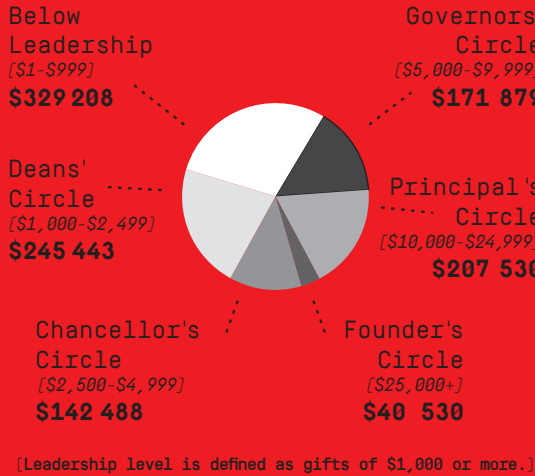


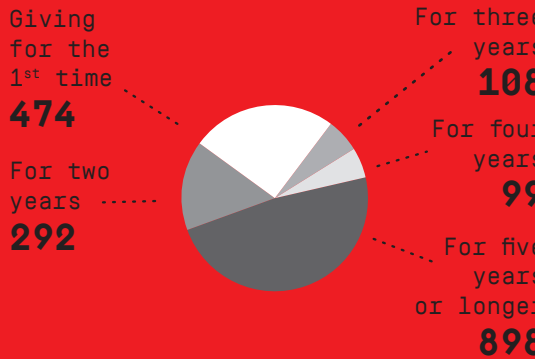
IMPACT OF ANNUAL GIVING 2017

THE MCGILL FUND:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

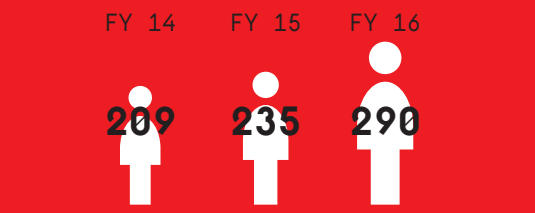
Your gifts to the McGill Fund for the Faculty of Engineering add up...



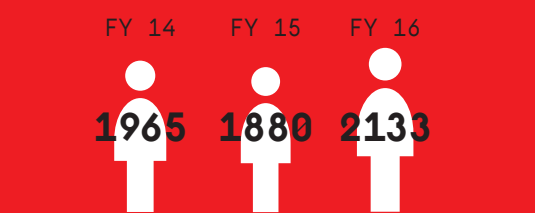
...and your loyalty enables us to provide consistent programs



The number of leadership gifts has been steadily rising...



...and so has the number of non-leadership gifts.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FUTURE STUDENTS AND THANK YOU FOR SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.

A MESSAGE FROM FACULTY ADVANCEMENT BOARD MEMBER, ERIC LAMARRE



Like you, I have also been part of the amazing group of people to have studied and graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at McGill University. For me, McGill was my springboard into professional life. Born and raised in the Saguenay region of Quebec, I came to McGill to

study civil engineering and learn English. I lived in residence and made meaningful connections with people of different cultures and backgrounds. It was a truly eye-opening experience for this Chicoutimi boy!

Later on, the education and training I received at McGill opened doors for me, leading to graduate studies at MIT where I completed a PhD and eventually helping me establish my professional career working with one of the world's most respected consulting firms. I am sure many of you have benefited in a similar way. The McGill experience is unique. One of the reasons why the culture at McGill is so successful is because of the involvement of the alumni. People like us, who step up and decide to help make a difference in the lives of students. In my view, no great university in the world today can exist without a generous and involved alumni community.

For the past year, I have had the honour of sitting on the Faculty Advancement Board, which has enabled me to become directly involved in launching initiatives that impact students. An example of this is the drive to foster a hands-on mentality that enables students to develop real-world skills, even while they are still in school. I'm a firm believer in the idea that the best way to teach leadership is to put people in situations where they need it. The classroom will always be the backbone, but it only goes so far. We are finding ways to take students even further.

