



# HALL OF DISTINCTION

May 26, 2016



## HALL OF DISTINCTION

Welcome, to our ten inductees for the Hall of Distinction, and to the family, friends and colleagues who are with us today to help us celebrate.

On behalf of the John Abbott College community, which comprises our students, faculty and staff, alumni, retirees, parents, and friends, we are pleased to launch the Hall of Distinction with this inaugural group of inductees.

The Hall of Distinction is our new recognition program, established 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 somehow.

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

Congratulations to our inductees – our class of 2016!

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.



*Ian Anderson*

Ian graduated from John Abbott College at the beginning of the new millennium and continued his education at Queen's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies. He was honoured as a Chancellor's Scholar at Queen's. He furthered his studies with a Master's degree in Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa.

### **JOHN ABBOTT**

- Writer for the John Abbott student newspaper, Bandersnatch;
- Vice-President of the Student Union of John Abbott College (SUJAC);
- Participated as mentor for fellow students.

### **LIFE AFTER JOHN ABBOTT**

- Recipient, Action Canada Fellowship, 2013-2014;
- Named Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, 2013;
- Member, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations civilian experts roster;
- National Security Analyst for Public Safety Canada;

- Program Manager and co-founder of Peace Geeks Remote Internships Program;
- Fellow, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
- Aga Khan Foundation Fellow in Kulob, Tajikistan, 2009-2010;
- Development Officer, Canadian International Development Agency, Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2010-2011;
- Political Assistant, Parliament of Canada;
- Research Assistant, University of Ottawa;
- Mission Leadership Québec – Elections observer in Guatemala;
- Served in a similar capacity with CANADEM in Ukraine.

Ian is currently in full-time Arabic language training at the Canadian Foreign Service Language Institute as he prepares for a posting to the Representative Office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority in 2017.

Such a successful academic and professional career requires some play time and Ian took it to the limit. He was a part of a four member rally team that travelled 16 000 km from London, England to the Mongolia capital of Ulaanbaatar. The reason for such an adventure – because he could, and to raise funds for charity.

Ian graduated from John Abbott College (Social Science) in 2002.

---

---



## *Claudia Brassard*

Claudia enjoyed an outstanding academic and athletic career at John Abbott which became a foundation for success beyond the College.

### **JOHN ABBOTT**

- Member of the women's basketball team which won the National College Championship in 1992-93;
- Most Valuable Player, Canadian Colleges Athletic Association National Women's Basketball Championship 1993;
- Recognized as the Québec College Player of the Year in 1994;
- Received the Academic Achievement Award as the outstanding student-athlete in the college sports system in 1994;
- At the 1994 John Abbott Athletic Awards Night, Claudia was awarded the prestigious Jeff Mills Memorial Cup, recognizing outstanding athletic ability, academic achievement, leadership and contribution to the community.

### **EXTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

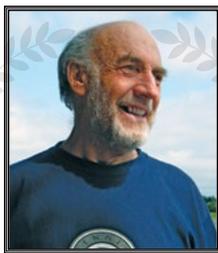
- Accepted a full scholarship at Southern Methodist University;
- Graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics and followed with a Master's degree in Liberal Arts;
- Member of Canada's National Women's Basketball team and was on the roster from 1997 through 2006;
- Represented Canada at the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia in 2000;
- Captain of the Canadian team at the World Championship in 2006;
- From 2002-2007 Claudia was a professional basketball player with the Townsville Fire, a member of the Australian Women's National Basketball League and is currently the team's head coach.

Her academic background has also led to success away from the court. As a fully qualified mechanical engineer, she is the Senior Project Manager for the City Council of Townsville, Australia, a city with a population of close to 180,000, on the north-east coast of Australia. Claudia has been responsible for numerous major infrastructure projects and has continued her personal development with an extensive list of professional development activities.

Claudia graduated from John Abbott College (Science) in 1994.

---

---



*Robert Burns*

When the Québec education system underwent a thorough remodeling in the late 1960s, the demographics of the West Island ensured that there would be an English language CEGEP in our region. The challenge was to build a foundation upon which would be constructed an institution that would meet the pre-university and professional program needs of students seeking an English language education. The newly formed Board of Governors selected Robert Burns as the first Director General in 1970.

