

FALL 2016

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YEAST  
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WIPE OUT  
CANCER?

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team investigates  
natural cures for the  
notorious disease

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# Concordia

PRESIDENTIAL PATH > HALL BUILDING'S NAMESAKE > ALUMNI AT THE TOP

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AT THE TOP**

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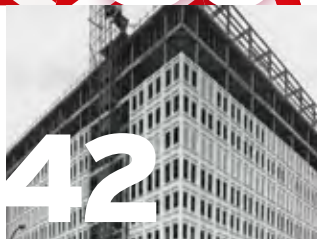


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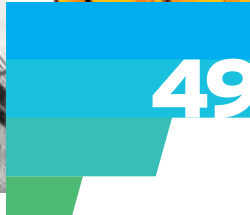


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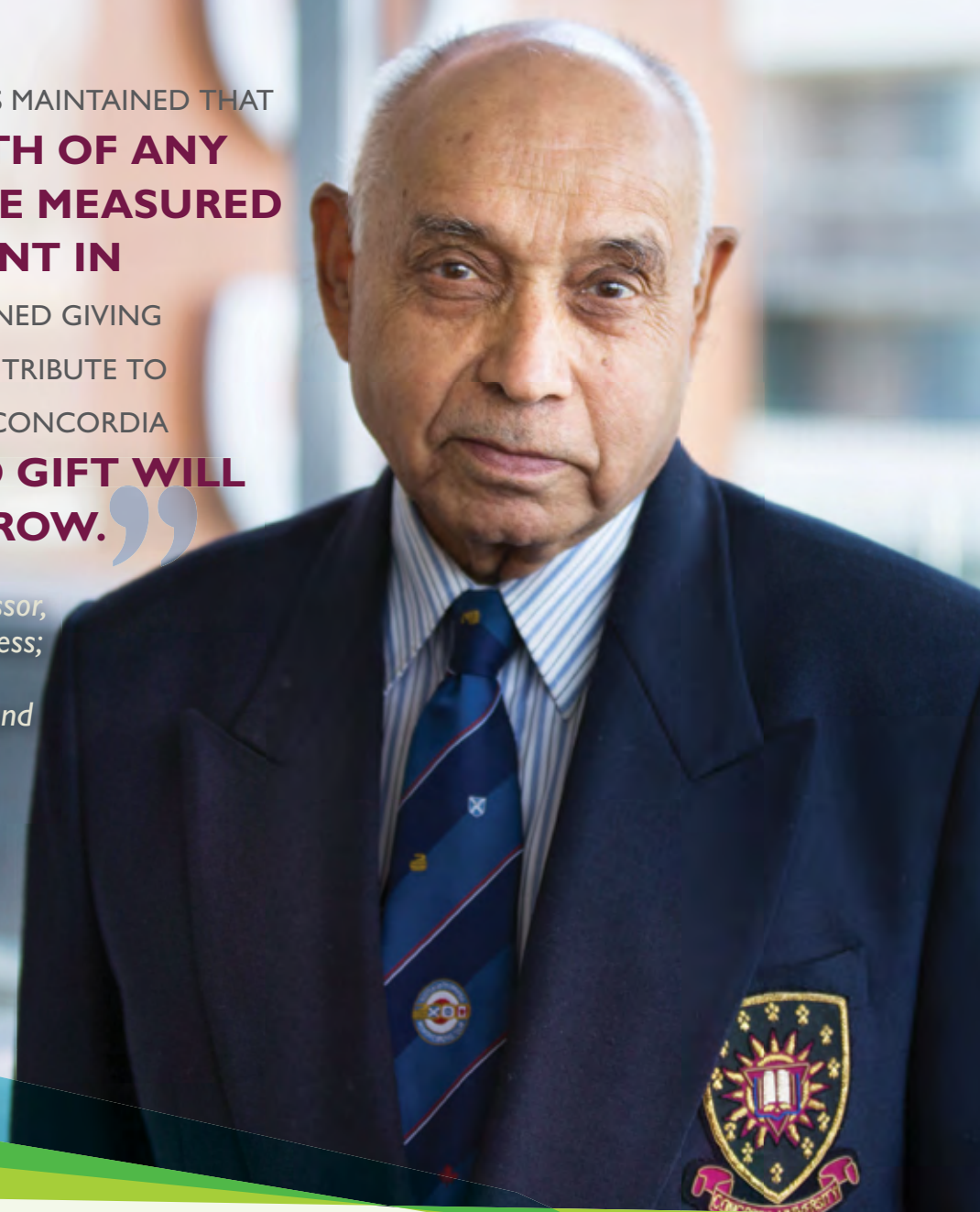
Engineering students enjoy a stellar year in competitions, and the faculty launches its graduate certificate in Innovation, Technology and Society.

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– Mahesh C. Sharma, professor,  
John Molson School of Business;  
creator of Uma Sharma  
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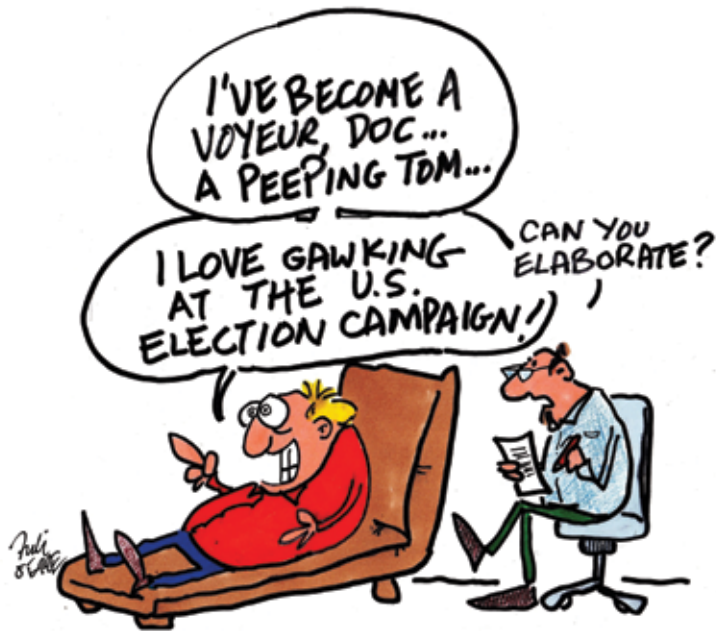
## Presidential fascination

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

Toronto Star columnist and CBC political commentator Chantal Hébert, LL.D. 14, spoke at Concordia in March for the Reader's Digest Annual Lecture Series in Journalism, part of the university's Thinking Out Loud conversation series. By then, Donald Trump had already solidified his lead in the primaries on the way to his eventual nomination as the Republican Party's presidential candidate in the November 2016 United States election.

Hébert's topic was "The post-election landscape — can Quebec and Canada really get along?" While her focus was Canadian politics, an audience member asked, "How scared should we be with the possibility of Trump as U.S. president?" Hébert put a positive spin on it: "I don't think any issue would unify Canada so much as a Trump presidency."

Canadians' interest in the upcoming U.S. election is not just a case of rubbernecking — although the race between Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton does seem like a car wreck. No matter one's leanings, it's undeniable that the arrival of a President Trump would have an impact on the world's financial and political stability, as the Concordia experts in history, finance, journalism and political science discuss in the story "A presidential view from the north" on page 30. Canadians, specifically, will wait anxiously to see if Trump follows through on his promise to revisit the North American Free Trade Agreement.



When we first thought of including a story on the U.S. elections — well before the unlikely emergence of Trump — for the fall 2016 *Concordia University Magazine* issue, we planned to ask our experts about the interminably long process for selecting a president. Canadian campaigns are a fraction of the duration of our southern neighbours'. For instance, the 2015 Canadian federal election campaign was 78 days, the longest since 1872 and about a month longer than average. In contrast, the 2016 Democratic National Convention wrapped up about 100 days ahead of the November 8 election date — and that was after months and months of primary madness.

There may be at least one benefit to the endless campaigning, though. By the time the election rolls around, Americans will have a pretty clear picture of their candidates. If they indeed choose Trump over Clinton, they couldn't claim they didn't know what they were getting — unlike what some critics say of British voters who chose to leave the European Union in the Brexit vote in June.

While the appeal of reactionary politicians seems to be spreading around the world like cancer, real cancer remains a scourge. Fortunately, as this issue's cover story examines, Vladimir Titorenko, Concordia professor of biology, and his team are performing groundbreaking research on a natural cure for cancer (page 36).

This issue also covers a diverse range of lively features, including fond memories of Henry F. Hall on the 50th anniversary of Concordia's iconic Hall Building (page 42), profiles of six impressive alumni at the top of their companies (page 18), and a visit to Milieux: Concordia's new, interdisciplinary institute of digital arts, culture and technology (page 50). ■

## UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE 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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# setting an example



Hardeep Grewal, second from right, with (from left) his sons Amaran, Shawn and Jesse and his wife Patwant at the announcement of his \$1-million gift to the JMSB on April 25, 2016.

## Grad implores Canadians to love universities more

Aristotle observed that we are hard-wired to think of life in thirds — a beginning, middle and end. In my native Punjab, India, I'd say it's more like a plateau. Mobility isn't common. You're born to a certain lot in life. And for many that's how it remains.

My parents, who were farmers, saved their money to send me to Canada in 1972. I had \$7 in my pocket when I arrived in Montreal. The challenge of being an allophone in Quebec was too much at first. Dejected, I dropped out of high school. I worked in a factory and learned basic English and French through osmosis. Eventually I made it to Concordia. I put myself through school by driving a taxi at night.

My Concordia education made it possible to attain a green card and move to California with my wife, Patwant, in 1984. We made a somewhat frivolous purchase that ended up being our main source of income: a Subway restaurant in Los Angeles. Today, we manage 2,100 of them in the United States and Canada.

Education helped make my proverbial second act an incredibly productive one. While I always recognized that on some level, I only began to fully appreciate and express my allegiance to Concordia after exposure to university culture in the United States.

One of my three sons graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles. As a parent attending events at UCLA I perceived something distinct: amazing energy, unbridled pride and intense loyalty. By contrast, Canadians are quite adept at resisting any kind of sectarian affinity for where they received their education.

According to Giving USA, Americans gave US\$54.6 billion to education in 2014. Not only are American university graduates eager to boast about where they studied, they are proud to show how invested they are.

As austerity measures threaten to constrict growth at universities across Canada, now seems as good a time as any for Canadians to stop liking their universities and start loving them — like Americans.

I recently donated \$1 million to support MBA students at my alma mater's John Molson School of Business. I chose to do this after prolonged exposure to a culture where a university is more than a rite of passage — it's an inauguration into a selective community.

*A longer version of this text appeared in The Globe and Mail on May 2, 2016.*

*— Hardeep Grewal, BComm 83, is president and CEO of OhCal Foods LLC in Woodland Hills, Calif.*

Find out how to join Hardeep Grewal in contributing to Concordia.

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BOARD REAPPOINTS ALAN SHEPARD AS PRESIDENT



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ALAN SHEPARD

In May, Concordia's Board of Governors voted unanimously to reappoint Alan Shepard as president and vice-chancellor for a second mandate.

"Since joining Concordia, Alan has been a strong advocate for the university, working tirelessly to strengthen relations with students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. His genuine respect and care for the university and its members has been evident. As a result, he has gained the respect and overwhelming support of the university community," said Norman Hébert, Jr., BComm 77, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors. Hébert also acted as chair of the Evaluation Committee for the President and Vice-Chancellor.

"A thoughtful, strategic, energetic and innovative leader, Alan has

positively influenced the advancement of our mission while increasing the university's visibility on the local, national and international scenes," Hébert added. "Under Alan's leadership, stability has returned to Concordia, and equally important, the university has been gaining in strength and reputation. He has spearheaded a strategic directions initiative that has engaged our community in thinking and talking about our future as a next-generation university. Our nine directions [[concordia.ca/directions](http://concordia.ca/directions)], developed through this process, set the course for some exciting times ahead."

Shepard arrived at Concordia in 2012. He begins his second five-year term on August 1, 2017. ■

—Howard Bokser

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PLANNING WRAPS UP FOR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS' PHASE 2

How can Concordia become a next-generation university? This was one of the key questions Concordia's deans, university librarian and provost addressed at the May 2016 Senate meeting, part of the extensive planning process started last fall as part of Phase 2 of the strategic directions initiative.

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE: THINKING BEYOND**

"We are thinking big," said André Roy, dean of Arts and Science. "We're a huge and diverse faculty and we asked people who we are, and this starts with our identity." The faculty's vision for its 27 academic units is to "think beyond" in order to "become a uniquely defined powerhouse of interdisciplinary teaching, learning and scholarship in Canada and beyond."

Roy noted that the faculty is a federation of foundational disciplines that generates fundamental knowledge and scholarship. This positions the faculty — one of only five combined arts and science faculties in Canada — as a

connected hub and an engine for interdisciplinary experimentation.

The linchpin for the faculty's strategic initiatives will be a new PluriStudies Institute, which Roy sees as a platform for theme- or problem-driven inquiry, idea incubation, project coordination and broad interdisciplinary experimentation.

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE: INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION**

Amir Asif, dean of Engineering and Computer Science, reported that faculty's strategic plan is rooted in a vision to inspire a new generation of engineers and computer scientists by advancing integrated technologies in a socially responsible manner.

A first area of emphasis involves developing innovative multidisciplinary programs in next-generation technologies in concert with industry. Asif cited three examples of recently created programs that fit this mould — the BEng in Aerospace Engineering, the PhD in Software Engineering and



CONCORDIA IS NOW ENTERING PHASE 2 OF ITS STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS INITIATIVE.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

the Graduate Certificate in Innovation, Technology and Society, all to start in fall 2016 — in addition to the proposed new department of chemical and materials engineering.

A second area of emphasis is making constellations out of faculty research stars through the creation of new transdisciplinary research centres. A third area is elevating the learning experience of students by developing new opportunities for hands-on learning, more industrial placements and increased opportunities for entrepreneurship.

**FACULTY OF FINE ARTS: MAKING THINGS AND MAKING THINGS HAPPEN**

Rebecca Duclos, dean of Fine Arts, said the faculty's nearly 20 labs, centres and institutes are all about "making things, making things happen and making the things that happen matter."

Duclos highlighted a broad array of ideas and initiatives that have arisen out of the Fine Arts deliberations over the course of the year. Among the work already in

progress, she cited efforts to strengthen and forge alliances with cultural actors in the city and beyond; to grow the newly seeded Institute for Urban Futures, focused on city-based scholarship, urban sustainability and participatory research; and to develop a cross-faculty field school providing opportunities for both local and global, on-location, project-based learning in conjunction with collaborative partners.

Longer-term, Duclos sees opportunities for the faculty to engage with the city and institutional partners to interconnect Concordia and other cultural institutions as part of a "contiguous campus" model.

**JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: MAKING STEADY PROGRESS**

The John Molson School of Business (JMSB) is in its second of a five-year strategic plan that aligns very closely with Concordia's nine directions, said Stéphane Brutus, the school's interim dean. He pointed out that JMSB exists in a very competitive local environment. Of the four

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largest business schools in Canada, three are in Montreal: JMSB, HEC Montréal and École des sciences de la gestion de l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

That said, Brutus sees JMSB as the English-language destination of choice for business students in Montreal and Quebec. "One clear advantage for JMSB students is that they receive a highly engaging education with extracurricular activities second to none," he said.

Brutus added that JMSB is "becoming a mature business school." Key indicators of this shift include expanding the reach and visibility of its executive education offerings, increasing the number of partnerships with other business schools internationally and leveraging its case competition activities — a real competitive advantage for JMSB.

#### SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Paula Wood-Adams, dean of Graduate Studies, characterized its role as facilitating, supporting and providing opportunities for graduate and postdoctoral education across the university. One of the school's spotlight initiatives is a postdoctoral fellowship program that will add much-needed support in high-performing research areas.

This initiative is part of an effort to place a much stronger emphasis on graduate education at Concordia. Alongside the postdoctoral program, the school is developing initiatives to build a stronger sense of community among graduate

students, boost thesis completion and recognize excellence in graduate student supervision. The creation of a host of new *cotutelles*, or joint PhD programs, is also a priority.

#### CONCORDIA LIBRARY

Guyline Beaudry, university librarian, said her staff have established 20 goals to deliver in the next five years. She added that these are open to extreme collaboration, as innovation is integral to the library system. Beaudry outlined the four themes underpinning the library's goals: organize for empowerment; provide spaces for learning and research; transform library services in line with changing needs; and position collections at the heart of teaching, learning and research.

#### AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABILITY

For Peter Stoett, professor in the Department of Political Science, sustainability is not an add-on idea. As the provost's fellow for sustainability, he noted that Concordia has collectively defined sustainability as both a process and a mindset that leads to reducing its ecological footprint and enhancing social well-being while maintaining economic viability, and that it should institute its actions both on and off campus. There are many sustainability initiatives already taking place university-wide, Stoett added. ■

—Jake Brennan and  
Karen McCarthy



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## A VOICE AGAINST BULLYING

Five Concordia graduate and undergraduate engineering students who hope to help end bullying in schools have created an anti-bullying project for one of their university courses. Their goal is to have Concordia and other schools adopt the course in future.

The students — three of whom were either bullied or bullied others when they were children — originally created their Action Against Bullying Innovation Team for their course Creativity, Innovation and Critical Thinking in Science and Technology, offered through the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Soon after the project got off the ground, the students and their professor Deborah Dysart-Gale, chair of the Centre for Engineering in Society, saw the potential for it to go beyond the classroom.

“Engineers are brilliant at solving problems. That’s what we teach them to do,” says Dysart-Gale. “Yet we spend little time teaching them how to figure out what the problem is in the first place. So a lot of the philosophy and methods for this course have grown out of District 3,



RICHARD BURNETT

WORKING TO ERADICATE BULLYING IN SCHOOLS: PROFESSORS DEBORAH DYSART-GALE AND GILBERT ÉMOND AND STUDENTS SIMRANJOT KAUR, ALVIN DEVILLER, EBTEHAJ ALYAMANI, HADEEL AL-MAIMANI AND VISHAL HANDA.

Concordia’s centre for entrepreneurship and innovation.”

The Action Against Bullying Innovation Team — whose members are engineering students Simranjot Kaur, Alvin deViller, Ebtehaj Alyamani, Hadeel Al-Maimani and Vishal Handa — developed different solutions for different age groups, including day-long workshops, videos and presentations. The project recommends “one week of basic bullying, social, psychological and philosophy education per year starting at the kindergarten level. The education advances and increases in depth. In high school there is analysis of criminal, sexual and suicidal case studies.”

“We started talking to teachers and guidance

counsellors and parents, and we also looked online: a few guidance counsellors had blogs with information,” says Alvin deViller, an Ottawa native. “We identified a few problems, but there was one main problem that all the others were centred on: from an early age, kids are not educated well — or at all — about bullying.” He adds, “I was bullied a bit and became a bully myself when I was a little kid.”

