



Outlook

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**Re: Good memories**


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**From** Charles Boelen <boelen.charles@wanadoo.fr>

**Date** Wed 2025-10-08 7:43 AM

**To** James Hanley, Dr. <james.hanley@mcgill.ca>

 3 attachments (1 MB)

McGill 1969.pdf; McGill soccer team1969.pdf; McGill appointmtIMG\_20251008\_0001.pdf;

You don't often get email from boelen.charles@wanadoo.fr. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Jim,

I admired the work you have done so far for the celebration of 60th anniversary. Thank you for reviving history.

Attached are 2 pictures and a letter.

One picture is really historical : a photo with three graduates and some staff members in 1969. From left to right : Prof . Williams, an epidemiologist; Kuo, the chinese colleague who graduated years later; someone in the background I can't remember; Prof. Littead , a statistician; Mrs. Gagnon, canadian, who graduated 2 years after me ; Prof. Horowitz; and myself with the open white blouse.

The other photo is the soccer team set up by the McGill Dept. of Postgraduates Studies (1969). I am in the middle of the back row ,holding the ball, I played goal keeper !

The letter is written by the Chairman of the Department, Corbett McDonald. He offered me a position in his department, but as I expressed a wish to embrace an international career, he kindly wrote a support letter to an important person at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. I very much appreciated his elegant gesture. I am not sure it helped my recruitment in WHO which happened only two years later, during the time I worked as a young assistant professor at the Public Health College of Gondar, Ethiopia. I have always considered Dr. McDonald as a real gentleman and his staff members as very friendly and helpful people.

Whenever you find time and a decent wifi connection, please do not hesitate to contact. In the meantime, have a pleasant transatlantic voyage .

With best wishes  
Charles







Mc GILL UNIVERSITY - MONTREAL - CANADA - 1969  
sur le CAMPOUS  
avec l'équipe de FOOTBALL  
(POSTGRADUATE STUDIES DEPT.)



Department of Epidemiology and Health  
3775 University Street

April 3, 1969

Dr E.Braga  
Director  
Division of Education and Training  
World Health Organization  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Dear Dr Braga,

I write with reference to Dr Charles Boelen at present undertaking graduate studies in this department. He tells me that he has applied to work for WHO and has received an encouraging reply from you.

Dr Boelen is a capable and charming person and I have offered him a staff appointment in this department. However, it is clear that he would prefer an appointment with WHO provided the work involved an epidemiological approach to problems of health education. It would help him to know what prospect there is of being offered this type of position.

Sincerely,

J.C.McDonald, M.D.  
Chairman

JCM/ag