The McGill Fund is at the heart of making it possible for the Faculty to embark on these new initiatives. It supports activities that result in not only learning opportunities for students, but challenging experiences that enhance their personal development. So by supporting the McGill Fund at the leadership level like many of us do each year, you are helping develop tomorrow's leaders. This report will show you some of these students, as well as some of the alumni who have mobilized to help them. Thank you for supporting this unique institution that we all cherish.

Thank you!

Eric Lamarre (BEng '88)
Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company

MAKING ENGINEERING MORE EQUITABLE

The 2nd Conference on Diversity in Engineering [CDE] took place November 2016 at McGill and enabled the engineering community to discuss its role in designing a more equitable and accessible society.

For co-chair Jessica Dakkak (BEng'17), one of the best moments at the CDE came when a young woman spoke about what it was like to lose the ability to walk while still a student at McGill. As she related the difficulties of continuing to do her regular classroom circuit around the institution's 18th century buildings in a wheelchair, Dakkak realized why diversity was such a seminal topic for Engineering students.

Diversity has become a pervasive subject across Canada over the last 10 years, and no less so in Quebec and Montreal. From anecdotal evidence of the lack of representation on Quebec's television screens, to the high unemployment statistics among Montreal's visible minority communities, eyes are being opened now to the need for action. The Conference on Diversity in Engineering is one step in the Faculty's initiatives to create future leaders who will drive that necessary social change.

The Courage to Talk
The CDE is an annual initiative of the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students. The CDE transitioned out of the Federation's long-standing National



We need to acknowledge discrimination, according to Carmel-Antoine Bessard (BEng'04) JUNJI NISHIHATA

Conference on Women in Engineering as a way to develop more knowledge about the variety of individuals, cultures and perspectives that can be found within engineering communities.

The event consisted of a series of workshops, panels and professional development activities—in total over 60 sessions were held on themes that ran the gamut of diversity issues—from anti-oppression to the experience of being trans in the workplace.

Carmel-Antoine Bessard (BEng'04), an environmental engineer for the City of Montreal, was a speaker at the event. A former president of Promoting Opportunities for Women in Engineering (POWE) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Bessard has become involved in her own Afro-descendent community in Montreal North, promoting the value of education to black youth to slow down student attrition.

"I was quite nervous speaking to the students," Bessard recalls, "because I had to tell them that it was going to be tough in the professional world, and to get ready for it. It wasn't meant to discourage them, but rather to tell them that you can only play the game when you know what that game is."

That game, Bessard explained to the students, is what an average day on the job can be like as a visible minority—being treated like a child, going unheard at meetings, or fearful reactions from co-workers because black women "get angry more." It's the kind of underlying racism that Bessard thinks we need to have the courage to acknowledge.

"It's uncomfortable, and some are going to run away as a form of protection. But we have to talk about it, really profoundly talk about it. As engineers, our training instructs us to go to the source of a problem to learn how to solve it—diversity is a social-engineering problem, and as such, we need to first look at what the real problem is."

This belief in the potential of engineering to enable diversity is echoed by the many volunteers who ran the three-day event. Conference co-chair Jessica Dakkak is convinced that conferences like the CDE add a sense of purpose to student life in the Faculty of Engineering.

"As engineers, our training instructs us to go to the source of a problem to learn how to solve it – diversity is a social-engineering problem, as such, we need to look at what the real problem is."

Carmel-Antoine Bessard (BEng'04)

"Engineers have a big role to play in making objects and society as a whole more accessible," Dakkak says. "National conferences like this are an opportunity for us to understand different experiences across Canada, which exposes students to different problems than we have here. It's really important to creating a global awareness of issues affecting engineering." ♥



Mark Levine [BEng'91] is a proponent of innovation at the Faculty of Engineering.

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Alumnus Mark Levine's longstanding involvement with the McGill Fund lets him help the next generation of McGill innovators walk to the beat of their own drums.

