

MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS

SPRING 2015 - NEWSLETTER EDITION



WHO ^{WILL} FIND
THE CURE FOR
CANCER?

WHO ^{WILL} SOLVE
GLOBAL
WARMING?

WHO ^{WILL} DEFINE
OUR FUTURE?

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





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MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS SPRING 2015

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DESIGN: TUXEDO AGENCY

PRINT COORDINATOR: AUTOMATIC MAILING & PRINTING INC.

PHOTO CREDITS: NICOLAS GOUIN, SHEILA KINDELLAN-SHEEHAN '64, DOMENICO ANDREA MARCONE '02, PAOLA MAZZONE '88, THE PAPER CUT, FAUSTIN TUYAMBAGA AND CHRISTIAN VLČEK

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CIRCULATION: 9,500

MARIANOPOLIS MATTERS IS CREATED AND PUBLISHED SEMI-ANNUALLY BY THE DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR THE MARIANOPOLIS COMMUNITY. ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, PARENTS AND DONORS RECEIVE THIS MAGAZINE THROUGH A COMPLIMENTARY SUBSCRIPTION. TO ADD OR MODIFY YOUR MAILING INFORMATION, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM AT MARIANOPOLIS.EDU/KEEPINTOUCH

PRINTED IN CANADA ISSN 2368-5824 (PRINT) AND ISSN 2368-5832 (ONLINE)
CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL PRODUCT SALES AGREEMENT NO. 40737555
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ADDRESSES TO:
THE MARIANOPOLIS MILLENNIUM FOUNDATION
% DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE
MARIANOPOLIS COLLEGE
4873 WESTMOUNT AVE.
WESTMOUNT, QC H3Y 1X9

MARIANOPOLIS: A CUT ABOVE THE REST

In the Fall 2014 inaugural issue of *Marianopolis Matters*, we indicated that this magazine would be published in a different manner for each of the fall and spring editions. And this spring edition reflects the evolution in thought of that initial commitment. Moving forward, we intend to publish a 'newsletter version' of the spring edition (available primarily online). By doing so, we are able to manage our resources appropriately, use the newsletter version as a book-end to the Annual Giving Campaign in order to (gently) remind you and others to contribute to The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation and – no secret here – cut our costs in the process.

"Cut" seems to be the operative word these days in Quebec and elsewhere - cuts in government budgets and cuts in industry-specific jobs. The word "austerity" is sometimes used in place of "cuts" to, well, sound less drastic and offensive. But, there's no hiding the fact – the public purse is running out of money and the province's public debt, as of the day we printed this edition, was pegged at over \$275 billion dollars. Yikes.

But cuts are not all bad. Our best and brightest students are making the cut every spring, as they get accepted into the most prestigious universities here and abroad. Anecdotally, walking the hallways at the College, you quickly form the impression that Marianopolis is producing a disproportionate share of future doctors, scientists and lawyers – the kind of students who could provide the answers to the questions on our front cover. No cutting classes for these ambitious young women and men.

We hope these new alums will remember what a Marianopolis College education provided to them – how Marianopolis is a springboard to amazing opportunities – and help our Foundation give today's crop of bright students the opportunity to shine.

ONE IN 5 CURRENT MARIANOPOLIS STUDENTS REQUIRES SOME FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

We know times are tough. We see it firsthand at the Foundation every day. But we ask that you consider supporting education and, in the process, our collective interests. A great education = a great future. There is no shortcut around that fact.

This edition will highlight the Foundation's financial portrait and also profile those of our alums who are paying it forward. We also celebrate the fifth estate and the 20th anniversary of the College's student-run newspaper, *The Papercut*. The newspaper's tag line is "Cutting to the Chase". Now, why didn't I think of that? So here it goes: to donate (and we hope you do), please visit MARIANOPOLIS.EDU/DONATE. Enjoy!