Ebtehaj Alyamani, who was not bullied when she grew up in Saudi Arabia, says, “What makes me passionate about this project is trying to make people have confidence in themselves.”

Hadeel Al-Maimani, also from Saudi Arabia, says, “When I was younger, I was with a group of friends in school who bullied people. We didn’t think what we were doing was bullying because there is not an awareness of it there as there is here in Canada.”

“Many people don’t know about bullying or its causes,” says Simranjot Kaur, who grew up in India. “Bullying does not even exist in their minds. My interest in stopping bullying came from this.”

Team member Vishal Handa, who also grew up in India, says he was bullied for six years beginning in sixth grade. “Those were intense years for me because it would happen for six or seven hours each day. They used to call me really bad names, and once there was a physical assault,” says Handa.

The first step is to see how their project — officially named Engineers Against Bullying — can be improved to better meet the needs of schools. The team has met with Concordia’s Office of Community Engagement.

The team also impressed Gilbert Émond, a Concordia associate professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences. Émond is author of the landmark 2007 study *L’homophobie, pas dans ma cour!* for GRIS-Montréal, whose mission is to ensure an increased awareness of homosexual and bisexual realities in the school system. He happily agreed to be a consultant on the Engineers Against Bullying project. “I am so proud of these students,” Émond says. ■

—Richard Burnett

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## RESEARCHERS DEVELOP TECHNIQUE TO LOCATE UNDERGROUND LEAKS

The world is approaching a water crisis. According to the International Water Management Institute, 33 per cent of the global population will experience water scarcity by 2025. One main cause is leaks. Twenty to 30 per cent of treated water is lost in systems because of this simple and fixable problem.

Repairs need to be as precise as possible because excavation and resurfacing is a costly undertaking. Digging up more than one location or more area than is needed for the repair can lead to traffic disruption, commuter frustration and loss of business. Meanwhile, there are major public health risks associated with contaminants entering the water system through holes in pipes.

Luckily, researchers from Concordia have an innovative solution. In an article recently published by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Tarek Zayed, professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, shows how a special tool called a noise logger can detect leaks accurately and efficiently, before major roadwork is required. "This approach can reduce the duration of a leak, as well as the cost and time involved in locating the site in need of repair," says Zayed, who co-wrote the article with post-doctoral fellow Mohammed S. El-Abbassy, Fadi Mosleh, MASc 15, and Ahmed Senouci from the University of Houston and Qatar University.

For the study, the researchers went all the way to Qatar University in Doha to test their theories. The team installed the noise loggers along the institution's main water network and used them to record the constant noise generated by a leak over a two-hour time period. The facilities management team at Qatar University reported back on the actual locations and found that the team had estimated with 99.5 per cent accuracy. ■

—Cléa Desjardins



K. LACASSE (FLICKR CC)

CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS' NEW SYSTEM USES SOUND TO PINPOINT WATER LEAKS.

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BRIANNA THICKE

"I LIKE TO THINK THAT WE'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO BE ROLE MODELS," SAYS NEW WOMEN'S HOCKEY COACH JULIE CHU, A FORMER U.S. OLYMPIAN.

This fall, both the Concordia Stingers men's and women's hockey teams will find themselves with new head coaches.

#### AN OLYMPIC PEDIGREE

Late last summer Les Lawton, the veteran coach of the Concordia women's hockey team, went on medical leave, and Julie Chu stepped in. In June, Chu, an American transplant who plays for Montreal's Les Canadiennes professional women's hockey team, was confirmed as Lawton's replacement. While she plans to continue playing for the Canadiennes part-time, her priority is the Stingers.

As a member of the United States women's hockey team, Chu won three silver medals and one bronze at the Olympics, on top of five World Championships. In her first assistant coaching position, at the University of Minnesota Duluth, she helped the Bulldogs win the NCAA Division I National Championship in 2008. She completed another assistant coaching stint at Union

College in Schenectady, N.Y., before joining Concordia's coaching staff in September 2014.

"Les has done such an incredible job," she says. "When you have a program that you're proud of, you want to make sure that you bring in quality people that can add to your vision. For Les to trust enough in me and give me a chance to work with this program was incredible."

Now that she's officially Concordia's head coach, Chu has no big plans to shake things up. For the time being, she'll continue to improve upon what was already set up by her predecessor, who led the Stingers to 15 provincial championships and two national titles. Her task will be, she says, "about enhancing the areas Les has already done an incredible job with, and then evolving some of the other areas, as coaching and sports continue to evolve."

#### A DEEP STINGER IDENTITY

"I can't wait for the next season to start," says Marc-André Élement, BA (human rels.) 11, about his new role as head coach of the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team.

Élement looks forward to building on the progress made last season, when he held the role on an interim basis. "With 14 first-year players in our lineup last year, we spent a lot of time developing our system and our team approach both on and off the ice. We now have good momentum that will help move our hockey program forward," he says. "We finished the year strong with solid games against McGill and UQTR. Our win at home in the Corey Cup shows that we can compete against the stronger teams in the league."

For Élement, the Stinger logo has a deep and personal meaning. The leadership role he now performs from behind the bench in a suit and tie was developed while

he was wearing the maroon and gold jersey from 2006 to 2011. He was an assistant captain in the 2008-09 season and then proudly wore the "C" on his jersey in his last two years.

Élement transitioned quickly from player to coach. Once his varsity career was over, he stayed connected to his alma mater by taking on the role of assistant coach with the Stingers in 2011-12, 2012-13 and a portion of the 2014-15 season before moving on to coach the Lachine Maroons in the Quebec Junior AAA Hockey League.

The opportunity to take on the head coaching job at Concordia is a dream come true. "I know what it feels like to be sitting in this room. It is a privilege to be a student-athlete representing your school," Élement says. "I want to instill in each player a sense of responsibility and a strong work ethic both on and off the ice." ■

—Tom Peacock and Steve Beisswanger



MARC LAFLÉUR, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

NEW MEN'S HOCKEY COACH AND FORMER STINGER PLAYER MARC-ANDRÉ ÉLEMENT SAYS, "IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE A STUDENT-ATHLETE REPRESENTING YOUR SCHOOL."



## WHAT ROLE DO MINORITIES PLAY IN MIDEAST REGIMES?

Turkey took centre stage in global politics over the summer, with all eyes on President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan following the military's attempted coup on July 15.

Yet is it possible that Turkey and other Middle Eastern nations might one day turn towards less authoritarian types of government? Recent research from Concordia confirms that such a shift would be intricately connected to ethnic and religious tensions.

In a study published by *Political Research Quarterly*, Ceren Belge, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science, examined whether Kurds in Turkey, Berbers in Morocco and Christians in Egypt and Jordan differ in their backing of authoritarianism.



Belge and her co-author, Ekrem Karakoç from the State University of New York at Binghamton, found that among current, largely secular regimes, religious minorities tend to be more supportive of authoritarianism and linguistic minorities less so.

A significant policy implication of these results, according to Belge and Karakoç, is that support for democracy in the region should be balanced by an emphasis on pluralism and a strong assurance of individual rights. "Without such guarantees, calls for competitive elections risk alienating minorities, who are already politically marginalized," they write.

Using data gathered from thousands of respondents to the World Values Survey, Belge and Karakoç discovered marked differences: members of Christian religious minorities in Egypt and Jordan were significantly more likely to support authoritarianism than members of the Muslim majorities in these states; members of Muslim linguistic minorities were significantly less likely to support authoritarianism than Moroccans and Turks who spoke the majority language. Belge and Karakoç conclude that "minorities can generally be expected to be pro-democracy,

especially if they have experienced marginalization in the existing regime, because they can expect to have greater voice and protection in a more democratic state."

Yet in countries with ethnic and religious divisions, "minorities whose status and security is threatened by a transition to majoritarian institutions will be more supportive of authoritarianism," Belge says. She explains that this is because democratization has varying implications for differently situated minorities. ■

—Cléa Desjardins



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## ENGINEERING STUDENTS GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY WITH INDUSTRIAL APPRENTICESHIPS



CONCORDIA'S NEW NCADE INDUSTRY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS.

LESLIE SCHACHTER

When Catharine Marsden arrived at Concordia in fall 2015, she was ready to hit the ground running. Marsden stepped in as senior chair holder of the newly launched NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) Chair in Aerospace Design Engineering (NCADE). Given NCADE's primary objective of increasing experiential learning through project-based content, setting up an industry apprenticeship program was a top priority.

NCADE's industry partners — Bombardier, Pratt & Whitney Canada,

Bell Helicopter Textron, Siemens, Marinvent and Altair — quickly signed on to the program. They selected first-year engineering students to apprentice with them over four summers and familiarize themselves with various aspects of the companies' operations. Each partner is familiar with Concordia's commitment to collaborating with industry, having worked within the university's internship and Co-op programs.

By the beginning of summer 2016, the first eight engineering students selected for industry apprenticeships had already handled tools and aircraft

parts over the course of an intensive eight-week familiarization program they collectively dubbed "aerospace boot camp."

Concordia developed the hands-on program in conjunction with the Business Services Department of CEGEP Édouard-Montpetit's École nationale d'aérotechnique in Saint-Hubert, Que. It exposes the apprentices to the workings of powertrain and aircraft systems, structures, avionics and instrumentation, and develops their understanding of aerodynamics and manufacturing processes. Two thirds of every module

is devoted to hands-on activities.

Marsden says she believes both students and industry partners recognize the edge the new apprenticeship will give them. "Students who are interested in aerospace design and who participate in the apprenticeship program will have a tremendous advantage over other students," she points out. "They will have experience and hands-on knowledge of the aerospace product, the industry that designs and manufactures it and the community that operates and maintains it." ■

—Fiona Downey

## CONCORDIA COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF BOB MCDEVITT

Robert (Bob) McDevitt, a long-time and much admired lecturer in Concordia's Department of Journalism, died on September 8, 2016, in Montreal. He was 85.

McDevitt joined the Canadian Merchant Navy as a teenager during the Second World War. Soon after, he became a country and western music DJ in Sudbury, Ont., launching his 34-year career in broadcasting. McDevitt eventually landed a position as a sports journalist for CBC in Montreal, where he remained for 27 years.

After taking early retirement from the CBC in the 1980s, he began a 12-year stint as a lecturer at Concordia, where he influenced hundreds of future journalists. McDevitt also served as master of ceremonies at the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies for many years.

Donations can be made to the Bob McDevitt Award Endowment at Concordia at [concordia.ca/givenow](http://concordia.ca/givenow). ■



BOB MCDEVITT

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## When *David* arrived at Loyola

Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, had a big year in 1966, with the opening of its new principal home, the Henry F. Hall Building (see the story on page 42). Yet the year was also significant for the university's other forerunner, Loyola College: it marked the arrival of an exact replica of Michelangelo's statue *David* at Loyola's Georges P. Vanier Library.

The original, marble, 5.17-metre *David* was completed in 1504 and now resides in the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence, Italy. The standing male nude represents the Biblical hero David. The slightly shorter 4.1-metre plaster replica with metal reinforcements was made in Italy for a New York City department store promotion, and then purchased by the Canadian department store chain Simpsons.

In 1965, Simpsons presented the statue to the new Fairview Shopping Centre in Pointe-Claire, Que., to commemorate its opening. However, the prospect of such a display of unsubtle male nudity in a public shopping area sparked a public debate. To avoid further controversy, in January 1966 the Simpsons general manager donated *David* to the Loyola Students Association. It was installed on a pedestal on the ground floor of the Vanier Library.

The imposing figure became a familiar Loyola Campus landmark — and the object of a number of student hijinks over the years. For instance, poor *David* was painted emerald green for St. Patrick's Day in March 1966, and later adorned with fig leaves, hats, banana peels and diapers. On the night of March 20, 1987, after being lassoed with a fire hose, the statue was toppled from its pedestal and destroyed by vandals.

Although no longer around, *David* was an early example of what is today a wide-ranging Concordia public art collection, one of the most diverse of any Canadian university. To see the full collection of more than 30 public works of art, visit [concordia.ca/arts/public-art](http://concordia.ca/arts/public-art). ■

— *Concordia University Records  
Management and Archives*



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## Hidden gems in the Concordia Library

Jazzbos, dramaturges, dancers, art lovers — just about everyone can find something to tickle their fancy at the Concordia Library. The holdings are vast, targeted toward the university’s course work and research. As a result, the library is home to many rare and unusual gems that may take visitors by surprise. “The idea that we’re just a repository of books is untrue,” says Vince Graziano, BA 85, senior librarian specializing in English, theatre and sexuality studies. “We have music scores, film, dance videos and all kinds of multimedia.”

Here’s a roundup of five exceptional audio finds that will send Concordians scrambling for their library cards.

### CHET BAKER IN PARIS: THE COMPLETE 1955-1956 BARCLAY SESSIONS **1**

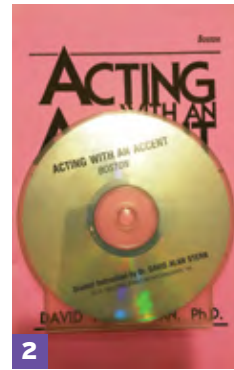
It’s like being a fly on the wall at the Studio Pathé-Magellan for the recording. This nine-CD set and booklet contains rare images and velvety tracks of Baker’s famous Barclay sessions.

### COCKNEY, SCOTTISH, PERSIAN – ANY ACCENT YOU WANT **2**

Trying to perfect your Glaswegian brogue? Borrow from the library’s 26 audio CDs filled with accents from around the world. Some of them are delightfully specific: “Upper-class New England ‘Kennedy-esque’” and “Mid-west farm and ranch.”

### SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL SOUND FOR LIBRARIES **3**

This is the largest and most comprehensive streaming audio collection of world music, including more than 42,000 tracks from the Smithsonian Institution archives and world music archives in Asia and Africa. Some 170 countries and more than 450 languages are represented.



### THE BBC'S 60-CD SET OF SOUND EFFECTS **4**

Source any ambient noise you need, from crowds, footsteps and babies to hospitals, space travel, subways and equestrian events. If you can think of it, they captured it in the BBC Sound FX Library of 60 CDs. Be sure to check out *The Age of Steam* disc.

### TRIPPY MUSICAL SCORES **5**

Those into 20th-century soundscapes will be excited to learn that you can get your hands on musical scores such as R. Murray Schafer’s *The Crown of Ariadne* and

*Tantrika*, which call for cow bells and a vibraphone. Also check out the score for *Helicopter String Quartet* by Karlheinz Stockhausen, an early proponent of the synthesizer. ■

—Joanne Latimer

For more information, visit [library.concordia.ca/about](http://library.concordia.ca/about)



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# CONCORDIANS AT THE TOP

From technology  
to fashion, these  
six alumni chief  
executives are leading  
the charge in their  
respective fields

JAMES GIBBONS

Concordia alumni populate executive boardrooms across the country in fields that span search-engine optimization with Montreal-based SweetIQ and the sharing economy with the space-booking smartphone app Breather. (See “The bosses” on page 26.)

Whether rising in the ranks within major companies or starting enterprising ventures of their own, these Concordia grads are leaders, trendsetters and — in some cases — trailblazers in their respective professions.

We introduce you to six alumni at their top of their companies — and their game.



# BRANCHING OUT IN WOMEN'S RETAIL



COURTESY OF ANNA MARTINI

ANNA MARTINI IS PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S CLOTHING RETAILER GROUPE DYNAMITE. HER ADVICE FOR EMERGING BUSINESSPEOPLE: "WORK HARD AND STAY FOCUSED."

If you blink you might miss the latest must-have in women's fashion — at least according to **Anna Martini**, BComm 85, GrDip 86.

Whether it's a felt fedora or flashy head jewellery, Martini would know. She is the president of Montreal-based clothing company Groupe Dynamite Inc. "When you've figured out how to deal with the latest 'it' thing, a new one is already on the way," says Martini. "It's the most challenging part of the business — being agile."

The Montreal-born-and-raised alumna has led the women's fashion business since 2004. Groupe Dynamite operates nearly 370 stores — in Canada, the United States and, most recently, the Middle East — and consists of the brands Dynamite and Garage. The company has 5,600 employees.

Martini explains that the brand serves two demographics: "Garage is for the teenage girl. She's connected 24/7 and is all about discovering new things," says Martini. "The person that shops at Dynamite is in her 20s — she would more likely be a young professional."

Having a clear definition of the clientele helps the company strategize its store design, the styles it offers and

**"Concordia was the baseline for my entire career. The university set me up for success."**

its marketing, including its e-commerce presence. "People will always go to malls. They'll always want a brick-and-mortar experience. You just want them to be able to toggle between online and in-person shopping," says Martini of the 21st-century retail landscape.

Before taking the helm of Groupe Dynamite, Martini was a partner at the Montreal office of Deloitte — one of the world's largest professional services firms. She began working for the company in 1985. "Concordia was the baseline for my entire career. The university set me up for success — first as an accountant and now as a business leader," she says.

While at Deloitte, Martini began recruiting Concordia students as a part of the company's talent acquisition strategy, a role she's carried over to Groupe Dynamite. "That's a favourite part of the job. Just meeting all those young people and being able to mentor or coach them. I've been doing that for about 30 years," she says. Martini attends Concordia's annual career fair and welcomes ambitious students to explore Groupe Dynamite's headquarters. She stresses that quality people are the key to her success: "Surround yourself with smart people. Talent attracts more talent."

Martini volunteers as a judge at Concordia's John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition, which she became involved with in 2007. The event is the biggest of its kind, featuring 24 international teams that work on real business challenges. "It's a great opportunity to meet up-and-coming talent from all over," she says.

# CHANGING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE ONE WHITEBOARD AT A TIME

**D**avid Martin, BSc '71, was involved in smart technology before it was a thing.

His time at Concordia included more than being in class. "It wasn't just 21 courses. It was the whole experience, the Concordia environment," says Martin. "The university was a launching pad."

Martin founded SMART Technologies — the company behind the now ubiquitous SMART Board interactive whiteboard — with his wife Nancy Knowlton in 1987. The duo left SMART to start a new business in 2012.

Before there was the term "the internet of everything" — which describes everyday objects connected to the web — Martin came up with his tech-centric whiteboard that fits the definition. The SMART Board can run computer applications and connect with the internet, simplifying collaboration.

Getting to where he is now wasn't always an easy ride. "At the beginning, we were rejected by 42 venture capitalists," says Martin of pitching the SMART Board. "We were laughed out of rooms." Yet that eventually changed, and to date Calgary-based SMART Technologies has generated \$5 billion in revenues and has more than 500 employees.