"I want to inspire young people to take risks – not to go right away down the corporate track – and do something they are really passionate about."

"I'm creative. I don't like to be boxed in. I like to invent and design solutions to problems." Mark Levine (BEng'91) settles down to tell his story of how a self-taught programmer morphed into a successful entrepreneur, and lately, into a proponent of innovation at the Faculty of Engineering.

"I'm also very passionate about entrepreneurship," he continues. "If I have a talent, it's that when I look at technology and at someone's idea, I can tell the difference between a really cool idea that won't make money versus one that's also really cool and could be a winner."

That instinct for success is one that Levine wants to put into service for students at McGill's Faculty of Engineering. The University, after all, is a family affair for Levine: he's the second in a clan of three generations of McGill Engineering students. His father, Arthur Levine (BEng'61), graduated from Electrical Engineering, and his son, Noah Levine (BEng'20), is currently enrolled in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Levine's connection with the University is inspiring him with a sense of purpose as he gives a boost to the next generation of young entrepreneurs.

Learning the ropes

As a teenager, Levine gleaned a curiosity for business from his father, a designer, engineer and professor at Dawson College who built a successful computer hardware and software company. Young Mark Levine taught himself programming as a teen and soon started picking up odd jobs around the neighbourhood.

"My father and I are accidental entrepreneurs," says Levine. "Neither of us are MBAs." Accidental, perhaps, but nonetheless very adept. By the time Levine began Electrical and Computer Engineering at McGill he had already started working part-time at the firm. It is where he would land after McGill, collaborating with his father's business partner on a disbursement cost recovery system called Copitrak. After taking over the business and modernizing it into a market-leading document processing system, he sold the company to software heavy-hitter Nuance Communications Inc.

Being something for someone

When Copitrak was absorbed by Nuance at the end of 2012, Levine had to find his way around the cavernous beehive of a transnational corporation. The experience has left him philosophical about what he values most in business.

"When I built Copitrak I felt that I was a father to all my employees," he remembers. "I had to take care of them. It's not all about the product. People were depending on my work for their livelihoods. Balance is critical. A company has to be profitable for the right reasons: to pay its people and make good products that do good things."

This moral fibre brought Levine to inject his entrepreneurial skills into the student experience at McGill Engineering. Although he had been a donor to the McGill Fund since his graduation in 1992, he began to step up his involvement by giving to the Innovation Fund, sitting on the Fund's committee, and speaking at Faculty of Engineering events on innovation and technology. His relationship with the Faculty opened the door to him for what can be achieved through giving and a meaningful interaction with the University.

"I contribute to the Faculty for two reasons—first because I want to give young entrepreneurs a break with those difficult start-up costs, and second because I want to financially encourage students to do creative work in their fields in the summer months. McGill gave me a license to work, a degree, and a school with a reputation; now I want to inspire young people to take risks—not go right away down the corporate track—and do something they are really passionate about." ♥

CLEARING THE SMOKE

Their legal struggle may be over, but medical users of cannabis in Canada still have an uphill battle when facing the drug's dubious public image.

A startup launched by McGill students called Blühen has designed a smokeless device that gives medicinal end-users a discreet way to use the substance. We talk to one of the company's founders, McGill Engineering graduate student Adeola Odusanya [MEng'18].*

What is this device exactly?

→ Adeola Odusanya: It's essentially a handheld dispenser for cannabis extract. You insert a cartridge, set the dose you want, and dispense it into your food or drink. The device then communicates with your phone or computer, allowing you to track the dosage. Given the negative image of smoking marijuana, our product can be a discreet method for medical users to take the drug. Collecting data on the usage will also help doctors understand what the effect of the medication is and to prescribe more accurate dosages.

Regardless of its medical advantages, creating a business around what a soon-to-be-legalized recreational drug must be tricky. Have you faced any backlash from potential investors?