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

PAY IT FORWARD

PHILANTHROPY THAT GETS TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

When Sandrine Murengerantwali was born in Rwanda, she was diagnosed with a heart condition called Ventricular Septal Deficit (VSD), essentially a malformation of the heart. Luckily, her parents were able to afford the necessary and expensive surgery. Sandrine had the procedure when she was four years old.

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

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

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

The Foundation's annual goal is to raise \$15,000. Sandrine and her team are in the process of reaching that goal, and they continue to accept donations online. More fundraising initiatives from the Vivo Cuore Foundation are still to come. To keep up-to-date on all the great work that is being accomplished, please be sure to "like" the Marianopolis College Alumni Association's Facebook or LinkedIn pages.



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

STEM SUMMER CAMPS: BRINGING FUN BACK TO EDUCATION

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

In 2014 iNERDE offered its first ever STEM summer camp in Bamako, Mali. The camp introduced an educational program to 30 fourth and fifth graders in partnership with L'École du Progrès. This year the camp has flourished; iNERDE will make available its specialized curriculum to 420 fourth and fifth graders in both Mali and Senegal!

The whole team at iNERDE is working at making dreams reality for these children. Among the 'Nerdy' team members are Marianopolis alumnae Rebecca Brousseau '10 and Nadia Famularo '11.

Rebecca signed up with iNERDE by volunteering as an Empowerment Agent in Summer 2014. Since then, she has joined the iNERDE team as Director of Nerdy Education. Before taking on this project, Rebecca had been giving back through volunteer work in a plethora of fields: journalism, education, multi-faith and development. Rebecca's volunteer work has also allowed her to travel quite a bit; she has volunteered in Israel, Haiti, Nepal, Mali and Thailand. Rebecca

sees education as the key to opportunities for life transformation. When Rebecca was asked about how the STEM program will be altered for Summer 2015, she explained that "iNERDE's STEM summer camps are only the beginning of how our team hopes to impact science and technology education and standards in Sub-Saharan Africa. This summer, on top of teaching students about science, we are training local teachers to be more familiar with technology and innovative, hands-on teaching methods. We hope that this new approach to science education will continue to be implemented in the local school curriculums year-round." It is clear how important this cause is for both the iNERDE team as well as the beneficiaries.



Nadia volunteered at iNERDE in 2014, together with Rebecca, as an Empowerment Agent at the STEM summer camp and has since become its Director of Communications, all while completing a degree in Linguistics and English Literature at McGill University. Nadia previously volunteered by

organizing summer camps, fundraisers and workshops for children in her community. When asked about what compelled her to get involved with this particular organization, she explained that "(f)rom a young age, I was taught the importance of leading a life of service to others, and while I've been involved in my own community for a long time, I wanted to take my experience further. I joined the iNERDE team because of its mission to not only improve STEM education, but also to inspire confidence and ambition in African youth, giving them both the ability and the motivation to make a difference. I feel that improving educational standards, especially in developing nations, is one of the most crucial steps we need to take if we hope to see a brighter future and equal opportunities for success around the world." Nadia's work serves as a great example of the effects of giving back to your community.

Both Rebecca and Nadia are instrumental in developing a culture of philanthropy which will ensure iNERDE's success. An organization's prosperity depends on (among other things) full support from all members within that organization.

We commend both Nadia and Rebecca on a job well done, and we wish them much success for this year's STEM summer camp!

IN SUPPORT OF EXCELLENCE – FOUNDATION FINANCIAL UPDATE



DINO MAZZONE '87

Executive Director of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation

Alumni Affairs Office is being completed at less expense (both salaried and otherwise) in comparison to the three (3) previous periods in question.

Some nuggets of information for you: our average gift is approximately \$356, our most popular gift is \$100 (which is great news because recent studies of trends in fundraising suggest that we will have the best retention rates with these donors) and our largest single gift this last fiscal year was \$50,000. Yup. That one felt real good.

The graduation year with the most donors: 1986 and 1963. The graduation year with the oldest donor: 1940. And the graduation year with the youngest donor: 2016 (that bodes very well for the future).