### **JOHN ABBOTT**

- Participated in the selection of a site for the new college;
- Was responsible for the hiring process of the College's first administrative and teaching staff;
- Steered a course for John Abbott through the channel between the traditional and highly innovative administrative and academic practices of the new CEGEP system;
- Stepped away from his administrative role to teach in the Humanities department from 1972 - 1996;
- Contributed to the development of Humanities courses which became the foundation for courses still being offered;

- Founded the John Abbott community liaison programs which began with Abbott students participating in programs at the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Veterans Hospital.

### **QUÉBEC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

- Teacher with the Montreal Catholic School Commission;
- Directeur général des écoles, la Commission des écoles catholique de la cité de Dorval;
- Québec Ministry of Education: Religion, Publications and Teacher Formation;
- Committees and Superior Council of Education;
- Executive Committee, Association of Canadian Community Colleges;
- Member of the Concordia University Board of Governors.

His concern for the welfare of humanity extended beyond the education system and led him to become the founder of the Ward Enrichment program for Medical and Psychiatric patients at the Sainte-Anne's Veterans Hospital. He also has served as a Tribunal Panel Member with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

For more than four decades he complemented his contributions to education and the human condition as a free-lance commentator, announcer, writer, actor and education analyst with CBC and CTV.

Bob retired from John Abbott College in 1996.

---

---



*Marie-France Juneau*

A diploma in Nursing from John Abbott College led Marie-France Juneau to a distinguished career in the medical profession and public service. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the Université de Montréal and then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Winona State University in Rochester, Minnesota. Marie-France completed her education at D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York, earning her Master's degree in Nursing.

### **PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

She has applied the skills developed in her academic training in a professional career which includes roles at the:

- Rochester Methodist Hospital;
- Hamilton Civic Hospital;
- Cardiac Wellness Centre and Brunswick Medical Centre;
- Clinical Nursing Instructor at John Abbott College;
- McGill University Health Centre;
- Lakeshore Hospital;
- West Island Health and Social Services.

### **VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS**

She has played a significant role as a volunteer in many services throughout her career:

- Fondation de la recherche pour les maladies infantiles du Québec;
- Member, Board of Directors, West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (WIAIH);
- President, Pat Roberts Centre Parents Committee;
- Member, Board of Directors - Centre de la Petite Enfance les Bois Verts;
- Translator, oncology certification examinations;
- Track and field coach, West Island Special Olympics.

While at John Abbott, Marie-France was a member of the John Abbott Nursing Advisory Committee as well as the Nursing Program Evaluation Committee. She also initiated a link with John Abbott students who volunteered to drive cancer patients living in the West Island to their medical appointments in conjunction with a John Abbott Community and Communications class.

Currently Marie-France is the Executive Director of Nova West Island, a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven, community-based healthcare organization.

Marie-France has contributed to the development of nursing education with published articles in several nursing journals. She has also presented at conferences in institutions in Québec, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

Marie-France graduated from John Abbott College (Nursing) in 1985.

---

---



*Geoffrey Kelley*

A member of one of John Abbott's earliest graduating classes, he went on to further success at the university level, obtaining a Bachelor's degree in History from McGill with a focus on French studies, followed by a Master's degree in Modern Canadian History, also from McGill.

#### **PRIOR TO PUBLIC LIFE**

- Chief of Staff to Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Deputy Premier and President of the Treasury Board;
- Political Aide to Claude Ryan, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Science (same role when Minister Ryan was Minister of Municipal Affairs and Public Safety).

#### **MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

- Since 1994, he has been elected as a member of Québec's National Assembly on seven consecutive occasions for the riding of Jacques-Cartier. Mr. Kelley represents five West Island municipalities, among them Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue and its major institutional "resident", John Abbott College;
- Geoffrey Kelley is a member of the governing Québec Liberal Party, and serves in Premier Couillard's Cabinet as the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, his third mandate in this portfolio;

- In his 21 years as a Member of Québec's National Assembly, he has chaired various standing committees including:
  - Public Administration Committee,
  - Education Committee,
  - Health and Social Services Committee,
  - Social Affairs Committee,
  - Presided over public hearings on homelessness and dying with dignity.