In 2013, Martin was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for



COURTESY OF DAVID MARTIN

DAVID MARTIN AND HIS WIFE NANCY KNOWLTON  
CO-FOUNDED CALGARY-BASED SMART TECHNOLOGIES  
AND NUREVA INC.

his impact on education. "I was told I had about 30 seconds with Prince William, but the conversation went much longer as he told me excitedly about using SMART Boards in his classrooms," says Martin in reference to the British Royal Family member.

Martin's new company, Calgary-based Nureva Inc., which he created with his wife Nancy Knowlton, is also focused on technology. "We're working on an

online collaborative experience that's cloud-based. Wherever you are in the world, you can work with others on solving problems," he explains.

Nureva's first product, the Span system, provides a cloud-based workspace for distributed teams to interact simultaneously in real time. The system combines cloud-based software and associated apps with a projector that turns three metres of wall space into an interactive touch surface onto which the workspace is displayed. "Today's cloud technology creates the opportunity for people to work together on a problem in a shared virtual space, from anywhere and on any device," Martin says.

Through his experience with both SMART Technologies and Nureva, Martin found that there aren't any shortcuts when it comes to building a company. "Inspiration, perspiration and perseverance — I would say those three words describe our key to success," he says.

A hurdle — especially in the tech industry — is getting people on board with your vision. "I think a personal challenge is how to communicate what I see so that everyone's on the same page," says Martin. "That becomes more pronounced with long-term goals, when we're looking over the horizon."

"I had about 30 seconds with Prince William, but the conversation went much longer as he told me excitedly about using SMART Boards in his classrooms."

# FROM STATISTICS GURU TO CORPORATE LEADER

**A**ndrea Martin, BComm 83, credits part of her rise to the presidency of security company ADT Canada to her passion for numbers. “I graduated from Concordia in quantitative methods with a minor in marketing, and that’s exactly what I did,” says Martin, whose first job out of university was analyzing statistics for Reader’s Digest Canada. She’d become president and CEO of the same company in 2004. “I would go see my boss and say, ‘I’m finished doing this,’ and he was always impressed by how quickly I did it,” says Martin of her swift corporate ascent.

Martin left Reader’s Digest in 2010, though not before adding Latin America and Asia Pacific to her portfolio. She says that working for the nearly century-old business taught her a few things about diversification. “People think that Reader’s Digest is just a magazine, but most of the profits come from selling different products such as insurance, vitamins, music, books, videos and even wine in some countries,” she says.

The surging popularity of consuming content online doesn’t faze Martin, who managed 225 people between the Montreal head office of the company and its advertising division in Toronto. “I love change and transformation, so when the publishing world changed, forcing us to change from direct mail and publishing to a digital content and multiplatform marketing approach, that was rewarding,” she says.

With more than 40 regional offerings of *Reader’s Digest* — from Russia to Brazil — the Canadian edition was number one in terms of performance, says Martin, who increased profits by 30 per cent over four years. With her at the helm, Reader’s Digest launched *Our Canada* and *Best Health*.



COURTESY OF ANDREA MARTIN

ANDREA MARTIN, BCOMM 83, PRESIDENT OF ADT CANADA, OFFERS THE FOLLOWING ADVICE FOR FUTURE LEADERS: “YOU CAN HAVE THE GREATEST STRATEGY, THE GREATEST VISION OR THE GREATEST BRAND, BUT IF YOU DON’T HAVE A STRONG TEAM THEN THAT STRATEGY, THAT VISION, THAT BRAND, IS NOT WORTH ANYTHING.”

“I didn’t like school when I was younger — Concordia was my saving grace.”

Between leaving Reader’s Digest and joining Toronto-based ADT Canada in 2015, Martin worked at Biocean Canada — a health services company — and as managing director of Data Services with Royal Mail Group in the United Kingdom.

Arriving back to her homeland and settling into her new role as president of ADT Canada, Martin built and delivered a strategic plan to support the ongoing commitment of keeping customers safe and secure. Leading the largest Canadian

security and connected home company with more than 1,700 team members, Martin is leveraging her deep expertise in change management and transformation to build a unified team and company. Her vision is simple, she says: to combine two security companies — ADT and Protectron, which merged in 2014 — and come together as one ADT Canada team to deliver the best customer experience. Her focus also includes accelerating growth through customer and employee engagement, and keeping customers satisfied and team members inspired.

Martin’s career is rich in milestones — she has built a rewarding path for someone who had a rocky start in terms of her education. “I didn’t like school when I was younger — Concordia was my saving grace,” she says. “I was lucky to have met teachers who inspired me and motivated me to move forward.”

—With reporting by Guenever Neufeld, GrDip 15



# ONCE A BANK TELLER, NOW A CEO

As the CEO of Manulife Bank of Canada, **Rick Lunny**, BComm 77, is mindful of the web-centric way people do their banking.

His current leadership role — which he took on in 2014 — involves overseeing all aspects of the bank, which has 800 employees across Canada. The parent company he belongs to, Manulife Financial, has staff in excess of 30,000.

“We’re a bit different. For example, we don’t have brick-and-mortar branches,” says Lunny, who works out of the company’s Toronto office. “Preferences have changed over the years. There’s been a shift to online and mobile banking. Not being burdened by the high cost of a branch network allows us to offer superior value to our clients.”

While a Concordia student, Lunny worked as a teller at the Toronto-Dominion (TD) Bank on the corner of Guy and Sainte Catherine streets. It would prove to be a foot in the door for Lunny, who climbed the company ranks over a two-decade period.

“After I graduated I went on to be a junior leader in Toronto and kept going,” says Lunny. He was senior vice-president of lending and mortgages at TD Bank by the time he left the company in 2004. He joined General Electric (GE), intrigued by their offer to design



COURTESY OF RICHARD LUNNY

RICHARD LUNNY, CEO OF MANULIFE BANK OF CANADA, BELIEVES IT'S IMPORTANT TO FIND TIME TO VOLUNTEER. “PART OF IT IS THAT I ENJOY GETTING OUT OF MY BUSINESS COMFORT ZONE,” HE SAYS. “IN SUPPORTING A CAUSE, I TEND TO LEAN TOWARD SMALLER ORGANIZATIONS AS THEY STAND TO BENEFIT MORE FROM THE EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT.”

a startup mortgage lending business. With Lunny as president and CEO of GE Money Mortgages, the business did extremely well. However, growth was restricted by the American parent company’s own challenges during the 2008 financial crisis.

“It was at that time I was lured away by Gerry McCaughey,” Lunny says. McCaughey, BComm 81, was the president and CEO of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) from 2004 to 2014. Lunny made the move to CIBC, where he was responsible for lending, deposits and insurance in the retail bank. “I’d known Gerry for a long time from our Concordia days together.”

Lunny reveals that it isn’t unusual to rub shoulders with fellow Concordia

alumni in Toronto. Kenneth Sinclair, BComm 77, a recently retired managing director at TD Bank, is someone Lunny first met as a student. The two worked together and remain friends. Lunny even hosts an annual golf weekend at his Kingston, Ont.-area cottage — this year, 16 Concordia classmates took part.

Lunny and his wife, Lorrie, helped support a study room at the John Molson School of Business — a space that helps engineer future student encounters and collaborations. “We made the donation to Concordia about five years ago and it turns out the room was in a high-profile spot!” he says. “Once I received a LinkedIn message from a current student who thanked my wife and me for funding the room,” says Lunny. “It was a networking move that I thought showed the resourcefulness of Concordia students.”

Even with his fully loaded schedule, Lunny still finds time to volunteer. He’s currently the chair of the Arthritis Research Foundation. “Part of it is that I enjoy getting out of my business comfort zone,” says Lunny. “In supporting a cause, I tend to lean toward smaller organizations as they stand to benefit more from the expertise and support.”

“Not being burdened by the high cost of a branch network allows us to offer superior value to our clients.”

# TAPPING INTO THE INTERNET OF THINGS



While on a fishing trip in Lake Tahoe, Nev., an ominous “check engine” signal lit up on the dashboard of the car driven by **Jahangir Mohammed**, MAsc 93.

“I called my dealership and they said the issue could be small or it could be big. They said because it was a long-distance trip, I should find a service centre to check it out,” says Mohammed. The nearest place was two hours away, in Reno, Nev.

“I went and a mechanic plugged the car into their diagnostic computer and read the error code. It said there was too much moisture in the gas, a simple problem likely caused from not securing the gas cap,” says Mohammed. “I thought, ‘Wow, this cost me two hours!’”

That incident gave Mohammed the idea for Jasper, which he founded in Santa Clara, Calif., in 2004. He is chief executive officer of the company, which offers a platform that exchanges data from common devices into the larger fabric of the internet — referred to as the “internet of things” (IoT). So far, Jasper has connected 30 million devices for 5,000 clients in more than 100 countries. Jasper was acquired by Cisco Systems, Inc., the largest networking corporation in the world, in March 2016 for \$1.4 billion. Mohammed is now general manager of Cisco’s IoT Cloud business unit.

“If you think of the car again, imagine the error code goes on and — because it’s connected to the internet — they

JAHANGIR MOHAMMED IS FOUNDER AND CEO OF “INTERNET OF THINGS” COMPANY JASPER, WHICH WAS ACQUIRED BY CISCO IN MARCH 2016. HIS ADVICE TO ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS: “IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FOCUS, PICK A DIRECTION AND MAKE CHANGES WITHIN THE DIRECTION WHILE STAYING LOYAL TO IT. IF YOU CHANGE DIRECTION TOO QUICKLY, YOU’LL END UP JUST GOING FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.”

can read the error code remotely. If it’s something simple, they can reset it themselves. If it’s serious, they can call me,” says Mohammed. “The first implication of this is that things become much more useful. The second is that businesses don’t sell a one-time product; they basically acquire a relationship they can continue to have with the user.”

The utility of IoT connectivity goes way beyond cars. Among the many items Jasper’s platform has connected to the internet are pacemakers, so that doctors can monitor them anywhere, and power meters, so public works departments can read them remotely. Thousands of companies in dozens of other industries, such as agriculture, manufacturing and retail, have also adopted the technology to make their devices more useful.

Mohammed’s entrepreneurial streak runs in the family. His father was a grocer in Kumbakonam, a small village in Southern India where Mohammed

grew up. “He was in charge of his own destiny. He did things his way,” says Mohammed.

After earning an engineering degree at the Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Mohammed was accepted to three Canadian universities and chose Concordia based on the financial support offered to him. “I simply would not have been able to afford it otherwise,” says Mohammed, who landed in Montreal in 1991.

His future wife, Suki, studied civil engineering and then computer engineering at Concordia. While he knew her before embarking on his educational journey, Mohammed says they bonded at the university. “That was a beautiful thing, that we both went to the same school,” he says. The couple married in Montreal.

After graduating, Mohammed worked for Bell-Northern Research in Montreal and then Bell Labs in Camden, N.J., before going to San Francisco, Calif., to found Kineto Wireless — a mobile tech services company he left in 2003.

Mohammed says of the potential of Jasper’s IoT platform: “We’ve got a tiger by the tail.”

“Businesses don’t sell a one-time product; they basically acquire a relationship they can continue to have with the user.”

# THE VOICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN CANADA



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH McDONALD

ELIZABETH McDONALD, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE OTTAWA-BASED CANADIAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE, OFFERS ADVICE TO ASPIRING LEADERS: "WHEN AN ISSUE ARISES, BE THAT PERSON OTHERS LOOK TO."

UPS truck drivers don't turn left at traffic lights. **Elizabeth McDonald**, BA (hist.) '71, knows why. "They decided they use less gas that way," says McDonald. The package delivery company plots its routes using right turns only, as that reduces wait time at intersections.

McDonald is president and CEO of the Ottawa-based Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEA), which lobbies government on behalf of almost 40 eco-minded private and public sector members, ranging from manufacturers, service companies and major national associations. "Energy efficiency is a first step toward combating climate change," she says. "And the first step toward being more energy efficient is conservation — using less."

Among CEEA members are non-profits such as Electro-Federation Canada, which itself represents 250 electronic product manufacturers. McDonald's alliance includes the building sector — such as Toronto-based Sustainable Buildings Canada — and various utility companies.

"Energy efficiency is a first step toward combating climate change. And the first step toward being more energy efficient is conservation — using less."

Since joining the CEEA in 2012, McDonald's day-to-day work involves interacting with federal and provincial governments to ensure public policies — which incorporate climate change targets and environmental standards — reflect the importance of reducing energy consumption. The CEEA is non-profit, and those it represents pay a membership fee based on organization size.

One of McDonald's challenges is to push the number of people going green past the 10 per cent mark within the general public. "Those are early adopters, who will jump on any new tech," says McDonald — referring to products such as electric cars and solar panels. "We're not going to meet any climate change targets at that number."

McDonald started her career as a librarian for the National Library of Canada and later worked for the professional services firm KPMG. "The CBC called and they were looking for someone to work in strategic planning," she recalls. "I got the job over people with backgrounds in broadcasting. I had an outsider's view."

After working her way into the role of president and CEO of the Canadian Film and Television Production Association, McDonald made a career change. "I would say I came into the energy

business because I felt like I needed a new challenge," says McDonald. She entered that world in 2007, taking on the presidency of the Canadian Solar Industries Association.

An alumna of Loyola College — one of Concordia's founding institutions — McDonald says her experience provided a solid bedrock. "I chose Loyola over a number of other universities because I liked the opportunity the liberal arts program provided," she says. The curriculum has come in useful 45 years later. "Now that I'm a lobbyist, I look back and see there were a lot of political elements, a number of Canadian history courses."

McDonald is optimistic for the future of green innovation and business — largely thanks to the election of Justin Trudeau as Canada's prime minister. "The day after the federal election last October, I started to get calls from government offices," she relates. "They were saying, 'We're just updating our information.' It was a signal that things were beginning to change on the federal level." ■

—James Gibbons, BA '11, MA '13, is a special projects writer at Concordia.



# CONCORDIANS IN THE C-SUITE

Concordia can boast of several hundred alumni presidents, CEOs, partners and/or founders of a wide range of businesses, from the long-established – such as BMO Financial Group, Quebec, and Power Corporation of Canada – to more recent startups. In addition to the six alumni featured in the preceding story, here is a sampling of some of the many Concordia grads who sit atop their companies across North America.



AMONG THE LEADERS: CONCORDIA CHANCELLOR JONATHAN WENER, BCOMM 71, IS CHAIRMAN & CEO OF CANDEREL MANAGEMENT; CHRISTINE LENGVARI, BSC 72, IS PRESIDENT & CEO OF LENGVARI FINANCIAL; AND BRIAN NEYSMITH, BSC 66, IS PRESIDENT OF NEYVEST.

**Riccardo Badalone**, BEng 96, chief product officer & co-founder, *Diablo Technologies Inc.*, Ottawa

**Oliver Baltuch**, BSc 87, CEO, *RenderStorm Inc.*, Carlsbad, Calif.

**Ross R. Bayus**, BA 79, president, *Canadian Operations Valero Energy Corp.*, Montreal

**Inder Bedi**, BComm 96, partner, *All Conquered By Love Ltd.*, Mont-Royal, Que.

**Carlo C. Bizzotto**, BComm 85, president, *Development D'Arcy McGee*, Montreal

**David M. Brand**, BComm 66, president, *Tarsa Therapeutics*, Philadelphia, Penn.

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**David J. Bryden**, BSc 61, president, *Bryden Martel Architects Inc.*, Ottawa

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IRVING LAYTON  
AWARD FOR  
CREATIVE WRITING:  
FICTION

Each year, Concordia's Department of English honours outstanding work in English literature and creative writing. The Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, worth \$500, are given to undergraduate students for works of poetry and fiction. Sarah MacKenzie, the 2016 fiction winner, is entering her third year at Concordia. The native of the Greater Toronto Area will continue to pursue her writing ambitions. "In an ideal world, I'd like to become a novelist," MacKenzie says.

In her Layton-award-winning short story *Myles' World*, excerpted below, a 12-year old boy encounters a series of offbeat individuals. "Besides using the story as an outlet for these weird characters, it was also largely inspired by suburbia itself, a locale I owe my upbringing to and a concept I find strange enough to warrant a story of equal oddity," she says. ■



COURTESY OF SARAH MACKENZIE

SARAH MACKENZIE



# Myles' World

SARAH MACKENZIE

My dad and his girlfriend watch a lot of TV on Sundays and it makes me angrier than it probably should, but I go home anyway and walk in on them watching TV. Cheryl, his girlfriend, looks unhappy.

"Hey kiddo," my dad says.

"I don't want to go to Church anymore," I tell him.

"Your mom made me promise," he says.

When I was eight my mom moved to New Mexico to marry a soap-opera producer named Richard. My mom and dad were kind of mean to each other anyway, but I think she left because he was so unsuccessful. He seemed like the kind of person who would be successful, but he wasn't, and he still isn't so she married someone with a bunch of TV series instead. She's pregnant and I hope that their baby doesn't look like me because that would be weird.

"Father Wildrow stole a cat today. I'm not cut out for religion," I tell him.

My dad starts laughing, a lot. Cheryl smiles.

"You're too young to be saying things like that," he says.

I hate when people say things like that. I leave to go to my room. Twenty minutes later my dad and Cheryl are fighting. I go to the bottom of the stairs and sit with my notepad. Sometimes my dad says things that seem really true so I like to write them down so I won't forget.

Cheryl is telling him that he should ask for a promotion, and he's saying that he doesn't want a promotion, and she's saying that he should want a promotion and back and forth. Eventually Cheryl says something that I have to write down because I think it might be brilliant, and I'm disappointed that it came from her mouth instead of my dad's.

She says: "It's like life has stopped and started a thousand times over and no one's ever let you know. You're just... stagnant."

She yells it kind of. It's weird how angry she gets. I run up to my room and look up the word "stagnant" in

the thesaurus. Synonyms are more useful than definitions. *Stagnant: Inactive, Lifeless, Dull, Dormant, Foul, Dead, Passive.* Sounds like road kill. I learned the word "passive" at age seven. Someone said to me "you should've been more mean," and my dad said, "story of his life," which I don't think is fair considering I was only seven. How do you know someone's life story at age seven? That was annoying, but I didn't say anything.

I start thinking of my dad as road kill. Like he's a really clever raccoon, but he still got run over, just because he was too lazy to move. My dad's really smart and was the kind of person who would get good grades in school without ever really trying. He told me biology was his favourite subject in school, but he works as an assembly supervisor for a manufacturer of mechanical household products — they make things like vacuum heads, which has nothing to do with biology.

I leave through the back door because I'm sick of thinking of my dad as road kill, but as soon as I get to the front of my house I see actual road kill. It's a bird, but it's too colourful to be from outside. I recognize Petey smeared into the pavement. Petey is the McGillicuddys' pet cockatiel. I know because Mr. McGillicuddy is always asking me to come in to say hi to Petey. He says that Petey likes my company, but now Petey's dead.

I knock on the McGillicuddys' door to tell them this.

Mrs. McGillicuddy, who tells me to call her Kat, greets me with a "Hello Mr. Handsome," which she always says.