But as pleased as we are with this first year of operation and as positive as the outlook may be for

the subsequent 12-month period, I still have to ask where are a lot of you hiding? Our donor pool is still quite small compared to the thousands upon thousands of graduates that have walked through our doors at the College. It just does not make sense.



Just 1% of Marianopolis alumni donate to The Foundation

Let me leave you with an excerpt from a letter addressed to the Foundation, dated April 13, 2015, by incoming Fall 2015 student Rodrigo Escobar. Rodrigo qualified for one of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation Entrance Scholarship Awards. In thanking the Foundation for the

scholarship, Rodrigo writes: "I am truly grateful towards the Foundation for granting me the opportunity to see my tuition fees considerably diminished, which will allow me to remain completely focused on my studies and my extracurricular activities." I recently met with Rodrigo. Rodrigo wants to become a doctor and do his family proud. It is because of students like Rodrigo that we at the Foundation care so, so much. Help us help these students shine bright. Help us in support of excellence.

Please visit MARIANOPOLIS.EDU/DONATE to make an online donation. Also, we ask that you kindly send your most recent home and office co-ordinates to Christianne Meloche, Development Associate, Alumni Relations, so that we may update your profile. Christianne can be reached at C.MELOCHE@MARIANOPOLIS.EDU.

MOST POPULAR GIFT

\$100

LARGEST SINGLE GIFT

\$50K

AVERAGE GIFT

\$356

DONORS

1940 1963 1986 2016

OLDEST MOST DONORS YOUNGEST

When I was hired in April 2014, my mandate was made very clear to me: I needed to kickstart The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation and increase both its donor base and financial donations. The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Marianopolis, its main purpose to raise funds to finance scholarships and bursaries at the College.

My first order of business was to re-brand the Foundation and its message. I felt that both the Marianopolis community and the Montreal community at-large needed to be re-introduced to the Foundation and its mission statement. In the process of re-branding, we identified the need at hand (one in

five students at the College requires some form of financial assistance), we identified our core mission (giving great students the opportunity to shine, regardless of their financial situation), we identified a key weakness (we have not, historically, been very good at fundraising) and we targeted our greatest strength (a Marianopolis education remains the gold standard bearer). With a new logo and a more aggressive Annual Giving Campaign that was initiated in October 2014, we were ready to shake things up.

We combined this effort with a re-branded Fall 2014 edition of *Marianopolis Matters* for which we received incredibly positive feedback, a robust graduation

program to augment our general revenue base, a recurring gift program that is starting to deliver dividends and several other activities familiar to alums and students (e.g. Groundhog Day and Leadership Development Evening).

We built it – and people did come. As we near the end of our fiscal 2014-15 year, I can report to you that the operation of the Foundation and the Development and Alumni Affairs Office is leaner, on pace to meet the fiscal 2015 budgeted forecast, on pace to match if not exceed in fiscal 2015 the revenues generated in each of the previous three (3) fiscal year-ends of operation and the work of the Foundation and the Development and

ANNE COTIGNOLA	
<i>Grad year:</i> 2006	<i>Campus:</i> Côte-des-Neiges
<i>Type of degree:</i> DEC	
<i>Program of study:</i> Liberals Arts	
<i>Occupation:</i> Development Associate, Donor Relations	



— • WELCOME • —

Help us welcome Anne Cotignola '06, the Development and Alumni Affairs Office's new Development Associate, Donor Relations. Anne (or Annie, as she likes to be called) will be an instrumental part of The Marianopolis Millennium Foundation's efforts to better liaise and communicate with current and future donors. We wish Annie many happy years with us at Marianopolis. You can drop Annie a line at A.COTIGNOLA@MARIANOPOLIS.EDU.

