

The following is excerpted from a CBC sports website article about Erin McLeod ('01) and the Canadian Olympic women's soccer team just before the '08 Beijing Olympics.

Erin McLeod: *playing for Country and family*

There are two guarantees in Beijing for Erin McLeod. First, the Canadian goalie will work harder than anyone else. Second, win or lose, she will cry, perhaps before the first game has even begun.

"I'm a pretty emotional person," McLeod said. "I cry all the time."

It was 2002, at the women's under-19 world soccer championships, and McLeod was on the field waiting for the national anthem to start. Her dad, Doug, had flown in for the Edmonton game from Indonesia. When the national anthem began, McLeod spotted him in the crowd and burst into tears.

"When I saw him I just started crying," she said. "The game hadn't even started yet." Now 25, the Calgary, Alta., resident is the starting keeper for Canada's national squad. The team is making history as the first Canadian contingent to compete in the Games.

"Going to the Olympics is something I've dreamt about since I was five, so it's pretty overwhelming," McLeod said. "Being able to play for our country might be the coolest thing in the world. It's such an honour."

Played 50 games for Canada

The five-foot-seven, 160-pound athlete, born in St. Alberta, Alta., has devoted much of her life to the sport. Going into Beijing, she's played nearly 50 games with Canada's senior national team. Highlights include second place finishes at the 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup, the 2006 Peace Queen Cup, the 2006 CONCACAF Gold Cup, and the 2008 CONCACAF women's Olympic qualification tournament – where the team earned a berth into the Beijing Games. McLeod has also donned jerseys for Penn State University and the W-League's Vancouver Whitecaps. She helped the latter team to two championship victories in 2004 and 2006, and with Penn State she was a 2005 semifinalist for



Erin with her mom at the '08 Olympics.JPG

the prestigious M.A.C. Hermann Trophy. That season, she was the only keeper to shut out the number one team in the league for an entire season. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America twice awarded her All-America honours. For a woman declared a "world class keeper" in newspaper headlines, one might find it strange that she once roamed the field as halfback and forward. It wasn't until she was 12 that she replaced her team's injured goalie, and grew to love the position.

'...love showing up at my job'

"I love it. It's tactical, it's technical, and it's a challenge," she said. "It's cool because you never stop learning. I just love showing up at my job and learning new things everyday." But even with such talent, becoming Canada's number one keeper for the Olympic Games hasn't been easy. Moving from under-19 to the senior level in 2002 was a difficult transition. "That's when I realized the difference between youth and senior is huge," she said. At the 2003 world cup tournament, she took a back seat to more experienced players. "My confidence was crushed," she said, but refused to settle for the sidelines. "I thought, I want to do everything in my power to not be in this spot again," she said.

Shortly after the world cup tournament, she moved to Vancouver and lived with another goalie.

"I remember working out like it was our lives. I just tried to get in as much practice as I could," she said.



Erin, (front, center) with the Canadian team.jpg

Her efforts weren't unnoticed. It took time, but eventually, her name moved to the starting line-up for the Canadian team.

'...best goalie in the world'

"I've never seen anyone work so hard," said Canadian captain Christine Sinclair. "I think I could flat out say she's the best goalie in the world."

McLeod's father said, "At practice, she's the first one there, she always wants to do one more thing. It doesn't matter how cold or rainy it is outside, she's always out on the field." But being so devoted has come with a price. When McLeod was beginning high school, she moved to Indonesia with her family. The girls' league in Indonesia wasn't very competitive, so, to focus on soccer, she returned to Canada at the end of grade 10, and lived with her grandmother in Calgary.

"I learned at a young age to appreciate family, because I didn't get to see them very often," she said, adding her experience in Indonesia and abroad with her team has also made her appreciate Canada even more.

One of her sisters, Megan, 28, said that no matter how far away McLeod has been, she's always made an effort to stay close with her family. "She's my best friend... Even though she's my younger sister, I've always looked up to her because of everything she's accomplished," she said.

On McLeod's emotional side, her other sister, Cara, 21, recounted when they went to see the movie

"Stepmom" in Indonesia – and were "absolutely bawling."

"At the same time, she laughs a lot and will make you feel like you're the funniest person ever. She's a big goof," she said.