I tell her fast: "Petey is dead on the pavement."

She tells me to wait and calls her husband, Quirk, until he comes. Quirk and Kat come outside together with a thousand animal odours wafting out after them. Kat gasps at the sight and Quirk picks up dead Petey with his bare hand, which makes me feel uncomfortable.

"Will you help me bury him?" Quirk asks with his other hand on my shoulder,

"You were always his favourite."

We go into their backyard for the pet funeral. Not realizing, Quirk digs a hole where it looks like some other dead thing was buried and Kat starts crying.

I like most animals, but I wonder what happened in Quirk and Kat's lives that led them to cry over birds and iguanas every time one dies. This isn't my first pet funeral here.

## I'm surrounded by anti-role-models.

After the burial, Kat says that their party guests will be arriving soon so she goes inside to prepare, still crying a little. When she says party she means old-person tea party. They host them a lot and they get surprisingly loud. Quirk and Kat seem more energetic than most parents I know, but they're pretty ancient looking.

"You don't have kids do you?" I ask Quirk. Their hallways are filled with photographs of each other, and they're always trying to get me to come over, and they cry every time a pet dies, and it makes me wonder.

"No," he says, but I wait for more. "We decided against it. Kat wanted to sing. I had my business to worry about. Me and Kat, we uh, we wanted our lives to be simple but significant," and then he says, "forever young, right?" and he winks at me.

I think simple but significant sounds really nice, but then I look around at all the soil with dead animals underneath and I think that maybe they never got it right.

I leave the McGillicuddys feeling sad for them. I'm surrounded by anti-role-models. We live in a suburb and my dad says suburbs are boring out of necessity, but I'm starting to think that they're just boring because this is where all of the "simple" people go when life doesn't end up being "significant."

To read the full version of Myles' World, visit [Concordia.ca/magazine](http://Concordia.ca/magazine).



**A  
PRESIDENTIAL  
VIEW FROM  
THE  
NORTH**



Concordia  
experts weigh  
in – with some  
disagreement –  
on the wild and  
unpredictable  
American election  
season, and its  
potential impact  
on Canada and  
the world

SUE MONTGOMERY

In October 2015, *Washington Post* columnist Dana Milbank predicted Donald Trump's campaign was doomed, and the bombastic billionaire wouldn't win the Republican Party nomination to run for president of the United States. While Milbank wasn't alone in writing off the celebrity, to prove the strength of his convictions, the veteran political columnist promised to eat his column if he was wrong.

This spring, as Trump emerged as the last man standing in a once full Republican field, Milbank was offered up recipes from readers brimming with *schadenfreude* on how best to prepare a tasty newsprint dish. They ranged from German beef and newspaper cabbage rolls to Trumpkin pie with newspaper and yams.

Milbank's wild underestimation of Trump and the impact his outrageous, inappropriate and even racist comments would have on American voters was not unique and has led to countless media types trying to make sense of it all. Trump has promised everything from barring Muslims from entering the United States to building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico – and making the Mexicans pay for it – to banning goods from China. He's been compared to former Italian prime minister and media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, who, like Trump, figured a country could be run like a business.

The entire mess is akin to a reality TV show like *Survivor* – or *The Apprentice* – where only the most ruthless person is left standing.





CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

JOURNALISM PROFESSOR LINDA KAY FEELS THAT THE COARSE TONE OF THE CAMPAIGN HAS ENCOURAGED SOME MEDIA COMMENTATORS TO USE A DIFFERENT SET OF RULES FOR HILLARY CLINTON THAN FOR DONALD TRUMP.

### READY TO ELECT THEIR FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT?

Political pundits, Concordia professors among them, are now keenly watching what is becoming one of the hardest election outcomes to call. Will Trump be the next president of the United States and, if so, will the U.S. become the laughingstock of the world? Or are Americans ready to elect their first woman president, Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton?

Before one jumps to the conclusion that this presidential race, rife with lies, insults, childish slurs and contradictions, is unprecedented, it's useful to go back in time, says Theresa Ventura, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of History.

The Republican Party wasn't always as far right as it is today. Indeed, until the 1960s the Democratic Party was the political home to white supremacists from Southern states, and maintained their power through disenfranchisement. That first began to change under President Franklin Roosevelt and his New Deal in the 1930s, which brought African-Americans and Catholic immigrants into the Democratic Party fold. When President Lyndon Johnson, a Texas Democrat, signed the civil rights and voting rights acts in the mid-1960s, Republican Party operatives began courting Southern white conservative voters. Richard Nixon, president from

1968 to 1974, continued that strategy.

"The Republican Party has been since the 1970s and 1980s, up until today, this coalition between aggrieved white working-class voters, evangelical voters — who are not necessarily poor — and corporate interests, and Trump is just blowing that up," says Ventura, who is originally from New York State. "So as unprecedented as his ignorance is, this strategy of really running on racial resentments, which he's done masterfully, is old. And that's not original to him at all."

**"[Clinton's] got the right credentials for the first woman to run as president but at a moment when those credentials are liabilities."**

### MARGINALIZING VOTING BLOCS

After the last presidential election in 2012, the Republicans conducted a post-mortem and decided they had to reach beyond their core base of white Southern men and appeal more to women and visible minorities. Yet obviously Trump appears to be doing the opposite and marginalizing these key demographic groups further. "That would suggest maybe he's not going to be viable in November," predicts Graham Dodds, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science, who came to Canada from the U.S. 12 years ago.

Still, Dodds admits there is something unique about Trump. He's divisive and "he's nothing if not entertaining, I think it's fair to say."

So what is his attraction to voters?

Linda Kay, a professor in Concordia's Department of Journalism, thinks Trump is popular — and not just among racists or people on the right — because he has shown the whole political system to be a sham. "Trump has exposed the way politicians speak out of both sides of their mouths," she says. Kay points out that, from the start, many Republicans didn't like Trump and yet they ended up supporting him. "Young people are seeing just how bad, corrupt and moneyed the system is. Trump is saying I didn't use those moneyed people, I did it on my own," she adds.

Arvind Jain, professor in Concordia's Department of Finance, feels the same. Trump has given people permission to say out loud the things they have always been thinking. "That anti-immigrant sentiment was already there but he's

made it legitimate to express it," Jain says. "He's very good at understanding what people want to hear. He has no qualms about exploiting the fears of people."

While Trump certainly garners a lot of coverage, partly because what he says is so absurd, Kay refuses to place responsibility for his success on the media, as other observers do. Some say members of the media have lost their independence, willing to hold back on tough questions or dissecting some of Trump's outrageous statements in favour of advertising dollars. "I don't feel that way," Kay says. "We cover what we see, what

we observe, what we hear, so when Donald Trump tweets something, I think that's news. I think we should report what he says."

### FACT-CHECKING REQUIRED

Yes, says Greg Nielsen, co-director of the Concordia Centre for Broadcasting and Journalism Studies and professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Cover Trump's outrageous comments — like his promise to build a 10-foot-high wall between the U.S. and Mexico — yet follow that up with some fact-checking and demonstrate that it's physically impossible to build a wall of that kind along that border.

Instead of digging for the truth, Nielsen asserts, the field of journalism has gradually progressed into full-time entertainment, showing presidents like Bill Clinton playing the saxophone and Barack Obama doing stand-up comedy. "It's shifted so far into entertainment, we're losing sight of the political and social realities," Nielsen says.

To Ventura, what is more dangerous is that this election campaign is a windfall for major media organizations, which are desperately trying to make it as



FINANCE PROFESSOR ARVIND JAIN SEES DONALD TRUMP EXPLOITING FEAR ALREADY PRESENT IN SOME AMERICAN VOTERS.

LESLIE SCHACHTER

entertaining as possible in order to get more viewers, which in turn translates into advertising dollars.

She says candidates and Super PACs (political action committees) are set to spend US\$5 billion on advertising in this campaign. "A small station in Columbus, Ohio — and Ohio is a swing state — earned at least \$20 million in campaign spending in 2012," Ventura reports. "How can media police all of these special interests that they are now dependent on for their revenue? It compromises their integrity."

Kay disagrees that the campaign is filling the pockets of media corporations because Trump is mainly using social media, such as Twitter, to spread his message and build his base — a platform that doesn't cost a cent.

There does seem to be, however, a double standard when it comes to the media treatment of Trump and Clinton based on their gender.

Pundits and certain commentators are more focused on Clinton being "bossy, strident or aggressive instead of presidential or strong," Kay says. "Some say she's shrill. Talk about shrill — what about Trump?"

Dodds agrees. "Not a day goes by that Trump doesn't say something that is utterly crazy, that if it came out of anyone else's mouth there'd be a scandal of epic proportions," he says. "If Hillary Clinton were to utter one one-hundredth of the nonsense he's uttered,

it would almost doom her candidacy."

And while Clinton is both militarily hawkish — she's to the right of President Obama on many foreign policy issues — and an insider with no lack of experience, those aren't necessarily helpful traits in this race, according to Ventura. "The problem is she's running in a campaign season where being an insider is a liability and where there's limited patience for diplomacy and the intricacies of foreign policies," Ventura says. "So she's kind of caught. She's got the right credentials for the first woman to run as president but at a moment when those credentials are liabilities."

### NOT FORTHCOMING WITH POLICIES

What if Trump were to become what many are calling the first overtly, indeed proudly, isolationist president? What would that mean for the United States' relationship with Canada and the rest of the world?

Dodds says that's hard to predict, partly because Trump hasn't exactly been forthcoming with details of his policies, and partly because there are checks and balances in the political system — particularly the House and the Senate — that can stop him from doing whatever he wants. And trade tends to be based on long-standing institutional relationships, rather than individuals.

"The exception to that is when Trump says, 'I don't like NAFTA, I want to get rid of it,' that's a real worry for Canada," Dodds says of the North American Free Trade Agreement. "There are 400,000 people and \$2.5 billion that cross the border every day. Even if you just tighten that border, that's going to have a huge impact."

Trump's personality also makes it difficult to imagine the kind of love-in that occurred between Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shortly after the Liberal Party's 2015 election victory. Trump and Trudeau don't exactly share the same world view — which could hurt Canadian-American



LESLIE SCHACHTER

HISTORY PROFESSOR THERESA VENTURA POINTS OUT THAT DONALD TRUMP'S ALLURE FOR WHITE MALES REFLECTS A CHANGE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY STRATEGY THAT BEGAN IN THE 1960S.

ties. "Trump unfortunately embodies a lot of anti-American stereotypes," says Dodds. "He's brash, crass, greedy, uninformed, parochial and profoundly impolite."

While those characteristics may make for fodder for late night talk shows and comedians, Trump could end up running the most powerful country in the world — a scary thought for many.

"America's disproportionate economic and military power mean that this election will have an effect well beyond the national borders of the U.S.," says Ventura. A win for Clinton, on the other hand, would likely mean more ground warfare in the Middle East, she adds. "We really don't know what Donald Trump would look like on foreign policy, but we see from his advisors that there are some real wing nuts there of the 'just-bomb-them-all' variety."

Yet Trump has also been campaigning on pulling America back from the rest of the world and "making it great again." "I don't think he would be able to follow

GREG NIELSEN, CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR BROADCASTING AND JOURNALISM STUDIES, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE MEDIA CHALLENGE DONALD TRUMP'S OUTRAGEOUS ASSERTIONS.



LESLIE SCHACHTER



POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR GRAHAM DODDS SEES HILLARY CLINTON EMERGING AS THE NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT, BUT SHOULD DONALD TRUMP PREVAIL, HIS NEGATIVE VIEWS ON NAFTA COULD HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON CANADIANS.

through on that," says Ventura of his promise to back out of many American international commitments. "I don't think he really knows what that means."

Jain agrees that whatever the outcome, and especially if Trump were to become president — which he thinks is unlikely — the U.S. relationship with the rest of the world will be filled with friction.

### POLITICS NOT LIKE RUNNING A BUSINESS

"Trump is a very pragmatic person, so you can't judge him by what he says but by what he's done in the past — which is that he's made a lot of money," Jain says. "He's dangerous because he thinks politics is like running a business, and it's not."

The American political checks and balances will prevent him from building a wall, and Jain foresees his plan to stop Muslims from entering the country running into similar difficulties. As for blocking Chinese goods, that's something business interests would never tolerate.

Nielsen predicts that if Trump were to win, which he also thinks is unlikely, there's no telling what he would try to do with Canada, America's biggest economic trading partner. "If any of his statements came true, we'd enter a recession that would make the 1930s look good," Nielsen says.

The Concordia experts view Trump's rise being due, in part, to the growing weakness of the Republican Party. "For decades, the driving force of Republican politics has been the religious right, social conservatives, and Trump is not one of them," Dodds says, adding that many lifelong Republicans are horrified by what's happening. "It seems they're mostly embracing him, but he doesn't really speak to their issues, and that's a sea change in U.S. politics. I think it's an open question whether they'll vote for him in the fall."

Ventura agrees, saying that the demographics of the country are changing. Trump is losing ethnic populations and young people through his rhetoric, but he's also motivating them to get out and vote.

"We actually have a lot of people mobilizing against him and we should pay attention to them too," says Ventura. "The working class of the country is 40 per cent non-white; Trump's poll numbers among women show 66 per cent unfavourable; over 80 per cent of African-Americans don't like him; 70 per cent of Latinos don't like him," she says. "And those people matter. As long as they're not blocked from the polls, I don't think his kind of ignorance is going to rule the day." ■

—Sue Montgomery is a Montreal journalist.





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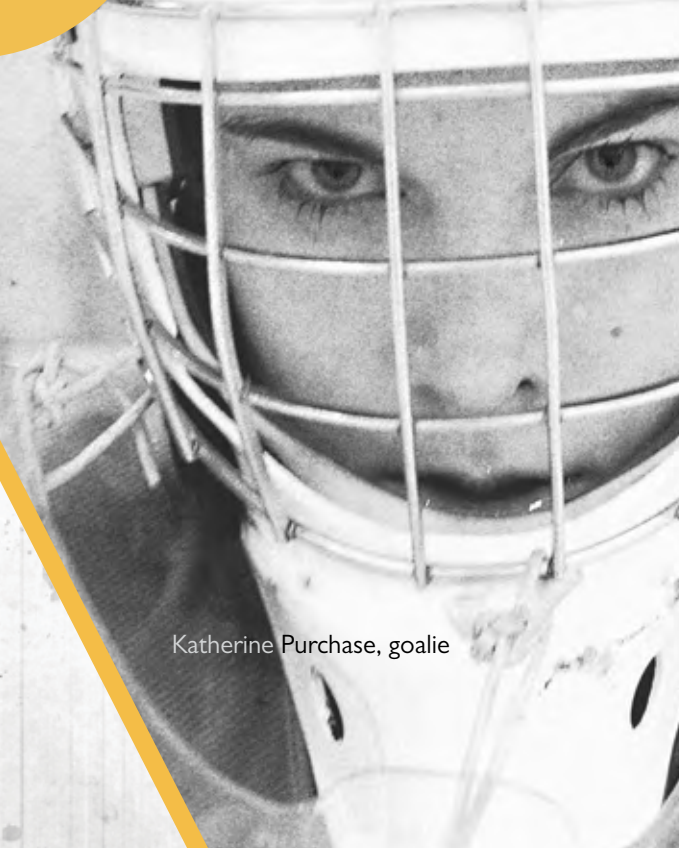
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# RE FOR ER?

WAYNE LARSEN

From a key ingredient in bread and beer to hundreds of much less familiar strains, yeast has been around for millions of years. Now a team of Concordia biologists is putting this ancient organism under the microscope to understand how to slow human aging and delay the onset of diseases of aging, including cancer.

Led by Vladimir Titorenko, professor in the Department of Biology and Concordia University Research Chair in Genomics, Cell Biology and Aging, the team studies the aging of yeast cells in a state-of-the-art laboratory in

Concordia's Richard J. Renaud Science Pavilion on the Loyola Campus. The work is part of an ongoing project in tandem with research partners in Montreal and Saskatoon.

And their effort has led to some promising discoveries.

Yeast, Titorenko explains, is an ideal material on which to conduct experiments in aging for several reasons. "It's been known for a very long time that many features of yeast cells have biological processes that are very close to the same kinds of processes that occur in human cells, and that includes aging and diseases of old age," he says.

The Concordia research team led by Vladimir Titorenko studies yeast cells to help find an organic weapon to fight the deadly disease



The yeast most commonly used in these experiments is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the kind used in making bread, beer and wine. "Most of the genes which are now known to regulate aging in animals and other organisms have been discovered in yeast first," Titorenko says, adding that the same sets of genes responsible for aging in yeast are also responsible for aging in mice. Also, studies of aging in yeast have led to the discovery of most of the chemical molecules that can delay aging in animals.

Another advantage to working with yeast cells is that they age much more rapidly than the cells of many other organisms, which is a great time saver for the researchers. Titorenko points out that the aging process for mice can take

up to three years, which makes for a long experiment period, while a comparable study using yeast cells can be carried out in as little as two weeks.

Titorenko and other scientists believe that questions about how our bodies age are crucial to cancer research because the two are so closely associated. "Cancer is considered

**"When I saw the research that was going on, I said to myself, 'This is where I belong, not in med school!'"**

to be an age-related disorder, along with neurodegenerative ones such as Parkinson's disease," he explains. "That's why we are interested in how some chemical molecules of natural origin can delay aging."

#### **BILE ACID KILLS CANCER CELLS**

The research process may be slow, but the passion and relentless curiosity shared by Titorenko's graduate student researchers and their supervisor drives them — and all it takes is one "eureka!" moment to push the whole process forward and charge the young scientists with renewed enthusiasm.

One of those moments occurred during a robotic screening process of thousands of natural chemical molecules to find several groups of molecules that





"QUITE SIMPLY, WE STUDY AGING OF BAKER'S YEAST TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO SLOW AGING AND EXTEND THE HEALTHY LIFESPAN OF HUMANS," SAYS VLADIMIR TITORENKO (CENTRE), PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, OF THE EXPERIMENTS BEING CARRIED OUT IN HIS LAB IN CONCORDIA'S RICHARD J. RENAUD SCIENCE PAVILION. HE IS PICTURED WITH RESEARCHERS PAMELA DAKIK AND YOUNES MEDKOUR.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

delay yeast aging. Among them was a group of relatively common bile acid molecules found in the human body.

Titorenko and his colleagues published a paper outlining their discovery that bile acids produced by the liver are especially effective in delaying the aging process in yeast and therefore show promise as a possible weapon against cancer cells—a theory that has been further developed by his research partners.

"We were trying to identify molecules that can delay aging in yeast, so we conducted a screening," Titorenko says of how it all came about. "We tested with the help of a robot many thousands of different chemical compounds from commercially available collections to see which of them would delay aging in yeast, and we found more than 20 of them."