#### **COMMUNITY LIFE**

- On many occasions, he has publicly promoted the interests of John Abbott, most notably helping to secure funding for the Anne-Marie Edward Science building;
- Former co-chair, McGill University Parents Association;
- Former member of the Board of Directors of the West Island Palliative Care Residence Foundation.

Geoffrey's involvement with John Abbott has been the cornerstone of a family tradition. His five children are graduates of the College, and his wife Judy has served as the Chair of the Board of Governors and is currently the Chair of the John Abbott College Foundation.

If anything helped prepare Geoffrey for the challenges of political life in Québec, it would have been his career playing outfield in competitive Beaconsfield Men's Slo-Pitch softball league.

Geoffrey Kelley graduated from John Abbott College (Social Science) in 1975.

---

---



*Glen R. Murray*

Following his graduation from John Abbott College in 1980, Glen continued his education at Concordia University earning a degree in Urban Studies and Economics. That along with his role as the President of the Student Union of John Abbott College may have been the perfect mix leading to a remarkable career in municipal and provincial politics.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The short version of Glen's career includes the following:

- Mayor of Winnipeg, 1998-2004;
- University of Toronto - visiting fellow at the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Design, 2004-2006;
- Managing partner of AuthenticiTY, Toronto based urban sustainability consulting and planning firm;
- President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute;
- Chair of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy;
- Member of several university, hospital and community boards, including the EXPO 2015 Bid Committee and the Toronto District School Board Reference Group for Improving Services to Marginalized Students;
- Founding member of the Canadian AIDS society;
- Member of the World Health AIDS Service Organization – Global Program on AIDS;

- Columnist, Toronto Star, 2005-2007;
- President and CEO, Canadian Urban Institute, 2007-2010;
- Provincial Ministerial roles:
  - Innovation and Research, 2010-2011,
  - Training, Colleges and Universities, 2011-2012,
  - Infrastructure, 2013-2014,
  - Transportation, 2014-2015.

Glen is currently the Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

## **RECOGNITION**

Honours for his contributions include:

- Royal Architecture Institute of Canada Honorary Member, 2002,
- Queen's Jubilee Medal,
- Fight for LGBT Justice and Equality Award, Eagle Canada, 2003,
- Eagle Feather recipient from aboriginal community.

These awards are representative of the recognition which he has received for remarkable contributions to raise awareness and provide solutions for the challenges facing the homeless, the gay community and Aboriginal people.

Glen graduated from John Abbott College (Social Science) in 1980.

---

---



*Catherine Sidorenko*

Catherine came to John Abbott in 1974 on a contract as a researcher with teaching experience at the high school level. Despite several part time teaching contracts at the college and university level, she chose a career at John Abbott College.

### **JOHN ABBOTT**

- Senior Academic Advisor;
- Dean of Social Science and Related Technologies;
- Member, John Abbott College Board of Governors;
- Academic Coach, JAC Women's Soccer Team;
- Member, Program Evaluation Coordination Committee;
- Chair, Academic Renovation Committee;
- Assisted the *Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial*, CEEC, with program and institutional policy evaluations;

- Participated in the implementation of new programs: Pathways, Pathways to Police Technology, 2-year Police Technology Program and the Double DEC;
- Developed marketing and recruitment strategies for the General Education and Social Science programs.

### **EXTERNAL**

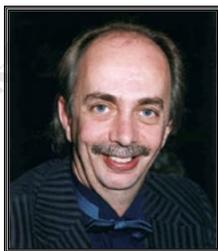
- Conference presenter at the National Academic Advising Association conferences;
- Québec representative with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

Her high degree of professionalism was recognized throughout her career, and well reflected in her efforts to focus on the role of the College to the benefit of the students. An open door policy allowed Catherine to be available to students, faculty and staff to discuss issues in a respectful and caring manner.

Catherine left John Abbott College in 2009.

---

---



*Gary Sims*

Gary began his career as an audio-visual technician at Dunton High School with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. When he moved to John Abbott in 1971, he took on a much bigger task of designing facilities and instructing the John Abbott students and staff in the use of the audio-visual equipment.

### **JOHN ABBOTT**

- His contribution was appropriately recognized by the Québec Association of Applied Education Technology. In 2008, the Association inaugurated a John Abbott College scholarship in his name in recognition of his efforts to promote audiovisual technology in the classroom;
- He played a significant role in the development of the John Abbott College Administrative Support Personnel Association (JACASPA). Through years of leadership, many of those during the early formative years of the College, Gary guided the association as a partner in the development of the College.