Tattoo on arm for family

"With her, everyone and everything mean so much," Megan added. "She definitely wears her heart on her sleeve."

And she does, sort of. On McLeod's forearm is a tattoo in the shape of a "V" – the Roman numeral for five – the number of people in her immediate family. They mean so much, that despite a busy soccer schedule, she still finds a way to keep them a priority.

For instance, at the Olympic qualifying tournament in Mexico, she spent her evenings at the hotel practicing how to walk in high heel shoes for Megan's wedding.

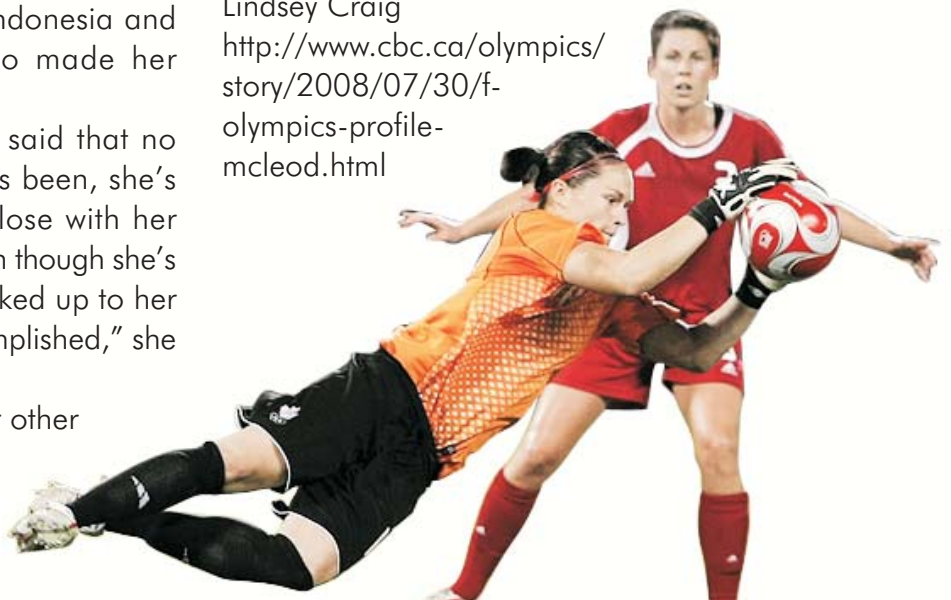
The effort goes both ways. At the recent Olympic warm-up game against Brazil in Toronto, Megan drove from Kingston with a contingent of family and friends to cheer her on.

Though her sisters won't be in China, Doug and McLeod's mom, Cheryl, both of Victoria, are making the trip. In addition to her parents, McLeod will have two essential items in tow. The first, a framed picture of her family, carefully protected in a Ziplock bag. The second, a picture of a Mohammed Ali poster that reads, "Impossible is nothing."

"The attitude inspires me," she said. "This is going to be the biggest challenge we've ever had, but I really believe we can do it."

Lindsey Craig

<http://www.cbc.ca/olympics/story/2008/07/30/f-olympics-profile-mcleod.html>



JIS Appoints Service Learning Coordinator

To what extent do early life experiences shape attitudes to humanitarian and environmental issues? JIS' newly appointed Coordinator of Service Learning, Patricia (Trish) Davies' realization that there was a world of difference beyond her comfortable life in New Zealand and that of a young Tanzanian village girl featured in a library picture book, came at the age of six. In Trish's middle school years, composting organic waste, growing vegetables and actively conserving rainwater (her family's sole source of drinking water) and electricity were also simply a part of her everyday life. These contrasting images of privilege and poverty, combined with early lessons learned about the need to conserve resources, spurred her interest in environmental and humanitarian issues and a subsequent career as a middle and high school social studies teacher. Her commitment to engaging her students in a wide variety of experiences linked to learning, beyond the confines of the classroom, she now discovers, was in fact what is now called service learning!

Fast forward teaching experiences in New Zealand, the UK and Australia to Indonesia and JIS. Trish, a parent of two JIS graduates, has coordinated the activities office in the High School and worked as a classroom teacher there as well. In this coordination role, she was involved with student government, service clubs and Project Week and was active in exploring ways to integrate elements of community service into these programs. Trish currently teaches grade eight world studies and this year has helped spearhead 'Be the Change,' a service learning initiative.