Titorenko points out that a bile acid called lithocholic acid was one chemical group found to be most effective in delaying aging. Lithocholic acid is considered to be a secondary bile acid, he explains, because it is produced by bacteria in the colon rather than the liver.

#### A LONG ROAD TO CONCORDIA

Titorenko's lifelong interest in biological and chemical sciences led him on a career path that brought him to Concordia in 2002. Originally from the former Soviet Union, his academic credentials began accumulating with bachelor and graduate degrees in biochemistry from Lvov (now Lviv) University in Ukraine. From there he earned a PhD in genetics from the

Institute of Genetics and Selection of Industrial Microorganisms in Moscow, which was followed by a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

He later came to Canada to undertake a second postdoc fellowship, this one at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, which preceded his move to Montreal and his current position at Concordia.

"My primary interest for a very long time was completely far away from aging or cancer," Titorenko says. "It was how a certain type of organelle known as peroxisome is formed, specifically in yeast cells. But at a certain point I switched my interest to aging, specifically the molecular mechanism of cell aging in yeast, and I've been doing that for about the past eight years."





Along the way, Titorenko has maintained a high profile in the academic community as a lecturer and a prolific author and editor, having written or contributed to more than 100 scientific papers and five books. His work has brought him into contact with some of the scientists and academics with whom he still collaborates today. As a result, his team of researchers at Concordia are not working alone — their lab is part of a network of related aging and cancer research projects underway across Canada.

### A DEDICATED TEAM

Titorenko's research on yeast cells is being carried out with the help of a team of graduate students he has recruited to see to the day-to-day operation of the lab. Each is assigned a specific function to perform in the process.

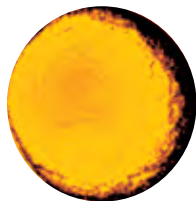
Pamela Dakik, BSc (biol.) 15, is exactly where she wants to be right now. Dakik has always had a passion for science, especially biology, and has followed that academic path since high school. Dakik now finds herself not only working on a major research project just a year after completing her undergraduate degree, but also fast-tracked to begin her PhD in September.

"I took a class with Titorenko and then started volunteering in his lab," Dakik says of how she first became involved in the project. "I saw the work being done, and after two semesters I took a course where I had a chance to conduct hypothesis-driven experiments, working with the yeast cells and aging. I liked it so much that right after I graduated I applied for a graduate degree in Titorenko's lab."

Part of Dakik's task is to screen a library of numerous plant extracts in a robust experimental procedure, which allows researchers to identify extracts capable of increasing yeast longevity by delaying aging of yeast cells. The plant extracts Dakik uses are supplied by Idunn Technologies, a scientific research and development company in Rosemère, Que., that specializes in natural health products, especially those associated with aging.



With the natural extracts, Dakik begins what is called the screening process aimed at identifying the most efficient aging-delaying natural products. "I start off by testing those numerous plant extracts with the yeast cells and try



to see which of them can greatly extend yeast longevity and, thus, delay the aging process," she explains. "After that, I try to determine the ideal concentration — as with any drug you take there are different concentrations: too high may be toxic, too low might not work."

She then uses genetic approaches to assess which pathways are targeted by each of the aging-delaying plant extracts. "I also look into the abilities of certain combinations of these plant extracts to delay aging more efficiently than each of them does individually," Dakik says. "Once I answer those questions, the other grad students take a more in-depth look at how each of these plant extracts delay aging by impacting various processes in the yeast cell."

For his part, Younes Medkour, BSc (biol.) 15, indulges his love of microscopy and systems biology to determine how and to what extent the yeast cells are affected by each of the aging-delaying plant extracts. "My role is to find what specific processes in various cellular organelles are altered by each of these extracts, and to understand why and how these alterations delay aging," he says. "I use a combination of experimental approaches to answer these essential questions. These approaches include quantitative mass spectrometry of lipids and proteins, microscopy and bioinformatics."

Medkour, who also fast-tracked his studies to begin his PhD in September, had initially intended to study biology as a prelude to medical school yet found himself bitten by the research bug after applying his computer skills in bioinformatics through Selvadurai Dayanandan, a professor in the Department of Biology. Medkour came to Titorenko's attention when he presented his honours project aimed at understanding the mechanisms underlying cancer. This, he says, made

"Cancer is considered to be an age-related disorder. That's why we are interested in how some chemical molecules of natural origin can delay aging."

it a lot easier for him when he later applied for a graduate research position in Titorenko's lab.

Once there, everything changed for him. "When I saw the research that was going on, I said to myself, 'This is where I belong, not in med school!'"

Amanda Piano, BSc (biol.) 14, MSc (biol.) 16, is currently pursuing a certificate in biotechnology at McGill University after completing both her undergrad and graduate degrees while working with yeast cells in Titorenko's lab. "I was immediately drawn to the research being done in the Titorenko lab and initially joined as a volunteer to explore the prospect of a future in research," says Piano, who found her passion for biology while a CEGEP student at Dawson College in Montreal.

"At Dawson, the biology classes were broad and general, but while at Concordia I found myself gravitating towards more specialized work in cell biology," she recalls. "The intricacy and complexity of the cell and its workings always fascinated me."

Piano claims that Titorenko's friendliness and dedication to his students combine to play a big role in the research team's success. "He is devoted and approachable, which makes a great supervisor," she says.

#### CROSS-COUNTRY PARTNERS

The experiments being carried out at Titorenko's lab are currently focused on yeast; the work on actual cancer cells is being done at research facilities of other institutions by Titorenko's longstanding colleagues and collaborators — each of whom have been working with lithocholic bile acid and have discovered its effectiveness in not only delaying the aging process but also killing the cells of neuroblastoma, prostate and breast cancers.

Among Titorenko's primary research partners is Andréa C. LeBlanc, a professor of neurology and neurosurgery at McGill, who is a leading researcher at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research at the Jewish General Hospital. LeBlanc's research with lithocholic acid has led to the discovery that it selectively kills cultured human neuroblastoma cells — a cancer that commonly attacks the adrenal glands.

Another collaborator, Troy A.A. Harkness of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, has done extensive research on the treatment of tumours and has worked closely with the Canadian Cancer Society. His experiments with lithocholic acid found that it selectively kills cultured human breast cancer cells as well.

Likewise, toxicologist Thomas Sanderson, associate professor at the INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier in Laval, Que., heads a research team whose work with lithocholic bile acid has determined that it selectively destroys cultured human prostate cancer cells.

While these discoveries are promising, they are currently restricted to Petri dishes and microscope slides. Titorenko says it will be a while before any of their findings will be applied to human subjects, as a further series of experiments on mice or other animals must first be completed in order to safely determine how their cells react to the lithocholic bile acid.

Titorenko admits that he and his fellow researchers are sometimes frustrated by the long research process — but at the same time he's thankful to be working with yeast, as that has sped up the timeline by a considerable margin. "Of course we want to see the results very quickly," Titorenko says with a smile. "But we must be patient." ■  
—Wayne Larsen, BA 98, MA 14, is a Montreal freelance writer.



# HALL OF MEMORIES



We look back at Henry F. Hall, the modest Sir George Williams University principal who spearheaded an educational evolution in Montreal, as his eponymous building celebrates five decades



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

THE HENRY F. HALL BUILDING OPENED ITS DOORS TO STUDENTS FOR THE FALL 1966 TERM.

JULIE GEDEON

Stephen Hall was all of four years old when he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the Henry F. Hall Building of Sir George Williams University — one of Concordia's two founding institutions — on October 14, 1966. "I remember all these grownups, some of them giving speeches about the huge building named after my grandfather, but I was more curious about the mezzanine's shiny new escalators and decided to go for a ride," he recalls. "Of course, I got lost and Grandpa, along with my dad, had to rescue me."

Fifty years later, Stephen Hall still appreciates the kind, patient, caring nature that his grandfather always showed not only to family but countless others seeking higher education. "Grandpa made it more accessible and flexible. That carried over to Concordia when it was established by Sir George Williams University and Loyola College merging in 1974, and enabled me to study the courses I wanted as an independent student," says Stephen Hall, referring to business night classes he took at Concordia.

Henry Foss Hall played a pivotal role in the evolution of Sir George Williams College, which offered the first undergraduate credit course in Canada for adult learners in 1934. He figured prominently

in expanding the university entrance possibilities for men and women of various ages, religions, economic means and cultural backgrounds. Under his open-minded and heartfelt leadership, Sir George Williams became an accredited university in 1948 with no quotas based on race, gender or religion. It also welcomed qualifying individuals who could only take classes at night or part-time because of their work and/or family obligations.

First Sir George Williams and later Concordia became "almost like the family business," Stephen Hall adds, with his father, the late John L. Hall, BSc '54, having a key role in expanding the faculty and staff at both universities as the director of the personnel department.





COURTESY OF LIONEL CHETWYND

LIONEL CHETWYND, PRODUCER RAY STARK AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU AT THE LONDON OPENING OF *FUNNY GIRL* IN JANUARY 1969.

## HUMBLE STRENGTH

The ability to accept more students with the new Hall Building's additional classroom and laboratory space thrilled Hall far more than having the concrete high-rise named after him. "He never sought attention for himself," says John Hall, BSc '74, another grandson who was 13 when his grandfather eagerly took him up to his office to show him an artist's rendition of the building a year before its completion. "For him, it was always about giving people the chance to improve their lives through greater education."

Among the recipients of the first Order of Canada honours in 1967, Hall was always a modest person. He wrote *The Georgian Spirit* (1966) — a book chronicling a history that began with the Mount Royal Business College at the Montreal Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in 1899 and concluding with the official recognition of Sir George Williams University's name on December 18, 1959 — without mention of his central role.

Born in 1897, Hall grew up in the agricultural community of Farnham in Quebec's Eastern Townships. As soon as he became old enough at 17, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and fought in the First World War trenches. After the war, he remained in England for nearly a year and became involved with the recreational activities being provided for servicemen by the YMCA, which had been initiated by Sir George Williams in London in 1844. (For a brief history of Sir George Williams and the

"For [Henry Hall], it was always about giving people the chance to improve their lives through greater education."

college's founding, refer to "Sir George Williams's great-granddaughter recalls the YMCA founder" on page 48).

Upon returning home, Hall completed his university studies. He was subsequently hired as the first student counsellor of any kind in North America. The new position was specifically created for him shortly after the courses offered by the YMCA on Stanley St. were taken over by the newly formed Sir George Williams College in 1926. He wasted no time in developing a guidance program and encouraging a curriculum expansion that would eventually lead to Sir George Williams's university accreditation. He also combined his love of teaching science with his role as dean of students, until his appointment as principal in 1957, a post he kept until 1962. He subsequently remained influential as principal emeritus until his death in 1971.

"Grandpa was particularly interested in helping Second World War veterans to obtain university educations, because he knew how much they had sacrificed, having himself served in the First World War," Stephan Hall says in reference

to the Claremont Division, a program briefly set up to help veterans earn their university admission requirements.

## A LIFE-CHANGER

Henry F. Hall believed in giving adults with the "necessary ability and persistence" the opportunity to prove themselves in tests and/or by enrolling in courses to qualify them for college or university, even if they never finished high school. In the process, he dramatically changed many lives.

Lionel Chetwynd, BA '63, still becomes emotional when he recalls the way Hall altered the course of his life. Although now a long-established and renowned screenwriter, director and producer (*Varian's War*, 2001) based in Los Angeles, back in 1960 Chetwynd had reached a state of despair when he asked to speak with Sir George Williams's principal.

He grew up in Montreal with dysfunctional parents and had to quit high school



LIONEL CHETWYND (ABOVE RIGHT AND INSET, FROM 1963 YEARBOOK), AN OSCAR-NOMINATED HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER, ADDRESSED GRADUATES OF SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY AT A COMMEMORATIVE DEGREE CEREMONY AT CONCORDIA'S HOMECOMING 2015. HE IS PICTURED WITH HIS WIFE GLORIA CARLIN AND CONCORDIA CHANCELLOR JONATHON WENER.

JOE DRESNER

at 14 to help support the family after his father was jailed. He eventually returned to school yet ended up expelled before completing Grade 10. While he later found structure and discipline by signing up with the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, he couldn't make a career of the military. "I was 20 years old and had just lost my job as an Eaton's sales clerk," Chetwynd recalls. "People didn't trust me when they found out who my father was." Out of job possibilities, he walked over to Sir George Williams, where a former army buddy was already taking classes.

Chetwynd waited nearly two hours for Hall to finish teaching his class. "A short, stocky man with a craggy face, he nodded and then crooked his finger for me to follow him into his office," Chetwynd remembers. "After he motioned for me to sit across from him at his desk, I broke down because I didn't have anything to say in my favour."

Hall sat without a word or gesture until Chetwynd recomposed himself. "He really listened, which for someone who grew up with no one caring meant a great deal," Chetwynd shares. "Then he said, 'You're a young man with the whole world still ahead of you. I think you're ready.'"

After a battery of tests, Chetwynd received conditional admittance as a mature student. "He gave me a chance when no one else would," Chetwynd says with immense appreciation.

Chetwynd became an honours student in philosophy and economics. He also championed Sir George Williams on televised youth panels and in debating competitions. "Whenever I achieved something representing Sir George, Dean Hall would pat my back in the corridors or send me a congratulatory note," Chetwynd warmly recalls.

Shortly after graduating as valedictorian, Chetwynd married Gloria Carlin, who became a Hollywood actress. "I met her during my second month at Sir George," he says. "We invited Dean Hall and his wife to our wedding and we still treasure the photos we have of them."

## TIMELY, ARTFUL RESTORATION

The Henry F. Hall Building is enjoying a renaissance for its 50th anniversary. The public space at mezzanine level is being restored to its original plan as part of Zone Éducation-Culture, an initiative with the City of Montreal and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. "Our renovation of the mezzanine facing Bishop St. is Concordia's contribution to this shared vision of creating a new bridge between the Quartier Concordia and the Quartier du Musée," says Clarence Epstein, Concordia's senior director of Urban and Cultural Affairs.

The restoration plans include prominently featuring abstract artist Jean McEwen's painted glass windows along Bishop St. again. McEwen was commissioned to paint the three large untitled panels for the building's opening on October 14, 1966. "At some point, one of the screens was separated from the two others by office space created by erecting temporary walls," Epstein notes. "Those walls are being demolished so this rare work can be viewed in its entirety once more."



New sofas and armchairs will add to the more welcoming and relaxed atmosphere in what has primarily become a bustling pedestrian thoroughfare to and from classes. "The mezzanine was originally designed as a place for social and cultural interaction," Epstein says. "So we'll be working over the next few years to bring that back."

The Hall Building remains the most populated and utilized building at the university. "Thanks to the flexible concrete footings, every floor is malleable in terms of its potential layout," Epstein explains.

What it may lack in architectural intricacy, the modernist Henry F. Hall Building makes up in functionality and the flexible maximization of space, which is exactly what its founders intended.

—Julie Gedeon





## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR ORIGINAL LOYOLA CAMPUS BUILDINGS

*Loyola College moved to its west-end Montreal location in 1916*

For decades, the Administration Building on Sherbrooke St. W. has been the public face of Concordia's Loyola Campus. This year, 2016, marks the 100th anniversary of the emblematic structure, as well as the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre and the Psychology Building – originally called the Refectory and Junior Building, respectively.

Loyola College, which merged with Sir George Williams University in 1974 to become Concordia, was founded in 1896. Initially located in downtown Montreal, in 1916 it moved to the old Decary farm site in the city's west end and into the Administration Building, Junior Building and Refectory.

When it opened its doors, however, the Administration Building was smaller than originally planned – only two storeys high in the central part and one storey high in each of the wings. Final construction of the multi-storied building as it is today was finished by 1927.

The Refectory was free standing until the Central Building was completed in 1947, joining it to the Administration Building. Built in the shape of a cross, it served initially as an infirmary, dining hall, academic and administrative offices, and a meeting site for students, faculty and staff. It later housed the Department of Music. After a successful \$4-million fundraising campaign headed by Loyola College alumni, the Refectory reopened as the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre in 2012.

The L-shaped Junior Building was used in the early days for both high school and college students and eventually became home to only the younger group. In 1969 Loyola High School – by then its own entity – constructed a modern addition. Concordia took over the building in 1990 and renovated it to accommodate the Department of Psychology.

*–Concordia University Records Management and Archives*

*A more detailed history of the original Loyola Campus buildings will appear in an upcoming Concordia University Magazine.*



LOYOLA'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TODAY



LOYOLA CAMPUS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 1915 (FROM LEFT): REFECTORY AND JUNIOR BUILDING



LOYOLA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NEARING COMPLETION OF THE THIRD PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION, CA. 1927



LOYOLA CAMPUS BUILDINGS, CA. 1916, VIEWED FROM NORTH LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS SHERBROOKE ST. (FROM LEFT): JUNIOR BUILDING, REFECTORY AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



THE JUNIOR BUILDING (NOW PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING) IN THE EARLY 1940S

## APPRECIATION FOR LEARNING

Dorothy Martin Mikalachki, BA 59, also credits Henry Hall with changing the course of her life. She grew up in Montreal as the second oldest in a family with five children. Her father's meagre income and steep post-war rents made it necessary for Mikalachki to give her parents all of her summer job wages, which she readily did, but she resisted the pressure to quit high school and work full time. "After I graduated high school, I knew that was the end of digging my heels," she says. "So I went to work, but kept wishing I could go to university."

Upon saving a sufficient sum to pay her parents for a few months by working evenings at the YMCA in Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce district, she asked to speak with Hall, even though she didn't have enough money left to pay for university. "He asked what my high-school marks were, and then said, 'We'll give you an entrance scholarship,' which paid half my fees and enabled me to go," she says. "It was the most thrilling day of my life."

Mikalachki thoroughly enjoyed the first year she attended Sir George Williams. "I really developed an appreciation for learning, and just had a great time," she says.

Unfortunately, she couldn't earn sufficient money over the next summer to pay both her parents and tuition. "So I went to teachers' college and, after that, worked as a teacher," she relates. "But I went back to Sir George at night and then graduated when I was 25." (Watch Dorothy Mikalachki's video testimony at [concordia.ca/giving/mikalachki](http://concordia.ca/giving/mikalachki).)

## CRAVING SPACE

The growing demand for education by people from all walks of life — and the philosophy embodied by Henry F. Hall to offer it to them — put Sir George Williams in a constant need for additional space.

In the college's early years, Hall no doubt encouraged the alumni association to try to raise the money to provide



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



DOROTHY MIKALACHKI (ABOVE AND LEFT, AT HER 1969 GRADUATION) CREATED AN ENDOWMENT TO FUND AN ANNUAL BURSARY, THE DOROTHY MARTIN MIKALACHKI STUDENT AWARD, AS A WAY TO THANK HER ALMA MATER AND THE PERSON WHO WAS PIVOTAL TO HER EDUCATION, HENRY F. HALL. "WHAT A WONDERFUL MAN HE WAS — ALWAYS SO KIND AND HELPFUL AND VERY MODEST ABOUT HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS."

