

FALL 2011

**INSTITUTIONAL  
INSIDERS**

Canada's Deputy Minister  
of Finance Michael Horgan,  
BA 77, one of Concordia's  
alumni political players

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# Concordia

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION > ARTS AND SCIENCE FENG SHUI > OUTSTANDING GRADS



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## ALUMNI PROFILE: MAKING THE WHEELS GO 'ROUND

Concordia alumni are making an impression in political organizations across the country and around the world.



### GREAT GRADS

Meet six of Concordia's most accomplished new alumni.



### A SCIENTIFIC WAY OF LEARNING SCIENCE

Scientific advances will help us deal with growing planetary issues—but only if education plays its part. Science College Principal Calvin Kalman is working to ensure that's the case.  
*By Chris Hanna*



### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ARTS AND SCIENCE

Feng Shui: Concordia's two new research centres give members space to create, learn and innovate. *By David Secko*

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**Cover:** Deputy Minister of Finance Michael Horgan, BA 77, in his Ottawa office.

**Credit:** Ryan Blau/PBL Photography

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## Moving up

One of the perks of my job as the editor of Concordia's alumni magazine is that I communicate with—and sometimes meet—some remarkable graduates.

I'm not in touch with all the folks who appear in our pages—often, the writers liaise with the subjects directly. For instance, my capable summer intern Chris Hanna, a Concordia Journalism student, dealt with four of the six alumni associated with political institutions profiled in our cover story, "Making the wheels go 'round" (see page 8). And Liz Crompton, BA 87, a communications associate in the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office, took care of our Great Grads feature (see page 20), which highlights a few of the outstanding graduating students spotlighted in the university's internal newspaper, the *Journal*. (Visit [concordia.ca/how/journal](http://concordia.ca/how/journal) to read the full slate.) While these profiles are based on the *Journal*'s original stories, Liz reached the six (extraordinary) new grads and some of the people who know them well, and skilfully expanded each piece.

Still, I do have the opportunity to touch base, if briefly, with many of the accomplished Concordia alums who appear in our pages. Despite my years of experience, I remain star-struck by these folks. For this issue alone: I chatted by phone with the Government of Canada's Chief Information Officer, Corinne Benedetti Charette, BSc 75, LL.D. 11 (page 15); and I communicated via email with Father Thomas Dowd, BComm 92, the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal's newly appointed Auxiliary Bishop (page 39); new Officer of the Order of Canada André Dieter Bandrauk, L BSc 61 (page 39);

award-winning film producer Kevin Tierney, S BA 71, GrDip 78 (page 39), whom I previously interviewed for our winter 2007-08 cover story; and Stephanie Siriwardhana, BA 11, also known as Miss Universe Sri Lanka 2011 (page 38).

Unfortunately for me, I didn't get to meet Stephanie—to my knowledge, Concordia's first official beauty queen—in person. However, a few months ago I literally rubbed shoulders with a very different kind of celebrity: Kenneth Taylor, the former Canadian ambassador to Iran who heroically and famously helped six Americans escape from that country during the 1979 hostage crisis. On May 16 at the Hyatt Regency Montreal, I sat next to and talked with the very humble Ambassador Taylor, who was on hand to help honour our friend, Paul Levesque, L BA 57, one of the 2011 Alumni Recognition Awards recipients.

I've been fortunate to befriend Paul, somewhat of a celebrity himself. (See "Luger on a fast track," winter 2009-10.) A former Canadian champion bobsledder and Olympic luger, he moved to New York City and Wall Street about 40 years ago and has since acted as an unofficial emissary for Canadian dignitaries and others visiting the Big Apple. He also regularly lends a hand to Concordia's New York alumni chapter, and founded and continues to chair the Annual Hockey Achievement Award Dinner,

a high-profile fundraiser whose past recipients include Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux.

During the university's upcoming Homecoming festivities, all Concordians will have the chance to see and hear another of Paul's friends, hockey great Ken Dryden, at the AbitibiBowater Lecture on September 15, as well as Kenneth Taylor at the Henri Habib Distinguished Lecture Series on September 21. The next day, UN Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti Paul Farmer is joined by Régine Chassagne, BA 98, of Montreal-based megagroup Arcade Fire and Domtar's Madeleine Féquière, BA 85, at Up Close and Personal: A Panel Discussion on Engagement in Haiti. (See the attached Homecoming '11 brochure or visit [homecoming.concordia.ca](http://homecoming.concordia.ca) for more details.)

You can look for me at these events: I'll be the star-struck guy scribbling notes to report on them in our next issue. ■



# People matter most

Why have I decided to make a bequest to Concordia? A childhood spent moving around the country left me one course short of a high school graduation certificate; instead, I received a high school leaving certificate, which was not good enough for university admission. As a result, I took a secretarial course at Sir George Williams Business School and landed a job at Canadian National Railways, where I enjoyed a long career until I retired.

Despite having a good job, I regretted not continuing my education. So in 1972 I enrolled at Sir George Williams University as a part-time student through the Mature Student Program. In 1974, I took leave from my job to study history full-time and graduated with distinction in 1977.

Concordia enriched my life by opening my mind. My teachers taught me to see the world from many perspectives and helped me understand why a lot of things are the way they are. Some professors stand out: Jack Ornstein in Philosophy, who threw everyone for a loop the first day of class by telling a student who was coming through the doorway that it would take her forever to reach her seat. Michael Brian, Rytza Tobias and Gerry Auchanachie in English amazed me with not only their literary

knowledge but that they all seemed to know so much about life itself. Donald Ginter, who had shoulder-length hair and wore jeans and T-shirts to class, taught British history through a study of various documents, speeches and literature, which left us with a wider understanding of the English-speaking world. And a special thanks to the History department's Dick Wilbur and Bruce Bowden, who organized a two-week study tour of Western Canada—which gave me the courage to embark on a new life in Edmonton.

My studies showed me that change for the better had been made in the past and will continue to be made. I learned that it is people who matter most.

**Sandra Barnes, BA 77**  
**Heritage Society**  
**member**  
*Edmonton, Alta.*



## How to make a difference

As a volunteer or donor to Concordia, you, too, can make a difference. Every year, thousands of Concordia alumni, parents and friends provide support to Concordia students. Whichever area of Concordia you choose to support, your assistance will help ensure our students enjoy the best possible university experience and graduate as leaders in their fields.

To make a bequest or learn more about planned giving, contact Silvia Ugolini, Director of Planned Giving, at 514-848-2424, ext. 8945, or [silvia.ugolini@concordia.ca](mailto:silvia.ugolini@concordia.ca), or visit [giving.concordia.ca](http://giving.concordia.ca).



CONCORDIA PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR FREDERICK LOWY, SEATED AT FAR RIGHT, RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS AT THE OPEN MEETING TO DISCUSS THE EXTERNAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON JUNE 28 AT CONCORDIA'S J.A. DESÈVE CINEMA.

## Fall session, Homecoming celebrations and steady progress on governance issues

As we prepare for an exciting fall session of classes and welcome our alumni back to Concordia for our Homecoming 2011 celebrations, we can look forward to building on the progress we have made this year on the governance issues that are vital to the continued success of our university.

The Ad Hoc Governance Committee of our Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee met during the summer to prepare recommendations for the September meetings of the Board and Senate on those governance items that can be dealt with as soon as possible. The committee's work follows the mid-June report of our External Governance Review Committee, which offered 38 recommendations for strengthening governance at our university. (To read the full report, visit [concordia.ca/now](http://concordia.ca/now) and follow the links.)

I am grateful to the members of the External Governance Review Committee—which was chaired by Dr. Bernard Shapiro and included Dr. André C. Côté and Dr. Glen A. Jones—for their diligent and timely efforts. Most of Concordia's stakeholder groups have received the report positively,

including the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee.

I hosted an open meeting on June 28 to hear feedback on the report from faculty members, staff, students, alumni and interested members of the community at large. More than 150 people gathered in Concordia's J.A. DeSève Cinema to share their perspectives, and I was impressed by the civility and candour of the discussion. A video of the meeting and supporting documentation are available on the Concordia website. (See "Opinions and collegiality mark open meeting" at [concordia.ca/now/university-affairs](http://concordia.ca/now/university-affairs).)

In addition, we invited members of our community to submit comments on the report by email up to July 31, which provided the Board's Ad Hoc Governance Committee and the Senate Steering Committee with additional input to consider.

As a result of the timeline for consultation with our community on the report, and to allow the committees' recommendations to be put to the full Board, the terms of the Board's external governors have been extended until September 30 of this year.

The university's appropriate governing bodies will begin to make decisions in the early fall on changes that will help us improve our governance and sustain our culture of excellence and achievement.

I am greatly encouraged by our progress over these past months in bringing Concordians together around these important issues. We have achieved this with the help of the External Governance Review Committee by a frank examination of the challenges we face and through meaningful discussion of the most viable solutions. Our university's governance is here to support our core mission, vision and values, and should reflect the daily university experience of the vast majority of Concordians.

The measured steps we have taken so far and the work that will be done will ensure that our university continues to support the aspirations of our students, faculty members, governors, alumni, staff and community.

I wish all of you a lovely fall and hope to see you at our Homecoming celebrations. ■

**Frederick H. Lowy**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



**Celebration 75,**  
the dinner-dance being held to honour  
the 75th anniversary of the Association of  
Alumni of Sir George Williams University,  
is only a year away!

Dig out your very best or most meaningful Sir George Williams photos, newspaper clippings and memorabilia, and bring them along to share with other Georgians on the night of the gala.

**The countdown has begun!**  
See you in September 2012.

**Harvey Stoliar, S BComm 62, and Robert Barnes, S BA 68**  
Co-Chairs, 75th Anniversary Dinner-Dance Planning Committee

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# Azrieli Foundation donates \$5 million to Concordia

The Azrieli Foundation has given Concordia a \$5-million gift to establish the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies. The Institute will function in a multidisciplinary fashion encouraging proposals and enticing researchers from a raft of academic disciplines including history, political science, religion, languages and sociology.

The goal is to create a research centre that transcends but does not ignore Israeli politics, Naomi Azrieli, chair and executive director of the Foundation, said at a gift announcement June 22 at the Hyatt Regency Montreal. "We feel that the multidisciplinary approach, which goes well beyond politics to look at culture, society, history, economics, literature, language and much more, is particularly important, and is in line with what is happening in country- and area-studies teaching and research in first-class institutions all over the world," she said.

Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Frederick Lowy praised the Azrieli Foundation for its vision, stating that the gift was "a testament of your confidence in our university." Few Canadian universities offer Israel studies courses and Lowy noted that Concordia would join the ranks of a "global academic group that includes esteemed institutions" such as the University of Toronto, University of Oxford and University of California Los Angeles, among others. "Your donation will enhance learning opportunities for our students and widen the research horizon for our scholars," he added.

Dominique McCaughey, Concordia

acting vice-president of Advancement and Alumni Relations, said the gift would help consolidate Concordia's position on the academic map. "We consider your act of generosity a strong signal of your conviction for Concordia's ability to promote world-class research and scholarship on an important state and region," she said.

Peter Kruyt, BComm 78, chair of the university's Board of Governors, reminded guests at the gift announcement that Concordia had a long and warm history with the Azrieli Foundation and David Azrieli in particular. "Among the family's numerous gifts to Concordia was one of the university's first endowments, which created the David J. Azrieli Graduate Fellowship," Kruyt said. "This long-standing philanthropy towards Concordia is exemplary and encouraging."

The institute will be co-directed by Concordia professors Norma Joseph, PhD 95, from the Department of Religion and Csaba Nikolenyi from the Department of Political Science. ■



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

LEFT TO RIGHT: PETER KRUYT, BCOMM 78, CHAIR OF THE CONCORDIA'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, NAOMI AZRIELI, CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AZRIELI FOUNDATION, AND CONCORDIA CHANCELLOR L. JACQUES MÉNARD, L BCOMM 67, LLD 06, AT THE AZRIELI GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE HYATT REGENCY MONTREAL ON JUNE 22.

## Concordia

*Concordia University Magazine* welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

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A teal-colored horizontal band featuring a 3D rendering of interlocking gears. The gears are arranged in a perspective view, with some in the foreground and others receding into the background. The lighting creates shadows, giving the gears a three-dimensional appearance.

# MAKING THE WHEELS GO 'ROUND

*Elected officials can bask—or suffer—in the spotlight, and their career length can be limited (just ask Michael Ignatieff). Typically, it's the individuals behind the scenes at political institutions who keep the wheels turning. Meet six Concordia alumni who've dedicated themselves to public service at various levels of municipal, national and international public organizations.*



FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, MICHAEL HORGAN HAS HELD VARIOUS FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANT POSITIONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, WHERE HE'S NOW DEPUTY MINISTER.

### WATCHING THE GOVERNMENT'S PURSE STRINGS

*Michael Horgan, BA 77, holds one of the highest-ranking government posts as Deputy Minister of Finance.*

When Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty wish to take the pulse of the nation's economy, the official they consult most is Michael Horgan, BA (econ.) 77, who since September 2009 has been the deputy minister of the Department of Finance.

The soft-spoken Horgan is one of Ottawa's most influential mandarins, administering the department that calculates how much the federal government should tax and spend. He briefs the finance minister regularly, and most intensively during the run-up to the federal budget.

Born in Arvida, Que., Horgan spent his childhood in other parts of Quebec and Prince Edward Island. He chose to pursue his undergrad studies at Loyola College, which merged with Sir George Williams University to become Concordia while Horgan was completing his BA in Economics. "I had a great educational experience, and was valedictorian of my graduating class," he recalls.

Horgan was active in student politics at Concordia and intrigued by public policy issues, "so starting a career in the public service seemed a logical choice," he says. In 1978, Horgan joined the Department of Finance in Ottawa; over the next three decades, he alternated promotions at Finance with assignments to other departments.

In his climb to the top, Horgan has worked on some memorable files. As a junior economist at Finance, he was the department's analyst on the Trudeau Government's National Energy Program (NEP) in the late 1970s, then migrated to Energy, Mines and Resources to join Ed Clark, the official who devised the controversial NEP. "I expected the [West's] reaction to be hostile, but I was surprised by the depth of

the hostility," Horgan relates. "I learned a lot from that experience."

Returning to Finance in 1986, Horgan helped design and implement the also-contentious Goods and Services Tax (GST). "I would go home to PEI and everybody would tell me how much they hated this new tax. My mother would say: 'This is my son. He's working on the GST,'" Horgan says. "But I still think it was the right thing to do."

In the '90s, he held senior posts in the Privy Council Office, the central agency that advises the prime minister. He was part of the federal team in the run-up to, and the aftermath of, the 1995 Quebec sovereignty referendum. "For those of us who believed in Canada, it was a very emotional time," he says.

Following the razor-thin federalist victory, Horgan helped shape the Clarity Act, which set the terms for any future secession, and the Calgary Accord, an agreement to limit the unilateral use of federal spending power in fields of provincial jurisdiction.

Horgan then spent almost four years in Moncton, N.B., heading the federal government's economic development unit called the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. "It was an opportunity to do something completely different in a part of Canada that I love and enjoy," he says.

In 2001, Horgan returned to Ottawa to serve as the number-two official in Finance. He then became deputy minister of two politically fraught departments, first Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (recently renamed Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) and then Environment Canada. Despite historic aboriginal mistrust of Indian and Northern Affairs, Horgan helped then-PM Paul Martin forge the Kelowna Accord, a pact with aboriginal leaders and first ministers intended to improve conditions for First Nations. (Harper's election victory a few weeks later scuttled the accord.) Moving to Environment Canada, Horgan advised the new Conservative government on climate change strategy as the issue suddenly, but briefly, leaped to the top of public concern.

