



HALL OF DISTINCTION

May 25, 2017



HALL OF DISTINCTION

Welcome to our nine inductees to the Hall of Distinction, and to the family, friends and colleagues who are with us today to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

On behalf of John Abbott College and our community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, parents, and friends, we are so pleased to share this evening with you.

The Hall of Distinction, unveiled just one year ago, was created to recognize those people who have distinguished themselves through excellence and by going above-and-beyond what is normally expected of them. Former employees of John Abbott who have made a difference on campus, former students who used John Abbott as a springboard to subsequent successes, or friends of the College who displayed extreme loyalty to our institution – all these people have set themselves apart in their own unique way.

We see three different decades represented by alumni nominees and over 150 years of service to John Abbott through our employee nominees. We laud each of your successes and thank you for keeping John Abbott in your hearts.

Congratulations to our inductees – our class of 2017!

Guylaine Audet
Chairperson, Board of Governors

John Halpin
Director General, John Abbott College

John Abbott College

HALL OF DISTINCTION

The Hall of Distinction was established in 2016 to recognize alumni, former employees and friends of the College who have contributed to life on campus or to the greater community in a significant way.

We are proud of their accomplishments and celebrate the influence that they have had in society.

ALUMNI

Who have made a significant and verifiable impact within the College community and/or society;

Who are of good character and exemplify the citizenship expected of persons representing the interests of the College;

Who are highly respected among their peers, have attained remarkable professional achievements, or who have made significant contributions to society.

EMPLOYEES

Who have greatly exceeded job expectations;

Who have forged links or responded to requests from community groups in such a way that has led to sustained benefits;

Who have contributed to the culture of the College and had a positive impact on the student experience;

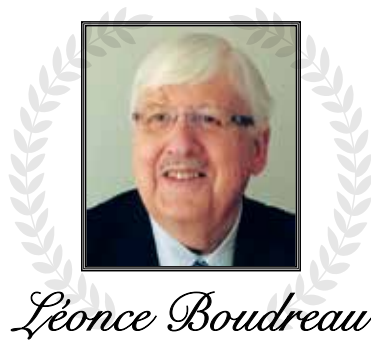
Who have maintained the highest standards of professionalism.

FRIENDS

Who have made a significant and verifiable impact on the campus community;

Who are of good character and exemplify the citizenship expected of persons representing the interests of the College;

Who have made a major contribution in direct support of the objectives of the College and its students.



Léonce completed his formal education at Ohio State and Oregon State Universities and his exposure to the American model of student services contributed to the philosophy which he brought to John Abbott. Originally founded on the concept of student development, Léonce's approach evolved and focused on student learning and success through student engagement. Through this process the Student Services department of John Abbott College became one of the most respected within the CEGEP system.

EDUCATION

- B.A. Université de Moncton 1966
- B.Ed. Université de Moncton 1968
- M.A. in Higher Education/Student Affairs, Ohio State University, 1971
- Doctoral Studies in Student Affairs Administration, Oregon State University, 1971-74

JOHN ABBOTT STUDENT SERVICES

When he arrived at John Abbott, the Student Services department consisted of the standard programs: Counselling, College and Career Information, Student Activities, Sports and Recreation, Health Services, Student Employment, Financial Aid, and Academic Advising. Understanding the role of the CEGEP, Léonce introduced

concepts and services which contributed to learning opportunities and development of students in the ever-changing educational environment. These included:

- Learning Centre
- Student Success Office
- Student Transition and Orientation
- English Second Language
- Special Needs Services
- Cultural Diversity Office
- Legal Advisory Service

The success of these initiatives contributed to the growth of the department and other operations were added:

- Aboriginal Student Resource Centre
- Casgrain Sports Centre
- Stewart Apartments – Student Housing and Summer Conferences
- Food Services

Léonce was a strong advocate of the principle that student success was most effectively achieved through learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Through the development of the Student Services department, he was successful in demonstrating that the entire college community had a role to play in the learning process.

His support of the role of student government became evident shortly after his arrival at John Abbott in 1976. At his suggestion, and with the required approval from the Ministry of Education, the Student Union of John Abbott College (SUJAC) became the only such body to play a direct role in the distribution of the totality of student fees collected by the College.

Léonce retired from John Abbott in 2011.