Sir George Williams with a home of its own rather than in the YMCA building on Stanley St. and nearby rented annexes. It took until 1952 to raise the necessary public funding to construct the Kenneth E. Norris Building. Yet within a year of the Norris Building opening on Drummond St. in 1956, it had already run out of space — even with a sixth floor added in 1959.

In October 1957, the Sir George Williams board of governors decided to appoint a planning committee for new premises, and it was decided that a large building as close as possible to the Norris was preferable to the way most university campuses were laid out with a series of smaller structures.

Hall described the plan for a "great cubic structure" consisting of 10 storeys above the ground, along with extensive basement and sub-basement areas. At nearly 800,000 square feet (74,300 square metres), it would be several times larger than the Norris Building.

Along with numerous classrooms and offices, it would have 124 laboratories, 10 auditoriums, a small but fully equipped theatre, a cafeteria and meeting room space. The cost would be in the range of \$25 million (the equivalent of \$219 million today), financed primarily by a Quebec government that at the time was putting significant emphasis on higher education in the province, as well as the university's own fundraising, which included a gift from the Molson Companies.

Architects from Ross, Fish, Duschenes & Barrett, and the general contractor, Perini Quebec Inc., officially broke ground with Hall and other university representatives on April 17, 1964. The building was in full use for the fall term two years later, as part of a larger vision that the City of Montreal and Government of Quebec had to create a modern metropolis.

"The east-west artery that now makes up De Maisonneuve Blvd. was composed of smaller, disconnected roadways, and vast amounts of aging real estate had to be expropriated to carve a major new thoroughfare in the downtown core," explains Clarence Epstein, Concordia's



senior director of Urban and Cultural Affairs. "The Hall Building was the first major structure to face this newly created boulevard."

A modernist utilitarian structure was chosen to maximize the space at what the university expected to be the definitive site for Sir George Williams. Only the nearby Royal George Apartments — since integrated into Concordia's J.W. McConnell Building on Bishop St. — compared somewhat in height to the mammoth new structure. "It was also part of an international movement in architecture to build at large scale because of the advancements in prefabrication and the greater elasticity provided by reinforced concrete," Epstein adds. "The building's overhang incorporated this concrete technology to allow for a recessed view to the atrium but then regain the building's footprint above that level."

Concordia's downtown presence has grown significantly in the past five decades — today, the four-square-kilometre Quartier Concordia is bordered generally by Sherbrooke St., St. Mathieu St., René-Lévesque Blvd. and Bishop St. The Hall Building itself has been refurbished many times — with plans underway for further development. (See the sidebar "Timely, artful restoration" on page 45.)

Despite the university's significant expansion over the past few decades, the Henry F. Hall Building remains central to the Concordia identity, and its design has anchored the vision for Quartier Concordia. "The Hall Building was the first of its kind to facilitate a visual exchange between the interior atrium and the sidewalk and street," Epstein says. "Every other building conceived for Quartier Concordia has paid homage to the importance of using expansive glass to create openness between the ground level of our new university buildings and the exterior public spaces."

Henry F. Hall would no doubt have marvelled at more than all the shiny new escalators. ■

—Julie Gedeon, BA 89, BA 01, MA 09, is a Montreal writer, editor and writing instructor/coach.

## SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS'S GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER RECALLS THE YMCA FOUNDER

Sir George Williams's name is still etched on a wall of the Somerset, England, farm where he was born, according to his last surviving great-granddaughter.

Rosalie Williams (now Sinclair-Smith) captured the scene in a painting that hangs in the downtown Montreal YMCA, a monument to George Williams, who, in 1844 at the age of 22, created the first Young Men's Christian Association in the desolate and bleak London of the Industrial Revolution. The YMCA, as it's now known, would grow to become an organization that improved people's lives immeasurably.

Reached by phone in her rural home in southwest England, Rosalie Williams, 92, recalls once meeting a man in Canada who, with tears in his eyes, told her that if it hadn't been for her great-grandfather, he would never have received an education and got a job.

Six years after that first Y appeared in London, another opened in Old Montreal. In 1873, it began offering evening classes to allow people to study after a long day of menial work. In 1926, the YMCA Schools changed its name to Sir George Williams College, which eventually became Sir George Williams University. Classes were originally held at the Stanley St. YMCA. Sir George Williams University merged with Loyola College in 1974 to create Concordia.

Williams regrets she won't be able to make it to Montreal this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hall Building. She was in the city in 1984, however, to mark the 10th anniversary of the creation of Concordia and fondly remembers the red carpet that was put out for her then.

While Rosalie Williams never had the pleasure of knowing her great-grandfather — he died in 1905 — she's eager to talk about him and the mark he left on the world. "I was born in 1925 so missed him by a good bit," she says.

George Williams was born on a farm in 1821, the youngest of seven boys, she recalls. Yet being small and not suited to farming, he was sent off to become a draper's apprentice and ended up marrying the boss's daughter. While he ended up in a large London firm, he grew frustrated with the lack of time to do anything other than work. "He always said that people should have the time on Sundays to go to church and shops should close early on Saturday to give people the time to play golf and to study in the evenings," Williams says.

Today, with "about" eight great-grandchildren herself, Rosalie Williams is now older than Sir George Williams was when he passed away at age 84. "Goodness, time flies by, doesn't it?"

—Sue Montgomery



ROSALIE WILLIAMS, GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF YMCA FOUNDER SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS, ON HER WEDDING DAY IN LEWES, EAST SUSSEX, ENGLAND, IN 2004.

Courtesy of Rosalite Williams

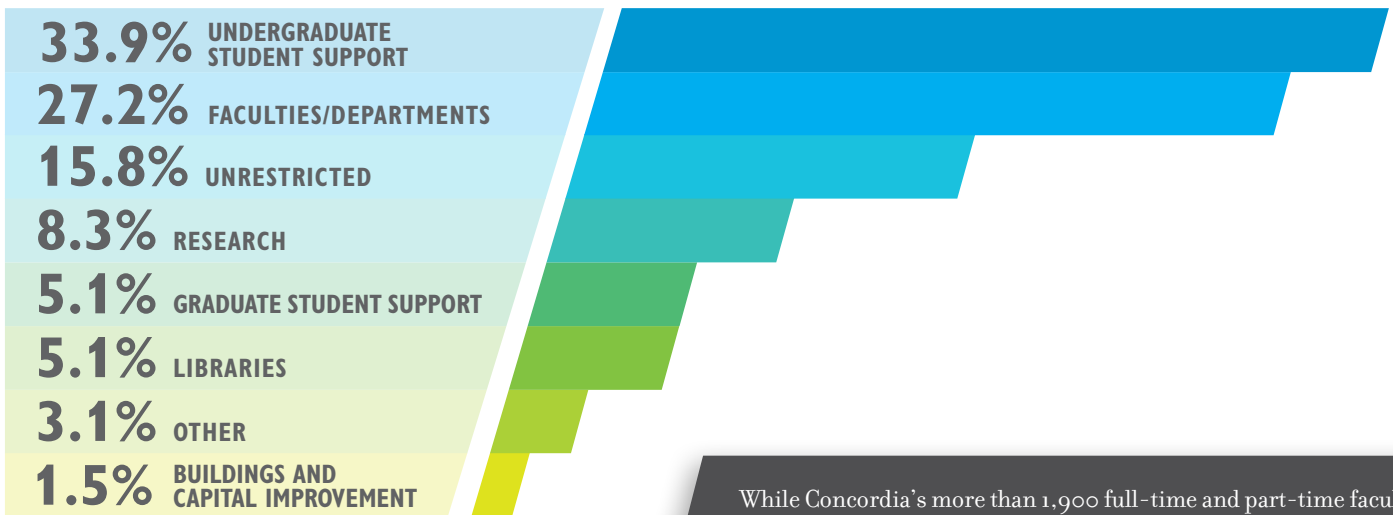
# A SHARING COMMUNITY

Concordia's faculty and staff give back to the university through the Community Campaign and also support many local causes

HOWARD BOKSER

Concordia is home to more than 46,000 students who can choose from about 500 degree programs and 7,000 courses. Ensuring that the necessary resources are available to allow the students to succeed takes significant financial support.

## Funds raised through the 2015-16 Community Campaign supported these areas:



To that end, in 2015-16 the university raised \$18.7 million from its generous supporters — including alumni — for students, libraries, research, academic programs and other projects, and university activities. Those funds included over \$2.1 million from the Community Campaign, Concordia's annual fundraising campaign.

Concordia's internal community of faculty, staff, retirees and members of the Board of Governors donated in excess of \$283,000 to the 2015-16 Community Campaign. In addition, more than \$70,000 for scholarships and bursaries arrived from contributions to the Shuffle, Concordia's annual 6.5-km walkathon from the Sir George Williams to Loyola campuses.

Internal community members contribute to the university in a variety of other ways, such as through the Concordia Used Book Fair, which in its two decades has raised more than \$150,000 for Concordia student scholarships and the Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre's Student Emergency and Food Fund. The internal support serves as a role model for the larger community of donors.

While Concordia's more than 1,900 full-time and part-time faculty and librarians and 5,900 employees naturally support the university and its students, their generosity extends to a number of external grassroots fundraising efforts. The following causes were among those supported by Concordians in the past year:



**CONCORDIA CENTRAIDE CAMPAIGN:** Concordians helped raise \$187,000 for the 2015 Greater Montreal campaign.



**NOVEMBER:** Many Concordia faculty, staff and students grew (sometimes unsightly) moustaches and raised \$29,800 for the annual November campaign to raise awareness about men's health issues.



**5 DAYS FOR THE HOMELESS:** The event to raise funds and awareness for the homeless, brought to Concordia by JMSB students in 2008, has raised more than \$300,000 for Dans la rue and Chez Doris.



**DÉFI CANDEREL:** Concordians participated in the cancer research fundraiser, a 3-km run through the Montreal streets, the brainchild of Concordia Chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71; the Défi has raised more than \$12 million in its nearly three decades.

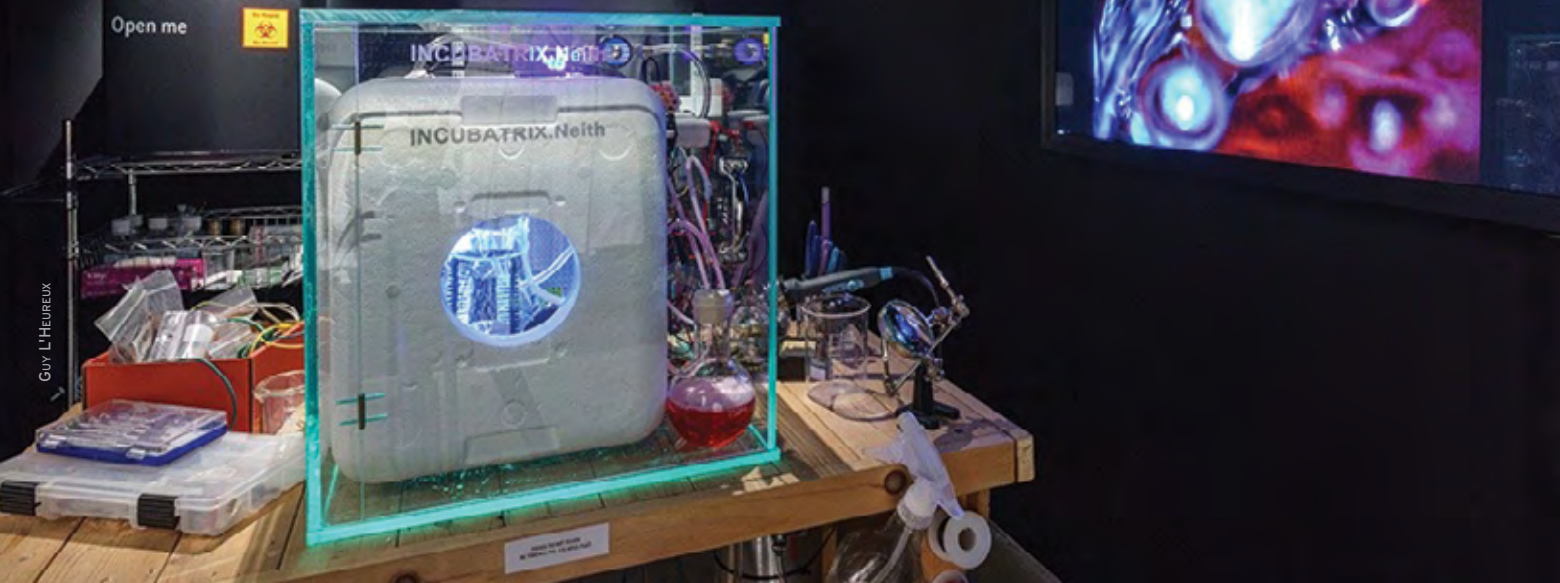


**CASA CARES:** JMSB's student charity arm has raised over \$100,000 for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation through its popular annual fashion show.



# A MEETING GROUND WITHOUT BORDERS

Milieux, Concordia's new institute for arts, culture and technology, breaks down silos between disciplines and creates some of the most innovative research in the country





The first thing a visitor notices when entering Milieux's central administration office in Concordia's Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex is a massive whiteboard occupying most of a wall. It's covered in ink, with lines shooting out from the central Milieux logo. Each line leads to one of seven destinations — clusters, they're called. Each cluster is surrounded by the names of Concordia staff and students associated with it.

Lines swoop between and among the names, linking separate individuals from different clusters in a complex, almost bewildering spaghetti of interconnectivity. There is a serpentine fluidity there, suggesting that nothing is static, that none of the clusters are hermetic.

And that is precisely the point.

Open since March 2016, Milieux is a research institute that its founders and researchers say is unlike anything in the country. As its name suggests, it is a meeting place between disciplines where the exchange of ideas is not only encouraged but part of its very function. From games to textiles, from engineering to media history, Milieux is like a creative mashup limited only by the imagination of the people who work there.

If that sounds vague, perhaps that's because the concept of Milieux is a bit tricky to define. Known formally as the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology, it is essentially an umbrella organization that houses seven clusters, each with its own staff and students and each conducting independent research. Those seven clusters are all forward-looking in how they approach traditional — and not so traditional — areas of research. The Post Image cluster, for instance, looks at the changing nature of photography; Technoculture, Art and Games (TAG) examines the social aspect of gaming culture; Initiative for Indigenous Futures imagines Aboriginal culture in the digital age.



The other four clusters are Media History; Textiles and Materiality; Performance, Immersion and Interactivity; and Community and Differential Mobilities.

"The names came from the members or their representatives," says Milieux's director Bart Simon, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. "They weren't sudden things. The thought was, does this fit what we're doing, does this not fit what we're doing? The clusters themselves come out of articulations of the critical mass of research which we think is strategically oriented," he says.

"In other words, if we were going to put a group of people together who had something in common to talk about, could they leverage their work into something more, whether it be research funding or impact on the community, productivity, recruitment of students, and these sorts of things?"

The collaborative nature of the work conducted by the institute's roughly 80 faculty and staff and 120 students serves a double purpose: to inspire research beyond the traditional silos that normally constrain specialists, and to

pool resources to allow the purchase of equipment that would be beyond the reach of any single researcher. Simon admits that while this may require some academics to give up a bit of autonomy, they more than make up for it with the tools they subsequently gain.

WhiteFeather Hunter, MFA 16, coordinator for the Speculative Life Lab and for the Textiles and Materiality cluster, says doing her work alongside others at Milieux requires dialogue and interaction between people with disparate backgrounds: an arts person speaks to a science person who speaks to a games person who speaks to a sociology person who speaks to an engineer. "It gets really exciting because you have people who normally communicate in completely different languages learning how to communicate in a common language," she says. "And it's a new language."

MILIEUX'S DIRECTOR BART SIMON IS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.



DAVID WARD

**"You can be in the TAG room and you can drop in on a conversation about design, or the social issues about games, or just about anything, with very smart people."**



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



## NEW MEETS OLD

While Milieux is new, many of the study groups that are its component parts are not. The Media History and Community and Differential Mobilities groups, for instance, existed long before Milieux. Simon co-founded TAG along with Lynn Hughes, now the Concordia University Research Chair in Interaction Design and Games Innovation, in 2009.

And Milieux itself grew out of Hexagram, which was also a Concordia-based research institute until its federal funding ended. It was after Hexagram had to shutter its doors that Simon, Hughes and Hexagram's director Chris Salter began the year-long brainstorm that eventually resulted in the Milieux concept. The new institute was able to access Hexagram's existing infrastructure yet set itself up as something more flexible and more autonomous.

While this emphasis on inter-cluster collaboration is still in its infancy, there is no shortage of innovative and surprising work going on. Take, for instance, Simon's particular cluster, TAG. Its emphasis on gaming goes well beyond spirited discussions about platforms and titles and the multibillion-dollar industry behind them.

The students at TAG are mostly pursuing PhDs, reports its director Hughes, and while some are writing traditional theses, others are mixing writing with making and designing games. And not just your traditional console games either. "While individual player games are not something we discourage, they are

by no means the most important thing that we do," Hughes says. "The screen, and the individual, are not always the focus of games designed at TAG."

Despite the decades-long digital dominance of the games industry, Hughes says she has seen a resurgent interest in board and card games among her students. She mentions one card game called Cabinet Shuffle, developed at TAG by Will Robinson, which mixes ethics, politics and strategy. There are also games that are very physical, such as ones involving digitally augmented costumes — which could include collaborating with someone from the Textiles and Materiality cluster. Games produced in the Initiative for Indigenous Futures cluster reimagine the content of games to provide a focus on Aboriginal characters.



LYNN HUGHES IS THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CHAIR IN INTERACTION DESIGN AND GAMES INNOVATION.

"We're trying to make research work differently," Hughes says. "There's no rule book, but we want to build close relations between the clusters. What the students do between the clusters is what is most important. Students are looking for connections — it's what this period of life is about."

## CROSSING CLUSTERS

Those connections — in and out of the university — are key to students like Jessica Rose Marcotte, BA 12, MA 14. Currently a TAG student pursuing her PhD in game design and game studies, Marcotte describes her work as feminist. She created a game called In Tune that "navigates consent using skin-to-skin contact."

She describes In Tune as "a game that deals with bodies, their interactions and giving/withholding consent. Players are asked to negotiate and communicate their own physical boundaries with a partner using skin-to-skin contact as the main controller of the game," Marcotte explains. "Its goal is to develop players' skills to navigate consent and physical interactions while hopefully provoking thought about how daily interactions with people and the space around them also involves similarly complicated negotiations. It is also looking to have players examine their own comfort levels and see how thoughtful communication has the potential to shift those levels."

Marcotte says the freedom, facilities and access TAG — and by extension,





CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

WHITEFEATHER HUNTER (RIGHT) RECENTLY COMPLETED HER CONCORDIA MFA IN FIBRES AND MATERIAL PRACTICES.