During the global financial crisis in the fall of 2008, he was at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C., representing Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean on its governing board. Back at Finance, he's now helping guide the Canadian economy through a fragile recovery. "The message we get all the time is that you've got to balance the budget," he says, "but that it doesn't have to be overnight."

—By S.E. Gordon



I would go home to PEI and everybody would tell me how much they hated this new tax. My mother would say: "This is my son. He's working on the GST."

# Lobbying is a legitimate activity. Free and open access to the government is important.

KAREN E. SHEPHERD  
AT HER OTTAWA  
HEADQUARTERS.  
SHEPHERD HELPED  
ESTABLISH THE OFFICE  
OF THE REGISTRAR OF  
LOBBYISTS IN 2004  
AND, A FEW YEARS  
LATER, WAS NAMED  
THE COUNTRY'S FIRST  
COMMISSIONER OF  
LOBBYING.



## KEEPING THE LOBBY TIDY

*Karen E. Shepherd, BA 87, oversees Canada's lobbyists.*

As the first Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada, Karen E. Shepherd, BA (econ.) '87, is an independent agent of Parliament charged with regulating lobbyists who communicate with the federal government. Appointed to the position in June 2009, Shepherd swapped the anonymity of a civil service career for the visibility of a watchdog whose vigilance in monitoring a controversial profession is itself under public scrutiny. But she's not complaining.

"I like finding new ways to challenge myself," Shepherd says. "Being a public persona goes with the territory. It makes the *Lobbying Act* [passed in 2008] better known to Canadians, and therefore ensures better compliance."

Those are, indeed, two of the three main duties of the commissioner's job. The other is to maintain the Registry of Lobbyists, which includes more than 5,000 lobbyists who are currently registered and must submit monthly reports of any contact with cabinet ministers, their staffs, MPs, senators and senior bureaucrats.

Shepherd rejects the common view that lobbyists bias public policy in favour of special interests. "Lobbying is a legitimate activity," she asserts. "Free and open access to the government is important." Shepherd believes "the legislation is working quite well. The vast majority of lobbyists want to comply with the spirit and the letter of the *Lobbying Act* and the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct." The Code, which complements the *Lobbying Act*, came into effect in 1997. She laments that "what shows up is the negative stuff in the media."

Although there have been no prosecutions for non-compliance with the registration requirements, Shepherd hopes Parliament will add administrative penalties to the criminal

sanctions already in place. "If a lobbyist discloses that they're late in registering, that may not warrant my calling in the RCMP," she says, "but right now I have no alternative penalties."

Shepherd (née Himbury) is a native Montrealer. She has fond memories of her days at Concordia, where she majored in Economics. "It gave me not only a solid educational background but also hands-on experience through its co-op program," she says. Through the program, she was placed with Employment and Immigration Canada and Energy, Mines and Resources Canada in Ottawa. "This confirmed for me that I wanted to work with the federal government when I graduated."

Shepherd began her public service career in 1989 as an auditor with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, then moved to Revenue Canada for five years as a customs valuation officer. Beginning in 1996, she held a series of Industry Canada posts, including Senior Policy Advisor in the Marine Directorate and Director of the Aerospace Directorate.

With several years of managing people and complex projects under her belt, she was a logical top candidate when Ottawa created the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists in 2004. Shepherd played an instrumental role in setting up the new regulatory body and recruiting staff, then served as Director of Investigations and Deputy Registrar, focusing on compliance and enforcement.

When the Harper government overhauled the machinery with the *Lobbying Act* in 2008, Shepherd became Interim Commissioner of Lobbying. She was appointed for a seven-year term as Commissioner the following year. With five years of her mandate remaining, she says, "There is much I want to accomplish in the office. It's an exciting and challenging job."

—By S.E. Gordon

## UNITED NATIONS MISSION MAN

*His multiple UN assignments over the past 20-plus years leads one to ask, Where in the world is Robert Cannon, BA 80, MA 85?*

“It’s a good 20 degrees cooler than Bangui,” Robert Cannon, BA (poli. sci.) 80, MA (PP&PA) 85, says about the weather in Nantucket, Mass. He was there enjoying some R&R from the position he’s held since March as Chief of Mission Support at BINUCA, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic. Cannon manages the financial and human resources of the field mission, whose goals are to help bring peace to the nation and rebuild and strengthen its democratic and economic institutions.

Cannon’s political interest started at Concordia. The New York City native arrived at the university in the late ’70s to study political science. He eventually became one of the Loyola Students’ Association’s last two co-presidents and helped create the Concordia University Students’ Association (now the Concordia Student Union). After a year at Université Laval in Quebec City, he enrolled in Concordia’s Public Policy and Public Administration master’s program.

Upon graduating in 1985, Cannon worked for a company that developed software packages for law firms. After three years, “I began to get bored,” he reveals. “I found that the idea of helping lawyers make more money by using technology wasn’t really what I wanted to do with my life.”

Cannon attended a presentation by the World University Services of Canada, which was looking for people interested in overseas development work. “They said they had a project in Botswana and needed someone to help with business management and quality control,” Cannon recalls. He was

off to Botswana for two years, during which he “fell in love with Africa and development work and just never looked back.”

In 1991, he joined CARE Australia’s project in Cambodia, where he met Tom Ganiatsos of the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development. “The UN was having difficulty finding recruits willing to go to Cambodia, so I got picked up,” Cannon says.

As a provincial financial officer with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia until 1994, Cannon ensured that the government was not selling state-owned assets to finance its election campaign. From there, he embarked on globe-trotting UN assignments: Somalia, Kenya, Angola, the Netherlands, East Timor, UN headquarters in New York, Sierra Leone and, from 2007 to 2010, Iraq.

While no longer in the throes of war at that time, Iraq remained dangerous. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Cannon’s boss in East Timor, was killed in Baghdad in 2003 by a car bomb that also took the lives of more than a dozen other UN employees. “There were still incidents [when I was there],” Cannon says. “We had rockets and mortars hit our compounds. On two occasions, we lost the lives of contractors working for us.”

While Bangui is less volatile, there are still risks. Yet Cannon believes a career in overseas field-mission work is the “hardest job anyone will ever fall in love with.” He points out that there are many reasons not to like peacekeeping: “People don’t like to work where there’s malaria. People do not like to be away from their families for long. People don’t like being in hot, sticky places. They don’t like being shot at.” But he adds, “I wouldn’t choose to do anything else. I find it exhilarating. I know that I make a difference in people’s lives. I can’t ask for much more than that.”

—Chris Hanna

There were still incidents. We had rockets and mortars hit our compounds. On two occasions, we lost the lives of contractors working for us.



ROBERT CANNON IN 2007, UNDER THE CROSSED SWORDS IN BAGHDAD, IRAQ, WHERE SADDAM HUSSEIN USED TO HOLD HIS MILITARY PARADES. CANNON SERVED AS THE UN MISSION’S CHIEF OF TECHNICAL SERVICES IN IRAQ FROM 2007 TO 2010.

A hundred people called me to volunteer. People got so excited and involved. It gives them a great sense of commitment and engagement.

CHRISTIAN FLEURY

BRENDA PARIS WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MUNICIPAL PARTY UNION MONTREAL IN 2005 BUT BECAME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE RULING PARTY AND MOVED TO VISION MONTREAL IN 2009.



### KEEPING THE CITY MOVING

*Brenda Paris, Cert 84, BA 97, has followed her principles and made her mark for the past decade in Montreal politics.*

By the time Brenda Paris, Cert (family life ed.) 84, BA (app. hum. sci.) 97, earned her Concordia bachelor's degree, she had been involved in governance and community for 25 years. Yet she says her course with Applied Human Sciences Professor Jim Gavin helped reinforce her role as a change agent and "further solidified my dedication to community capacity-building through empowerment and inclusiveness."

Paris has enjoyed a varied career in Montreal municipal politics. Mayor Gerald Tremblay appointed her to the board of directors of the Montreal Urban Community Transit Corporation in 2002 as the Transit Client Representative, a position Paris held until 2009. As president of the board's Ethnic and Social Diversity Committee, she oversaw the creation of the first Public Forum on the Integration of Ethnocultural and Visible Minority Employees in the Workplace. Paris admits there was a significant learning curve. "The dossiers are huge," she says.

She was also a member of Service de police de la ville de Montréal's Special Advisory Committee, which provided recommendations to two police directors, furthering her involvement and understanding of city mechanisms. She has also been a gender-based analysis consultant for the Status of Women Canada since 2004.

Outside of politics, for 25 years Paris was the coordinator of Student Development at Montreal's Dawson College, where she also co-founded the Black and Third World Students Affairs Department in 1973, a first in Canada. "As its director, I liaised

with community members and politicians, and this role was a large part of the reason for my subsequent political appointments," she says. Paris remained at Dawson until 1997, the same year she earned her Concordia BA. "Concordia's a rich place in terms of its academic setting and professors."

While Paris declined an earlier offer in 2001 to run for office because she had just become executive director of the Black Community Resource Centre, she eventually ran, and lost, in 2005 as a Union Montreal candidate in the Sud-Ouest borough. Paris was awed by how her candidacy empowered those around her. "A hundred people called me to volunteer," she recalls. "People got so excited and involved. It's not that they are living vicariously through you, but it gives them a great sense of commitment and engagement." She was subsequently elected president of the Union Montreal Political Party by its members in 2006.

After an eight-year association with Union Montreal, in 2009 she did what many have told her was courageous: she switched party affiliation, to Vision Montreal, the current official opposition headed by Louise Harel. "I had decided at a certain point that I didn't like some of the things that went on in city hall," Paris says. "I thought the other party might be able to better represent the needs of the citizens."

In 2009, she ran (unsuccessfully) for mayor of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough. Although she knew it would be a tough challenge, "I had a view to raise important day-to-day citizen concerns such as affordable housing, security and transport, to name a few," she says.

Paris was hired in 2010 as senior advisor to Vision Montreal's cabinet and continues her involvement as a political counsellor. On the political front, only time will tell what's next for her.

—Chris Hanna

The sight of President Obama greeting Michaëlle Jean is one of those historic moments that I will remember for the rest of my life.



TWO-TIME  
AMBASSADOR ROBERT  
PECK, PICTURED  
IN RIDEAU HALL IN  
OTTAWA, CREDITS  
HIS PARENTS WITH  
INSTILLING IN HIM A  
LOVE OF TRAVEL AND  
AN AWARENESS OF  
THE WORLD.

## FOLLOWING PROTOCOL

*Robert Peck, BA 81, prepares for his next Foreign Affairs assignment*

“My life abroad started before I joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, which is probably why I’m doing what I’m doing,” says Robert Peck, BA (hist. & journ.) 81. Peck’s father taught with the Canadian International Development Agency and from the mid-1960s to mid-’70s the family lived in three different African countries. That prepared him for his nearly three decades posted around the world with Canada’s foreign service.

Peck returned to his native Montreal in the mid-’70s and eventually arrived at Concordia, where he majored in History with a minor in Journalism. He acknowledges the importance of his entrance scholarship, which helped provide needed financial support, and the quality of his professors. “It’s hard to single them out,” Peck says, “but Graeme Decarie [S BA 60, former Concordia History professor] was just a wonderful person who had a passion for history, and it rubbed off on his students.” And while he never practised journalism—“I was always too verbose,” he quips—Peck expresses appreciation for former Journalism chair Lindsay Crysler’s rigour for the written word and the training the program provided.

Upon graduating in 1981, Peck was one of only 10 Canadian students chosen for the parliamentary internship program at the House of Commons in Ottawa. “You get to work with a government backbencher and then with an opposition member,” he explains. His appetite whetted, he wrote the Foreign Service exams and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1982, where, save for a stint from 2000 to 2002 as Director of Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations for CAE, he has spent his professional career.

From 2007 to 2010, Peck was Canada’s Chief of Protocol, where he and his team orchestrated all high-level visits to and from the country by ministers and heads of state and government. As the point person for incoming and outgoing diplomatic trips, Peck was the first Canadian to greet U.S. President Barack Obama on his first official visit to Canada in February 2009. “It was a very special visit for all kinds of reasons,” he recalls. “The sight of President Obama greeting [then-Governor General] Michaëlle Jean is one of those historic moments that I will remember for the rest of my life.”

Since leaving the Office of Protocol, Peck has been receiving full-time Greek-language training for his upcoming role as Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic (Greece) and High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus, which he’ll begin this fall.

The new position will add to Peck’s long and impressive list of foreign assignments, including as Canada’s Ambassador to Algeria from 2004 to 2007, tours with the Canadian High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria, and the Canadian embassy in Berne, Switzerland. In 1998, he was invested as Grand Commander of the Order of the Phoenix for promoting intercultural relations at the Canadian Embassy in Athens.

Peck’s wife, Maria Pantazi-Peck, is also a diplomat. The two have been able to work together for most of their careers despite some challenging regulations; for instance, one spouse can’t report to another and an ambassador’s spouse can’t work within the embassy. “So you have to be creative and flexible with what you do with your work,” Peck says. But thanks to a new policy that supports employee couples at missions abroad, he reports that Maria will be able to keep her current position—as an advisor in the Global Business Opportunities Bureau—and work remotely from Athens. She’ll therefore be able to remain near her husband, his Excellency.

—Chris Hanna

## IT WOMAN

*The private (sector) life of Corinne Benedetti Charette, BSc (elec. eng.) 75, LLD 11, has now moved into the public, as Canada's CIO.*

Her mother warned her that her days at Loyola College would be some of the best of her life; sure enough, Corinne Benedetti Charette, BSc (elec. eng.) 75, LLD 11, would not describe them any other way, and adds that she's never regretted her decision to attend Loyola in the early 1970s instead of a larger campus. (In 1974, as Benedetti Charette entered her final year, Loyola and Sir George Williams University merged to form Concordia University.) "The engineering faculty was very small and the professors were outstanding and always available," Benedetti Charette says. She also recalls using an IBM 1401—an old computer even in those days—and preparing her programs on punch cards. "We had to go up the stairs to load the cards into the computer, and I remember running up and down quicker and quicker as our assignment deadlines approached."

The Electrical Engineering alumna studied digital architecture and telecommunications and transmissions theory, but she never imagined where she would end up: as the Government of Canada's Chief Information Officer, a position she's held since 2009 and which she calls "the most exciting CIO job in Canada." The post falls under the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and, she explains, requires her "to establish the strategies and policies that government departments align with in terms of information management, information technology and government security, including cyber security, access to information, privacy and service."

For instance, Benedetti Charette was closely involved in the conception of a new \$2-billion federal agency called Shared Services Canada, which will streamline Ottawa's information technology (IT) systems. "We've recognized the need for a long time," she says. "This will create a robust, modern system that

will consolidate our IT infrastructure." Among many other tasks, she's responsible for information management—ensuring that government records are properly safeguarded—and is working on a "cyber authentication" project that will improve the protection of individuals and businesses dealing with government online services.

Benedetti Charette's IT career started at IBM as a systems engineer in 1975, after the company recruited her on campus. "IBM was looking for people who understood IT, architecture and direction, and could apply those concepts practically in a commercial environment, and the Loyola experience gave me that practical and sound problem-solving basis," she says.

After a few years, Benedetti Charette launched a consulting career—which got slightly sidetracked when she decided to start a family. "Consulting requires that you travel to different cities at the drop of a hat, and I thought I couldn't possibly have young children and have to travel," she says. By the mid-'80s, Benedetti Charette says she deliberately put herself on a "Mommy track" during her two sons' formative years, selecting assignments that would allow her to comfortably manage her professional and personal obligations.

Eventually, after a stint teaching IT at Collège de Rosemont in Montreal, she returned to the private sector and quickly climbed the professional rungs at several large companies. Before moving to her Government of Canada post, Benedetti Charette served as CIO at Montreal-based airline Transat A.T. Inc. from 2006 to 2009.

