

# perspectives



## Inside this issue:

### Features

- Music to my Ears
- Profile: Stephen Hyucke

### Editorial

### Employee Health & Wellness

### Humour

### Mac Facts

### Retrospectives

### Hidden Treasures

## Features

### Music to my Ears

First Place, Best Feature

*By Paul Rapoport*

Many people both inside and outside the university wonder about research carried out by professors. In fields like science and medicine, research is often in the news. In humanities and social sciences, it is less publicized. But just as much goes on in those fields, as I hope the following suggests.

When I was 18, I came across a new book about orchestral music. In it was an essay about an English composer I'd never heard of. He had apparently written more symphonies for orchestra than anyone in a couple of centuries, with his most active and individual period of composition from his early 70s to his early 90s.

It seemed like fiction. But there it was, the whole story in that little essay, with printed music examples that were tantalizing and clearly representative of an extraordinary musical mind.

I wrote to the essay's author, also in England. He arranged for a tape recording of the composer's music to be sent to me from California. When I played it, I was dumbfounded. How could music so splendid and original escape nearly everyone's attention?

The story becomes stranger. The composer, Havergal Brian, was born in 1876. He wrote music from his teens until he was 93. He didn't hear any of his symphonies played until he was 78, and his First Symphony received its first performance when he was 85!

*My research has often tried to bring to the fore composers whose music is fascinating but who seem ignored.*

It is that Symphony No. 1 whose recording had, as the English say, knocked me sideways. As a result of my experience, I resolved to enter a Master's degree program in Music and write about the symphony and its composer. I also desperately wanted to interview him. So in 1970, when he was 94 and I was 21, I wrote to him. Immediately came a beautifully handwritten reply inviting me to visit.

On July 15th, 1971 my wife and I found ourselves in the Brians' apartment in southern England, as he talked about musical life from as long ago as the 1880s. He was eloquent and sharp. He'd known someone who had played in an orchestra conducted by Hector Berlioz, born in 1803. He may even have met someone who had met Beethoven, born in 1770!

He vividly described to us an event from five years earlier. The first professional performance of his Symphony No. 1 had just concluded in London. At that point, he was called to take a bow before an audience of 7,000 people wildly cheering him and his music. At the age of 90, he *ran* onto the stage! It was the greatest single moment in his long, productive career. *(Continued on next page)*



I was pleased to write about that symphony and to increase performances of Brian's music when I could. He told someone that I seemed like him when he was my age -- the ultimate compliment.

My research has often tried to bring to the fore composers whose music is fascinating and first-class but who seem ignored, remaining in the margins of music life and history. I have travelled many times to Europe, particularly Scandinavia. There I have encountered musicians and others glad to have the cultures of their small countries receive the attention of someone from the large English-speaking world.

*Along the way I have discovered other magnificent composers with experiences unlike any I have known myself...*

Along the way I have discovered other magnificent composers with experiences unlike any I have known myself -- for example, Vagn Holmboe in Denmark, who lived through the horrible Nazi occupation of his country with amazing hope. Allan Petterson in Sweden suffered from awful rheumatoid arthritis that kept him a prisoner in his own apartment, four floors up with no elevator, in an old section of Stockholm. The Latvian Talivaldis Kenins, living in Canada for more than 50 years now, made a traumatic escape from Germany into France at the height of the Second World War.

In conversation, Kenins tended to be loud and emphatic. When I was at dinner with him once in a Toronto café, a woman unknown to us came over to our table. She said sincerely that she had never enjoyed a restaurant conversation so much -- ours!

Kaikhosru Sorabji, a Parsi in southwest England, suffered from racism and homophobia. He had a fierce reputation. Originally he referred to me as a "plaguey nuisance." How do I know? His letter to a friend with that lovely epithet is sitting in an archive in Mills Library! We later became friends; shortly before he died, he referred to me as "Brother Paul."