Milieux — provide are distinctive. “You can be in the TAG room, and all of a sudden you can drop in on a conversation about design, or the social issues about games, or just about anything, with very smart people who know a lot about this stuff,” she says. “Or you can go downstairs to the Textiles and Materiality lab to discuss wearables and you’ll have the doors open and somebody is ready for a chat.”

Hughes says this kind of mobility and cluster-crossing is a natural part of Milieux’s purpose. And it is not simply limited to students and staff within the institute or even within the university. Interacting with outside actors, including representatives from businesses such as those in Montreal’s thriving video game industry, is expected and encouraged. “Our mission is to pull people in and to push our people out,” she says.

Milieux plans to hold regular public



“If you want to simplify it, you could just say I’m growing flesh on textiles.”

events, like TAG’s ARCADE 11, which is part of the city’s Montréal joue festival and draws around 600 people to Milieux’s 11th-floor spaces every year. Besides the student-run weekly 5-à-7s, TAG also runs a 10-week game incubation program over the summer. The research centre is also closely affiliated with community-based games organizations such as the Mount Royal Gaming Society, the city’s independent-minded monthly meetup.

WhiteFeather Hunter, who recently completed her MFA in fibres and material practices at Concordia, finds that Milieux’s fluidity allows her to pursue her interests in looking at how biology and textiles intersect. She says there is a growing curiosity about the field of bio-art, which she defines as “art that uses living organisms — or semi-living, because they can’t thrive outside of a lab sometimes — as art material.”



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

JASON EDWARD LEWIS IS PROFESSOR OF DESIGN AND COMPUTATION ARTS AND UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CHAIR IN COMPUTATIONAL MEDIA AND THE INDIGENOUS FUTURE IMAGINARY.

Hunter is engaged in tissue engineering. “I’m growing living mammalian tissues onto textiles that I’ve woven by hand,” she explains. Hunter has grown human bone cancer and mouse connective tissues. “If you want to simplify it, you could just say I’m growing flesh on textiles.”

She points out that this kind of art-work just isn’t being done in Canada — in fact, while she was pursuing her MFA, she took up a residency at SymbioticA, an artistic laboratory at the University of Western Australia in Perth. “So this is where Milieux becomes really cutting edge,” Hunter says.

While she wishes the facilities Milieux offers had been available a few years ago, Hunter is thankful that she can continue to pursue her work now. Yet the lab’s purpose is not solely for bio-art. Part of the room is a dedicated electronic makerspace, where researchers work on projects that examine the meeting place of electronic and living systems. Hunter and her thesis advisor, media artist Tagny Duff, MFA 05, PhD 14, associate professor in Concordia’s Department of Communication Studies, have both had their bio-art work displayed in galleries.

The institute, Hunter says, “makes biological research more accessible to people through artistic representation. It makes artistic research more accessible to a variety of people, so it expands the audience. And it expands the potential collaboration that can happen. Collaboration is the way to go, especially in terms of funding, because people want to see that their investments are going twice as far. And that’s what’s happening here.”

### SCI-FI ELEMENTS

If some of what Hunter is working on sounds almost like the basis of a science-fiction story, down the hall on the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex’s 10th floor, the Initiative for Indigenous Futures cluster is diving in head first. The cluster’s director Jason Edward Lewis, professor of Design and Computation Arts, and its coordinator Skawennati, BFA 92, GrDip 96, say they are trying to get researchers to look at how Indigenous peoples and communities are imagining their future. In practical terms, that means supporting Indigenous artists and their work, particularly in digital media, and by bringing in non-artists such as people working on issues like food sovereignty, law or land use.

“We’re thinking about the far future, like a science-fiction-type future,” says Skawennati. “As native people, we often talk about seven generations, so that’s sort of the area that we’re looking at.”

“We want people to look beyond the current challenges, not because we think they’re insignificant by any means, but as a way of freeing up some imaginative space to think about the issues and challenges we have right now,” says Lewis. “We found that was actually not happening a lot within the Indigenous community and we want to provide several different venues in which that can happen.”

The Initiative for Indigenous Futures cluster not only supports digital and non-digital artists. It also organizes annual symposiums as well as running

youth workshops on Aboriginal storytelling and digital media design. Yet the cluster has also changed its agenda. While it began as a centre for investigating the intersection of Indigenous culture and digital media — such as, for example, translating traditional Aboriginal stories into digital media — it has since become something far more broad. Outside speakers can include not just lawyers and activists but also ironworkers discussing their jobs far above a busy city street or founders of First Nations start-ups. While the cluster’s expertise is in digital media, it is no longer the only thing they do.

As for the kinds of stories being told by students, creators and scholars, Skawennati says, “We’re seeing a lot of Indians in space. I think a lot of people are using space exploration as a metaphor for the future.”

“Also, space exploration plugs into narratives of colonization,” adds Lewis. “They’re using space and the future narrative to reimagine what a first encounter might be like, what interaction with aliens might be like, to reimagine the history of this continent, and things like that.”

Over the next weeks and months, Simon and the Milieux team will be doing their best to let people — from the Concordia community, the business community and the general public — know they exist. He says that is a natural extension of the horizontal plane the institute operates on. Still, he notes, “We don’t say we’re industry-leaning or we’re an incubator or an accelerator or any of that stuff, because at the same time, alongside business leaders, we’re working with museums and galleries, activist groups, schools and libraries. It’s a total meeting ground.” ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, *GrDip (journ.) 99*, is a *Montreal* journalist.



# Stratospheric successes for students

It took months of hard work, but it was worth it in the end.

A team from the Space Concordia student society claimed first place at the 2016 Canadian Satellite Design Challenge. The competition, which took place at the Canadian Space Agency's David Florida Laboratory in Ottawa between June 13 and 16, marked the end of a two-year planning, designing, building and testing process. "Together, we accomplished something that goes way beyond anything we could have ever imagined," says undergraduate engineering student Rami Kandela, systems lead for the Aleksandr team, representing Space Concordia's satellite division. <sup>1</sup>

For the team — tasked with creating a 34 x 10 cm cubesat, or nanosatellite — preparation for the competition effectively began two years before the final testing took place. The process replicates a typical space program timeline, Kandela explains. "Milestones included a project management plan, a preliminary design review, a critical design review and an environmental test."

The time crunch proved to be a challenge. "Most of our members take a full course load, in addition to Co-op internships, in parallel with the competition," Kandela says. "The little time we have left is spent learning, designing, building, networking and planning."

## ROCKETING TO THE TOP

While the satellite group was competing in Ottawa, students from Space Concordia's rocketry division were headed to Green River, Utah, for the Intercollegiate Rocket Engineering Competition, which began on June 15. <sup>2</sup>

After sending their entry 11,139 feet (3,395 metres) into the sky at a maximum velocity of Mach 0.84, the Concordia contingent finished in second place out of 44 teams in the Basic category — ahead of competitors from

some of the world's top engineering institutions. "The launch was perfect, with the perfect deployment of our recovery devices and a recovery less than a mile from the base camp," says chief rocket designer Neil Woodcock.

Competing in the harsh Utah desert presented a specific set of challenges that went beyond the merely technical. "We must compete in an environment that exposes us to extreme heat, blowing dust and other threats, including rattlesnakes, scorpions, tarantulas and exploding rockets," Woodcock says.

The Concordia team managed to assemble and launch their rocket without incident, despite the adverse conditions, but other teams weren't so lucky. A malfunction caused one school's rocket to experience a rapid unplanned

ever prize in both undergraduate- and graduate-level competitions. <sup>3</sup>

Concordians Dimtcho Krastev and Matthew Silverstein led a team of 10 second-, third- and fourth-year mechanical engineering undergraduates to win Best Overall in the CSME National Design Competition, which challenged students from universities and technical colleges across Canada to design and build a 3-D printer.

"We felt exceptionally happy and accomplished. It is good to see the result of many months of hard work become reality," says Krastev. He and Silverstein were joined on the project by Darrin Fong, Dang Son Mai, Evan Gerard, Prathep Mohanathas, Marc Roche, Adam Roussac, Eric Giblot Ducray and Mihael Mihaylov.

**"We must compete in an environment that exposes us to extreme heat, blowing dust and other threats, including rattlesnakes, scorpions, tarantulas and exploding rockets."**

disassembly, or RUD. Competitors were alerted, Woodcock recalls, and everyone looked skyward. "For a few seconds nothing happened. Then there was a bang and a large section of rocket smashed to the ground about 100 feet from base camp. An evacuation to the east was called and everyone ran as fast as they could as fine rocket debris fell to the west."

—Tom Peacock

## Double gold for mechanical engineering students

Students from Concordia's Mechanical Engineering program shone at the 2016 Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME) International Congress, seizing first-

The competition provides a chance for aspiring engineers to build and assemble their designs from basic components readily available on the market. All teams were asked to submit a package consisting of a technical and business report, a 3-D-printed prototype part and a promotional video clip.

"They truly worked as a team, combining hands-on and theoretical skills," says Ali Dolatabadi, graduate and PhD program director of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and outgoing president of CSME. "They also had great soft skills — the video clip they made for the competition was featured in the International CSME Congress award ceremony and the entire audience was so impressed with the quality of their work."



1



2



3



4

1 MEMBERS OF THE ALEKSANDR SATELLITE TEAM, WHICH WON THE CANADIAN SATELLITE DESIGN CHALLENGE IN JUNE. 2 ROCKETRY DIVISION MEMBERS RETRIEVE THEIR FUSELAGE AFTER A PERFECT LAUNCH. 3 CONCORDIA ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATES BUILT A WINNING 3-D PRINTER USING READILY AVAILABLE COMPONENTS. 4 THE NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY INCLUDES A PRACTICUM AT CONCORDIA INCUBATOR DISTRICT 3.

Lucas Hof, a third-year PhD student in mechanical engineering, also brought a first-place prize back to Concordia. He won the CSME Graduate Student Paper Competition for his research on the integration of micromachining technology developed by Concordia's Electrochemical Green Engineering Group. Hof's paper focused on development processes in tooling and tool calibration to enable manufacturing of highly customized glass products.

"It is really nice to see that your research is appreciated by your peers. It felt great and stimulates me to continue," says Hof, before thanking his supervisor, Rolf Wuthrich, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering.

—Meagan Boisse

## Grad certificate in Innovation, Technology and Society launched

Concordia's Centre for Engineering in Society introduced its first-ever program for the fall 2016 term. The new graduate certificate in Innovation, Technology and Society aims to develop students' knowledge across disciplines and provide skills to effectively engage in innovation practices, lead interdisciplinary teams and enhance independent entrepreneurial vision. 4

Deborah Dysart-Gale, chair of the Centre for Engineering in Society, says the new program will bring together an interdisciplinary group in an environment where they can learn how to put into practice design theory and training in user-centred communications.

The certificate program is intended for engineers looking to expand their interdisciplinary experience working

with non-engineers, and non-engineers and professionals wishing to develop their knowledge of technology. "This certificate takes the academic approach to teaching innovation to the next level," says Dysart-Gale.

Students will finish their certificate with a practicum at District 3, Concordia's innovation and entrepreneurship centre, where they will have a chance to put their newly acquired theoretical knowledge to use with the mentorship of faculty.

District 3 was a natural home for the practicum — since its creation, it has seen more than 400 students and community members adapt best practices in innovation, teaching and learning to develop a user-centred framework for entrepreneurial experiments.

For District 3 students and faculty, the certificate program marks a milestone: it will bring lessons from social-innovation projects into the classroom. ■

—Jasmine Stuart



For news on the full slate of recent and future Concordia Advancement and Alumni Relations events in Montreal, across Canada and the world over, visit [concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni).

To listen to podcasts or watch videos of Advancement and Alumni Relations events, please visit [concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts](http://concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts) and [concordia.ca/alumni/videos](http://concordia.ca/alumni/videos).



Concordia University

**1 Alumni Recognition Awards**

**ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS**

The Sofitel Montreal Golden Mile was the setting for a festive night as more than 150 members of the Concordia community came to celebrate eight outstanding individuals at the 25th Annual Alumni Recognition Award Banquet. The event, held May 19, was sponsored by the Concordia University Alumni Association, TD and Manulife Financial and organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations. Pictured with **Bram Freedman**, Concordia’s vice-president of Advancement and External Relations (far right), are the 2016 honourees: **Henry Beissel**, Honorary Life Membership; **Caroline Van Vlaardingen**, BA 84, Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award; **Jonathan Lachance**, BAdmin 11, Young Alumnus of the Year; **Alexis Lahorra**, Outstanding Student Award; **Giuliana Cucinelli**, Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching; **Emilio B. Imbriglio**, BComm 81, GrDip 82, Humberto

Santos Award of Merit; **Les Lawton**, Outstanding Staff Award; and **Louis Hugo Francescutti**, BSc 80, Alumnus of the Year. **1**

**CUAA FINE ARTS PRIZE**

With his poignant textural and olfactory-assaulting entry, **AN Soubiran**, MFA 16, was awarded the 2016 Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) Fine Arts Prize for *HIV Home Remedy*. The alumni association presented its annual \$1,000 prize at the Faculty of Fine Arts Annual Graduating Students Exhibition vernissage on June 8, held jointly at Concordia’s VAV Gallery and FOFA Gallery. Soubiran is pictured (centre) with honourable mention winners, both previous CUAA Fine Arts Prize recipients, **Alisi Telengut**, MFA 16, and **Marilou André**, MFA 16. **2**

**JMSB ALUMNI CHAPTER**

The John Molson Alumni Chapter (JMAC) held its second annual Cheers to Your Success cocktail reception

at Montreal pub the Irish Embassy on June 2. The event is designed to engage new graduates as they head into the workforce. Pictured are **Simon Foucher**, MBA 16, **Nadia Y. Cho**, MBA 16, and **Julia Khon**, MBA 13. **3** Khon, president of the JMAC, and non-profit communications expert Kim Fuller, BFA 96, president of the Concordia University Alumni Association, addressed the enthusiastic crowd. Follow the JMAC on Facebook for information on upcoming events.

**THE MAN BEHIND OSHEAGA**

As co-founder of Osheaga, ÎleSoniq, Heavy Montréal and the YUL EAT festivals, **Nick Farkas**, BA (urban planning) 90, **4** has pretty much seen it all. He got his start booking shows while still a student at Concordia. “I started with a buddy of mine in the late 1980s. We were very into punk rock and the bands we wanted to see weren’t coming to Montreal very often,” Farkas recalls. “So we started calling up bands

and booking them. We did it just to see the bands we wanted to see. The bands would come to Montreal, they'd sleep on our floor and we'd do all the work," Farkas says.

"I never thought this would become an actual job, but I co-founded Greenland Productions in 1993 and did that for a few years. I had a chance to make a real living at it, and it's been non-stop ever since."

The Hamilton-born, Montreal-raised Farkas is now vice president of Concerts and Events for Montreal concert promotion and production company Evenko, which presented "1,300 shows last year from Vermont to Newfoundland," Farkas reports. "It's a huge amount of work." One highlight for Farkas was when veteran Australian band Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds played in 2014 at Osheaga, he says. **5**

The 11th edition of Osheaga, held in July, featured headliners Lana Del Rey, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Radiohead. "We booked Radiohead in Montreal for the first time at the 500-capacity club Woodstock back in 1993," says Farkas. "We were literally doing Nirvana that same night at the Verdun Auditorium and raced uptown to catch the end of



LESLIE SCHACHTER

**2 CUA Fine Arts Prize**

Radiohead! That was how you did it back then — you played a club, then came back to play the next size up."

Today, Farkas says, "I am living a dream. I remember my father telling me as a teenager, 'If you can find a job that you wake up every morning and want to go to, then you're ahead of 95 per cent of the people in the world.' And I wake up in the morning and want to go to work every day."

—Richard Burnett



**3 JMSB Alumni Chapter**



SUSAN MOSS

**4 Osheaga**



SUSAN MOSS

**5 Osheaga**



**SOLAR ENERGY TO GO**

Soon after launching their Kickstarter campaign in May, **Melanie Kalinian**, BA 08, and **Ahmad Jawarneh**, MEng 14, weren't able to get much sleep. They were overwhelmed by media requests from all over the world in response to the launch of their green-energy multifunctional booster.

The device, known as the GoldEye Bar, can be used to power laptops, mobile phones and other electronics — or even jump start a car — all thanks to

the power of solar technology.

Through Kickstarter, the popular crowdfunding platform, Kalinian and Jawarneh surpassed their \$20,000 goal to fund the project — they eventually hit \$20,350 from 95 backers.

Although the application of solar energy devices in everyday life had already been a pet project for Jawarneh, who earned a master's in electrical and computer engineering with a focus on telecommunications, the GoldEye Bar was born out of necessity. While developing a

backpack with a built-in solar-powered charger, his laptop kept dying. His car also became a bit of a liability during the harsh Montreal winters.

So when he met Kalinian, now a graduate of women's studies from Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute, while the two worked at a restaurant in Montreal's Old Port, they came up with the idea of a multifunctional solar-powered booster. With her background in multimedia production, they produced a sleek website, [goldeyesolar.com](http://goldeyesolar.com), and a few videos to demonstrate the GoldEye Bar to potential funders.

The launch sparked interest. "We got calls from magazines and online publications that wanted to know more about our project," says Jawarneh.

Kalinian and Jawarneh were equally pleased with like-minded people from the green energy community reaching out to express their gratitude — and even suggesting how to improve their product. "Our goal is to develop a solar-powered product that is well designed, of high quality and durability and, especially, affordable," says Jawarneh. "We believe that we have a great idea and



LESLIE SCHACHTER



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we know that solar energy is the future,  
so we feel quite confident about it.”

—Leslie Schachter

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### GRAD JUST KEEPS SWIMMING — WITH SHARKS

Montreal's distance from shark-populated waters has not stopped **Thomas Leszkiewicz**, BSc 13, from pursuing his dream of swimming with the feared creatures. He's travelled to South Africa, the Galápagos Islands and Clipperton, a remote island in the Pacific Ocean — all in the name of shark research.

From an early age Leszkiewicz showed keen interest in nature and wildlife. While he was born in Montreal, his Polish heritage meant that much of his childhood was spent outdoors. “Polish people have an affinity with nature, so my parents really instigated this passion I have,” he says.

Leszkiewicz — who learned English by watching children's TV shows *Barney* and *Mister Rogers* — credits *Time* magazine for spurring his interest in sharks. The publication declared 2001 the “Summer of the Shark” after a high number of attacks and sightings. “I vividly remember standing on a pier fishing when a big bull shark appeared. It could have been 20 metres away from swimmers but it was just cruising around not interested in the bathers whatsoever,” he says. “That incident

made me realize as a young kid that they are not mindless killers, and my interest in them skyrocketed! Shortly afterwards someone on the beach yelled, ‘Shark!’ and chaos ensued.”