To her surprise, Concordia bestowed Benedetti Charette with an honorary degree at its 2011 spring convocation. "I'm not a person who does a tremendous amount of networking," she admits. "I'm not often in the news, but I guess it shows that if you work hard and just try to make a contribution wherever you've been, at the end of the day, it adds up and people recognize it." ■

—Chris Hanna

A portrait of Corinne Benedetti Charette, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a grey blazer over a white top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. In the background, a Canadian flag is visible. The image is part of a larger layout that includes a quote and a caption.

We had to go up the stairs to load the cards into the computer, and I remember running up and down quicker and quicker as our assignment deadlines approached.

CORINNE BENEDETTI CHARETTE'S LONG, SUCCESSFUL CAREER LED HER TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S TOP IT POSITION.

# A SCIENTIFIC WAY OF LEARNING



# SCIENCE

CONCORDIA PHYSICS PROFESSOR CALVIN KALMAN LEADS A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS  
LOOKING FOR MORE EFFECTIVE METHODS OF SCIENCE TEACHING.

BY CHRIS HANNA

For the foreseeable future, our reliance on the advancement of science will only increase as we seek to develop innovative technologies, tackle emerging health concerns, feed an increasing global population, seek new forms of energy and deal with rising environmental challenges, among many other issues. As a result, there will be a growing emphasis on science education.

However, according to Concordia Physics Professor Calvin Kalman, students in introductory science courses today often become overwhelmed and therefore discouraged from pursuing science studies—and possibly even consider dropping out of school. “We need highly educated individuals,” says Kalman, who’s also principal of Concordia’s Science College. “The fact is that people drop out not only because they’re not capable, but rather because of the way they’ve been taught.” Good science teaching, then, is essential.

Help is on the way. Kalman received a major boost last year when the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) provided him a three-year, \$139,600 grant to conduct research in improving science teaching, which involves methods he has been using as an instructor at the university since the 1970s. The research project is titled “Personal epistemologies as barriers and facilitators to learning by science and engineering undergraduate students.” Kalman’s

co-investigators are from McGill and Ryerson universities and the University of British Columbia.

When he applied to SSHRC, Kalman only expected to complete in-class experiments at Concordia and Ryerson, but the grant has made it possible to expand to Langara College in Vancouver and universities in Europe and Asia. “It’s exploded way beyond what was originally thought,” Kalman says.

Kalman believes that the language found in its textbooks sets science apart from other fields of study. “The analogy I always use is that it’s the same as an anthropologist going to a South Seas Island,” he says. “The language and culture are totally different. The words in the textbook have cultural meaning inside the culture of science. You can literally translate words, but the words outside the whole cultural context don’t have meaning.”

Kalman has found that students’ difficulties with post-secondary science education have their roots in the structure of high-school courses and textbooks, which fail to make clear to students that these early parts of the courses are the building blocks needed to understand the next steps. “The students don’t understand that there is this culture and that the typical textbook is built on a framework. So they look at each piece of it as separate, and in that way, they really have difficulty coping,” he says.

## NEW METHODS

The research team has developed teaching methods to counter this problem. They first tried to understand the way students in science courses actually begin to learn the material: is it just before an exam, in class or after a lecture when reviewing their notes? Using their experimental methods, Kalman and company aim to get students to begin their learning process before they even attend a lecture.

“You might say just getting students to read for a class is in itself great,” says Kalman, “but we are really trying to do far more than that. We are trying to get students to interact with the textbook before class, to get them to question what’s in the textbook.”

During the winter 2011 semester, researchers conducted pilot testing at Langara and Concordia in two classes that were taught by the same professor at each institution, with only one class exposed to the experimental methods. The other, the control group, used traditional summary writing, in which students simply write a summary of what is already in the textbook before the topic is discussed in class. The Concordia courses, in Physics Mechanics, had 100 students each; the two Langara sections had 35 students enrolled in each.

Throughout the 13-week classes (at Concordia and Langara and in future), teachers implement three specific methods concurrently. The first method

PICTURED AT THE RICHARD J. RENAUD SCIENCE COMPLEX: CONCORDIA PHYSICS PROFESSOR CALVIN KALMAN AND PHD STUDENT XIANG HUANG ARE PART OF A RESEARCH TEAM EXAMINING EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE TEACHING METHODS.



EARLIER THIS YEAR, CALVIN KALMAN (SEATED IN THE CENTRE) VISITED TRA VINH UNIVERSITY IN VIETNAM, WHERE HE SPENT THREE WEEKS TEACHING AND WORKING WITH FACULTY MEMBERS ON IMPROVING SCIENCE EDUCATION.

## It's the same as an anthropologist going to a South Seas Island. The language and culture are totally different. The words in the textbook have cultural meaning inside the culture of science.

incorporates reflective writing, where students read the material for a given lecture before class and then write notes based on what they understood and remembered, having no recourse to the textbook again. Before they begin the reflective writing, they can highlight and take notes, but the activity is meant to have them “think about their thinking,” as Kalman puts it, and to realize that the reality may not be exactly as they imagined it to be.

The next method, called conceptual conflict, splits groups into teams of no more than five students who then discuss the concepts of a given lesson or theory. In this second technique, the professor listens to the groups’ theories and then asks teams with different ideas to present their findings, forcing students to see that different conclusions can be reached from one theory. The groups debate and the discussion leads students to ask questions about what they thought they understood, in order to get to the truth and confirm their textbook readings.

The final method requires students to contest—or critique—the different ideas they heard about during the conceptual conflict activities and write an essay on what they think is the proper conclusion.

Kalman reports that many more students “got it” after taking this final step themselves. “At the end of the exercise, 95 per cent of the students had it right,” he says. As for the few who still did not reach the correct conclusion, Kalman believes they were so strongly convinced of one side beforehand that they could not or would not see it any differently. “We can misread things on a textbook page, we can mishear what a professor is saying, and we can mishear other people talking. Our brains are fantastic at this.”

Xiang Huang is a Concordia PhD student who is assisting the team in its testing, research and result analysis. In her own PhD thesis, Huang is looking

at ways to improve science teaching by comparing the effectiveness of reflective writing and summary writing. “When they graduate, students don’t just have those credits or the degree, but they also have developed a scientific way of learning. That’s why we emphasize that we are not just teaching students science content, but also a way of learning,” Huang says, so they can further benefit from the courses they take.

Through reflective writing, Huang explains, students “write their own ideas in their own language, to make clear what they understand and what they don’t.” In this way, when they go to the lecture, students already have a sense of what will be covered and are prepared for it, and therefore can take full advantage of the class time to ask questions and engage more deeply with the material.

## THE RESULTS

Kalman and his team hope new teaching methods will bring about a change in student behaviour, alter how they learn and develop their critical thinking skills. At the end of the 13-week experimental course, Kalman and his team ask: "Have students' ways of learning been changed during the course?" To determine this, the researchers incorporate several tests, including questionnaires, interviews and a review of students' submissions during the semester.

In Kalman's past experience using his methods, there was a significant improvement in students' understanding of concepts. The preliminary outcomes for this research have been equally encouraging. "We definitely see much better results from people doing reflective writing," Kalman notes. "The whole point is that students are really thinking about what's there, instead of just trying to write down and summarize what's in the textbook."

In an essay published last year after Kalman's earlier use of these teaching methods in physics and science education, participating students'

testimonials and interview answers shed light on their effectiveness. One typical student noted: "While doing reflective writing, you can often pinpoint particular important ideas you don't understand. You are forced to think about the content. It's not like memorizing." The same student later stated that "reflective writing helps you recover the main points of sections of the chapter and put them together to get to the point of the whole chapter."

The technique is pertinent to other educational fields as well. "Some of [what we are doing] is very specific for science, but maybe 85 per cent can be applied to teaching history or political science," Kalman explains, "and in fact there are people that I've given workshops to who are not in science."

## INTERNATIONALITY

Kalman hopes that the research findings will be widely adopted, as they already have been by professors at Concordia and Langara. With pilot testing completed at those schools as of spring 2011, the team will continue the research in Canada at Ryerson. The

SSHRC grant has also made collaborative projects possible at Hefei University of Technology in China and Tra Vinh University in Vietnam, where Kalman recently spent three weeks teaching and showing 37 faculty members what they would be doing with the students. "What's the point of talking about it?" he asks. "You want people to experience it." Research will also be conducted at the University of Lisbon in Portugal and in South Korea.

Huang sees this as an opportunity to be able to do some cross-culture analysis to determine whether culture could have some sort of effect on students' way of learning. Kalman points out: "I have given workshops on my approaches worldwide, and in the past, my work has been shown to help all students learn. People are people, so it should be possible to get them to behave in the same way. But the teaching system is different. The point is, can you overcome these differences? Can we set up something universal that will work anywhere?"

Calvin Kalman and his research team are hoping to find out soon—and pass on the results. ■

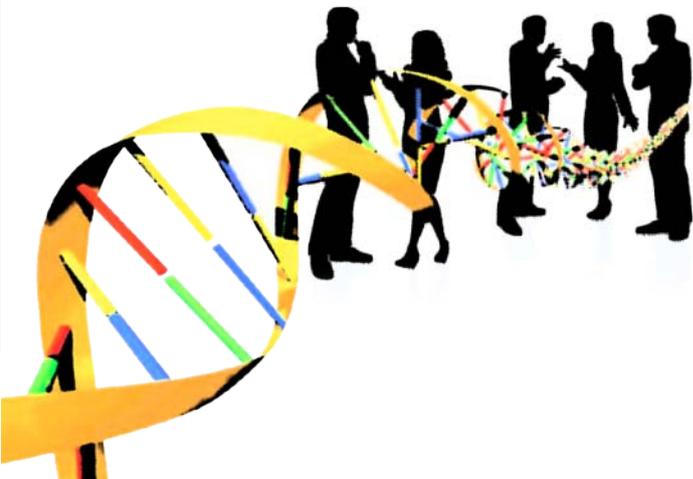
## LET'S TALK SCIENCE

Concordia is building upon its long history of bringing scientific knowledge and discovery to the public by forging a collaboration with the Let's Talk Science National Office. Let's Talk Science ([letstalkscience.ca](http://letstalkscience.ca)) is a London, Ont.-based national charitable organization that delivers science learning programs and services to children and youth. One of the pillars of Concordia's mission is a commitment to the advancement of knowledge, and in this spirit the university shares Let's Talk Science's enthusiasm for creating and delivering public science-learning opportunities.

As a host site, Concordia is developing outreach programs intended to communicate the idea that science is a human endeavour that inspires us to think critically and scientifically, promotes lifelong learning in science and spurs personal and societal growth. Amanda Rossi, BSc 06, MSc 09, a PhD student in Special Individualized Programs, will be the campus coordinator for Let's Talk Science.

Concordia's history in science-learning outreach programming includes:

- Annual Expo-Science Fair, Pointe-Claire, Que., since 1984
- Annual Reach Summer Science Camp, Loyola Campus, since 1989
- Eureka!, annual science fair, Old Port of Montreal, since 2008
- Host of the annual Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair, 2010 and 2011





# GREAT GRADS



IN THIS ANNUAL FEATURE,  
WE INTRODUCE YOU  
TO SIX EXCEPTIONAL,  
AWARD-WINNING NEW  
ALUMNI WHO WERE  
AMONG THE MORE-  
THAN 4,800 CONCORDIA  
STUDENTS WHO  
GRADUATED IN JUNE.



## ART BUILDS COMMUNITY

Sharing art and her research comes naturally to Pohanna Pyne Feinberg

BY JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

**A** visual artist, radio contributor, concert coordinator and curator, Pohanna Pyne Feinberg, MFA (art history) 11, understates her rich resumé when she remarks that she has yet to define herself as an artist.

Pyne Feinberg had been involved in community radio and local music festivals, holding positions ranging from fundraising and promotions coordinator to programmer to special series curator, before starting studies three years ago towards a master's degree in Art History, which she received from Concordia in June. Along the way, she earned a Concordia Special Entrance Award and a Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture scholarship. "Life is learning, but there was a moment when I realized that returning to school would be interesting for all the resources, networks and new ideas that it offered," says the New York native, who moved to Montreal 16 years ago.

She found her calling in art history because the program allowed her to find harmony between her research, her interests and her community engagement. "I was drawn to researching contemporary sound art practices," Pyne Feinberg says. "I am also very interested in how artistic expression shapes ecological and social justice movements—music, video, collage, tapestries—by whatever artistic means people choose. My research around community art for my thesis ties into this."

Alice Ming Wai Jim, an associate professor of Art History, taught Pyne Feinberg's curatorial studies course. "She expressed keen interest from the start in educational programming and community outreach, and she produced an excellent education program for the [2008 "Rearranging Desires"] exhibition among many other tasks," Jim recalls. "Her initiative, charismatic leadership ability and high degree of professionalism shone while conducting artist interviews as well as in how she took on the editorial and content provider role for the website."

Pyne Feinberg committed herself to community-engaged work while at university after realizing she could share her research with the public. This concept led to the idea of *Inspire Art* ([inspireart.org](http://inspireart.org)) an online magazine she created in 2008 that documents and supports community art collaborations in Montreal. By sharing ideas and information that she collected over the course of her master's degree, she hopes to encourage more awareness about community art in the region.

Since April, Pyne Feinberg has been the educational program coordinator for Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal, which runs from September 8 to October 9. "It's a wonderful bridge at this point in my life," she says.

Jim sees a bright future ahead for her former student: "Pohanna is well on her way to having a tremendously successful and productive career as an arts educator, academic researcher, cultural organizer and creative extraordinaire."

**POHANNA PYNE FEINBERG** COORDINATED THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THE 2008 EXHIBITION CALLED "REARRANGING DESIRES" AT CONCORDIA'S FOFA GALLERY, AS PART OF A CURATORIAL SEMINAR SHE ATTENDED.

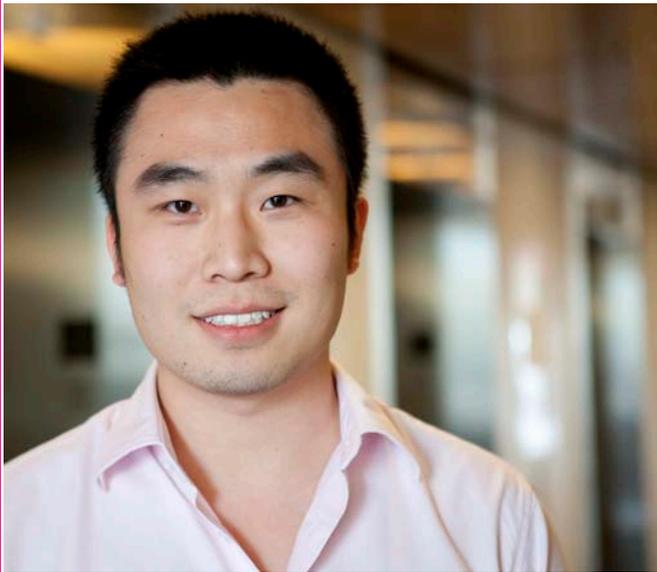


MANUELLE FREIRE

## TAKING HIS HANDS-ON EDUCATION SERIOUSLY

Seeking a non-traditional double major, Zhuo Ling blazed a new path

BY JESSE B. STANIFORTH



**ZHUO LING** GRADUATED FROM THE INTENSIVE KENNETH WOODS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BUT STILL FOUND TIME TO WORK WITH CONCORDIA STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS.

Zhuo Ling, BComm (fn.) 11, decided that his chances for graduate school would be improved if he combined his studies in Finance at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) with a second major in Economics. But that meant a joint degree between two faculties, since economics is in Arts and Science, something not usually possible at the undergraduate level. For most students, that would have been the end of the story. But not for Ling.