More than just their hardships, of course, the rich histories of these people, melded to their personal characters and remarkable creative abilities, are crucial to the music they composed. It has been my privilege to uncover a small portion of this, in more than 40 years of writing, translating, and editing, as a music analyst, historian, and critic.

Unsurprisingly, I retain vivid records and memories of some truly great people from the last 130 years. In different cultural and political circumstances, and in some cases with less abrasive personalities, they might have become better known. But ultimately that didn't matter to them, or to me. Their work, in the intangible medium of music, has illuminated humanity in ways that are spectacularly immediate, always challenging, and endlessly rewarding. I shall go on learning from them as long as I can continue to learn anything.

I had to go out to find what I was looking for in some very unexpected places. The result was constant revelation, and deep amazement at human consciousness and spirituality through unique, transcendent creativity. And all of that has been the trip that is hardest to explain, but the worthiest of all.

Dr. Rapoport was a professor at McMaster from 1977 to 2005.



## McMaster Employee Profile: Stephen Huycke

By Sarah Lampson

Our highly motivated and efficient coworker Stephen Huycke has impressed all of us in the Office of Research Contracts & Intellectual Property since his arrival at McMaster in March.

Responsible for the management and administration of the university's intellectual property portfolio, Stephen manages to remain exceptionally helpful and pleasant while extremely busy.

Stephen's role is vital to our office and campus and he not only juggles his multiple responsibilities exceptionally well but provides vision and goals for our group through his expert organizational planning.

Patiently assisting and instructing his colleagues on best practices for use of our large and ever growing database, Stephen is the one that keeps us on track for one of the most important aspects of our jobs: constantly improving McMaster's intellectual property procedures. His extensive management experience is evidenced by

assisting colleagues to meet their diverse goals. "Stephen is so sharp and a lovely person, his personality and organizational skills make it a pleasure to work with him, even on the most difficult and time consuming of tasks." says Barbara Hourigan, one of my colleagues who works closely with Stephen.

*Stephen is so sharp and a lovely person, his personality and organizational skills make it a pleasure to work with.*

Outside of our office Stephen's indispensable advice to faculty and staff is also greatly valued. He has also contributed his knowledge to refine the educational seminars our Executive Director provides to different groups on campus and at our affiliated hospitals.

Prior to his intellectual property work at McMaster and a Toronto law firm, Stephen had another direction in mind. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in history and law and a Bachelor of Public Administration, Stephen enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at St. Augustine's Seminary at the Toronto School of Theology. As evidenced by his interest in public administration and the priesthood, Stephen has a passion to help and serve society through facilitating lasting and meaningful change. While completing courses in philosophy and theology, Stephen, through prayer and consultation, discerned that the priesthood was not where he was called at this time and began his career in intellectual property.

Obviously Stephen's interests and talents are wide ranging and we are fortunate that his unique, reflective journey has led him to McMaster where our community can reap the benefits of his contributions. Also included in Stephen's interests are his favourite television show "West Wing" and Canadian politics. A man of fervid political participation, Stephen has served as the Deputy Returning Officer in both provincial and federal elections. Stephen enjoys history, particularly Canadian and church history, is an avid reader and an excellent cook. Despite his hectic commute from Markham, Stephen returns home each day and takes pride in preparing a delicious meal for his family. Those of us who are privileged to work with Stephen know that with his kind heart and generous spirit, he personifies the motto of his former school, St. Augustine's: "As the Sun Reigns in the Heavens so Charity reigns in our Hearts".



## Editorial

### Welcome to the September 2005 issue of Perspectives!

We know it has been a long time since we published our last issue. It's also been a long time since we ran our contest last Fall for articles. We apologize for the delay, but there were many things that contributed to our delay in publishing a new issue. The migration of web servers, the redevelopment of the [Working at McMaster website](#) and some changes in the Editorial Board helped us to fall behind.

One change to the Editorial Board we would like to mention is that our previous editor, Victoria Miecznikowski has left the University to join the City of Hamilton in their Corporate Communications area. We would like to thank Victoria for her hard work and dedication to Perspectives and wish her every success in her new role. We will be choosing a new Editor in the very near future.