Jennifer Ditchburn

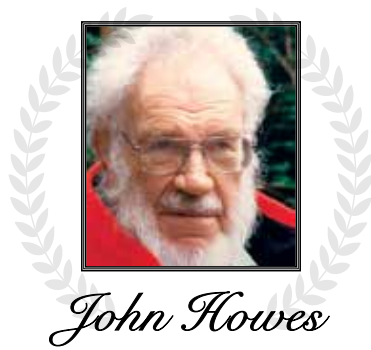
Jennifer was a Liberal Arts student at John Abbott. She joined the staff of *Bandersnatch* newspaper almost immediately after arriving at the College, going on to become the editor in chief. Jennifer was also a key participant in JAC's Multicultural Week, for which she received the John Abbott College Service Award. Upon graduation in 1992, she received several honours, including a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Liberal Arts, the SUJAC award and the IODE book prize. Her success at John Abbott helped her attain two different university scholarships as she started her journalism studies at Concordia, where she became the University's newspaper editor.

Jennifer freelanced during her university years for various publication including *The Gazette*, the *Montreal Mirror* and the *Sherbrooke Record*. She joined the staff of The Canadian Press during her third year, going on to work in the news agency's Toronto and Edmonton bureaus before arriving in the nation's capital in 1997. From 2001 and 2006 she was a national reporter with CBC Television on Parliament Hill, returning to The Canadian Press in 2006. During her more than two decades of daily reporting, she covered several elections and party leadership races, interviewed prime ministers and foreign leaders, and filed from the 2010 Olympic Games. She is the recipient of three National Newspaper Awards, and the prestigious Charles Lynch Award for outstanding coverage of national issues

In 2016, Jennifer became editor-in-chief of *Policy Options*, the digital magazine of the Institute for Research on Public Policy. She is a frequent public speaker, and contributor to television and radio public affairs programs, including CBC's *Power and Politics* and The National's "At Issue" panel.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia University and a Master of Journalism from Carleton University. She is co-editor of the 2016 book *The Harper Factor: Assessing a PM's Policy Legacy* (McGill-Queen's University Press), and a major contributor to *Sharp Wits and Busy Pens: 150 Years of Canada's Parliamentary Press Gallery*, published the same year (Hill Times Publishing).

Jennifer graduated from the Liberal Arts program in 1992.



As an innovator in education, John was undaunted by the challenge presented by the introduction of the CEGEP system in Québec. His role as a high school teacher and principal offered opportunities for the development of an innovative approach to education. This skill was invaluable when he became the first academic dean of John Abbott College and was on the front line for the tumultuous and no doubt exhilarating times to come. The philosophical and structural development of a new level of education required the considerable skills of blending together the administrators, faculty and staff. Those early years saw the development of programs and courses and the recruiting of faculty members who would contribute to the success of this concept.

JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE

- Co-founder of John Abbott College
- First academic dean
- Faculty member, Humanities and Law Foundations courses

INNOVATOR IN EDUCATION

- Introduced into the Québec education system the concept of student promotion by subject at the high school level. Monitored by the Department of Education, this innovation was then instituted province wide.
- Brought a Drama Arts program into a high school which included student productions and travel to Stratford.
- Reacting to the Parent Commission's requirements for vocational course, he introduced double shift and individual learning modules.

- A proponent of experiential learning contributing to a worldwide view, travel became a teaching tool bringing students to Denmark, East Germany, and northern indigenous communities.
- Contributed to a CIDA project in Swaziland with the participation of the Southern African Nations.

COMMUNITY

- President West Island Teachers' Association
- Board Member – Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers
- Member of West Island task group studying Québec education issues at the time of the Parent Commission.
- Advisor to the Christian Education Committee
- Member of Cedar Park United Church.

When faced with the challenge of overcoming obstacles in the pursuit of the development of educational opportunities for students, John often referred to a phrase which he had once heard - "anything that is educationally worthwhile is administratively possible." That was his guiding principle throughout his career and perhaps was the legacy which he would have most cherished, to be pursued by those who followed in his footsteps.

John's career at John Abbott extended from 1971 through 1987.



David McAusland

David is a member of the first graduating class (1973) of John Abbott College. He continued his education at McGill University where he received his BCL in 1976 followed by his LLB in 1977. His pursuit of a career in law led him to be called to the Québec Bar in 1978. David has enjoyed great success as a corporate lawyer, a senior executive, a strategic advisor and corporate director. His business and professional activities are now focused on strategic advisory services, corporate directorships and entrepreneurial situations.