He convinced the chairs of both departments and George Kanaan, JMSB's associate dean of Academic and Student Affairs, to back his proposal. Although Ling graduated this June before the joint degree was accepted, he's passed the torch to the incoming Commerce and Administration Students' Association (CASA) academic VP, who has pledged to see the double major through to its establishment. "I won't be benefitting from the double major, but hopefully future generations of JMSB students could have that choice," Ling says.

His devotion to fellow students has been duly noted. Former CASA President Lea Zimmerman, BComm 11, who worked with Ling in a variety of student association-related roles over the past few years, says: "There are few individuals who I have encountered with as strong a commitment and passion for helping the student body. Zhuo will involve himself in any opportunity he can where it will provide value for JMSB and Concordia students, almost to a fault. I remember several nights spent in the KWMPM [Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program] and CSU [Concordia Student

## MULTI-TASKING HER WAY TO EXCELLENCE

Vijeta Patel is taking her software engineering degree to Microsoft's headquarters in Seattle

BY JESSE B. STANIFORTH

When Vijeta Patel, BEng (software eng.) 11, starts work on the Internet Explorer team at Microsoft's Seattle headquarters this month, you can be sure it won't be a consolation job. She also interviewed with Google and Amazon, and Facebook came calling too.

All par for the course for a student who maintained a 4.1 GPA while participating in extracurricular activities and co-op work terms with companies such as IBM.

Patel first discovered the advantages of extracurricular projects when she was in CEGEP at Dawson College in Montreal. "I loved having that sense of community," she says, "so when I started at Concordia, I wanted to get involved."

During her four years at the university, Patel held various posts in the Engineering and Computer Science Association, culminating in her role this year as VP Academic. That position demanded that she plan the Iron Ring ceremony for her graduating class, manage the exam bank, help students find tutors and attend meetings with faculty administrators to discuss curriculum changes. She also helped organize the Canadian University Software Engineering Conference over each of the

past four years and will chair the 2012 conference. "My experience with extracurricular activities put me in leadership positions," she says. "I'm really good now at delegating and dealing with people and managing my time."

But it wasn't easy. When she started at Concordia, Patel's grades were in the A-plus range, but as she got more deeply involved, "the Bs started creeping in," she admits. This slip-page forced her to confront her work-school balance and find an approach that allowed her to excel in both. Which, of course, she did.

"Vijeta is a very disciplined and dedicated individual. She excels at everything she does," says Jean-Michel Paquette, BAdmin 04, coordinator of Concordia's Institute for Co-operative Education. He's not saying that lightly: the Institute nominated Patel for the Canadian Association of Co-operative Education's Student of the Year award. She also received a Normand D. Hébert Scholarship in Engineering upon admission, which was renewed annually until her graduation.

Paquette sees a bright future ahead for the newly minted grad. He predicts in 10 years' time she'll have won a few prizes and become a manager. "She will most likely have made an important contribution to society and will be a great example of a woman in engineering," Paquette says.

In the meantime, the Montreal native took a well-deserved holiday—two months travelling through Europe with friends—before heading to Seattle for her next great adventure.

Union] offices when he only went home to shower; he had a pillow, blanket and virtually all of the necessities stored away in his office.”

“I hear other students always speak about him with admiration,” adds Finance Professor Abraham Brodt. Brodt is also the director of the prestigious KWPMP, to which a small number of undergraduate finance students are selected to gain investment-management experience by providing them with an actual market portfolio worth over \$1 million. “It’s a lot of responsibility,” says Ling, a member of the program’s 2011 class. “You’re making real money or losing real money. We’re very attached to it. But it gives you a good idea of what it’s like to work in the industry.”

With such intense experiences under his belt, it might be surprising that Ling contends he learned as much outside the JMSB as he did inside it. “From my experience with the CSU, I was able to meet people from all the other faculties with their different views,” he says. “There’s a very wide spectrum of personalities and views. Almost half my education came just from talking with them to see what they’re interested in, what their passions are and what they’re learning. That’s something you don’t learn in business school.”

The future for Ling, who also received three scholarships while at the university, seems limitless. “There is no doubt in my mind that Zhuo is going to be extremely successful, and no matter where he goes he will always be pushing to go higher, think bigger and work harder,” says Zimmerman.



**VIJETA PATEL** PARLAYED HER OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RECORD AND ROLE AS VP ACADEMIC FOR THE ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTO A COVETED POSITION WITH MICROSOFT’S INTERNET EXPLORER TEAM IN SEATTLE.

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY – AROUND THE WORLD

**Menachem Freedman credits Concordia with supporting opportunities for service**

BY JESSE B. STANIFORTH



COURTESY MENACHEM FREEDMAN

**MENACHEM FREEDMAN** JUGGLED MULTIPLE VOLUNTEER DUTIES WHILE EXCELLING AT CONCORDIA’S LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE. AT HIS JUNE CONVOCATION, FREEDMAN SPOKE ELOQUENTLY AS CLASS VALEDICTORIAN—DESPITE HAVING MISPLACED HIS SPEECH MOMENTS BEFORE HE WAS SET TO DELIVER IT.

**M**enachem Freedman, BA (western soc. & cult.) 11, was already in Tel Aviv working for his third summer with the Hotline for Migrant Workers, a legal-aid organization that assists refugees, when Concordia’s convocation rolled around in June. But he returned to Montreal to take to the stage as valedictorian.

Making time for what matters is usual for Freedman. As a student, he helped found the Concordia chapter of the Canadian anti-genocide advocacy group STAND. He also trained as an emergency first responder in Côte-Saint-Luc, Que., volunteered with Jewish student group Hillel, the grassroots student-run synagogue called the Ghetto Shul and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. Somehow he found time to serve as the Liberal Arts Society administration VP, as a councillor on the Concordia Student Union and as a student senator.

Yet he still managed to maintain a stellar GPA at the Liberal Arts College, earning its top academic prize, and three financial awards, including a 2010-11 Campaign for a New Millennium Student Contribution Scholarship.

Communicating by email, Freedman thanks his mother for supporting him so he could concentrate on volunteer work and his professors for letting him miss classes and shift due dates. He adds: “While there was certainly pressure, I generally had enough time for everything.”

Freedman is also grateful for the opportunity to synthesize his studies and his activist projects. His honours thesis on migration theory provided the foundation for his work with refugees

in Canada and Israel. Sigal Rozen, his supervisor at Hotline, has seen him put theory into practice on the frontlines. "He shows a great sense of justice, commitment to human rights, sensitivity, wisdom and genuine desire to learn the complicated issue of immigration," she writes in an email from Israel.

Inspired by Senator and Lieutenant-General (retired) Roméo Dallaire's account of the United Nations' experience in Rwanda, along with news reports of ongoing atrocities in Sudan, Freedman also established a STAND chapter at Concordia, where his leadership skills were evident to fellow students. "He's a natural-born leader in that he could delegate tasks and responsibilities without being overbearing," says Caroline Franck, BA 11. "We always worked as a team, and I think Menachem realized the importance of getting each one of us involved in our own way, to work with our respective strengths."

There was a real feeling that the goal of the university was not to produce eggheads, but to serve the community.

For his part, Freedman credits Concordia for providing a nurturing environment for engagement, saying that if a group of students feels strongly about a particular issue, the university offers support to help its project bloom. "There was a real feeling of mission, a belief that the goal of the university was not to produce eggheads, but to serve the community," Freedman says. "I'm proud to have been a part of an institution that has this mission as one of its primary goals."

## HIGH MARKS, ZERO WASTE

Jessica Sypher was inspired to develop a thesis on how Concordia can grow green

BY JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

When Jessica Sypher, BA (human environ.) 11, graduated in June, she left Concordia with a strategy for planning zero-waste events, a stronger commitment to sustainability and the framework for a new geography course on urban agriculture.

The outgoing president of the Loyola International College Student Association, Sypher was also the college's first VP of Sustainability. "I made sure that all our events were run sustainably. We were also the first student association to have a vermicompost system in our office," says Sypher. "The principal of the college [Rosemarie Schade] was really excited about it and she would tell people, 'We've got worms!'"

Schade's assistant, however, admits she was "disgusted with the idea of so many worms." But Cristina Barbu, BA 10, says that with time and Jessica's encouragement, she's now more



JESSICA SYPHER WAS PRESIDENT OF THE LOYOLA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION, AS WELL AS ITS FIRST VP OF SUSTAINABILITY. AS A STUDENT, SHE WAS AWARDED A CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM STUDENT CONTRIBUTION BURSARY AND SCHOLARSHIP.



## 4,289 : UNE MOYENNE (QUASI) PARFAITE

David Mamane, de la médecine aux maths

PAR JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

David Mamane, BSc 2011 (mathématiques actuarielles), n'a pas une moyenne générale parfaite, soit. Mais son score de 4,289 sur 4,3 lui a mérité la Médaille académique d'argent du Gouverneur général, qui honore le diplômé du 1<sup>er</sup> cycle universitaire ayant obtenu la meilleure moyenne. « Le 0,011 manquant ne m'empêche pas de dormir... enfin, rarement », plaisante-t-il.

Il y a quatre ans, David se destinait à la pédiatrie et terminait ses études préparatoires en médecine à l'Université McGill. Soudain, révélation : il comprend que les mathématiques sont sa vraie passion. « Je suis entré en propédeutique médicale à McGill tout de suite après le cégep où j'avais d'excellentes notes en mathématiques et en physique, explique-t-il. Ce n'est pas que je n'aimais pas le milieu médical. J'ai fait du bénévolat pendant trois ans dans les hôpitaux durant mes années de cégep et lors de ma première année à l'université. J'adorais travailler auprès des enfants comme bénévole. » Il ne tarde pas à s'apercevoir qu'il fait fausse route : « Je ne pouvais pas supporter les cours de biologie et de physiologie à l'université, prodigieusement ennuyeux. Mémoriser des tonnes de noms et de termes ne me disait absolument rien. »

Il décide alors de s'inscrire à un programme conjoint en biologie et mathématiques à McGill où il obtient un premier BSc. Deux ans plus tard, il en décroche un second à l'Université Concordia, cette fois en mathématiques actuarielles. Ses résultats lui valent la médaille en mathématiques Eric O'Connor ainsi que la médaille Mappin accordée au bachelier en sciences ayant obtenu les meilleurs résultats. Il s'est également vu octroyer en 2010-2011 une bourse d'études de premier cycle de la Banque de Montréal.

On ne peut lui reprocher d'avoir choisi la voie de la facilité. « Le trimestre dernier, j'ai suivi quatre cours de niveau 400 en plus d'un cours optionnel intensif en finance. J'avoue que je suis étonné d'avoir obtenu de si bonnes notes », déclare-t-il. À l'heure actuelle, il travaille chez Aon, une firme montréalaise qui conçoit des modèles avancés de calcul du risque pour les entreprises.

« C'est un étudiant exceptionnel, affirme José Garrido, professeur de mathématiques et de statistique à Concordia. Il faut savoir qu'il travaillait à temps partiel durant ses études. Il a même suivi davantage de cours pour terminer plus tôt, ce qui ne l'a pas empêché de décrocher un A+, en toute simplicité. » Son brillant étudiant, pense-t-il, a tout ce qu'il faut pour réussir comme actuaire aussi bien que comme gestionnaire : « Je le vois très bien vice-président d'une compagnie. Il possède les qualités relationnelles pour occuper ce genre de poste. »

comfortable with the worms. "Jessica's care and concern about sustainable living is very evident, and her ability to change mindsets is impressive."

Sypher decided to write her Geography honours thesis on the urban agriculture movement at the university. "I was really hesitant about my thesis," she says. "I was scared of jumping into something which wouldn't help the community. But after spending time in the Hall Building greenhouse and seeing the projects at Loyola, I decided I would study urban agriculture at Concordia." Her thesis research convinced her department chair to develop a course addressing some of the issues she raises.

Sypher became the sustainable event coordinator at Sustainable Concordia, where she helped create a guide to minimize the waste at events. She says the Concordia Student Union will use the guide to help plan a zero-waste orientation.

For the fall semester, Sustainable Concordia created a work-study position to certify events as bronze, silver, gold or green under the guide. Green events create no waste. "I'm really happy because this cemented the project as something which will live on," says Sypher.

The sustainability whiz has moved to Halifax, where she will pursue a master's at Dalhousie University and have a research position at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

Barbu, who took a course with Sypher and has worked with her on various projects, says she expects Sypher to do anything she sets her mind to. In a decade's time, Barbu predicts, "She'll probably be teaching courses on sustainability at the university level. She will also likely be involved in several projects aiming to reduce waste, and changing lifestyles for a more sustainable future."



**DAVID MAMANE** A ABANDONNÉ SON PROJET DE FAIRE MÉDECINE APRÈS AVOIR SUIVI DES COURS DE SCIENCES À L'UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL. IL S'EST RÉORIENTÉ VERS LE BACCALaurÉAT EN MATHÉMATIQUES ACTUARIELLES DE L'UNIVERSITÉ CONCORDIA ET A REMPORTE LA MÉDAILLE ACADÉMIQUE D'ARGENT DU GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL, DÉCERNÉE AU DIPLÔMÉ DU 1<sup>ER</sup> CYCLE AYANT OBTENU LA MEILLEURE MOYENNE.

**DAVID MAMANE** CHANGED PLANS FOR A MEDICAL DEGREE AFTER A FEW UNIVERSITY SCIENCE COURSES AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY. HE EVENTUALLY HEADED FOR CONCORDIA'S ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICS PROGRAM AND WON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDAL AS THE UNIVERSITY'S HIGHEST RANKING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT.

## 4.289 GPA: ALMOST PERFECT

David Mamane: from medicine to math

BY JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

**D**avid Mamane, BSc (actuarial math.) 11, doesn't have a perfect GPA, but his 4.289 out of 4.3 earned him the Governor General's Silver Medal, awarded to a university's highest ranking undergraduate. "I don't lose sleep over the .011—at least, not much," Mamane jokes.

Four years ago, Mamane completed McGill's pre-med program and was about to start at its medical school toward a career in pediatrics when he realized that mathematics was his true passion. "Straight out of CEGEP I went into pre-med at McGill. My CEGEP grades were great due to my math and physics," says Mamane. "Don't get me wrong: I volunteered in hospitals for three years during CEGEP and my first year of university. I loved doing the volunteer work and working with kids." However, he soon recognized his error. "I could not stand biology and physiology at the university level. It was mind-numbingly boring. It was just names and terms that went nowhere."

Mamane switched into a joint program in Biology and Mathematics and graduated with his first BSc from McGill University. Two years later, he earned his second BSc, this

I had four 400-level classes and an intense Finance elective this last semester. I'm actually surprised I got the grades I did.

time in Actuarial Mathematics—along with the Eric O'Connor Mathematics Medal and Mappin Medal, awarded to the highest-ranking graduating BSc student. He also received a 2010-11 Bank of Montreal Undergraduate Scholarship.

Mamane's high GPA was definitely not the product of taking an easy route. "I had four 400-level classes and an intense Finance elective this last semester. I'm actually surprised I got the grades I did," says Mamane, who now works at Aon in Montreal, a company that creates sophisticated models to calculate risk for corporations.

