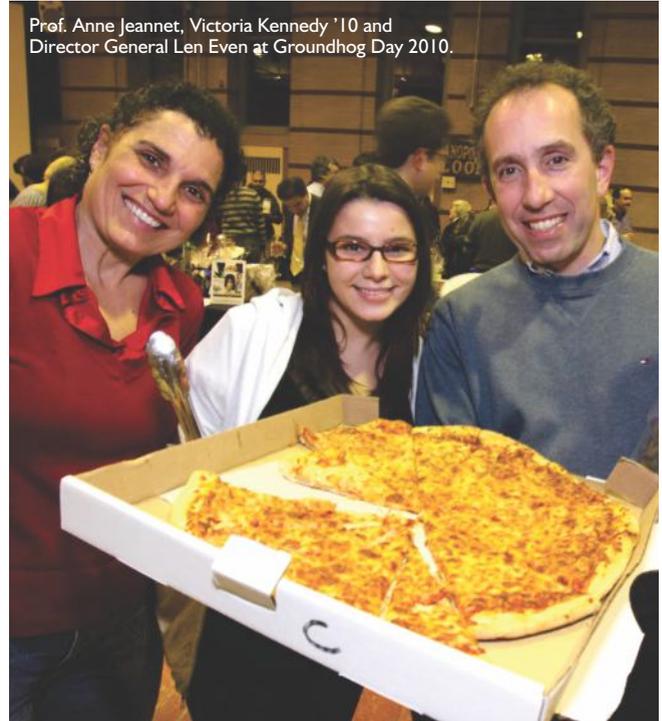
Marianopolis students are engaged in over 80 student-run clubs each year. Open to all, clubs encompass a multitude of activities and interests, from artistic pursuits, to sports and recreation, to discussion groups on social and cultural issues. They offer a chance to expand upon courses and bring learning out of the classroom and into fun, interactive and often real-life settings. Here is a sampling of what some of our clubs have been up to lately:

The Model United Nations Club offers students a chance to participate in conferences and debates which mimic the functioning of United Nations assemblies. The club recently hosted students, parents and faculty at their "International Affair," a musical evening and buffet to sponsor students travelling to Singapore for the WorldMun conference in March. This year saw the development of the Medieval Music Club, complementing medieval history studies and headed by humanities professor Rebecca Bain, an accomplished soprano and one of the few hundred people in the world able to read medieval musical notation. The Debate Society, which competes in tournaments at the CEGEP and university levels, welcomed MP Justin Trudeau to campus for a discussion on voter awareness and engagement on November 18. The Robotics Team is working over the holidays with professors Dominique Paradis and Dr. Simon Sabik to prepare for the CRC robotics competition at Lester B. Pearson high school in February. Under the guidance of professor Peter Elenakis, the MYLO-DECA (Marianopolis Youth Leaders Organization - Delta Epsilon Chi Association) team participated in the northeastern business case competition in November. All team members qualified to compete in the provincial tournament in Toronto this coming February, and are also planning a conference in the spring to promote leadership and corporate philanthropy. ◇

Events



Members of the class of 1971
Front row L-R: Frances (O'Reilly) Pietschmann, Suzanne (Matte) Crotty and Eva Petras. 2nd row L-R: Debbie (McDougall) Fischer, Laura (Lee) Siwec.



Prof. Anne Jeannet, Victoria Kennedy '10 and Director General Len Even at Groundhog Day 2010.

Sharing milestones

Marianopolis students form incredible bonds with classmates, and this applies not only to our current two and three-year CEGEP students, but even more so among the women for whom Marianopolis was their four-year university from 1908 until 1972. The University Years Organizing Committee, affectionately known on campus as “The Party Girls,” is meeting in January to begin planning the upcoming reunion for all years in the spring. Class representatives and graduates interested in getting involved are invited to contact Barbara Handfield '59 at barbara.handfield@sympatico.ca.

This past August, members of the class of 1971 celebrated their sixtieth birthdays in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia as part of their shared ritual of marking important milestones together. The next reunion is taking place in Montreal on September 3 and 4, 2011 to mark the 40th anniversary of graduation, and they want to get everyone involved! For details, please contact Debbie (McDougall) Fischer at debbie_fischer_bmo@hotmail.com or (613) 374-1071.