Since 2009, David has been a senior partner in the firm of McCarthy Tétrault, a major law firm in Canada. He was a senior officer of Alcan Inc. from 1999–2008 serving as Executive Vice President, Corporate Development and Chief Legal Officer and prior to that he was a partner in the law firm of Byers Casgrain where he served as Managing Partner from 1988 to 1999.

David has been a strong advocate over many years on behalf of community and not-for-profit organizations and business causes.

David currently holds the following corporate director positions and other similar functions:

- Chairman, ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc.
- Chairman, Monrusco Bolton Investments Inc.
- Chairman, Ovivo Inc.
- Director and Chair of Human Resources Committee, Cogeco Inc. and Cogeco Cable Inc.
- Director and Chair of Human Resources Committee, Cascades Inc.
- Director and Executive Committee Member, McInnis Cement
- Member of Advisory Board, Hewitt Equipment Ltd.
- Member, Faculty Advisory Board, Desautels Faculty of Management, McGill University
- Chair of the National Circus School Foundation
- Director and Past Chair of the Montreal General Hospital Foundation (2012–2016)

Various past positions occupied by David include:

- Chair, Reform Implementation Council, RCMP (2008–2012)
- Chair, financing campaign, Anne-Marie Edward Science Building, John Abbott College (2012–2013)
- Director, Centraide of Greater Montreal (2007–2011)
- Co-chair, Major Fundraising Campaign, Musée d'archéologie et d'histoire Pointe-à-Callière (2014)
- Member, Accounting Standards Oversight Council Canada (2014–2017)
- President, Montreal Board of Trade (1998–1999)

Various accounts and recognitions received by David include :

- Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal for community and public service (2002)
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Canadian General Counsel Award (2008)
- Québec Bar Association Advocatus Emeritus Award (2015)



While she was a student at John Abbott, Anne was competing and achieving success at the international level as a 10 metre platform diver. She continued her studies at l'Université de Montréal completing a Bachelor of Law degree and a Master of Laws from the New York University School of Law.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

PLATFORM DIVING

- Eleven time Canadian Senior National Champion
- Participant in the World Junior Championships Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games, Olympic Games, FINA World Cup
- Bronze 1991 World Junior Championships
- Gold 1993 World Junior Championships
- Gold 1994 Commonwealth Games
- Gold 1995 Pan American Games
- Bronze 1998 Commonwealth Games
- Bronze 2000 Olympic Games
- Silver 2000 Olympic Games (synchronized diving)
- Silver 2000 FINA World Cup

VOLUNTEER WORK CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (COC)

- Governance and Ethics Commission Vice-Chair, October 2008 to September 2011

- Nominating Commission Chair, October 2010 to April 2011
- Executive Committee Member and Vice-Chair of Athletes' Council, April 2006 to October 2008 and Council Member, August 2004 to December 2009
- Team Selection Committee Member, August 2004 to December 2009

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- Clifford Chance – Associate (2003-04)
- Howard Rice – Attorney (2004-06)
- Steptoe and Johnson LLP – Attorney (2008-09)
- CBC – Freelance Sports Analyst (2007-12) and Beijing Olympics colour commentator (2008)
- Goldman Sachs – V.P. and Associate Client Due Diligence (2011-14)
- Neota Logic Inc. – V.P. Consulting/Solution Architecture (2014-15)
- National Futures Association (Current)

Anne trained at the Pointe-Claire Aquatic Centre and continued her studies throughout her diving career at John Abbott and l'Université de Montréal. She was an outstanding role model for young divers.

Her achievements and contribution to Canadian sport were recognized in 2005 when she was inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame.

Anne graduated from John Abbott with a diploma in Health Sciences in 1995.



John Abbott College launched the Library Technology program in 1972. Rabab had begun her career at John Abbott as a reference librarian but a few weeks into the fall session of that year, the first full-time teacher left the program. A weekend phone call from the academic dean led to Rabab being in class on Monday morning. The wisdom of that decision became evident as the department developed within the College.

The challenge of organizing the new department fell to Rabab. Among her achievements was the development within the external community of an understanding of the role of a library technician, a new category of employment in the 1970s. This was an important step for the graduates of the John Abbott program.