"He's an outstanding student," says José Garrido, a professor of Mathematics and Statistics. "He was also working part-time. He'd even take an overload to finish [sooner]. He'd still get an A-plus and make it look easy." Garrido believes Mamane has the skills to do well on both the technical and managerial sides: "I see him being a VP. He has the people skills." ■



# GREAT GRADS





**Concordia opens two research centres that combine innovative and positive use of space and socially focused researchers.**

By David Secko

Photos by Ryan Blau/PBL Photography

FACING PAGE, ABOVE LEFT: AT THE PERFORM CENTRE, SIMON BACON (LEFT), ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EXERCISE SCIENCE, AND KEVIN LITTLE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. ABOVE RIGHT: AT THE NEW CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS, VINCENT MARTIN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN MICROBIAL GENOMICS AND ENGINEERING. ABOVE: CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN BY THE CONSORTIUM MAROSI+TROY, CARDINAL HARDY AND JODOIN LAMARRE PRATTE. FACING PAGE, BELOW: PERFORM CENTRE, DESIGNED BY ARCHITECTS SAIA BARBARESE TOPOUZANOV.

# FENG SHUI FOR RESEARCHERS



**K**evin Little is fired up. Sitting in a chilly conference room on Concordia's Loyola Campus, the new chief administrative officer of the PERFORM Centre describes showing several clinicians through the 8,000-square-metre research centre he will soon help open. "They were wondering what we will do [there]," Little says. "But once they saw the space and realized it was built to be a whole lot more than a gym, there was a sense of what we can do to impact the well-being of people."

Weaving through sparkling-white lab space and humming  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  freezers, Concordia Biology Professor Adrian Tsang speaks with equal passion about helping ease the pressure we are putting on the planet. "This is the first time we will bring biologists, chemists, computer scientists and social scientists together in one research building at Concordia," he says. Tsang is also the director of the newly opened Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics (CSFG, pictured atop the preceding

page), a crosswalk away from PERFORM (pictured below).

Both Little and Tsang are part of a wider group from the university's Faculty of Arts and Science lucky enough to see a conversation move from dreams of a space that could house top research equipment and ambitious investigators to witnessing a shovel hit the ground from a \$65-million investment. For such researchers, the fresh dirt contains the potential for a space free from past constraints, one designed specifically for a DXA bone-density scanner, metabolic kitchen, confocal microscope and cell culture equipment.

Such spaces are places where "questions we couldn't even ask otherwise could be answered," says Tsang, spaces where "students can also see the science happen."

In September 2011, the Faculty of Arts and Science opens the PERFORM Centre and the CSFG to propel forward Concordia's specializations in exercise science and environmental genomics.





The centres aim to ask complex questions about our health and environment that we would be hard-pressed to answer without the resources of such new buildings. The fresh space, like fresh fruit, is also a healthy dose of nutrition for Concordia's growing research appetite.

In July, I toured the two new buildings and met some of the researchers. The exchanges didn't shift to ancient Chinese arts like feng shui, which aims to balance a space with its environment. But it was clear that everyone wants that essence—an environment that maximizes the potential of those in it—to become a reality for the centres. So let me introduce you to these two new centres through my six principles of feng shui for researchers, each inspired by conversations with members of PERFORM and the CSFG.

### **PERFORM (Prevention, Evaluation, Rehabilitation, FORMation) Centre**

PERFORM has an ambitious mission: to provide a research environment that promotes healthier lives through changes in lifestyle and behaviour. Indeed, the links between behaviour, psychology, physiology and health are inherently complex and difficult to untangle. It is often just as taxing to put any hard-fought knowledge about our health behaviours into practice. But in a Concordia first, PERFORM will combine research, education and community involvement in one place to develop information people can use to understand how their behaviour and feelings affect their health.

A prime example is the asthma ad-

herence project led by Simon Bacon, an associate professor of Exercise Science. Asthma affects 300 million people around the world and places a high health burden on its sufferers due to their own poor control of symptoms. But while daily, inhaled corticosteroids can effectively control asthma symptoms, some studies show that only about a third of asthmatics follow their medication regimen. Educational programs don't seem to change this number. Bacon, who co-runs the Montreal Behavioural Medicine Centre as part of PERFORM, wants to know why educational programs don't seem to work and whether motivational interviewing to build patient confidence might help.

Some health advice lacks good evidence or if it is backed up with data is not getting to those who need it, adds Little. "What people want to know is how a change in behaviour impacts other things in their lifestyle," he explains. "So how do I get intelligent and intelligible evidence on how to make my life better?" PERFORM will try to answer this question for researchers, trainers, clinicians, athletes and the community, in part, with three principles: an integrated research space, high standards and an outward attitude.

#### **Principle 1: Create a space that puts research into practice**

Upon entering PERFORM, visitors are greeted by an oval walking track, treadmills, exercise bikes and inevitable trappings of a gym. The vision is intentional but balanced with items you won't see, such as the treadmills continually transmitting research data to secure servers, the instructors training students to put this data into practice



and runners being research participants from the community. "It's not only going to be a rehabilitation clinic, it's different than that; it is not only going to be a work-out gym, it's different than that; it's not only going to be some wet labs and research space and student interns," says Little. "The idea is that all three things are able to take place together, rather than someone doing a research study and not knowing how to train people to implement the findings or how to convert it into a program that actually works in the community."

#### **Principle 2: Set a high standard with superior equipment**

One floor below is a different, clinical experience. Past the basement reception desk is where PERFORM sees its future: an extensive medical imaging suite for MRIs and CT scans, state-of-the-art metabolic kitchen (see sidebar, "A Metabolic Kitchen" on page 29) and a clinic with a hydrotherapy pool that can track movements, among other resources.

While the facilities will be used by many researchers, ranging from those studying heart disease and asthma to muscle fatigue and obesity, it is the quality of the data that preoccupies Little. "The imaging suite will work

## A METABOLIC KITCHEN

PERFORM's metabolic kitchen (pictured at left) is a unique research space containing all the cooking essentials needed to study how specific diets affect health issues. For example, the kitchen could be used to study how cancer patients, who can lose their appetite due to chemotherapy, can avoid weight loss through high-impact diets or food combinations that don't cause nausea. The kitchen will also allow nutritionists to teach cancer patients' family members how to apply this knowledge to best help their family.



to the highest clinical standard even though it's not in a hospital and is being used for research only," he says, "and what that does is raise the standard for everything that goes on in the centre." That might seem like a given until you realize that the desire is for this standard to permeate everything, even the use of the dumbbells one floor up.

Making this quality of data accessible to others is the unique feature that PERFORM hopes will attract researchers from around the world.

### Principle 3: An attitude of looking outward

One of the arguments for the creation of PERFORM is that few places have the expertise in exercise science, psychology, education and community engagement to be able to study complex social health issues, develop educational programs to implement the findings of studies and assess if the programs work with the help of the community, all in one place. "We recognize that we have developed some very good competencies at Concordia to be the place to house all these activities," says Little, "and we want to add an attitude from day one that we will do it all well." PERFORM seeks to break the bubble of a research centre that only looks inward, he adds. "We will

always be projecting outward."

### The Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics

The mission of the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics (CSFG) is no less ambitious but it's riding a different wave. In April 2003, when the human genome project was announced as completed, the genetic information it produced had a \$2.7-billion price tag. Today, the National Human Genome Research Institute, the American research body behind the sequencing of the human genome, estimates that sequencing a genome costs just over \$16,000 (minus the cost of analysis). The pace of new sequencing technology and knowhow that is rapidly decreasing the price of genome sequencing is even outstripping Moore's law—a computer-industry rule-of-thumb whereby computing power doubles every two years. "It is like a \$200,000 Mercedes in the 1980s now costing fifty cents," jokes Tsang.

The impressive pace of genome sequencing means researchers are awash in genetic information that can help us better understand and positively affect our environment, a specialty of the CSFG. "The ramifications of this [ability to sequence virtually any organism]

are big and we want to utilize this power," says Tsang. "For the first time at Concordia, we will have a space that isn't for teaching but focused solely on research."

In fact, the new CSFG building has no classrooms. Instead, the approximately 150 students, post-docs and professors will seek to create a space that allows them to study how the genomes of microbes can help to replace chemicals and our reliance on fossil fuels with biologically derived substitutes that are more environmentally friendly. A complex goal that crosses science with industrial applications, intellectual property, energy policy and sustainability, the centre will carry out its work, in part, based on three principles: focusing its energy, having an open lab space and mingling expertise.

### Principle 4: Focus your energy

"When people think about genomics, they often think about medicine and cancer," says Vincent Martin, an associate professor of Biology, Canada Research Chair in Microbial Genomics and Engineering and CSFG member. "But there are so many untapped applications beyond this related to environmental sciences and chemical industries."

He says this focus on the environment, agriculture and forestry has led to many successes by Concordia researchers to date and that the new building will help further advance. One of these accomplishments was landing approximately \$22 million in grants in 2009 from Genome Canada. That was used, in part, to fund Tsang's research on exploring how to use fungal enzymes to turn woody biomass into sugars for making fuel, which was the largest-ever environmental genomics project funded by Genome Canada. Martin also plans to launch Canada's first Centre for Synthetic Biology in the CSFG to push forward his work in engineering the use of microbes as tiny factories.

These projects underline how the CSFG will examine small (the genomes of microbes) in the context of big (helping a degrading environment) issues. "Microbes are the bulk of biomass on

the new centre removed the walls to promote interaction."

In essence, the new building is one 5,400-square-metre lab. The principle is that individual labs grow and shrink as their needs change, but the bench space and research equipment is open to everyone. "It could take a new hire decades to get enough funding to buy the equipment we have and then they would need to find space for it," says Tsang. At the CSFG, they can use such equipment right away, while interacting with other researchers who are already experts in

want direct interaction between our scientists and other scholars," he says.

Such mixes usually lead to some friction, but there are grand challenges for what genomics can do to solve environmental issues, adds Tsang as a final thought. "We want a group that can build a future by trying to answer these challenges."

Feng shui seeks to bring obstructions into balance, and while my six principles won't work for every research centre, the investigators who will see their new spaces open this fall hope the

People want to know how a change in behaviour impacts other things in their lifestyle. So how do I get intelligent and intelligible evidence on how to make my life better?

## A LANDLOCKED OCEANOGRAPHER

The ocean contains vast microbial populations that sustain their own health, but they are experiencing pressures from human activities. Recently, David Walsh was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology to work to better understand these populations. He hopes to predict their responses to environmental disturbances, and is studying the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec. "It empties the Great Lakes into the ocean and it's sensitive to things like oil and gas exploration," says Walsh, who wants to learn more about how disrupted microbial populations in the gulf affect the release of greenhouse gases. "It's good as an oceanographer in Montreal to have something to study," he says with a laugh.

the planet and the basis of life," says Tsang, "yet we have yet to really understand them or what they can offer."

### Principle 5: Open lab space

Walking into the CSFG, which is an expanded wing of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, one is greeted by open space. Traditionally, researchers have closed labs that are isolated from each other and, hence, sometimes thought of as mini-domains where researchers work alone with their students. "The door closes and that's it," says David Walsh, a new assistant professor of Biology and CSFG member. "But

its use. "It's a huge draw," says Walsh, who will use the new facilities to study the health of the ocean (see sidebar, "A Landlocked Oceanographer," above).

### Principle 6: Mingle expertise

The final part of the mix is that the CSFG will mingle expertise: biologists, chemists, computer scientists and social scientists will work there together. "Biology is co-evolving with computer science," Tsang says. It is also raising social, ethical and communication issues for society that the centre's members will study alongside culturing microbes and exploring genomes. "We

positive energy will translate into both exciting science and social benefits. If you're intrigued, visit soon. ■

Go to [performcentre.concordia.ca](http://performcentre.concordia.ca) and [biology.concordia.ca/csfg](http://biology.concordia.ca/csfg) to learn about opening events as they are announced.

David Secko is an associate professor in Concordia's Department of Journalism and works with some members of PERFORM and the CSFG.

When PERFORM opens its doors in September, the community will have access to Le Centre, a state-of-the-art conditioning and rehabilitation centre. Concordia alumni wishing more information on membership rates are invited to visit [athletics.concordia.ca](http://athletics.concordia.ca).

## Alumni Recognition Awards

### Call for Nominations

Send your submission by November 18, 2011

All graduates, faculty members and staff, students and friends of Concordia University and its two founding institutions, Sir George Williams University and Loyola College, are invited to nominate candidates for the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) Recognition Awards, the highest honour bestowed by the association. The CUAA urges you to submit nominations for individuals who deserve to be recognized for their outstanding achievements, exceptional service to the advancement of Concordia or continued service to their community. Award recipients will be honoured at a special event in spring 2012. The awards are as follows:

#### Humberto Santos Award of Merit

This prestigious honour is awarded to an alumnus/a who has made a lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership and service to the university and community.

#### Alumnus/a of the Year Award

Awarded to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated professional excellence and community leadership.

#### Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated a long-term commitment of outstanding service to both the alumni association and the university.

#### Honorary Life Membership

Awarded to a non-graduate who has made a long-term commitment of outstanding service to the alumni association and/or the university.

#### Outstanding Student Award

Awarded to a Concordia student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and contributions to student life.

#### Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

Awarded to a member of Concordia's teaching staff who has proven to provide superior knowledge, teaching ability and availability to students.

#### MBA Alumnus/a of the Year Award

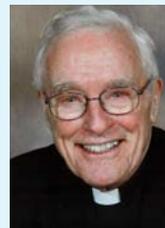
Awarded by the John Molson School of Business Alumni Chapter to an MBA alumnus/a with outstanding professional achievements and who has shown dedication to both the community at large and the university.

#### Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award

Awarded to a Concordia University faculty or staff member who has made an exceptional contribution to the alumni association or to the university community.

Visit [alumni.concordia.ca/events/awards](http://alumni.concordia.ca/events/awards) to complete a nomination form or contact Nancy Wada, Alumni Officer, Associations, at [nancy.wada@concordia.ca](mailto:nancy.wada@concordia.ca) or at 514-848-2424, ext. 3882.

## Fr. Jack O'Brien to receive prestigious Loyola Medal



The distinguished Professor Emeritus Fr. John (Jack) E. O'Brien, S.J., L BA 45, has been selected to receive the 2011 Loyola Medal, one of the highest honours awarded by Concordia University.

Fr. O'Brien is an accomplished teacher, author, speaker and administrator. After graduation from Loyola College, he joined the Society of Jesus, from which he was ordained in 1957, and earned a doctorate in Communication from the University of Southern California in 1964. He returned to his alma mater and founded Canada's first Communication Studies department in 1965, then known as Communication Arts at Loyola College.

O'Brien's pioneering vision and passion for the study and application of media, combined with his training as a Jesuit priest, led him down an unusual career path for a clergyman who had taken a vow of poverty.

While a student at USC, O'Brien was elected president of Alpha Epsilon Rho, known today as the National Broadcasting Society, an American association for broadcast and media students. For Montreal's Expo 67 world fair, he chaired the Christian Pavilion programming committee. In 1983, his communications expertise took him to Rome where, as Secretary for Social Communication to the Father General of the Jesuits, he helped to reshape the training of young Jesuits worldwide.

The Loyola Medal was conceived in 1961 by the Loyola Alumni Association and the administration of Loyola College as a tribute to outstanding leadership and contribution to society. Fr. O'Brien joins a distinguished group of past recipients, including Dr. Roberta Bondar (2009), Senator Roméo Dallaire (2006), the late Oscar Peterson (1997), fellow Jesuit the late Rev. Bernard Lonergan (1971) and the late Governor General Georges P. Vanier, L BA 06 (1963).

### The Loyola Medal presentation Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Apéritif: 6 p.m.-6:45 p.m.

Dinner: 6:45 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Loyola High School, Bishop's Atrium,  
2477 West Broadway, Montreal  
\$75 per person

RSVP by October 11, 2011

Online: [alumni.concordia.ca/register](http://alumni.concordia.ca/register)

Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397

Toll free: 1-888-777-3330

## CONCORDIA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS DINNER

Proceeds to support tuition awards

Saturday, September 24, 2011

For more info, visit [stingers.ca](http://stingers.ca) and click on "football."