The Class of 1961 is celebrating their 50th anniversary of graduation September 25th with an on-campus luncheon in Montreal for both arts and science alumnae. Ruth Phaneuf Parker is heading up the organizing committee and seeks some volunteers to help reach out to former classmates and teachers. Contact Ruth at maryruthpp@gmail.com. ◇

Join the Marianopolis network

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Keywords: Marianopolis College Alumni.

Groundhog Day

At the upcoming tenth-anniversary edition of the annual Montreal reunion on February 3, alumni, friends and faculty will be treated to a sampling of some of Montreal's finest pizzas and local beers while bidding on desirable prizes during the silent auction. Via Rail travel passes, Canadiens de Montréal corporate VIP tickets, a Lasik MD vision correction package and much more will all go to the highest bidder. Proceeds support the Alumni Association's many on-campus initiatives that benefit students. To donate a prize, contact alumni@marianopolis.edu ◇

Marianopolis ♥ NYC

Chairman and CEO of OgilvyOne Worldwide, Brian Fetherstonhaugh '76 will host Marianopolis alumni in the Manhattan headquarters of the largest direct and interactive marketing and network in the world on March 15. All alumni in the New York City vicinity are invited to this exclusive evening for an inside scoop on upcoming trends in marketing and an opportunity to meet fellow graduates in and around the Big Apple. To ensure that you receive an invitation, update your mailing address at alumni@marianopolis.edu. ◇

Better than a new résumé

Knowing how to build and leverage a business network is one of the most important skills in today's challenging work environment. Alumni seeking to take their careers to the next level or interested in meeting key contacts can access a powerful network of fellow Marianopolis graduates at the Alumni Association's Young Professional's Networking Evening on May 5. Guest speakers, prizes and possibly a new career are waiting for you. Be sure to join the alumni groups on LinkedIn and Facebook to receive your invitation. ◇

News and notables

Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan '64

launched her sixth book, *The Dead Ringer*, in May 2010 and she has completed the manuscript for *The Red Floor* which is due out in May 2011. Her first book, *Sheila's Take* was a critically acclaimed memoir featured twice on the Montreal Gazette's bestseller list, and of her four mystery novels, two have been bestsellers. Sheila is a popular speaker and recent engagements include McGill University, The Historical Society of Montreal, The Quebec Family History Society and many others.

Gérald Weber '74 graduated from Concordia University with a bachelor of commerce in accountancy in 1977 and a master of business administration in finance in 1986. He has worked for several major corporations over the years including Ciment St-Laurent, its parent company, HOLCIM and CGI in capacities ranging from senior director of corporate development to vice president consulting. Gérald currently runs his own management consulting firm, G. Weber Consulting Inc., which he started in 2001. He and his wife Jane have two grown girls who will graduate from university shortly.

Robert Lubin '76 graduated with a bachelor of commerce (honours) from McGill University in 1979. He earned a juris doctorate in 1982 and a master of law in taxation in 1983 from the University of Miami. He has had his own law firm in Washington, DC since 1988, specializing in immigration matters related to professionals.

Michel Gohler '78 lives in New York City where he is a freelance performer. Following his bachelor in music performance and education at the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts, Michel also earned degrees in music arrangement and film composition from the Grove School of Music and recently completed his master in multiple woodwinds at New Jersey City University. He has toured with Chita Rivera, Diahann Carroll, and Bill Haley's Comets, performed with Barry White and has arranged and conducted for Rex Reed.

Paul Lamontagne '78 is chief executive officer of Enablis Africa. Prior

to joining Enablis in 2004, he held a number of executive positions in the telecommunications industry. He holds a master of business administration from l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris and a bachelor of arts from McGill University. Paul lives in Cape Town, South Africa.

Olga Gross '80 is a pianist for the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Ottawa National Arts Centre Orchestra. In January 2010 she performed the solo in Messiaen's *Les couleurs de la cité céleste* under the direction of Maestro Kent Nagano. The performances took place in Quebec City and in Montreal, where Olga also had the opportunity to play with saxophonist Branford Marsalis. She teaches music at Vanier College, and is the proud mother of two children ages six and ten.

Mark Fontaine '81 earned his bachelor of building engineering at Concordia University and has worked as a senior estimator at SNC Lavalin for the past 10 years. His work has taken him to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Australia. Mark fondly remembers his math teacher Professor Fleischer whose fantastic sense of humor and teaching style had a big impact. Also memorable is Sister Darragh who taught chemistry. In Mark's words, "I hated chemistry but her refreshing words kept me going." Mark has a 17 year old daughter and a 13 year old son.