NEWS & NOTABLES

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



1st row (left to right) are: Ms. Alice Hrycak and Ms. Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan in the 2nd row (left to right) are: Ms. Carroll Ann Carmody, Mrs. Diane Watts (née McNicholl), Dr. Margaret Taussig, Ms. Carol Brown, Mrs. Jennie Tumas Benius, Ms. Carolyn Kieran Sauvè, Mrs. Clair McGuire (née Paquet), Hon. Nicole Duval Hesler, Ms. Vida Jurisic, Ms. Louise Denys Wendling, Mrs. Mary Zenaitis (née Shannon), Dr. Josephine McQueen and Sr. Susan Cleveley; in the 3rd row (left to right) are: Sheila Neysmith, Mrs. Ann Neysmith (née Robson), Mrs. Denise Yazdi (née Patenaude), Ms. Susan O'Reilly, Dr. Maureen Kieley, Sr. Joyce Roberts and Ms. Lesley Elmas (née Cashman)

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

DR. LAURIE BETITO '83 went on to McGill University to complete a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and then a Bachelor of Social Work. Dr. Laurie then went to graduate school, studying Psychology at UOAM where she obtained a Master's and a Doctorate in Psychology, together with postgraduate training in sex therapy. For the last 16 years, Dr. Laurie has hosted a nightly radio show about sex and relationships on CJAD 800 AM. Dr. Laurie is also the President of the Sexual Health Network of Quebec and past president of the Canadian Sex Research Forum. In September 2014, Dr. Laurie released her first book *The Sex Bible for People Over 50*, and since then has been lecturing across North America on the subject of sex and aging.

CLAIRE HUANG KINSLEY '85 is delighted to announce that her partner Jo Roberts' first book, which Claire helped edit and for which she drew the maps, placed second for the 2014 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and was a finalist in the U.S. National Jewish Book Awards. *Contested Land, Contested*

Memory: Israel's Jews and Arabs and the Ghosts of Catastrophe has received critical acclaim from reviewers of diverse political perspectives. Visit joroberts.org for more information.

JASON STARR '01 received a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and Entrepreneurship from McGill University. Jason is currently juggling a full-time job at Globe Electric Company and acting as the head coach of the McGill Redmen baseball team. This is Jason's third year as head coach, and this year the team won the National Championship.

DOMENICO ANDREA MARCONE '02 earned his Bachelor of Engineering from Concordia University in 2006 and his Master's from John Molson School of Business. He married his soulmate, Sabrina Zito, on September 7, 2013. He is currently working at Rolls-Royce Canada Ltd as Manager, Export Control.



• WE WILL MISS •

DIANA VAUTOUR — 1979 —

Diana passed away peacefully in Nanaimo, British Columbia on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. Born in Saint John, New Brunswick she grew up in Montreal and later lived in Richmond Hill, Ontario and in British Columbia. A graduate of Westmount High School, Marianopolis College and McGill University, Diana leaves behind many wonderful and supportive friends. She courageously battled MS for many years - never complaining. She was bright, loving and kind until the end. She will always be remembered and dearly loved by her mother Mary, brother George, sister-in-law Theresa, nephew Jeffrey, niece Michelle, uncle Michael, aunt Bella and many relatives and friends across Canada and in the United States.



GENEVIEVE HELEN (GENNY) MARILLEY — 1989 —

Genevieve passed away suddenly on Sunday, October 26, 2014 at the Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry, Northern Ireland following a hard-fought battle with adrenal cancer. Born in Montreal on April 15, 1970 to Mary (née Burke) and Edward Marilley, Genny grew up in NDG surrounded by a close-knit and large family. She is survived by her parents and five siblings: John (Patricia), Christopher (Désirée), Anne Marie (Mark), Matthew (Sharon) and Timothy. A graduate of École Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Sacred Heart School, Marianopolis College and Concordia University, Genny was deeply involved in humanitarian causes both in Canada and East Timor. Genny's long-standing love of Celtic culture translated her travels into a permanent move to Ireland in 1996, quickly followed by marriage to Donnacha McFeely with whom she raised two adoring sons, Oscar and Altan, in Derry and Donegal. While raising



her own young family, Genny worked with young parents to help ensure a good life start for their children. Genny will be remembered for her quick wit and wonderful story-telling; for her great sense of fun and adventure; for her enduring commitment to community and social justice.