→ Odusanya: Most of the time when we pitch our company we have been received warmly. Investors understand that legalization is inevitable. They understand the benefits of cannabis, medically and financially. But it's true that there are risks associated with a product designed for marijuana, and some investors aren't willing to take those risks.

Do you think there is an underlying mistrust of marijuana?

→ Odusanya: Some investors have views on cannabis that are slower to change, perhaps. We have to be understanding of them. Cannabis has been criminalized for over a hundred years. There has been a negative stereotyping of those who use cannabis, the drug has been associated with difficult times in countries like Mexico and Colombia, and marijuana has



Adeola Odusanya [MEng'18]: "The Faculty of Engineering has been with us every step of the way."

been classed with drugs like cocaine and heroin—understandably, all of that comes together to make people fearful.

Is it justified? → Odusanya: We need to be sure of what the real long-term effects of cannabis are, and without deregulation we can't know. Because of the legal difficulty of doing research on cannabis, we still have very little conclusive evidence about its effects. Let science show us what it does. After cannabis is legalized next year, Health Canada will need information about what is considered safe and medically useful. Our product can also provide a baseline of information that will be useful for pharmaceuticals and governments.

Blühen was a finalist in the McGill Dobson Cup and has been awarded a McGill Engineering TechAccel grant [Editor's Note: See sidebar]. You must be encouraged.

→ Odusanya: Being a finalist in the Dobson Cup this winter was a fantastic experience. We learned a lot about setting up a business and made some important contacts in the industry. And the Faculty of Engineering has been with us every step of the way. With the TechAccel funding we have been able to create two streams of devices, which will be launched by the end of this year.

What are your initial goals?

→ Odusanya: We are producing a couple thousand dispensers to see how the market responds initially. For the first year or two we are going

to concentrate on the medical market and limit sales to respected institutions in Montreal and Toronto. We need to be sure we can connect with our customers and get reliable data on how they are using the product. I am sure that this will help convince investors that our technology has an important market. ♥



McGill Faculty of Engineering EngInE and TechAccel Grants

The Faculty of Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship [EngInE] hub focuses on tech-based innovation and entrepreneurship and serves as a resource centre for other technology-driven ventures across McGill.

The TechAccel grants help students jump-start their ideas. These grants come out of the Innovation Fund, which is supported by gifts from alumni and other donors.

*After completing her undergraduate degree in Engineering, Adeola Odusanya has gone on to pursue her Masters in Chemical Engineering. A native of Brampton, Ontario, Odusanya is also a former president of the National Society of Black Engineers.



The Civil Engineering Class on a field trip to Ottawa in 1975.

JOHN TING

CLASS OF '75: "YOU CAN'T MAKE NEW OLD FRIENDS."

Alumni class reunions are times we can relive a shared experience and reconnect with people that have been important in our lives.

For many alumni, these reunions are also an opportunity to make a change in the educational experience of today's students through class gifts. Since 1935, there have been 17 class reunion gifts that have contributed to the McGill Fund, and the Class of 1975 Endowed Gift is an extraordinary example of the interdepartmental teamwork that goes into making them happen.

At their 40th reunion in 2015, a handful of Faculty of Engineering graduates from the class of 1975 got together and decided they wanted to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of current and future students. Their work reaching out to 178 alumni colleagues has paid off: in only 18 months, the seven-member committee has almost clinched its five-year goal to provide annual funding for two in-course scholarships and two Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering (SURE) Awards in perpetuity. Now they are looking forward to exceeding this goal over the remaining three years by adding further new donations. Here's the team, and here is how they did it.