Equality rights was an issue of considerable concern for Rabab and was foremost among her contributions to off-campus organizations. Particularly noteworthy was her submission on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to the Subcommittee on Equality Rights of the Federal Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. She spoke of the need for active government intervention to address individual, institutional, and systemic discrimination in economic, political and social life.

EDUCATION

- M.A. (English) Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India
- B.A. (Psychology, English Economics) Agra University, India
- Post-Graduate Diploma (Librarianship) University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- Masters (Library Science) University of Western Ontario
- Certificate in College Education, McGill University

POSITIONS HELD

- Member, Federal Task Force on Race Relations in Canada
- National Secretary, National Action Committee on the Status of Women in Canada

- Chair, Women's Committee – National Association of Canadians of Origin in India
- Director, Business and Professional Women's Club of Montreal

RECOGNITION

- Received an Outstanding Indo-Canadian Award;
- Nominated by John Abbott College for the YMCA Women of Achievement Award;
- Listed in *Making a World of Difference: a Directory of Women in Canada Specializing in Global Issues*;
- John Abbott College established the Rabab Naqvi Achievement Award upon her retirement.

Rabab continues to pursue her interests through freelance journalism. Her most frequent contributions are to the *Dawn* and *The Hindu*, English language newspapers in Pakistan and India. Rabab has also written a history of her family, *From the Depths of Memory: A Family Saga*, which has been cited as an important contribution to the history of the family and the areas within India in which they lived.

Rabab retired from John Abbott in 2000.



Lois Siegel

Lois is a graduate of Ohio University where she completed a Bachelor of Science Journalism with Honours in English, and a Masters of Arts in English and Comparative Literature. She began her career at John Abbott in 1972 and through three decades taught English, Film Animation, Modern Cinema and Documentary Film. The success of her classroom experiences is reflected in an extensive list of John Abbott graduates who have developed distinguished careers as filmmakers, cinematographers, writers, and in animation and film editing. Of particular advantage to her students was the practical experience they gained through involvement in the production of Lois' experimental feature and documentary films.

The full extent of Lois' achievements and contribution to the arts can only be fully appreciated through a visit to her website. The lists are but a sampling of the projects in which she has been involved and the recognition accorded. Lois has been the recipient of national and international awards in each of these categories.

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

- Documentary filmmaker
- Casting director
- Photographer
- Musician
- Writer

RECOGNITION

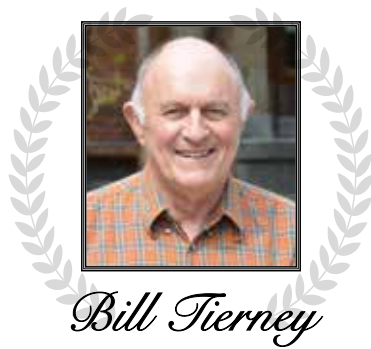
- Notable Alumni, Ohio University, Arts and Entertainment Work
- Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges
- Multiple William Randolph Hearst and College Newspaper Association Awards.
- 1998 Arts Award, Outstanding Artistic Achievement, Gloucester Arts Board, Gloucester, Ontario
- Listed in Who's Who in Canadian Film and Television
- 1990 Genie Award: Best Short Documentary, Academy of Canadian and Television

EDUCATOR

- Video production , University of Ottawa
- Video and animation workshops, Ottawa public schools
- Film production , Concordia University
- Documentary film, Canadian Screen Training Centre
- English, Film Animation, Modern Cinema and Documentary Film, John Abbott College
- Film Animation and Documentary Film Workshops, Ottawa
- Musical Instruments and Creativity, Heritage College
- Documentary Film Workshop, Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of Ottawa
- Mentor, Carleton University, Department of the Humanities: Photography

Notable as well are her skills as a musician: Celtic, French, Old-Time, World Music. Accomplished on the fiddle, bodhran and spoons, her band The Lyon Street Celtic band was just one of many groups in which she has participated.

Lois retired from John Abbott in 2002.



A native of Manchester, England, Bill attended Churchill College, Cambridge, from 1964 through 1969 focusing on History and English. Bill began his teaching career as a lecturer at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. He moved on to John Abbott in 1971 where he became one of the original members of the English department. His impact as a teacher was complemented by the role which he played in the development of the department as well as the successful implementation of an outreach program.