In this issue you will find the articles of our contest winners from last fall along with other timely and useful information. Our publication schedule is now back on track, so watch for new issues in December 2005, March 2006 and June 2006.

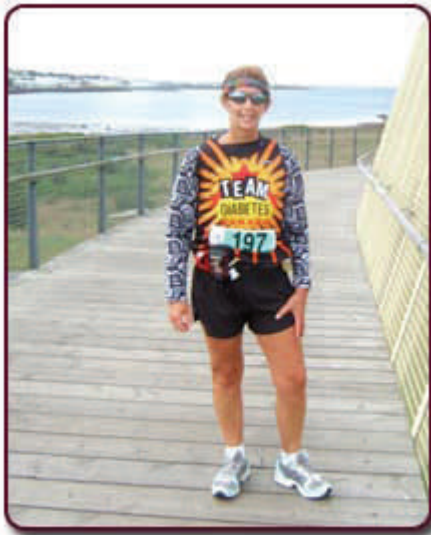
Thank you for your patience. We truly hope you enjoy this issue of Perspectives.

## Employee Health & Wellness

### She Did It!

Jill Axisa Joins the Fire and Ice Marathon in Iceland to Support Diabetes Research

By Marlene Monster



Maybe it was not quite her "best personal time", but Jill Axisa finished the Fire and Ice Marathon in 4 hours and 48 minutes. Arriving in Iceland at 6.30 AM on August 18, too early to book into the guest house, she took a 3 hour drive to the Blue Lagoon. This is Iceland's famous geothermal spa where waters spout from underground at various warm temperatures. Very relaxing! En route she saw not a single soul outside (sheep don't count). In Reykjavik, as well, there was no one on the streets. However, the

Streams are clean enough to drink; bottled water is non-existent. Waterfalls, glaciers and hot springs make Iceland a trekker's paradise. Nevertheless, it is a most expensive place to live. One Big Mac, no fries, costs C\$14.80. Family debt is passed onto the next generation.

Since her return, Jill is still on a runner's high. She knows how good it feels to get out there and move. her marathon [raised over \\$13,000 for diabetes research](#) in Canada. Because of her example, eight to ten friends have started running! She would encourage any runner to try a marathon, half a marathon, even a walk in support of a favourite cause. If not a marathon, a short walk every day, water and apple in hand, is a start to better fitness.

Energy really does come from exercise. As Jill Axisa puts it, "I'm pushing ahead my "best before" date." We can do it too!

# Humour

## Lost in Translation

First Place, Best Humour

*By Madeline Barr*

It was a day of a new school, new classes and, best of all, new friends. Nobody knew me on that first day of college, so what a perfect opportunity for first impressions and to be whoever I wanted to be.

The instructor decided to start the day with an ice-breaking exercise and paired us off into groups of two. We had 10 minutes to learn about our partner and then stand up and introduce them to the class.

My partner's name was Nazraldine Saloob. It took me about 5 minutes alone to understand his broken English and learn how to pronounce his name properly. In the next couple of minutes I found out that he was married, had four children and was from Africa. Nazraldine learned that I had just finished high school and enjoyed basketball and music.

"Time's up!" hollered the instructor. As the introductions started at the other end of the class Nazraldine tapped me on the shoulder.

"Madeline, do you have a boyfriend?" he said in his thick accent. I was a little irritated that he was asking more questions while the other introductions had started, but I thought that was an important piece of information people should know about me.

"Yes," I whispered.

"What does he do?"

I quickly replied, "He's a mechanic."

Satisfied with my answers Nazraldine smiled and nodded. "Good, good. I will say that."

Finally it was our turn. I stood up and introduced Nazraldine and told the class everything I had learned about him. Then Nazraldine stood and did the same with a closing statement of, "... and she has a **mechanical boyfriend.**"

After a brief, awkward silence, that felt like an eternity, the class broke out in laughter.

So much for first impressions.