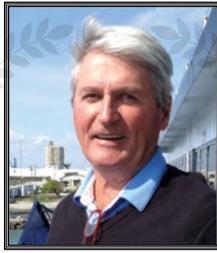
### **IN THE COMMUNITY**

- Volunteer counselor, West Island YMCA Learning Places program, helping troubled youth;
- Member, Lachine Historical Society and the Monarchist League of Canada;
- Awarded the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work with the Lachine Museum, Centennial and Expo '67 collections and as a community service volunteer with youth;
- Active defender of English-language rights, he is involved in municipal politics;
- Involved in the restoration project of the Lachine war memorials, cenotaphs and historical plaques;
- Contributed to the development and on-going activities of the Retirees of John Abbott.

Gary retired from John Abbott College in 2004.

---

---



*George Wall*

When George Wall became a member and head of the Physical Education department in 1971, there was no compulsory PhysEd program in the academic curriculum due to a lack of facilities. He successfully created a viable Physical Education program and contributed much to the development of the College.

### **JOHN ABBOTT**

- Led the charge to develop courses which would be of value to students as complementary courses;
- First Athletic Director of John Abbott College;
- Developed the intramural recreational sports program;
- Created the structure for the athletic intercollegiate sports program which would compete in the new CEGEP leagues;
- First football coach at John Abbott supported by his experience as quarterback at McGill;
- Led the team to three consecutive championships in the 1970s;

- Member of the executive of the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association in its formative years;
- Oversaw the design and realization of the Thérèse Casgrain Sports Centre;
- Completed his career as the Coordinator of Student Services.

### **RECOGNITION**

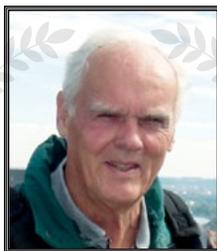
- Named Coach of the Decade in 1986 and the subsequent trophy was named in his honour.

Beyond his official function within the College, George also played a key role in two other critical areas. He was one member of a three-person committee that created and organized the John Abbott Open House which took place at Fairview Shopping Centre for several years; the logistics of that project were quite remarkable. George was also the initiator of the John Abbott staff golf tournament which remains a well-attended June event some forty years later.

George retired from John Abbott College in 1997.

---

---



*Harold Wilson*

Born in England, Harold began his education in his home country at Sheffield University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Honours Chemistry and a Diploma in Education. At Rice University in Houston, Texas, he completed his Master's and Doctorate degrees. It was there that he also held a graduate fellowship in chemistry and the Phillips Petroleum Fellowship for Outstanding Research. This was followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at Queen's University. Prior to beginning his career in the Chemistry department of John Abbott, Harold taught at the elementary and secondary levels of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Created the Problem Solving Chemistry approach to teaching chemistry which has helped many students achieve success at senior academic levels;
- Published in the Journal of Chemical Education, the following is part of the abstract: *The problem-solving laboratory approach has been developed to give students practice in experimental design while still meeting the objectives of a traditional laboratory program;*
- His approach has been effectively used by many universities and is available on the Internet as a teaching tool;
- He was a strong proponent of the role which women could play in science and was a mentor for many seeking to further academic and professional careers;

- Student members of the Canadian team in the Chemistry Olympics have benefited from his tutelage;
- He designed some of the lab exercises for this competition when held in Montreal;
- Harold has been the guest speaker at international chemistry education conferences;
- He is a published author.

### **RECOGNITION**

- Recipient of the CIC Polysar Award for Outstanding Teaching Canadian Colleges, 1986;
- Student Union of John Abbott College award for teaching excellence and contribution to student life, 1996;
- Recipient of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges award for teaching excellence 1999-2000.

His nomination for the ACCC Teaching Award was accompanied by a remarkable scrapbook compiled by his John Abbott students. The testimonials offered by these grateful students are a genuine tribute to a teacher who has had an extraordinary impact upon their educational experience and the teaching of science.

Harold retired from John Abbott College in 2003.

---

---



JOHN ABBOTT  
CEGEP/COLLEGE