Shelley Bacon [Metallurgical]
"Once you became an undergraduate engineering student, you had a sense of identity, and you tended to stick together." The impetus for the Class of 1975 Endowed Gift came from several directions at the same time, but most credit Shelley Bacon and Jan Nessel with grabbing the reins to steer the idea into reality. After an initial meeting with University Advancement in October 2015, during the 40th homecoming reunion, the pair left convinced the project was viable. "We just wanted to create something, and it turned out surprisingly well," says Bacon. **Shelley Bacon is the CEO of Northern Cables Inc., and lives in Smiths Falls, Ontario.**



Jan Nessel [Metallurgical]
"We may all have left McGill but McGill has not left us." Nessel fanned out with Bacon to put together a core group of donors to launch the project. "It has certainly helped to have individuals with top-level business and university management experience," Nessel says. "Also, having individuals in both Canada and the U.S. have added to that perspective." Nessel points to the enthusiasm and close involvement of the University Advancement staff as key to moving the project forward. **Jan Nessel currently lives in St. Catharines, Ontario. He is a mineral processing consultant at his own firm, NesseTech Consulting Services.**



Allan Yip [Electrical]
"It's about renewing friendships, starting new ones, and reminiscing about old times that played a great part in who and what I am today." Allan Yip was one of three people Shelley and Jan first inducted to the cause. Fortunately, Yip had kept great connections with his class from Electrical: "This was definitely an asset when getting the project off the ground," he says. "Enthusiasm for our school is a big motivation." **Allan Yip, who lives in Arlington, Texas, has been working with American Airlines as the manager for Simulator Evaluation, and is the liaison with the FAA with regards to flight simulator qualifications.**



John Wills [Chemical]
"The project has brought people back together and allowed for new friendships to be made." John Wills is sometimes described by the others as the quarterback or leader of the group, but he is much demurer: "It's a team effort all the way," he says. "Everyone's participated equally and taken the lead at times. And the rest of the alumni have been strongly behind the fund. There's one anonymous classmate who is matching all new donations up to \$500 per donation per year. What could better personify the team spirit of what our class is accomplishing?" **After retiring from Masco Corporation in 2007, John Wills divides his time between serving on corporate boards from his home in Aiken, South Carolina and spending time with his wife and children and grandchildren, now living in Iowa City, Iowa and Sydney, Australia.**



John Ting [Civil]
"You're not really able to appreciate McGill Engineering until after you've left. It's a shared experience that you can't replicate." During a stint as Dean of Engineering at the UMass Lowell, John learned about the role of communications in creating synergies around alumni fundraising projects. From making the Facebook page, to populating it with photos of alumni from all the departments of McGill Engineering's Class of 1975, John has been working to keep the Gift's donors in touch. Ultimately, he believes that reunions are the best way to keep the alumni spirit strong. **John Ting lives in Groton, Massachusetts and is currently a faculty member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMass Lowell.**



\$276k
has been reached
of \$280K goal



One annual scholarship
and one annual SURE
grant have already been
awarded.



Rick DeWolf [Mining]
"It comes down to the quality of education and the long-term friendships you develop, and not just within your own department." Recognizing that if they wanted to maximize their success, the group needed to include individuals from the remaining two departments, mechanical and mining engineering. Rick Dewolf and Edward Lam were invited to join the project. Luckily for the group, Rick's consulting experience has also made him an excellent researcher: "It's been challenging because a number of individuals like myself left the mining field and moved all over the place. But I pretty much found everyone in our class." **Raised in Nova Scotia, Rick DeWolf migrated west through Calgary to end up in his current home in Parksville, British Columbia, where he works as an independent energy consultant.**



Edward Lam [Mechanical]
"Now is the right time to reconnect." For Edward Lam, this project has been like a missing person search. "I moved around a lot in my career," he says, "and so I had lost contact with a lot of my colleagues from Mechanical. I had to go through the yearbooks and search the Internet to find them." Although Lam recognizes the great work the committee has done in getting so much support for the class, he is quick to mention the role other individuals in fostering the spirit of the Class of 1975: "Esther Mar, our former EUS president—she's the glue that keeps us all coming back every five years," he notes. **Currently retired, Edward Lam spent his career in the public service procuring major defense equipment for Canada.**

THANK YOU.

飲水思源

"When you drink the water,
remember the spring"

Chinese proverb

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Published by the Faculty of

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