Madeline Barr is a Client Services Analyst with McMaster University Technology Services



# Mac Facts

## What's on the Menu?

By Joanne Kehoe

If you have a craving, it is likely the McMaster campus has an eating establishment that will satisfy it. New dining outlets are popping up everywhere offering taste experiences for every palate. Why not take the opportunity to sample from a different one each week? Here's a rundown of dining outlets by campus building...bon appetit!

### *Institute for Applied Health Sciences*

**Café 2000** – Upscale café offering tasty choices from Mr. Sub, Pizza Pizza and Tim Hortons.



### *Michael G DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery*

**Café One** – Grab freshly brewed Tim Horton's coffee as well as many other delicious snack selections.

### *Commons Building*

**Commons Marketplace** – Creative and delicious menu choices including “design your own” stir-fry pasta, nacho bars or banana splits together with the popular Piller's Deli, Sizzles' Grill, Pacific Rim Asian cuisine, Your Healthy Choice vegetarian offerings and gourmet baked goods.



### *Refectory*

**Bridges Café** – Tasty, vegetarian-concept cafeteria catering to the ideological and religious dietary needs of students, staff, and faculty on campus.

### *Mary Keyes Residence*

**East Meets West Bistro** – Featuring international cuisines prepared by professional chefs; gourmet pizza prepared in wood stone pizza oven, rotisserie menu and Asian stir-fry wokked before your eyes.

**Mac's Mini Mart** – Beside the Bistro, Mac's Mini Mart offers an in-house “Needa Pita” brand, Tim Hortons menu items, C-Store products and Asian snack selections.

### *Burke Science Building*

Hava Java – Serving Starbuck's coffee, latte, cappuccino and a variety of delicious treats.

### *McMaster Student Centre*

**La Piazza** – Featuring display cooking of breakfast, lunch & dinner items at Creation X, pasta stir fries at Tomasito's, gourmet baked goods at Bakery Magnifique and freshly prepared sandwiches, subs and wraps at Piller's Deli.

**Made in Japan Teriyaki Experience** – Japanese cooking of fresh vegetables, Yakosabi (Japanese Noodles), steamed Japanese Rice, and a wide selection of meats, seafood and sushi.

**Williams Coffee Pub** – Specializing in gourmet coffees and beverages such as fruit smoothies and iced drinks, as well as decadent pastries and desserts. Chester New Hall Mac Express Café - Freshly brewed coffee, cappuccino, cold beverages, pastries, sandwiches and more.

### *John Hodgins Engineering Building*

**Mac Express** – Get your cup of java, cappuccino, ice-cold drinks or sample some of the many pastries, sandwiches and snacks available.

### *Hamilton Hall*

**Math Café** – stop in and sample delicious specialty coffees and an assortment of desserts.



### *Information Technology*

**Building Techwave Café** – Indulge in delicious baked goods and specialty Starbucks coffees. Togo Salmon Hall Quarters - a Restaurant & Night Club open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and featuring a roadhouse-style menu with such daily specials as wings, ribs and fish and chips.

### *Wentworth House*

**The Phoenix** - Owned and operated by the Graduate Students Association, the ever-popular Phoenix serves appetizers, salads, sandwiches and roadhouse-style food throughout the afternoon and evening with a large patio open during the warmer months.

### *Downtown Centre*

**Gallery Café** – The basement café is open all day and features soups, sandwiches, fresh baked goods and innovative daily specials in a quaint atmosphere

Joanne Kehoe is a Program Manager with the Centre for Continuing Education

## Retrospectives

### **Fifty Years of Family History at McMaster**

First Place, Best Retrospective

*By Marlene Monster*



From the fifties to the present, a member of the Monster family has been employed at the university.

When Jan (John) Monster, a Chemical Engineer from The Netherlands, arrived in Hamilton on May 10, 1954, his family tree became inextricably entwined with McMaster University. Almost immediately, he was hired to work as a research associate for Dr. Harry Thode. At this time, Dr. Thode was pioneering research in the field of sulphur isotopes. McMaster was the first university in North America to own a mass spectrometer, a machine vital to the study of isotopes. Jan was an expert at using the spectrometer, and, indeed, was also well-known for his contributions to Dr. Thode's work.