As a participant in the JIS Summit and as the current chair of the Service Learning task Force, Trish is very much aware of the varied expectations of the JIS community in terms of the service coordination role. She knows that the year ahead will be challenging and rewarding. She realizes that working with her peers to develop a framework to build an enduring curriculum linked to global issues, environmental sustainability and service learning opportunities, will strengthen the school's commitment to being 'best for the world.' She will also be actively developing stronger and more sustainable links to organizations within the wider Indonesian community, so that our JIS students can more easily and effectively link to life beyond the wall of JIS.

Trish's hope for JIS moving forward in terms of environmental and service learning is summed up by Margaret Meade, who said "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

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Nora Montemayor Shines with Books

A former elementary teacher at JIS for many years, Nora Montemayor is now in her native Philippines. We asked her to write and tell us about the good work she is doing with two literacy programs. The PEL library often sends books to Nora for use with her underprivileged learners.

After three years back in the Philippines, I am now doing teacher-training both for public and private schools. For the public schools, I am a master trainer for two special projects that promotes reading for enjoyment. One, called the Library Hub, is sponsored by the Department of Education and encourages students to read books for enjoyment. The Department of Education provides the books (not textbooks) to schools. As trainers we give workshops that teach teachers strategies in promoting a love for reading, using trade books.

The other group that I work with is called Sa Aklat Sisikat (roughly translated as Shine with Books), which is sponsored by a foundation headed by Petron, an oil company. This project also promotes reading for enjoyment, but targets only fourth graders. In our workshops, we teach reading strategies to fourth grade teachers. Schools that participate in this program launch 33-day read-a-thons that culminate in a school-wide celebration of books. With these two projects, I travel around the Philippines and visit the public schools, which is fun. I also work with public school teachers.

In addition I do teacher-training at two private schools whose students come from less-privileged families. One is Fiore del Carmelo which is run by Carmelite nuns and the other is St. Benedict Pre-school, run by priests belonging to Sons of Divine Providence Congregation. A majority of the students at Fiore del Carmelo School don't pay tuition and are sponsored by local and foreign donors. Those who pay come from low-income families. The students of St. Benedict Pre-school are children of squatters. Their parents are sidewalk vendors, scavengers, and the like.

My experience with these schools has been very enlightening. It brings me back to the reality of living in a developing country. It is challenging and very rewarding. For me, it is payback time – time to do service to my own people.

I also do teacher-training and consulting at two very exclusive international pre-schools in Cebu City (a city south of Manila). This is the other end of the student and teacher spectrum that I work with.

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Nora at one of her literacy projects in the Philippines which is bringing the love of reading to young learners.

JIS Demographics Still Diverse

As we move towards our 59th year of being an exceptional provider of quality education for the expatriate community, Jakarta International School continues to celebrate our ethnic diversity. Sixty nations are represented in our student body, supporting our philosophy of being a truly international school. Currently we have 2,393 students enrolled and are continuing to accept applications from suitably qualified candidates.

Dennise Rao
Admissions Coordinator



The graduating class of 2009 is as diverse as any in recent years.

	Mar 2000	Oct 2001	Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Feb 2004	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	Feb 2007	Feb 2008	Feb 2009
American	716	686	631	488	557	517	534	528	508	498
Indonesian	16	83	188	216	294	377	437	408	382	367
South Korea	366	423	379	331	346	363	358	360	400	387
Indian	152	159	146	143	156	150	160	181	190	181
Australian	185	201	165	157	150	164	179	182	166	160
Malaysian	72	82	85	96	89	97	87	80	81	80
Filipino	105	109	117	110	107	110	105	96	88	96
Japanese	121	122	132	112	104	90	85	83	70	62
British	81	94	101	97	91	85	81	66	65	66
Dutch	77	79	77	61	56	54	66	63	65	59
Canadian	128	130	144	115	105	88	83	81	65	71
Other	378	364	357	366	337	356	380	411	386	366
Total	2397	2532	2522	2292	2392	2451	2555	2539	2466	2393