JACLYN LEA (JACKIE) FISHER — 2008 —

Jaclyn passed away on Saturday, March 21, 2015. Jackie was a bright, caring, loving, stylish and graceful young lady, devoted to the ones she loved. A most beloved and cherished gift beyond all expectations to her parents, Rina and Larry, and her sister Rachel. Treasured by her Bubbie



Sonia Lishansky, her uncle Ari, and by all of her family and extended family of friends. She will be deeply missed by her best friends and by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

STOP THE PRESS - THE PAPER CUT CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

"If you want to write something original, you need to be prepared to offend."
— Euirim Choi, President of *The Papercut*, Marianopolis College's student-run newspaper.

The *Papercut* is celebrating its 20th anniversary; however, this publication finds its roots in its predecessor offerings, *The Paper*, *The Median*, and *Marian News* – the College's all-student periodical founded more than 50 years ago. Inception aside, one thing that has never become dated is the commitment by the newspaper's writers to deliver a quality product with meticulous attention to detail.

Choi seems uniquely qualified to be *The Papercut's* current caretaker. Mature beyond his years and wonderfully articulate, Choi is keenly aware of the responsibility of maintaining the high standards expected of the "Marianopolis" mark and of preserving the tradition and voices of past. In fact, Choi views *The Papercut* as a form of archival system, forever suspending in time the opinions of students who came before him and his peers.

Over the years, *The Papercut* has tackled the issues of the day: "Congress Lacking Visibility on Campus, Students Say" (January 26, 2012), "Mourning the Death of Quality Education" (March 25, 1998) and "Give A Bit of Bone Marrow" (February 7, 1995). Although currently funded in part by the Marianopolis Student Union, Choi believes that a review of articles past underscores that the newspaper's writers had (and continue to have) the independence and liberty to freely express their points of view (Choi highlights one writer who recently used vulgar language to effectively communicate the message at hand) and that the newspaper is not beholden to any sacred cows – the College included.

As would be expected, *The Papercut* is available online (thepapercut.ca). But there is something particularly special about holding a copy of the newspaper in your hands (yes – it is certainly still very much a print publication). And Choi is not surprised by this fact. "Students made this [newspaper]. My friends made this. They feel a connection to the story." Choi points out that research demonstrates that an individual retains more information while reading when physically holding a book or document. *Marianopolis Matters* did its own fact-checking – Choi is right on the money (<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/aug/19/readers-absorb-less-kindle-paper-study-plot-e-reader-digitisation>).

Looking forward, Choi contemplates *The Papercut's* biggest challenge. "Fear," Choi states without reservation. Choi believes that political correctness and the trend of mainstream media to play things safe have become the greatest obstacles to original thought. Most writers pen non-controversial articles. Mass media perpetuates an "echo chamber" – where different or competing views are censored, disallowed or otherwise underrepresented. "I'm an enemy of political correctness" states Choi. With such a predisposition, there can be no truer friend to the legacy of this College institution.

"I'M AN ENEMY OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS."



The Papercut Volume 17, Issue 2, October 10, 1996

GRADUATION RINGS AND DIPLOMA FRAMES ARE AVAILABLE.

Contact Christianne at C.MELOCHE@MARIANOPOLIS.EDU.

A SMALL REMINDER THAT COULD MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

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

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



\$5 per month would pay the full tuition fees for 8 exceptional students if your entire alumni year contributed.

\$15 per month would cover the Biology textbook needs of 8 talented students.

\$50 per month would fund student clubs like Global Brigades bringing medication to developing countries.

\$100 per month would allow us to support the Arts by introducing 4 students to the world-class museums of New York City.

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

THE FOUNDATION PROVIDES
FINANCIAL AID TO

1 IN **5**

MARIANOPOLIS STUDENTS
EACH AND EVERY TERM.

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PLEASE DIRECT MY GIFT TO: The area of greatest need
 Scholarships and student financial aid
 The Libby Cahill Book Loan Fund

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Cardholder name _____

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

marianopolis.edu/donate

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