Marsha (Monster) Zagorac (Jan's youngest daughter) remembers her days as a secretary in various departments including Pediatrics, Biology, and Economics from 1975-83. Those were the days when you could smoke at your desk, but women were not allowed to wear pants, only skirts or dresses were permitted. Bob and Jeff Zagorac, Marsha's twin sons, are both 3rd year Mac students in the software engineering programme. They are active member of the Solar Car team.

John Monster Jr., Jan's second son, worked as a Systems Analyst in the fledling CIS department when it was first established in the late 1960's. The A.B. Bournes building was then known as Senior Sciences and McMaster had one of the larger "mainframes" of the day, a CDC 6000 by name.

*From the fifties to the present, a member of the Monster family has been employed at the university.  
It has been a special experience for all of us working at Mac.*

Continuing in the computer tradition, Chris Monster, Jan's grandson, was known around campus as "the Apple Guy". He became possibly the first trained Macintosh computer technician and worked in the microcomputer department of the Bookstore from 1986-96. *(Continued on next page)*

Jan's granddaughter Tamara (Tammy) Monster joined the trade book department of the bookstore in 1990. That same year she was accepted into Mac as a part-time student, and graduated with a degree in Humanities, a B.A. in English. She states, "Over the years, I have met many wonderful faculty, staff and students who have imparted a great deal of wisdom to me." Currently Tamara is feeling right at home in Mills Memorial Library, in a job as a copy cataloguer — one that she really enjoys.

For a short time in the late 1960's, Hendrike (Jan's wife) also worked in Mills Library. McMaster processed books for the newly formed Community Colleges and hired extra help for the project.

As for the future, Marlene (Jan's daughter-in-law) will likely retire in 2005, after 25 fast flying years in the Bookstore.

It has been a special experience for all of us working at Mac. Tammy chose a quote from Richard Sheridan's play "A School for Scandal", Act ii, Sc 2, to sum up the Monster-McMaster connection: "I leave my character behind me."

And so we all have left an indelible mark on McMaster University. Our character is left behind in history; our family is part of that history.

## Hidden Treasures

### Bridges Café Re-Opened September 8, 2005

*By Grace Ferracuti*

After a successful grand opening on March 8, 2005, the Bridges Café re-opened its doors on Thursday, September 8th, 2005, the start of this academic term.

Bridges Café is a vegetarian concept cafeteria. Vijay Nair, Chef Manager, and his staff offer you an array of foods starting from several different salads, made to order pasta with your choice of ingredients, vegetarian deli which includes many sandwich creations and a favourite concoction "dragon bowls". China service is provided for those wishing to eat and unwind in the confines of this comfortable atmosphere, and take-out containers are provided for those who are on the run.

For those who have not yet experienced the delicacies of the Café, or have never heard of it, it's not too late to acquaint yourself with this eatery. Formerly the Rathskeller, located in the Refectory basement, the incredible charm and character of the renovated basement is a must-see. The older building arch, wooden beams and brick and stone walls have been designed to bring back the qualities of what the building once was. The vast majority of the furniture, which consists of individual sofa seats, round ottomans, wooden chairs and coffee tables are custom built. The floors are

made from refinished rubber; there is track lighting throughout the café and for those who want to get warm and cozy, you can sit next to the fireplace. A sound system is provided by the McMaster Students Union Diversity Services making the café environment relaxing and conversational. In addition, Bridges has gone completely wireless, enabling students, staff and faculty to use their laptops to stay on top of their work.

#### *Hours of Operation:*

Monday–Thursday, 11:00 am – 10:00 pm\*

Friday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

\*Extended hours. Note that at the end of the dinner service at 7:30 pm, Bridges will be launching their new coffee house program.



*Be sure to drop in and experience first hand why others regularly revisit the Bridges Café.*