Peter Outerbridge '83 earned his bachelor of arts in psychology at McGill University and subsequently worked for 15 years as a technical writer in Montreal, Minneapolis and New York City. After attending a postcard show in New York City in 1998, he launched his own postcard business in 1999. He sells postcards on virtually every topic and he now sells worldwide to collectors, music fans, movie fans etc. Peter lives in Montreal. www.pocards.com.

Eric Grief '84 is a family doctor living and practicing in Thornhill, Ontario and has recently published his first book, *Get Diagnosed Fast*. He completed his bachelor of science in physiology at McGill University, went on to earn his medical degree at the University of Toronto and completed his family

medicine residency at McGill. Eric is married and has two children.

Wendy Helfenbaum '85 is a Montreal-based writer and television producer. She graduated from Carleton University's journalism program in 1988, and went on to write and produce award-winning news, children's and dramatic television programs, while freelancing as a magazine writer and translator. Wendy's essay about her long-time admiration for Bruce Springsteen appears in a new anthology: *Fits, Starts & Matters of the Heart: 28 True Stories about Love, Loss & Everything in Between*. www.taketwoproductions.ca.

Angelo Noce '86, his wife Shelley McColl, and four-year old daughter Clara welcomed the arrival of a baby boy named Liam this past July in Montreal. Angelo is a partner in the Montreal office of Blake, Cassels and Graydon, LLP, practicing in the area of business law.

Karmin Grewal '89 is an artist, teacher, certified Kundalini yoga instructor and poet and this past May her poem, *Untitled* was published in *Bywords.ca*. While at Marianopolis, she studied arts with Professor Eva Brandl who influenced her greatly. She went



Faculty highlight

Dr. Chew with professors Michael Climan and Mary Frauley.

Dr. Dolores Chew, chair of creative arts, literature and languages, recently published her article "Feminism and Multiculturalism in Quebec: An/Other Perspective" in the journal *Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme* for an issue on women and Canadian multiculturalism. The recently published anthology, *Women of Anglo-India* includes her contributions, "Calcutta Days of Love and War" and "Will the Real Anglo-Indian Woman Please Stand Up!" Her plenary address at the International Women's Conference in Montreal in August, "Women's Resistance to Oppression and Exploitation – Lessons from the past, challenges for the future," attended by 350 delegates from around the world, drew a standing ovation and was described as "global in scope, impressive in its scholarship."



1. Eric Grief 2. Kasie Savage (Colbeck) 3. Jessica Dionne with Paul McCartney 4. Kathleen Winter & Kevin Lukassen 5. Olga Gross and Branford Marsalis 6. Pedro Martinez, Marie-France and Damian 7. Wendy Helfenbaum

on to graduate from McGill University in 1993 with a bachelor of education. Karmin's art was featured in Café Bohemia this past summer and more recently one of her paintings was chosen for the Fisheries Association silent auction and dinner in Ottawa.

Ingrid Stairs '90 directed a research team toward the discovery of a pulsar with the assistance of the Einstein@Home project- a volunteer network of 250,000 home and office computers around the world. Ingrid is an associate professor of astronomy at the University of British Columbia, a member of the consortium that conducts research at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico and co-author of the paper, "Pulsar Discovery by Global Volunteer Computing" published in *Science* magazine in September 2010.



Faculty highlight

Dr. Paulos Milkias, professor of humanities, is a world-renowned expert on third world studies and is the founder of the Marianopolis Third World Studies Certificate. During his tenure, he has authored ten books - three were published in 2010 and one is forthcoming in 2011. His most recent monograph is *Developing the Global South: A United Nations Prescription for the Third Millennium*. Dr. Milkias has presented many scholarly papers to learned societies' meetings and has published more than 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has traveled extensively in Africa, and is pictured here with Dr. Negaso Gidada, president of Ethiopia (1985-2001), left, and Dr. Merera Gudina, leader of the Ethiopian Opposition Parties, during a visit this past summer.

Chris O'Neill '90 was recently awarded the Valley Arts Award, a lifetime achievement award for her contribution to the artistic life of her home region through arts education. She and her husband, Ken Schwartz, have also been named artistic co-directors of the National Artist Program of the 2011 Canada Games to be held in Halifax.

Natalie Andres '92 joined Shaw Communications as program manager of wireless in May 2010. She will work to develop the necessary infrastructure to support Shaw's next generation of wireless service.