1 Garnet Key

### GARNET KEY

Former and current Garnet Key members, friends and university officials attended the Garnet Key Society's Annual Alumni Banquet on May 7 at Montreal's Rialto Theatre. Outgoing Keys Alexandra Côté and Sabrina D'Ambra emceed the evening, which was attended by 85 people, including many who travelled in from out of town.

Harold Bedoukian, S BA 61, reminisced about his time when he was part of the 3rd Key at Sir George Williams University and Serge Keverian, BSc 11, president of the 53rd Key, presented the emeritus award to **Valerie Roseman**, development officer for Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science, pictured with **Heather Nogrady**, S BSc 67, MSc 79, MA 84, a member of the 9th Key, and **Paul Rhodes**, S BSc 66, MTM 80. 1 The evening's highlight was the traditional initiation skit performed by members of the incoming Key. This year, the 54th Key entertained guests with a Concordia University version of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* Patrick Samborsky, BSc 08, 50th Key member and president of the Garnet Key Alumni Chapter, informed the group that about a networking event taking place this fall.

### BOOK TO BIG SCREEN

More than 70 Concordia and McGill alumni and friends packed Concordia's York Amphitheatre on May 11 for the latest Book to Big Screen event. This time, the focus was on *Atonement*, the prize-nominated novel by Ian McEwan and the award-winning film of the same name that it inspired, directed by Joe Wright. Moderator Ann Vroom invited guests to comment on the adaptation; they were eager to discuss the differences between the two media and the depth of the main characters. Anna Lepine, MA 01, English department instructor at John Abbott College in Ste-Anne-de-Belleville, Que. and McGill University's Peter Gibian served as facilitators.

### YOUNG ALUMNI

An enthusiastic group gathered May 30 at Ateliers & Saveurs in Montreal for the Young Alumni Sushi Class. Master sushi chef Kenny Huynh showed them how to make sushi, maki and sashimi in an enjoyable and interactive way.

Two days later at the same location, the Young Alumni Wine Tasting Course provided those in attendance a practical hands-on lesson designed to build a foundation for future wine education and exploration. 2

And at the Young Alumni Photography Course on June 9, 13 and 20 at Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations office, Lewis Blau of PBL Photography taught the participants about the history of photography, the functions of a digital camera and photo composition and gave a basic introduction to Adobe Photoshop.

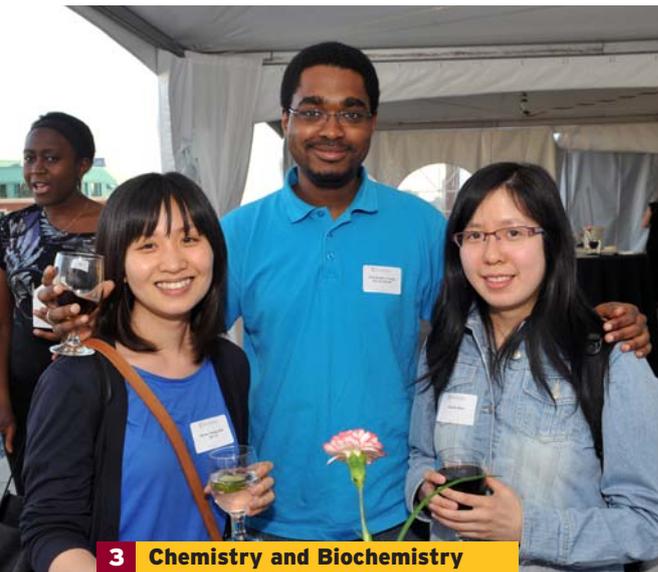
### CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Taking advantage of a beautiful spring evening, more than 75 alumni, students, faculty members, staff and friends of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry attended a reunion cocktail June 6 on the terrace of the 11th floor of Concordia's Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex (EV Building). Master of ceremonies Miriam Posner, S BSc 74, MBA 89, the department's technical supervisor for more than 35 years, presented the speakers: Department Chair Joanne Turnbull;



2 Young Alumni

RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY



**3 Chemistry and Biochemistry**



**4 Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema**

Professor Emeritus Lawrence Colebrook; Associate Professor Paul Joyce, who read a letter from Distinguished Professor Emeritus Oswald Tee; former varsity football player Angelo Filosa, BSc 96, PhD 01; and Maggie Borowiec, development officer for the Faculty of Arts and Science. Pictured are **Hyun Young Kim**, BSc 10, **Christopher Gregg**, BSc 04, PhD 09, and **Natalie Khor**. **3**

### MEL HOPPENHEIM SCHOOL OF CINEMA

More than 140 people marked the closing ceremonies of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema's 35th anniversary on June 9 with a cocktail in a tent on the 11th floor of Concordia's EV Building. Several guests came in from the U.S. to celebrate the occasion: Jeff Abugov, BFA 82, Andrea Sadler, BFA 89, Thomas Berry, BFA 78, **Bruce Mallen**, S BComm 58, S BA 64, LLD 04, and **Carol Mallen**, BA 77, pictured with Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor **Frederick Lowy**. **4**

Dr. Lowy acknowledged the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema's numerous accomplishments during his speech, singling out Professor John Locke for helping to shape the school and Mel Hoppenheim for his continuous support and contributions.

Marielle Nitoslawska, chair of the School of Cinema, acknowledged the immense talent of the school's former students and the diversity with



**5 Fine Arts**

which they are contributing to cinema both locally and internationally. Mel Hoppenheim spoke proudly of the school that bears his name and was pleased to celebrate the evening with his family and faculty members, staff and former students who make the school what it is today.

### FINE ARTS

The annual Graduating Students Exhibition is a juried show that provides graduating Fine Arts students with an opportunity to display their work in a public venue and commemorates the completion of their studies. It showcases a cross-section of the many disciplines and research activities of students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The June 22 vernissage was a

collaboration of the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA). For the ninth consecutive year, the CUAA awarded a \$1,000 purchase prize to a student whose work was in the exhibition. This year, Kyler Kelly, BFA 11, was awarded for his high-definition animation film *The Summit*. Pictured: *Oh Mark, I'll never be lonely again, with you in my life!* by Madeleine Pippa Bartlett. **5**

### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY HONG KONG FOUNDATION

On June 17, a delegation representing the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation met several Concordia senior administrators, including President and Vice-Chancellor Frederick Lowy, at the university's



**6 Hong Kong Foundation**

Advancement and Alumni Relations office. Pictured (from left) are **William Yip**, S BA 67, LLD 98, **Eva Yip** and **Dennis Chan**, BComm 91. **6**

## GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS

### Calgary

The scotch tasting at wine market Zyn on April 30 brought together 20 Calgary alumni and guests. Zyn's tasting room was nicely prepared and Tyler, the tasting specialist, was both knowledgeable and entertaining. Attendees enjoyed themselves thoroughly and all took advantage of the retail outlet on the way out.

### Toronto

Blue cheese ice cream?! The promise of exotic tastes lured close to 20 alumni to Toronto's Le Caveau on May 3 for an evening of gastronomic delight.

Led by Wendy Furtenbacher, BFA 97, the sold-out Cheese 101 soiree featured a tutored tasting of fine Canadian cheeses, a chocolate and cheese pairing, and even a taste of blue cheese ice cream.

And on May 18, 26 Alumni Chapter members and friends came to the Tarragon Theatre production of *Forests*. The evening began with a wine and cheese reception attended by actor Alon Nashman and Tarragon official Andrew Lamb, BFA 00, who discussed the latest play by Montreal's Wajdi Mouawad (*Incendies*). Pictured at the play are (from left) Chapter president **Ian Garmaise**, BA 84, and executive members **Cass Simons**, S BComm 71, **Monique Hutchins**, BComm 00, **Wendy Furtenbacher** and **Anil Chitnis**, BA 91. **7**



**7 Toronto Chapter**

### Edmonton

More than 30 alumni living in Edmonton gathered for an evening of good food and good entertainment on May 4 at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. Todd Babiak, MA 98, an award-winning author of four bestselling novels, proved an engaging speaker, and signed copies of his books and chatted with fellow alumni. Pictured (from left) are **Rupert Rubens**, S BComm 53, **Murray Kronick**, BCSc 78, MSc 83, immediate past president of the Ottawa Alumni Chapter, alumni officer **Lina Uberti**, **Peter Pagano**, L BA 67, president of the Edmonton chapter, and **Todd Babiak**. **8**

### Ottawa

Members of Concordia University's Ottawa Alumni Chapter gathered on May 11 at the Empire Grill for the chapter's annual spring dinner. Brian Marley-Clarke, BComm 63, kept the group of about 30 alumni and friends entertained with stories about his experience working in the Trudeau government during the repatriation of the constitution.

### New York

Concordia came to the Big Apple on June 2 for a highly successful event at the Quebec Government Office at prestigious One Rockefeller Center. Forty alumni and friends gathered to listen to **John Parisella**, **9** L BA 67, describe his mandate and vision as Quebec's Delegate General in New York, including the importance of collaboration between universities as part of Quebec's strategy in the

United States. Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Frederick Lowy and Dominique McCaughey, acting vice-president of Advancement and Alumni Relations, also spoke at the event and mingled with those present.

### California

Alumni living in the San Francisco Bay Area joined **Joanne Mollot**, BA 79 (pictured, at left), **10**, the CUA's regional representative in California on June 25 for the 12th Annual Canada Day Picnic organized by Digital Moose Lounge, at Huddart County Park in Redwood City. Everyone received Concordia gear to help them get into the spirit, and gathered around the Concordia University picnic table for a delicious feast. Guests included **David**



**10 California Chapter**



**Stewart** (right), academic relations and public affairs officer for the Consulate General of Canada, who was the special guest speaker at the CUAAs Canadian Thanksgiving in California last fall.

**Boston-New England**

More than a dozen people attended the Boston-New England Alumni Chapter's first potluck lunch, held in Merrimack, N.H., on July 16. It was a sunny Saturday afternoon, perfect weather for a BBQ with alumni and their family and friends. As well as enjoying the good food, the group played soccer, badminton and other games, and swapped stories.

The Chapter's executive members plan to build on this success to promote networking in the region.

**UPCOMING GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTER EVENTS**

Watch for your invitation for upcoming events in these cities or visit [alumni.concordia.ca](http://alumni.concordia.ca).

**Toronto**

**The Odd Couple** theatre performance  
September 22

**Boston**

**Wine tasting and networking**  
September 22

**Texas**

**Networking cocktail**  
September 22

**London (U.K.)**

**Networking with guest speaker Fred Bolza, MBA 98, VP, Marketing**

**Services, Sony Music (U.K.)**

October 4

**Ottawa**

**Meet and greet**

October 6

**Vancouver**

**Networking with guest speaker Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, founder and chair, Concordia's Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program**

October 6

**New York City**

**Annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research**

October 15

**Beijing**

**National Day reunion lunch**

October 21

**Edmonton**

**Meet and greet**

October 27

**Calgary**

**Beer tasting**

November 1

**Japan**

**Meet and greet at the Canadian Embassy with guest speaker Hiroshi Adachi, MBA 86**

November 8

**Seattle**

**Wine and cheese**

November 10

**Dubai**

**Networking cocktail**

November 23

**North Carolina**

**Meet and greet**

February 11, 2012

**The 2011 Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet**

**September 16, 2011**

The Department of Recreation and Athletics and Advancement and Alumni Relations are pleased to announce the induction of the following athletes, builder and team into the Concordia University Sports Hall of Fame for 2011:

**HERITAGE**

**Harry Trihey, Jack Brannan and Arthur Farrel**

**ATHLETES**

**Alexandra Jones, BA 92  
Richard Freitag, S BA 59, S BSc 60  
George Lengvari, L BA 63  
Paul Palma, Attendee 83**

**BUILDER**

**George Springate, S BA 65**

**TEAM**

**Concordia Women's Soccer 1988**

Congratulations to all inductees! For more information, visit [homecoming.concordia.ca](http://homecoming.concordia.ca) or contact Melanie Gudgeon, Alumni Officer, at 514-848-2424, ext. 5647, or [melanie.gudgeon@concordia.ca](mailto:melanie.gudgeon@concordia.ca).

Alumni with more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George Williams and/or Loyola are listed under their earliest graduation year.

45TH REUNION

**66 Bernard Lucht**, S BA (poli. sci.), executive producer for CBC Radio One's *Ideas* and *Tapestry* programs, has been named the Irving Chair in Journalism at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B., for 2011-12. The award-winning producer began his career with the CBC in 1966 as a producer with Radio-Canada International. In 1984, he became the executive producer of *Ideas*.

**68 Gordon MacDougall**, S BComm (mktg.), is the new Chair of the Vancouver Foundation Board, a non-profit organization that distributes over \$40 million each year across British Columbia. Gordon is Vice Chairman and Director of Connor, Clark & Lunn (CC&L) Investment Management in Vancouver, which he joined shortly after it was founded in 1982. Gordon, who has been involved in investment management since 1969, holds an MBA and CFA designation. He also has volunteered for many community organizations.

**73 Veronica Johnson**, S BA (economics), was recently appointed by Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney as a Citizenship Judge for a three-year, full-time term in Montreal.

**74 Karin Doerr**, L BA, is a part-time instructor in Concordia's Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics. Karin lectured on Canadian literature and culture as part of a month-long lecture tour

of Chinese conferences, symposia and other special events that honoured 40 years of diplomatic and academic connections between Canada and China.

35TH REUNION

**76 Colleen Curran**, BA (Eng.), is an award-winning Montreal playwright,

novelist, CBC dramatist, actor, performer and screenwriter. Colleen's play *True Nature* will premiere October 6 and launch the 2011-2012 season of Montreal's Centaur Theatre. The play, which runs until November 6, parallels the lives of two women, a dedicated contemporary academic and her hero, the extraordinary but silenced palaeontologist,

Mary Anning. "This is a major event in my life, believe me. My first plays were produced at Loyola Campus."

**77 Christian Couturier**, BA, was named vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Groupe de droit collaboratif du Québec in December. Collaborative law is an out-of-court



**1 > John Mingolla**, BFA 82, is a Montreal-based artist who has exhibited in many shows across Quebec over the past 30 years, won several awards and sold works to private and public collections. John teaches art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Loto Québec recently bought one of his recent works, the first print from an edition of five, called *234 St-Philippe 2007. 1*

**2 > Rochelle Mayer**, BComm 83, BFA (studio art) 10, participated in the group exhibition called "Salon des Membres 2011" at Atelier Circulaire in Montreal from June 18 to July 23. [rochellemayer.blogspot.com](http://rochellemayer.blogspot.com), [rochelle-mayer.fineartamerica.com](http://rochelle-mayer.fineartamerica.com) **2) Same old news**

**3 > Nathalie Bandulet**, BFA (studio arts) 97, is a Georgeville, Que.-based artist and recently participated in two group exhibitions at the Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke: "Salon du printemps des artistes des Cantons-de-l'Est" from March 26 to June 5; and "Livre objet de création" from February 25 to March 20. Nathalie also launched a community art project called Les 1000 bobos, which focuses on injuries, scars, resilience and healing. [les1000bobos.blogspot.com](http://les1000bobos.blogspot.com), [nathaliebandulet.com](http://nathaliebandulet.com) **3) Feu(e)**

negotiation process to resolve conflicts. Christian practises collaborative family law, civil, commercial and family mediation, and out-of-court negotiation, and is a trainer in collaborative family law.  
[avocat-montreal-lawyer.com](http://avocat-montreal-lawyer.com)

**78 David Adamson**, BSc (chem.), MBA 93, writes, "Lee and I have moved to

Virginia Beach, as I've taken a position as Vice President of Sales with the Bio-Implant Division of LifeNet Health, which is a not-for-profit organization based in Virginia involved in the engineering and processing of dental, cardiovascular, spinal and orthopaedic bio-implants. Our kids have decided to stay in Canada: Dale is an undergrad

at Bishop's and Kelly is in grad school at Dalhousie."

