

# McGill News

alumni magazine fall 2008

## PLUS

Putting a Stop  
to Cyberbullying

The Right-Hand Men  
of Canadian Politics

Words for the Road:  
Valedictorians  
Have Their Say

## THE HEART OF A CHAMPION

Why Mike Babcock, BEd'86, is a winner, on and off the ice

ASA BOXER, MA'04, won the Canadian Authors Association Award for Poetry in May for his first collection of poems, *The Mechanical Bird* (Véhicule Press). The poems explore the natural and man-made worlds with an imaginative mix of fact and invention.

MARK ANTHONY KARANTABIAS, BA'06, graduated with a Master's in Classical Studies in October 2007 from the University of Ottawa and was the recipient of the Dean's Scholarship for his master's degree.

AMANDA T. QUAN, BA'07, was awarded a Diversity Scholarship by the law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP. Amanda is a first-year law student at the University of Akron School of Law. This scholarship recognizes first-year minority law students who have demonstrated leadership skills, a commitment to excellence, service to the community and academic strength.

## EDUCATION

CHRISTINE HELMER, BEd'87, has recently moved to Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., as Professor of Religion and Adjunct Professor of German. Christine is married to Robert Orsi, who is a professor of religion and history. They have a son, Anthony Orsi, who is three years old.

CLAUDE ANDRÉ DESPARD, DipEd'89, is the new Principal of FACE High School in Montreal, which belongs to both the Commission scolaire de Montréal and the English Montreal School Board. FACE welcomes students from kindergarten to secondary five and specializes in musical, stage and fine arts. He had been the principal of Louise-Trichet High School for five years and previously worked as a high school vice-principal and an English teacher.



PETER BRÉGG/MACLEANS

**SALLY ARMSTRONG, BEd'66, DLitt'02**, an author, journalist, human rights activist and documentary filmmaker, was presented with the Canadian Journalism Foundation's 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award in May. Sally is the former editor-in-chief of *Homemaker's Magazine*, an editor-at-large at *Chatelaine* and the author of *Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of the Women of Afghanistan*. In her work, she has tackled issues such as child prostitution in Bangladesh, war crimes in the Balkans and abuse in women's prisons. Past recipients of this prize include Norman Webster, Knowlton Nash and June Callwood.

SOPHIE PRINCE, BEd'99, MA'06, is publishing an article in the magazine *Oriflamme* entitled, "Histoire de la langue française." Sophie is currently a French teacher at John Abbott College in Sainte Anne de Bellevue.

## ENGINEERING

G. DENTON CLARK, MEng'52, has been named Trustee Emeritus of the Florida Institute of Technology. Denton was a trustee for 25 years and chairman of the board of trustees for three of those years. Denton has the distinction of being the last chairman, president and CEO of RCA Inc. Canada.

MARC RYAN, BEng'69, worked as a lawyer for the Quebec Securities Commission, BCE Inc. and Bell Canada. He launched an independent investor website in March 2008 at the McGill Faculty Club. The site provides information to investors who wish to manage their investments themselves. The site also comments on current financial events and weaknesses of the financial system from the viewpoint of independent investors. Access to the site is free and it is intended to be an unbiased source of information on investing. Marc is the founder of the site and also gives conferences based on the phi-

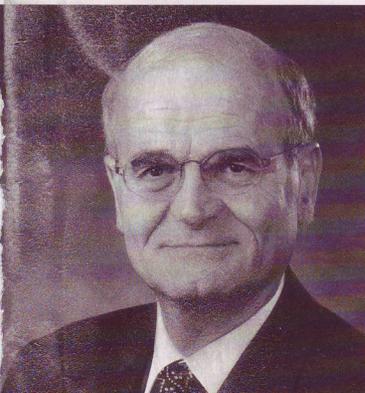
losophy of the site, notably the advantages of self-investing. For more information: [www.independentinvestor.info](http://www.independentinvestor.info).

ROE-HOAN YOON, MSc(Eng)'71, PhD'77, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in February 2008. He has contributed significantly to the technology and science of mineral processing – specifically, clean coal technology. In 1980, he and his colleagues at Virginia Tech developed a technology using small air bubbles to remove various impurities from coal. He also directs the Virginia Tech's Center for Advanced Separation Technologies, which aims to develop technologies to produce clean fuels from domestic energy resources.

ROBERT CRAWHALL, BEng'80, MEng'86, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of NanoQuébec. Prior to this appointment, Robert served as president and CEO of the National Capital Institute of Telecommunications.

ARUN SOMANI, MEng'83, PhD'85, spent the past 11 years at Iowa State University and was promoted to Distinguished Professor in 2007, an honour awarded to two or three ISU faculty each year. This year Arun will be receiving an award for departmental leadership (ISU presents one such prize per year). Arun is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and an Association for Computing Machinery Distinguished Engineer and has served as an IEEE distinguished speaker and IEEE distinguished tutorial speaker.

ROBERTO RUELAS-GOMEZ, MEng'86, was elected President of the Colegio de Ingenieros Mecanicos Electricistas in Guanajuato, Mexico, for a two-year term. Roberto is also a member of the Mexican National Committee on Standardization of Electrical Installations and lives with his wife, Alicia, and three children in Leon,



**ANDREW BENEDEK, BEng'66, DSc'05**, is the first recipient of the new Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize. Andrew founded ZENON Environmental in 1980 and led the firm's efforts as it pioneered the development of low-pressure membranes that enabled drinking water to be produced from even highly polluted water. The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize is an international award recognizing outstanding contributions in the world of water management. Named after the first prime minister of Singapore, the award comes with a cash prize worth \$215,000 (U.S.) and is sponsored by the Singapore Millennium Foundation.