Pedro Martinez '93 is a systems engineer for Thales Group and is currently based in the Netherlands on a two year contract. He and his wife Marie-France welcomed their first child, Damian, in November 2010. The family will be moving back to Canada in May 2011.

Karen Eltis '94 is an associate professor with the faculty of law at the University of Ottawa. Currently a visiting professor at Columbia Law School, she is an expert in comparative law, with a particular interest in cyber law and democratic governance. Professor Eltis acts as a consultant with the Judicial Institute and has served as director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre. She has degrees from the faculties of law at McGill University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Columbia University. She is widely published in legal journals and law texts.

Kasie Colbeck Savage '96 is a television personality on The Shopping Channel. She graduated from the radio and television arts program at Ryerson University in Toronto in 2000 and in 2006 she launched Canada's premiere designer baby sling company, WOMBaby Slings. "I can most certainly credit my two years in liberal arts at Marianopolis as being the intellectual foundation upon which I have built my life as an adult," Kasie affirms. She is married and the mother of three boys. www.WOMBaby.com.

Elpida (Hope) Vouitsis '97 earned her bachelor of fine arts from Concordia University and graduated with distinction in 2000. She graduated from McGill University with a master of art history in 2005 and plans to pursue her doctorate. She fondly remembers Bella Rabinovitch who taught her students a different way of interpreting art, Monique Polak, who considered all types of writing to be worthy of praise, even diary entries, and Victor Garaway, whose techniques in yoga enabled

many students to improve their performances. "I still encourage as many students as I can to attend Marianopolis," Elpida says. "The instruction I received was the best and it amply prepared me for university and graduate studies. Bravo Marianopolis!"

Alexandra Kindrat '97 is a math teacher at St. Thomas High School in Pointe-Claire. She has degrees in physiology, neurology and neurosurgery as well as a bachelor of education in science and technology. She is now working on her doctorate at Concordia University, in the area of child studies, researching ways to improve the teaching of mathematics. She has also been a pilot since the age of 17 and is working on her commercial license. Alexandra participated in the space studies program at the International Space University this past summer in Strasbourg, France, an intensive program that provides students with a broad perspective on the world's space endeavors.

Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne '97 has completed a bachelor of science in biology at McGill University, a master of science in tropical ecology at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, and a doctorate of geography at McGill University. She worked as an author and the coordinator of the sub-global working group of the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, a 4-year United Nations study to determine the state of the world's ecosystems and how they relate to human well-being. She continues to work as a consultant with various organizations, translating environmental science into policy, but is currently on maternity leave, enjoying time with her daughter Ida.

Benedicta Chan '97 and her husband **Kevin Lee '96** welcomed the arrival of their son Anselm in July 2010.

Donna Pinsky '00 recently graduated from Concordia University with a chartered accountancy degree. Her sisters **Marian '03** and **Randy '03** are very proud of her and are thrilled to share this exciting news with the Marianopolis community. Donna attributes her interest in accounting

and tax to her teachers at Marianopolis. She currently works at the accounting firm of Ammar Cousineau T elio Hadid.

Emmanuelle Paris-Cohen '01 is participating in an internship in Delhi, organized by Rooftops Canada. She is working as a gender training and networking officer for a local NGO called Sathi for all Partnerships. Her work focuses on capacity building, networking and advocacy. Sathi works with women's rights agencies as well as with excluded women in India on issues of inheritance and resource rights. Emmanuelle has fond memories of her Marianopolis humanities classes with Dr. Dolores Chew with whom she remains in contact.

Kathleen Winter '06 completed a bachelor of physical therapy from McGill University in 2009, and has begun a career with the Canada Border Services Agency. She married Kevin



Merav Fima '03 is an editor of exhibition catalogues and gallery texts at The Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Even seven years after leaving Marianopolis she feels that Bella Rabinovitch continues to have an impact on her life and in fact, many of her decisions since have been informed by her experience in professor Rabinovitch's class. Merav attributes her

aesthetic sensibility and greatly enriched writing to Bella's teachings and continues to be inspired by artworks she first encountered in class. After completing her undergraduate degree at Concordia University's Liberal Arts College, with a minor in art history, she enrolled in the Shandy Rudoff graduate program in creative writing at Bar-Ilan University. Her master's thesis, dedicated to the memory of Bella Rabinovitch, who passed away in 2004, was successfully defended last year. Professor Rabinovitch's high standards and love of art persuaded Merav to devote herself to her creative endeavors and pursue them with passion and determination.