**30TH REUNION**

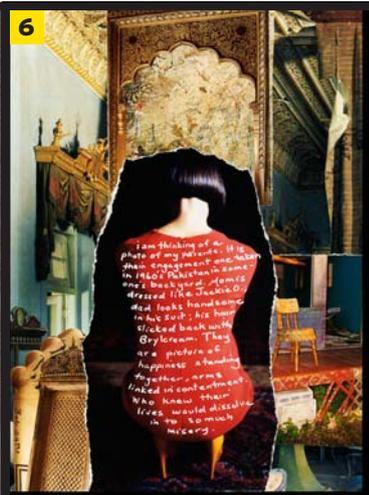
**81 Emilio B. Imbriglio**, BComm, GrDip 82, earned his Chartered Accountancy designation in 1982 and an MBA from McGill University in 1985. Emilio

is a partner at the Montreal accounting firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and leads the corporate finance and infrastructure practices. In June, he was named the firm's Chairman of the Board. He has served on the board of Montreal's Santa Cabrini Hospital for 15 years, the last five as president. In recognition of his 30 years' service to the Montreal Italian community, Emilio was recently conferred the title of Cavaliere (Knight) by the President of the Italian Republic as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations. Emilio's daughter, Sara, will begin engineering studies at Concordia this fall.

**83 Guy Giard**, BFA, earned a master's degree in visual arts in Amsterdam and worked at the Louvre Museum in Paris. For the last 15 years, Guy has worked at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and has exhibited across the country. He is also a tenor and in September will launch Les Chants Marins de Montréal, a male cappella choir focusing on traditional sea shanties. Look for its pages on Facebook and YouTube.

**87 Michel C. Lauzon**, MBA, has been Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of Laurentian Bank of Canada in Montreal since 2009. Prior to that, Michel held various senior management positions with Laurentian Bank, TAL Global Asset Management Inc. and Centria Commerce Inc. He holds a BA in Economics from Université de Montréal.

**89 Jean-René Ello**, BA (film studies & journ.), is now Senior Promotions Manager for Bell Media in Ottawa, overseeing one television and four radio properties after Bell's recent acquisition of CTVglobemedia.



**4 > Khosro Berahmandi**, BFA 92, held an exhibition entitled "Spilling Horizon" at MEKIC Art Gallery in Montreal from June 3 to August 15. [Khosro.info](http://Khosro.info) 4) *Spilling Horizon*

**5 > Susan Shulman**, BFA (studio arts) 96, participated in a group exhibition called "A Book About Death: The Ties That Bind" at the Firehouse Gallery in Bay Shore, N.Y., from July 31 to September 2. [susanshulman.com](http://susanshulman.com) 5) *The Ties That Bind*

**6 > Michelle Casey**, MA (media studies) 03, also earned a BFA from the University of Ottawa in 1996. Michelle will hold a solo

exhibition called "Pieces of Me III: Fragments from an Artist's Life" at the Atrium Gallery in Ottawa from October 28 to November 30, 2011. Michelle, a collage/mixed media artist and instructor, runs her own business, Collage Your World ([collageyourworld.com](http://collageyourworld.com)). 6) *A Memory of a Photo of My Parents*

**7 > Adriana Coluccio**, BFA (studio arts & film animation) 08, recently exhibited her oil paintings at two group shows: "Arte Montreal" at Casa D'Italia in Montreal on May 11; and "Le festival des arts de Montreal-Nord" at La maison culturelle de Montreal-Nord from June 17 to 19. 7) *Lady Post Post Post...*

**Stephanie Siriwardhana**, BA (journ. & comm. studies & poli. sci.) 11, was crowned Miss Universe Sri Lanka 2011 in July and will represent Sri Lanka at the Miss Universe 2011 pageant in São Paulo, Brazil, in September. Stephanie was the Concordia Student Union's VP, Clubs & Promotions, in 2009-10 and its representative to Concordia's Board of Governors in 2010-11. She recently became Deputy CEO of BBS Publications International, which is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and developing the country's first mobile travel guide. Until Sunday, September 11, 6 p.m. ET, you can vote for Stephanie, up to 10 times per email address per day: visit [nbc.com](http://nbc.com) or [missuniverse.com](http://missuniverse.com) and follow the instructions. The vote winner will get a place among the 15 semifinalists.



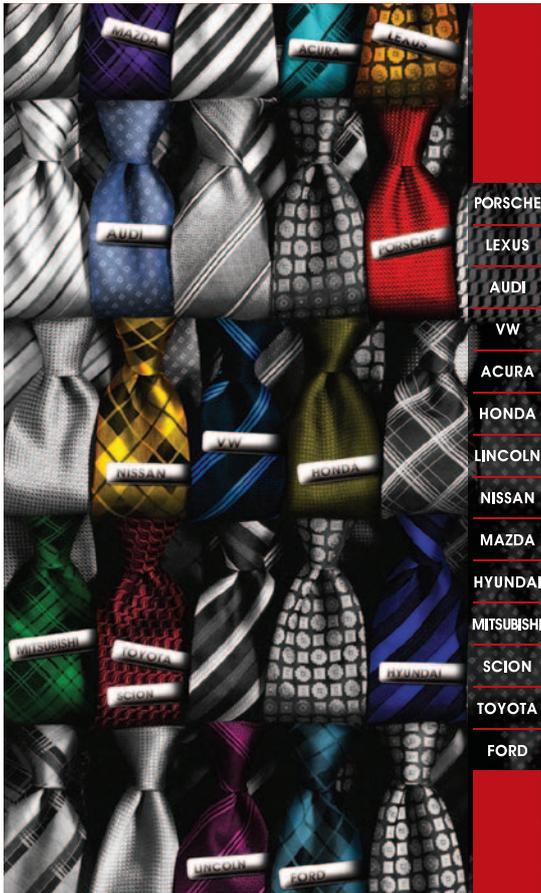
**Laura Stanbra**, BA (poli. sci.), MA (PP&PA) 95, became Concordia's Registrar in June. Laura has been at Concordia since 1985 and her previous positions include Director of Alumni Relations & Development and, most recently, Managing Director of Student Services. She replaced **Linda Healey**, L BA (psych.) 72, who retired after more than 25 years at the university.

## 10TH REUNION

**01 Andrea "Andie" Bennett**, BA (comm. studies), joined CBC Montreal's *Daybreak* morning radio show as its sportscaster in March. Andie had spent the last six years with the *Melnick in the Afternoon* radio show at Montreal's THE TEAM 990. She replaced **Sonali Karnick**, BA (comm. studies) 00, who joined CBC Sports in Toronto.

**03 Qurram Hussain**, BEng, and **Rupinder Magon**, attendee 01, are known as "q" and "Rup" with JoSH, a Montreal-based Indian/Pakistani fusion band. Their songs showcase modern and traditional Bhangra beats and music, and are strongly influenced by hip hop and pop music. JoSH recently released a CD, *Beyond Kismat*.

**04 Evelyn Delgado Read**, BFA (art ed.), is on the development team for the New Science Centre 2011 Project in Calgary, the first science centre to be built in Canada in 20 years. "I am working mainly with the centre's Creative Kids Museum. Extremely lucky to be doing exactly what I wanted to be doing with my degree!" [imagineaction.ca](http://imagineaction.ca) ■



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**André Dieter Bandrauk**, L BSc 61, was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in June for his pioneering work in attosecond chemistry. André, a theoretical chemist, is the Canada Research Chair in Computational Chemistry and Molecular Photonics at the Université de Sherbrooke. He lives in North Hatley, Que.



**Nino Ricci**, MA (English) 87, a Toronto-based best-selling author, was named a Member of the Order of Canada in June for his contributions to Canadian literature. Nino's master's thesis at Concordia formed the basis of his first novel, *Lives of the Saints* (1990), which won several prizes, including the Governor General's Award for Fiction. He earned his second Governor General's Award for Fiction with his most recent novel, *The Origin of Species* (2008).



**Fr. Thomas Dowd**, BComm (int'l. bus.) 92, was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal in July. Fr. Dowd was ordained a priest in 2001 and is a part-time lecturer in Concordia's Department of Theological Studies. He is the fifth English-speaking auxiliary bishop of Montreal and, at 40 years old, is the youngest bishop in Canada. He'll be ordained at Montreal's Mary Queen of the World Cathedral on September 10, the day before his 41st birthday.



Three Concordia alumni were among the seven winners of the 2011 Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Awards administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, announced in June. The annual awards, worth \$15,000 each, recognize outstanding mid-career artists in the seven disciplines funded by the Canada Council: theatre, visual arts, dance, media arts, integrated arts, music, and writing and publishing.

**Duncan Thornton**, attendee (arts and science) 90, received the 2011 award for Writing and Publishing. Duncan is a writer of young adult and futurist fiction. His first book, *Kalifax* (Coteau, 1999), was nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature – Text. He now lives in Winnipeg.



**Diane Morin**, MFA 03, received the 2011 award for Media Arts. Diane has been creating installations since 1998, joining her work with kinetic art and new media by using a wide range of material and expressions. Her work has been shown in several solo and group exhibitions in Montreal, elsewhere in Canada, Sweden and Finland. Originally from Kamouraska, Que., Diane lives and works in Montreal.



**Oswaldo Ramirez Castillo**, MFA (studio art) 08, received the award for Visual Arts. Oswaldo's work focuses on collective and personal memories of loss and violence that marked El Salvador during its civil war in the 1980s. He is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design and has exhibited in Canada and the United States. He lives and works in Montreal.



**Kevin Tierney**, S BA 71, GrDip 78, is founder of Park Ex Pictures in Montreal and produced the 2007 award-winning hit movie, *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*. Kevin also produced the recently released thriller *Good Neighbours* (directed by his son, Jacob), which will be released on DVD in Canada on September 13. He makes his directorial debut with *French Immersion*, a comedy about five anglophones in a two-week French immersion program in a remote Quebec town. Kevin also co-wrote and produced the film, which opens October 7 across Canada.



**John W. Tibbits**, S BSc 47, died on May 23 in Pointe-Claire, Que. John is survived by his children, John, Glen and Willa. He was 95.

**Gilbert R. Haldane**, L BSc 49, died on May 15 in Mississauga, Ont. Gilbert is survived by his wife, Joan, and his children, Scott, Neil, Sheila and Beth. He was 88.

**Michael John McFall**, S BComm 49, died on April 19 in Oakville, Ont. Michael is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and his children, Joanne, Maureen, Patricia and Kevin. He was 85.

**Camille Di Salvo**, L BA 50, died on June 3 in Pointe-Claire, Que. Camille is survived by his daughters, Carole and Sylvie. He was 88.

**Lorraine (Pedvis) Lightstone**, S BA 51, died on May 27 in Montreal. Lorraine is survived by her children, Lyon and Michael. She was 81.

**Wallace J. Penwill**, S BSc 51, died on July 14 in Toronto. Wallace is survived by his wife, Lorna, and his daughters, Diane Elizabeth and Kathryn Georgina. He was 86.

**Eugene Edelstein**, S BA 56, died on May 29 in Montreal. Eugene is survived by his children, Kim, Judi and Chaim.

**William David Yeates**, S BComm 58, died on July 31 in Toronto. William is survived by his wife, Frances, and his children, Arlene, Arthur and David.

**Thelbert J. "Ted" Harper**, S BSc 61, died on July 7 in Montreal. Ted is survived by his wife, Hildred, and his children, Cathy and Gregory. He was 75.

**Paul Hecht**, S BSc 61, died on May 4 in Montreal. Paul is survived by his wife, Carol, and his children, Debra, Jo-Anne, Mark and Nadine. He was 70.

**Henry Laurence "Larry" Cullen, Jr.**, L BA 63, died on March 25 in White Stone, Va. Larry is survived by his siblings, Michaela and Peter. He was 70.

**Peter S. Maslanka**, S BComm 63, died on July 26 in Montreal. Peter is survived by his wife, Helen, and his sons, Alan and Gary. He was 78.

**Oleg Podymow**, S BEng 63, died on June 2 in Montreal. Oleg is survived by his wife, Anneli, and his children, Tiina and Eric. He was 82.

**Sarah J. Aitken**, S BA 64, died on July 31 in Montreal. Sarah is survived by her husband, Allan, and her children, Ian, James and Jennifer. She was 73.

**Dave Hobus**, S BA 64, died on May 31 in Key Largo, Fla. Dave is survived by his wife, Sandra, and his children, Kevin, Kimberly and Rebecca.

**Serge Mercille**, S BComm 65, died on July 12 in Longueuil, Que. Serge is survived by his children, Normand, Johanne and Jean.

**Kathryn Smith**, S BA 66, died on July 4 in Montreal. Kathryn was 74.

**Kenneth Barlow**, S BA 67, died on May 18 in Lachute, Que. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Gillian, and his children, Debbie, Dominic and Andrew. He was 76.

**Robert "Bob" Kinney**, S BA 68, died on May 5 in Charleston, S.C. He was 65.

**Nicholas G. Sikorski**, L BSc 68, died on June 1 in Montreal. Nicholas is survived by his wife, Louise, and his daughter, Kimberly.

**Carole Poitras**, S BA 70, GrDip (comp. sci.) 93, died on April 20 in Verdun, Que. Carole is survived by her siblings, Bill and Brenda. She was 65.

**Pauline (Hawn) Mullins**, L BA 70, died on June 11 in Montreal. Pauline is survived by her long-time friend, Christiane Brisson. She was 96.

**Ruth Issenman**, L attendee 71, died on June 3 in Santa Cruz, Calif. Ruth is survived by her husband, Bernard, and her children, Philip, Robert and Tina.

**Morris Krymalowski**, L BA 71, died on May 2 in Montreal. Morris is survived by his mother, Madzia, his wife, Susan, and his children, Sam and Elisabeth.

**Paulette (Kaufman) Majzels**, S BA 71, died on May 19 in Westmount, Que. Paulette is survived by her children, Robert and Claudine.

**Otto Gal**, S MEng 72, died on July 17 in Montreal. Otto is survived by his children,

Jessica, Peter and Roberta. He was 76.

**Judith A. Coggins**, S BSc 74, died on June 21 in Ottawa, Ont. Judith was 63.

**Glenn Cole**, S BA 74, died on May 13 in Brantford, Ont. Glenn was 62.

**Mary Eleanor (Gatenby) Marchadier**, L BA 74, died on May 16 in Montreal. Mary is survived by her husband, Michael. She was 75.

**Vernon Muratoff**, S attendee 73, died on June 3 in Montreal. Vernon is survived by his daughter, Lianne.

**Peter Raymond Nadeau**, BA 76, died on May 28 in Ottawa. Peter is survived by his wife, Carolyn, his children, Jason, Jessica and Jordan, and his stepchildren, Michael and Kelsey. He was 66.

**Laura Vadboncoeur**, BA 76, died on April 23 in Montreal. Laura is survived by her daughters, Cheryl and Andrea, and her stepson, Louis. She was 80.

**Marion (Valkema-Blouw) Young**, BFA 78, died on July 19 in Montreal. Marion is survived by her children, Carla and Ian. She was 92.

**Lorne G. Carlson**, BComm 79, died on June 8 in Montreal. Lorne is survived by his wife, Donna, and his children, Gregory and Heidi. He was 77.

**Ruth Aronoff-Birnbaum**, BA 80, died on July 16 in

Montreal. Ruth is survived by her long-time companion, Saul Lemkin, and her children, Clara, Miriam, Philip and David. She was 84.

