

# McGill

## FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

### *David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision and Teaching*

#### **CITATION FOR GODFRIED TOUSSAINT, 2001**

The David Thomson Award is given to a senior professor who has demonstrated outstanding graduate teaching and supervision at the highest level.

The winner of this award for the academic year 2000-2001 is Godfried Toussaint from the School of Computer Science.

Dr. Toussaint has been called the “father of computational geometry.” The work that goes into developing and shaping a new field of scientific endeavour is formidable. Dr. Toussaint’s research laboratory has been described as being “abuzz with graduate students, overseas visitors, seminars, brainstorming at the blackboard, and scholarly activity.” Professor Toussaint exposes his graduate students to peak research at the highest international level. Every winter he organizes a week-long research workshop for his students and top scholars in the field. Through this and his daily interactions, Dr. Toussaint has instilled in his students an excitement about learning and producing top quality research, as well as a sense of belonging, enormous pride in their accomplishments, and the pure pleasure of scientific enquiry. One of his students described himself and his fellow students as passing their spare time solving geometry problems out of sheer curiosity and the love of learning.

Dr. Toussaint has supervised 14 doctoral students, 25 master’s students and 3 postdoctoral students. All of his doctoral graduates have gone on to become professors, representing their field in nearly every major university of Canada. In fact, one of his present students left Harvard to come study with Professor Toussaint at McGill, thereby reversing the “brain drain.” His graduate students, like their mentor, are known for work that pushes the boundaries of their field of enquiry.

Godfried Toussaint has not only produced distinguished and creative science in his career but also a future generation of distinguished and creative scientists through the excellence of his graduate supervision and teaching. His students, his department and his faculty join me in my great pleasure and pride in presenting the David Thomson Award to Godfried Toussaint, one of McGill’s most extraordinary mentors.

Citation read by Dr. Martha Crago  
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research  
June 8th 2001