Lukassen, farmer and graduate of the University of Guelph, on September 11, 2010 at his farm in Godmanchester.

Jessica Dionne '09 is beginning her first year of theatre studies at Concordia University and this past August was invited on stage at the Paul McCartney concert to have her arm autographed

by the performer. She was chosen out of a crowd of 17,000 people because of her sign that read "Paul, please sign my arm; I've already made an appointment for a tattoo." Jessica is looking forward to her next big project: co-hosting with Aaron Rand on the popular Montreal radio station Q92. ◊

We will miss...

Charlotte Tansey '43 passed away on August 26, 2010 at the age of 88. She was an academic and educator who founded the Thomas More Institute for Adult Education in 1945, and was later its president for 18 years until her retirement in 1998. The institute was created to make it easier to pursue an undergraduate degree by taking night classes. Charlotte graduated from Marianopolis, then known as Marguerite Bourgeoys College, with a bachelor of arts in 1943, and received her master of arts from McGill University in 1946 with her thesis on Gertrude Stein. Charlotte received honorary doctorates from Concordia University, Bishop's and Burlington College.

She is survived by her sisters Barbara Wells Cooper '43, and Carol Tansey.

Susan Ellis Burpee '63 passed away on October 8, 2010 at the age of 67. She was an avid gardener and dedicated volunteer giving her time to L'Arche Montreal, Marianopolis College, Meals on Wheels and serving as a long-time member of the Horticultural Advisory Committee in the City of Westmount; her own gardens were featured in the city's "Secret Garden Tours." Fondly remembered by classmates of the class of 1963 and alumae from Marianopolis College's university years, she is survived by her sister Madeleine Ellis, husband Tom Burpee and daughters Wendy '84, Stephanie '84 and Jessica and five grandchildren.

Margaret Love '66 passed away after a brief illness on January 31, 2010 in Ottawa. She leaves behind many friends and relatives and is fondly remembered as a trusted confidante with great wisdom, humour and compassion for others.

Marsha King '72 passed away on October 19, 2010 at the age of 56. Marsha obtained her bachelor of science in agriculture from the University of Guelph as well as her professional agrologist designation. She subsequently won a scholarship to study journalism and earned her technical writer diploma at Algonquin College. Marsha is survived by her step-mother Linda King and many cousins. ◊

Memories of Doug Howes (1953-2010)



In our last issue, we published a notice on the passing of Doug Howes, the College's former student life animator who is fondly remembered by many at Marianopolis. Here is a sampling of the many emails, Facebook posts and Legacy notes that we wish to share.

Louise McLellan, director of student services, "Doug worked as the student life animator for more than twenty years and during that time, he touched the lives of numerous staff, faculty and students. When

I run into former students they will invariably ask after Doug and share fond memories of times spent with him. He was truly an animator in every sense of the word. He will be missed."

Greg Fergus '88 - "Doug Howes, along with Tom Nowers and the rest of the student life animation team, played such a vital role during that formative time in my life. He didn't preach or condescend; he was *there*, he was *present*. He listened when I wanted to speak, not when it was convenient to him. I had no earth-shattering issues to resolve at the time, but it was meaningful to me that he took the time to hear me out. Doug taught me those invaluable life lessons of listening and being present, which I now in turn share with my three teenagers. I was privileged to know him during my years at Marianopolis. And I am grateful."

Maria Stolcz-Gabriella '91 - "Doug was such a kind, generous man whose door was always open to us. The G-Hall, as we

affectionately called it, was his home and kids would always congregate around his office, including me. I have many fond memories of Doug during the two years I spent at Marianopolis."

Natasha Szuber '97 - "We were so fortunate to have him in our lives. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. His door was always open for students to come in and chat about anything and everything. He had a gift of making you feel so at ease, and offered wise advice, patience, and endless words of encouragement. He was such a special person and I will always remember him."

Jessica Peterkin '99 - "Doug Howes was a great man. He wrote the recommendation that helped me to get into law school, and was a major influence in my deciding to even apply. He was a caring and friendly man with a warm heart and a gift of helping students reach their fullest potential. I will miss him dearly. Thanks for everything, Doug!" ◊

Health & Wellness Day

April 7, 2011

- ✓ Interactive and educational kiosks
- ✓ Live performances and demonstrations
- ✓ Special guest speakers
- ✓ Fun and healthy fare
- ✓ Exciting prizes and silent auction



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