**Necdet Kendir**, BA 80, died on July 4 in Montreal. Necdet is survived by his wife, Scherly, and his children, Alexander and Adem. He was 59.

**Carlo Delli Colli**, BComm 83, died on July 6 in Montreal. Carlo is survived by his mother, Ida Longo, and his siblings, Maria, Giuseppe, Amato, Elvio and Enrico. He was 51.

**Sylvie Domingue**, BComm 84, died on May 13 in Montreal. Sylvie is survived by her parents, Richard Domingue and Josee Battistini, her husband, François, and her daughters, Tanya and Sarah. She was 52.

**Ilyse J. Segal**, BFA 84, died on June 20 in Montreal. Ilyse is survived by her children, Philip and Robin. She was 74.

**Duncan Little**, BSc 86, died on June 17 in Calgary. Duncan is survived by his parents, Peter and Margaret, and his wife, Pam. He was 49.

**Rajpattie Persaud-Billette**, BA 86, died on August 1 in Montreal. Rajpatti is survived by her husband, Paul-André. She was 64.

**Joanne (Van Zwol) Brais**, GrDip (lib. studies) 87, died on May 24 in Montreal. Joanne is survived by her husband, Jean Claude. She was 71.

**Florence Luger**, BA 87, died on May 31 in Montreal. Florence

is survived by her husband, Mendel, and her daughters, Selina and Rhona. She was 73.

**Maria T.K. Sweeney**, BA 89, died on June 21 in Montreal. Maria is survived by her parents, Robert and Barbara, and her husband, Michel Adamus. She was 44.

**Eva (Klein-Racz) Gruenwald**, BA 91, died on May 18 in Montreal. Eva is survived by her husband, Hermann, and her daughters, Anita and Sandy. She was 83.

**Monica Nash**, BA 93, died on June 20 in Comox, B.C. Monica is survived by her parents, Cheryl and Allan, her husband, Greg Sankey, and her children, Chiara and Sage. She was 31.

**Lynn Henderson**, BA 95, died on June 13 in Montreal. Lynn is survived by her children, Katie, Lisa, Peter and Sean. She was 78.

**Andrew Princz**, BFA 95, died on June 24 in Quito, Ecuador. Andrew is survived by his parents, Judith and Joseph, and his sisters, Marina and Vicky. He was 40.

**Louyse Lussier**, BA 96, MA 03, died on June 1 in Montreal. Louyse is survived by her siblings, Vince and Ann-Marie. She was 57.

**Stephen Lisiak**, BA 97, died on June 20 in Montreal. Stephen is survived by his parents, Oswald and Lillian, his wife, Lisa, and his son, Andrew Julius. He was 38. ■

## Keep in Touch

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Or mail or email us any information about yourself—don't be shy—you'd like to appear in Class Acts.

Please include: your name (including name at graduation); year(s) of graduation and degree(s) from Concordia, Loyola or Sir George, and other universities; street address, phone number(s) and email address; and any other relevant personal or business info and messages that you'd like to appear.

By email: [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca) Subject: **Class Acts**

By mail: Class Acts, Advancement and Alumni Relations, Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., FB 520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

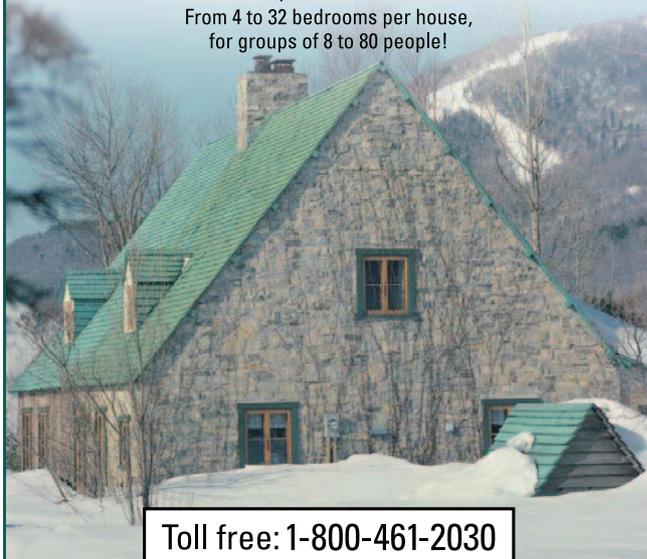
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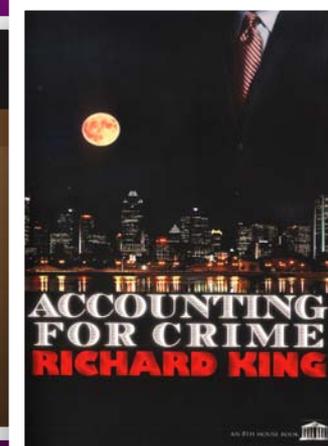
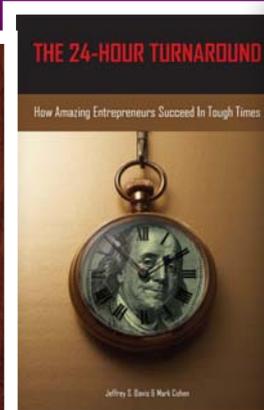
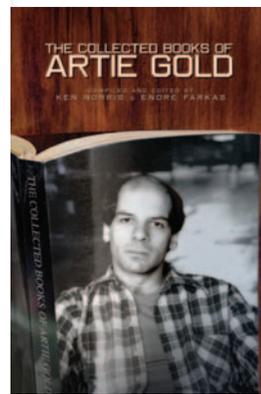
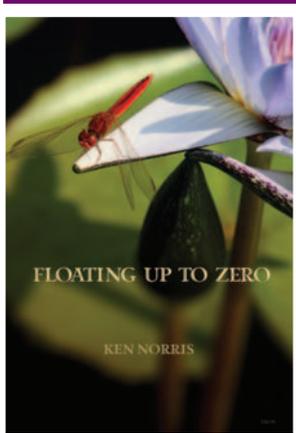
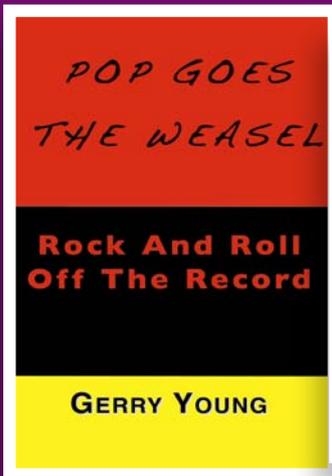
# Zappa, Silver and Gold

**Gerry Young**, L BA (comm. studies) 72, chronicles his 40 years in the music industry—which started during his undergraduate years at Loyola—in ***Pop Goes the Weasel: Rock and Roll Off the Record***

**Ken Norris**, MA (Eng.) 75, immigrated to Canada in the early 1970s and quickly became one of the country's most prolific bards as a member of Montreal's Véhicule Poets. ***Floating Up to Zero*** (Talonbooks, \$17.95) poetically spans a year in

penned ***The 24-Hour Turnaround: How Amazing Entrepreneurs Succeed in Tough Times*** (Happy About, \$19.95), a practical and easy-to-read guide for small-business owners and entrepreneurs. Davis and Cohen's Boston-based con-

House Publishing, \$18.88). Robert Scroyle is the senior partner at a firm with an eclectic list of clients. When two of his most important clients come to him with problems they think Scroyle can solve, his life takes a turn for the compli-



(CreateSpace, \$14.95). Young began his journey as a promoter in the early 1970s, when he was responsible for bringing Johnny Winter and his band to Place des Arts and The Kinks to Loyola College Theatre. He was later a major record label executive and now runs his own management company, Current Management, in Toronto. *Pop Goes the Weasel* also contains accounts of his run-ins with some of the music world's most popular stars, including Kiss, Cher, Frank Zappa and Peter Gabriel.

Norris's life, from a dreadful and cold winter to his time in Asia, the hope of spring and the changing colours of autumn. With nine sections, *Floating Up to Zero* highlights the poet's range and ability. Norris also compiled and co-edited ***The Collected Books of Artie Gold*** (Talonbooks, \$29.95) with **Endre Farkas**, MA 72 (Eng.). The work gathers Gold's (1947–2007) eight books of poetry, which helped shape the literary and poetic landscape of his time.

**Jeffrey S. Davis**, BA 78, and Mark Cohen have

sulting company, Mage LLC, has helped more than 700 small businesses since 1985. *The 24-Hour Turnaround* compiles case studies offering advice on leadership and strategies that will allow entrepreneurs to examine their businesses and their trajectories, and help manoeuvre them toward success regardless of the uncertain economic climate.

**Richard King**, BA 78, takes the reader inside the world of business and shady accountants in Montreal in ***Accounting for Crime*** (8th

edition). *Accounting for Crime* combines intrigue, love triangles and cold-blooded mobsters, but also has its share of lighter moments. The *Globe and Mail* has called King talented and witty; his first novel, *That Sleep of Death* (2002), spent nine weeks on the *Gazette's* bestseller list.

The second edition of ***Swinging in Paradise: The Story of Jazz in Montreal*** (Lulu.com, \$26.95) has been published with a new afterword and notes by author **John Gilmore**, BFA (jazz studies) 81. *Swinging in Paradise*

was released to critical acclaim in 1988 but the first edition had been out of print for years. The book delves into Montreal's rich history of jazz and why the city was such a hotbed for musicians and the genre. Gilmore spent seven years tracking down the book's subjects, all of whom are veterans of the local jazz community. He started research for the book during his last year at Concordia,

Galluccio is no stranger to success; he is the writer of feature films *Mambo Italiano* (2003, based on his original play) and the recently released *Funkytown* (2011). This newest effort is reminiscent of the light, sexy Sophia Loren/Marcello Mastroianni vehicles of the early 1960s.

The novel *Silver* (Cormorant Books, \$21) by Argentinean-Canadian author Pablo

sends the ape to a zoo. Silver tries to re-adapt into the wild but his desire for hamburgers and human women make that transition very tricky.

Based on a true story, *The People with No Camel* (Writing Center, \$17), by **Roya Movafegh**, BFA 93, relates the tale of a 10-year-old girl whose family escapes from 1981 Iran because they fear being persecuted for

like his brother's, but it's all his mother and family can talk about. His father, after 25 years in prison in Sri Lanka, is finally joining the family in Scarborough, Ont. Little do they know, Thambi is dating a white woman. Alan Moore, acclaimed author of *The Watchmen* and *V for Vendetta*, recommends the book, calling it "lucid, confident and immensely engaging."



and tapes of his interviews with veteran Montreal jazz musicians are housed in the university's archives.

In 2009, Montreal's *Gazette* raved about *In Piazza San Domenico*, the play by **Steve Galluccio**, BA (Fr./Eng. trans.) 82, giving it "three cheers for light-hearted entertainment." Now *In Piazza San Domenico* (Talonbooks, \$17.95) is available in print. The romantic comedy set in 1952 Naples, Italy, tells the story of one broken engagement and its effects on friends and family members.

Urbanyi and translated by **Hugh Hazelton**, MA (Eng.) 82, examines what happens to a primate that becomes a bit too human. American sociologist Gregory and his wife Diana adopt a white-haired and blue-eyed ape, who they name Silver. The animal quickly becomes domesticated and even picks up several human mannerisms, including showering, using utensils to eat and speaking, which he learned while watching *Sesame Street*. But when Gregory, to his disgust, catches Silver and his wife in an intimate moment, he

their Baha'i faith in a country governed by Sharia law. When the girl grows into a woman, the novel shifts gears and focuses on her quest to save a dying forest, as well as on her spiritual journey that will ultimately make her question the meaning of freedom.

*The Panic Button* (Quattro Books, \$15), by **Koom Kankesan**, BA 02, is a fictionalized account of Tamil immigrants' real experience of living in Canada. Thambi Navaratnam just wants to avoid an arranged marriage

With *Rebuild* (Talonbooks, \$16.95), **Sachiko Murakami**, MA (Eng.) 06, uses her signature poetic prose to tackle the urban passion of real estate, focusing on people's obsession with ownership and bulldozing and rebuilding. *Rebuild* is the follow-up to Murakami's debut collection, *The Invisibility Exhibit* (2008), which the *Toronto Star* called "hard-hitting and unsettling" and was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Poetry. ■

# Honouring the Georgian spirit

BY BRIAN SELWOOD

Brian Selwood was hired by Sir George Williams University in 1969 to direct the university's first permanent fundraising department. Selwood had previously served as a fundraising consultant to 10 other Canadian universities. Here, he relates how Sir George Williams's special character was described by others.

Almost half a century ago, when he was Principal Emeritus, Henry F. Hall wrote a history of Sir George Williams University. His choice for a title was *The Georgian Spirit* (George Mikan & Son) and the elegantly bound book was published shortly after the 1966 opening of the academic building that bears the author's name.

Dr. Hall, who was then in the final years of his long career with Sir George Williams, noted the early development of evening courses at the institution "doubtless gave it a middle class, or even lower middle class stamp in its younger days. Reporters attempting to describe Sir George Williams as a unique phenomenon, at least in Canada, tended to emphasize this," he wrote.

One such article was headed "The University in Overalls," but the story happened to appear shortly before a "rather elaborate graduation banquet and ball which, to those present at least, gave a totally opposite impression" by the formal attire of the guests. "However," Dr. Hall concluded, "this incident serves perhaps to illustrate the fact that the matter of class, stratum or segment of society has been happily at a minimum at this university."

A decade after the publication of *The Georgian Spirit*, Concordia—which was



SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY INSPIRED STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS ALIKE AND WAS DESCRIBED AS AN INSTITUTION THAT EDUCATED "THE HEART AS WELL AS THE MIND."

established in 1974 when Sir George Williams merged with Loyola College—published another collection of essays and illustrations, entitled *The Illustrated Companion History of Sir George Williams University*.

This more recent publication included the comments of Jack Hirshberg, S BA 38. Writing from Hollywood, Calif., where he was employed in the film industry, Hirshberg declared that Sir George Williams in the 1930s "had a spirit second to none... Its degree was honoured everywhere, its academic standing rapidly winning international respect." His reminiscences continued: "When I first enrolled at Sir George it was principally a night school with a few day classes. It was my good fortune to be amongst the first graduates granted bachelor degrees by the college without a campus."

Hirshberg described his years at Sir George Williams as being "pretty crowded." Between classes he would run across to the CBC or CFCF to do a broadcast or spend his lunch hour "at the old Chez Maurice" writing press releases. "Somehow," he continued, "I absorbed enough of the literature and philosophy and psychology and the history of the theatre to make living a happier, more complete experience.

"However, I think the greatest thing Sir George Williams taught was understanding. I say understanding—not just tolerance." He explained that students from different religious and racial backgrounds "studied together, relaxed

together, and never did I hear one word of ugly bias or treacherous bigotry."

This graduate from many decades ago concluded with a message of "heart-felt gratitude and much-deserved praise" to an institution that he described as educating "the heart as well as the mind."

In another contribution, English Professor Neil Compton recalled his early days at Sir George Williams in the late 1940s: "Sir George undergraduates in those days tended to be fiercely loyal and many graduates were passionately proud of their association with the place."

In 1968, the university attracted the attention of *Time* magazine, which carried an article featuring several of its distinctive academic programs and the professors in charge of the courses. The report included a reference to the visits by Henri Langlois, director of the Cinémathèque Française in Paris, who used to fly to Montreal twice a month from France to deliver a series of extremely popular lectures at Sir George Williams.

Compton, who was the English department chair then, was also quoted in *Time*: "There's no more going on at Sir George than other universities, but here everything happens on top of everything else. There's spontaneous combustion." ■

*The Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2012. To learn more, see the advertisement on page 4.*



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