As a precursor to activities to be pursued later in life, Bill helped found the St. Francis Xavier Rugby club along with the The Antigonish Review. To this day the Review is considered to be one of Canada's leading literary magazines.

JOHN ABBOTT

- Co-founded the English department;
- Taught Theatre workshop courses for 10 years which were the foundation of today's Professional Theatre program;
- Contributed two years as First-Semester Experience Coordinator;
- Created a course which included the annual excursion to the Stratford Festival;
- Introduced courses which focused on journalism and training students to assist with the Writing Centre;
- Expanded and supervised the students' outreach program with the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Veterans' Hospital;
- Represented John Abbott with two submissions to the Association of Community Colleges for Program.

Excellence Awards. Most prominent was the Psychosocial Enhancement Program offered by the College in conjunction with the Sainte-Anne's Veterans' Hospital

- Created the College's intercollegiate rugby program within the Sports and Recreation department in 1979 and was head coach for ten years

EXTERNAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Founded and ran the Montreal Review 1978-81;
- Elected town councillor, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, 1982-89;
- Elected mayor of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 1994-2001 and 2005-2009;
- Contributed 365 columns to the Montreal Gazette 2010-2017.

Bill has continued to live in Sainte-Anne since his retirement from the College in 2009 and remains an active force within the community.



Dr Alexander Weil

A West Island resident through his earlier years, Dr. Weil attended Beaconsfield High School prior to enrolling at John Abbott. His career in the fourteen years since his graduation presents a remarkable record of continued learning and contribution.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Doctor of Medicine, Université de Sherbrooke, 2007
- Master of Science, Université de Montréal, 2008
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Université de Montréal, 2013
- Accredited Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship, Miami Children's Hospital, 2014
- Pediatric Spine Fellowship, Miami Children's Hospital, 2014
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Human Genetics, McGill University, 2105

CURRENT STATUS

- Pediatric Neurosurgeon, CHU Sainte-Justine
- Associate Neurosurgeon, CHUM Notre-Dame
- Assistant Professor, Université de Montréal

ACCOMPLISHMENT

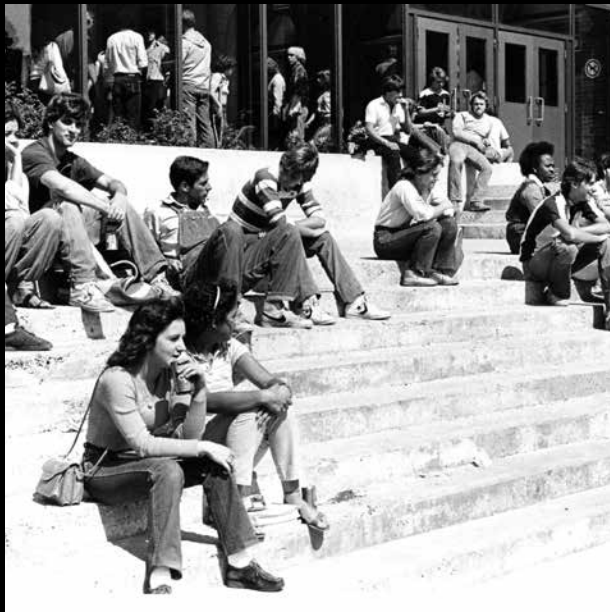
He has continued to contribute to the field of medicine through a significant number of book chapters, peer reviewed publications, manuscripts and published abstracts. There have been as well many oral presentations to colleagues and at international conferences.

RECOGNITION

Daniel-Tassé Award, Department of Surgery, University of Montreal, 2013. Highest distinction in the Department of Surgery, awarded annually for a resident demonstrating excellence in clinical care, academic achievement, and teaching.

At John Abbott, Dr Weil was an active contributor to the welfare of other students as a tutor in the biology department and in the writing centre of the English department. His concern for the welfare of others continued as his skills developed. He travelled on several occasions to Haiti as a participant in *Project Medishare for Haiti*, to perform neurosurgery and to train Haitian doctors. He has also led fundraisers over the last two years for the Department of Neurosurgery/ Sainte-Justine Foundation and for several initiatives to improve care in Haiti.

Dr Alexander Weil graduated from the John Abbott College Science program in 2003.





JOHN ABBOTT
CEGEP/COLLEGE