Despite those seaside memories, choosing to study biology at Concordia was far from an easy decision for Leszkiewicz. “I was debating whether to go into engineering. However, after watching the documentary *Sharkwater*, I decided to go with my heart and study biology,” he says. “The university helped me a lot. I had amazing and passionate teachers.”

In 2014, he spent two months as an intern for the South Africa-based Oceans Campus, helping a group of doctoral students in their research efforts. More recently in Clipperton, Leszkiewicz had a hands-on role — literally. As part of a team of scientists and researchers, he was given the task of attaching sensory tags to the sharks for researchers to track their movements and behaviours. The trip was partially funded by Leszkiewicz's current employer, Sherwood Scuba in Montreal, where he works as a sales representative for the scuba diving products company. ■

—Salim Valji



## Concordia celebrates nine distinguished honorary degree recipients

Nine highly accomplished individuals received honorary doctorates from Concordia at its convocation ceremonies at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier in Montreal's Place des Arts from June 6 to 8, 2016. The honorary degree recipients offered their sage advice to the more than 5,700 graduating students and their family members and friends. With these new grads, the university now has 200,000 alumni worldwide.

The following are excerpts from the honorary doctorate recipients' addresses. To see videos of the full speeches, visit [concordia.ca/graduation-convocation/ceremonies/past](http://concordia.ca/graduation-convocation/ceremonies/past).

### FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, JUNE 6

**Joan Wallach Scott**, LLD 16, is a professor emerita at the School of Social Science in the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.; founding director of the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University in Providence, R.I.; and founding editor of *History of the Present: A Journal of Critical History*. **1**

"The world is a mess right now, and older generations are at a loss to figure out how to fix it. The old solutions aren't working. We need people open to inventing new ones, willing to depart from fixed paths and to risk those not yet tried. You are those people."

**Sherry Turkle**, LLD 16, is the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology, and director of the Initiative on Technology and Self in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston; and bestselling



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



author of *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*. **2**

"Face-to-face conversation is the most human and humanizing thing that we know how to do. We don't need to give up our phones, but we do need to think how to use them more mindfully. And when we do, conversation is there to reclaim. So look up, look at each other and begin the conversation."

### His Excellency the Right Honourable

**David Johnston** is Governor General of Canada; former principal of McGill University; former president of the University of Waterloo; and author or co-author of more than 25 books. **3**

"How are you going to use your knowledge, your skills and your experience, and the bedrock values on which they rest? Please join me in fulfilling that honourable mission of creating a country that chooses innovation, inclusiveness and compassion, and find your own way to make your country a smarter, more caring place for all Canadians."

**Nora Volkow**, LLD 16, is director of the United States' National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.; former director of Nuclear Medicine, chair of the Medical Department and associate director for Life Sciences at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory. **4**



"Each one of you will choose your paths, and in them you will encounter many challenges ahead. But solving them and, in the process, helping others, is one of the most rewarding experiences of being a human."

### JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, JUNE 7

**Arlene Dickinson**, LLD 16, is CEO of Venture Communications in Calgary and YouInc.com; long-time venture capitalist on CBC Television's *Dragons' Den* and *The Big Decision*; and author of *Persuasion* and *All In*. **5**

"We aren't ever given much time to be thankful, to help others and to leave the world a better place. But time is not the most important thing at your disposal. The most important thing [is]: the power of you. Your voice, your values, your courage, your resilience, your confidence, your belief in yourself and your



ability to succeed in your life.”

**Garrett Herman**, LLD 16, is chair and CEO of Loewen Ondaatje McCutcheon Ltd. in Toronto; former member of the Consular Corps of Ontario; and chair and founder of the Galápagos Conservancy Canada, formerly the Charles Darwin Foundation Canada. **6**

“Do not fight change. Embrace new technology and ideas. Set a high standard. Establish a code of personal conduct, and stick to it. Be a person of your word. Keep your head up, and keep your mind flexible and creative. Take the time to grow as a person. Keep learning and stay interested and curious.”

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE; JUNE 8**

**Pierre Lassonde**, LLD 16, is co-founder of Franco-Nevada Corporation in Toronto; former chair of the World Gold Council; chair of the board of the

Canada Council for the Arts and chair of the board of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. **7**

“Lassonde’s rules of life: 1) Say thank you. 2) Throw a party; celebrate life. 3) Have no regrets; live your passion. 4) Feed your soul, whether it’s [with] music, art, poetry, religion. 5) See for yourself that the world is round; experience other cultures and other people. 6) Leave a better world behind.”

**Aaron Fish**, LLD 16, is the creator of the first electrically supervised mechanical push-button lock, and founder, former chair and CEO of Unican Security Systems Ltd. in Montreal. **8**

“Set a career objective; forget the initial compensation. If you enjoy your career, you will be excited about getting to work. If you can’t sleep, that’s a good thing — you’re thinking

creatively. To those of you who play chess, apply your thinking to your career. Chess makes you look all around the problem. It makes you consider many possibilities before you move.”

**FACULTY OF FINE ARTS, JUNE 8**

**James Shavick**, LLD 16, is CEO of Shavick Entertainment in Vancouver; CEO of OUTtv; and former director of the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of British Columbia. **9**

“Your career is a marathon, it’s not a sprint. You have an amazing opportunity, you have an amazing university. As you go into the world as alumni, don’t forget your connections here, and don’t forget to give back. Supporting causes that you believe in, as [my wife] Joy and I have done with the gay community, is the most important thing. It’s how you leave the world, not what you get out of it.” ■



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

**64 Elliot Lifson**, BSc 64, BA 65, vice-chairman of Peerless Clothing in Montreal, received an Honorary Life Membership Award from McGill University in May 2016 for his longstanding involvement with the Desautels Faculty of Management.

**72 Christine Lengvari**, BSc, was recently appointed chair of Concordia's newly formed Advisory Council on Women and Leadership. Christine is president and CEO of Lengvari Financial in Montreal. She was also recently appointed to the Government Relations Committee, in addition to her role with the Tax Policy

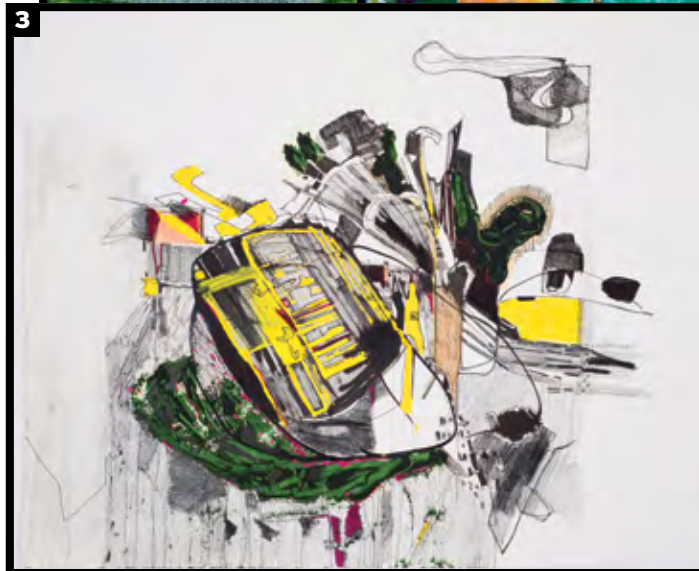
Group, for the Conference for Advanced Life Underwriting.

**74 Nabeel "Bill" Saba**, BA (econ. & poli. sci.), is founder and designer of Montreal-based OGGI Design. Bill recently won a Best of 2015 Products award from *Design Journal* ([designjournalmag.com](http://designjournalmag.com)) for one of his designs. All

OGGI Design products are manufactured locally.

**75 Annie Macdonald**, BFA, MFA 93, has started a new venture, He Said-She Said, in Montreal. "After graduating from Concordia, making short movies screened internationally, writing screenplays and teaching cinema for 20-odd years, I have started a bilingual consultancy/coaching company for screenwriters. For more info: [cinemannie@gmail.com](mailto:cinemannie@gmail.com)."

**82 Len Richman**, MA (ed. studies), directed the world premiere of the play *A Perfect Picture* at the 2016 Montreal Saint-Ambroise Fringe Festival in June. Written and performed by Laurent McCuaig-Pitre, *A Perfect Picture* tells the tragic story of South African war photographer Kevin Carter, who won the Pulitzer Prize for an iconic photo of the famine in Sudan in 1994.



**1** **Hélène Béland-Robert**, BFA 78, GrDip (art ed.) 79, recently created a sculpture – to be installed in a new downtown park in Lac-Mégantic, Que. – as well as an accompanying children's book. 1) *Enfant du Lac*

**2** **Rochelle Mayer**, BComm 83, BFA (studio arts) 10, was among the 36 artists/members of l'Association des artistes de LaSalle selected to participate in its Salon du printemps juried art show, from April 21 to May 1, 2016, at Galerie Les Trois C of the Centre culturel et communautaire Henri-Lemieux in LaSalle, Que. 2) *Le menuet*

**3** **Chrissy Cheung**, BFA (design art) 00, will hold an exhibit, "Dessins contemporains," at Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal in Montreal from October 7 to November 13, 2016. 3) *Composition no. 41*

**4** **Patricia Belmar B. (Bahamonde)**, BFA (studio arts) 14, participated in the Women's Art Society of Montreal juried art show from May 28 to 29, 2016 at Concordia's Grey Nuns Building. 4) *Energizing before a Long Journey*



**Robert Valdmanis**, BA (poli. sci.) 89, spoke at the inaugural event for the Royal Oceania Institute, an independent Tongan think tank advancing fact-based research and public policy analysis. Robert is an adjunct professor of Public Affairs Strategy at Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA), and a public affairs strategy consultant based in Montreal. He also sponsors the RVC Inc. Public Affairs Excellence Award, given to the SCPA's top student each year. Robert (left) is pictured with Tonga's first cardinal, His Eminence **Soane Patita Paini Mafi**.



**Daniel Cross**, BFA 91, MFA 98, is professor in Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and an award-winning documentary filmmaker and producer. His documentary *I Am The Blues* ([iamthebluesmovie.com](http://iamthebluesmovie.com)) premiered in Toronto in June and then had a successful run in Montreal and across Canada. The film takes the audience on a musical journey through the Louisiana Bayou, Mississippi Delta and North Mississippi Hill Country with the last of the blues legends, including **Barbara Lynn** (pictured). *I Am The Blues* will soon air on the Documentary Channel.

## 20TH REUNION

**96 Jennifer Goldfinch**, BA (journ.), is now field and alliance marketing manager for the Americas at The Foundry in Vancouver, a computer graphics and visual effects software company based in London, United Kingdom. Jennifer's responsibilities include planning and executing targeted field marketing campaigns and events.

**98 Thi Be Nguyen**, BComm, was honoured in June 2016 by the Média Mosaïque diversity wire service for promoting diversity within Quebec, related to her work for the 40th anniversary of the arrival of Vietnamese Boat people to Canada in 2015. Thi Be also initiated a documentary film project, *A Moonless Night — Boat People: 40 Years Later*, with producer Marie-Hélène Panisset, BA 95, of Les Films de L'Hydre.

**99 Craig Silverman**, BA (journ.), founding editor at *BuzzFeed Canada*, made a media splash in Italy in April after Tweeting about a strange Italian TV show, *Ciao Darwin*. As he wrote on *BuzzFeed*, "I'm a pretty regular dude, but life's been gloriously weird for the past few weeks. I've trended on Twitter in Italy and have been the subject of media headlines there, and some of the country's top TV stars are being asked about me." Read more at [buzzfeed.com/craigsilverman/ciaone](http://buzzfeed.com/craigsilverman/ciaone).

**03 G. Scott MacLeod**, BFA (printmaking), MA (art ed.) 13, recently exhibited his master's thesis work on the Griffintown district of Montreal at the Centre d'histoire de Montréal. "The second phase of the project — to complete the online version of the museum exhibition — is underway. It features my walking tour and guide, which was supported by the Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock

Scholarship from Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies in 2011." [griffintowntour.com](http://griffintowntour.com)

**05 Sudhir Jha**, MEng (civil), is manager of community infrastructure planning for the Government of Northwest Territories in Yellowknife. Sudhir was recently elected president of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists.

**08 Gabriel Bran Lopez**, BA (comm. studies), is president and founder of Montreal-based Youth Fusion, which focuses on experiential learning by implementing innovative pedagogical projects in various fields. Youth Fusion was honoured for its community involvement by the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec at its gala in May 2016.



Graduates of Concordia's Design Art program from 1999 to 2002 are invited to reunite and reminisce in Montreal on October 1, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. For details: [helloagaindesignart@gmail.com](mailto:helloagaindesignart@gmail.com).



The Order of Canada appointees and promotions were announced on June 30, 2016:

**Laurier Lacroix, 1** BA 71, was named a member of the Order of Canada. An expert in pre-1930 French-Canadian art, Laurier was recognized for promoting the creative heritage of Quebec and Canada. A professor at Université du Québec à Montréal, he taught at Concordia from 1976 to 1986.

**Ned Goodman, 2** LLD 97, was appointed to the Order of Canada for his business leadership and philanthropy. Ned is chairman of Toronto-based holding company Dundee Corporation, which he founded in 1984. He established the Ned Goodman Institute of Investment Management at Concordia's John Molson School of Business in 2001.

**Serge Godin, 3** LLD 00, was promoted within the Order of Canada to the status of officer. Serge started his company, *Conseillers en gestion et informatique (CGI)*, in a basement office with \$5,000 in 1976. Today, CGI is the fifth-largest information technology and business services firm in the world.

**John Parisella, 4** BA 67, who served as a member of Concordia's Board of Governors and a special advisor to the university's president, as well as chief of staff for two Quebec Liberal Party leaders, was named an officer of the Ordre National du Québec in June.

**Mohan Munasinghe, 5** MA (econ.) 75, who shared the 2007 Nobel Prize for Peace, received a top world energy award from the Energy Globe Foundation in Vienna in April 2016 for his outstanding commitment and contributions to energy, sustainable development and climate change. Mohan

(right) is pictured with Wolfgang Neumann, executive director of Energy Globe. Mohan is founding chairman of the Munasinghe Institute for Development in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Suzy Lake, 6** MFA 83, won the sixth annual Scotiabank Photography Award, worth \$50,000, one of the largest in Canada for a professional photographer. Suzie will also be honoured with a solo exhibition in 2017 at the Ryerson Image Centre as part of the 21st annual CONTACT Photography Festival in Toronto, plus the publication of a book of her work.

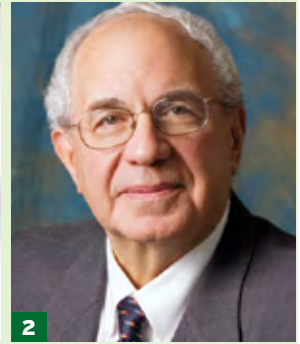
**Gwen Tolbart, 7** BA (journ.) 95, is an Emmy Award-winning weather anchor and reporter for Fox Channel 5 in Washington, D.C. In July she received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, signed by American President Barack Obama, for community service. Gwen has volunteered more than 4,000 hours for Our House, which provides a home, job training and counselling to at-risk young men in two Maryland communities near Washington.

**Caroline Caron, 8** PhD (comm. studies) 09, won the Prix du Canada en sciences sociales for her book *Vues, mais non entendues. Les adolescentes québécoises et l'hypersexualisation* (University of Laval Press). The book counters myths about the alleged hypersexualization of teenage girls.

**Jean Chrétien, 9** LLD 10, who served as Canada's 20th prime minister from 1993 to 2003, received an honorary doctorate from Université Laval in Quebec City in June. He earned his law degree from Laval in 1958.



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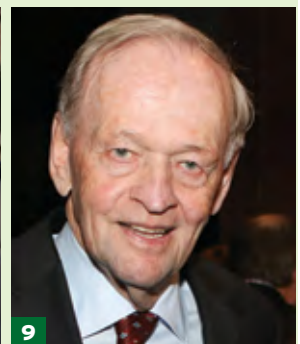
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**Ingrid Pertiz**, BA (journ. & urban studies) 82, is a Montreal-based correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*. Ingrid was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to cover the 2016 Summer Olympics in August. One of her dispatches was about **Ovini Uera**, who was representing the tiny island nation of Nauru. "It was great to meet Ovini Uera, an athlete from the world's smallest country, at the Rio Olympics. His underdog story is inspiring."



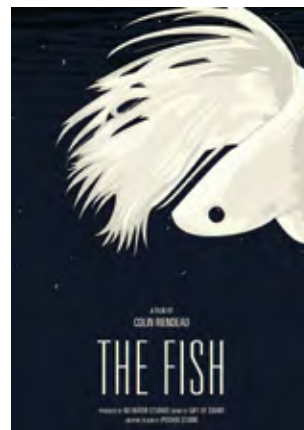
**Christopher Dieni**, BSc (biochem.) 04, an instructor at Carleton University's Institute of Biochemistry, received a 2016 Capital Educators' Award at the EduGala 2016 at Algonquin College in Ottawa on May 19. Christopher (left) was recognized for his passion for teaching and dedication to student success.



After an unprecedented sold-out run in Vancouver, *Empire of the Son*, a play written by and starring **Tetsuro Shigematsu**, BFA (interrelated arts) 94, is headed east. The play, inspired by a series of audio interviews and called "powerful" by the *Vancouver Sun*, will be mounted at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa from November 22 to December 3, 2016; the Centaur Theatre in Montreal from January 10 to 14, 2017; and the Factory Theatre in Toronto from January 18 to 29, 2017. Tetsuro is former host of CBC Radio One's *The Roundup*.



**Jorge Thielen Armand**, BA (comm. studies) 12, is a Venezuelan director based in Toronto and Caracas. His debut feature film, *La Soledad*, was supported by the Biennale College program and screened at the 2016 Venice Film Festival in September. Set in a beautiful albeit derelict mansion and starring its real inhabitants, *La Soledad* depicts Venezuela's socioeconomic crisis through the protagonist's struggle to save his family from homelessness.



*The Fish*, a short film directed by **Colin Riendeau**, BA (comm. studies) 13, made its Canadian premiere at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre in July, part of the 2016 Fantasia International Film Festival. *The Fish* first competed at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival's Short Film Corner — also known as Cannes Court Métrage.



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Celebrate **HOMEcoming 2016**,  
September 22-25

For more information, visit  
[concordia.ca/homecoming](http://concordia.ca/homecoming).

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION





**P. André Gervais,** BA 54, passed away in Montreal on August 14, 2016. He was 83. André was a member of Concordia's Board of Governors from 1984 to 1996 and was its chair from 1987 to 1992. He was named governor

emeritus in 1996. A graduate of Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, André was a partner with the law firm Borden Ladner Gervais in Montreal. The Concordia University Alumni Association honoured him with its Alumni Recognition Award of Merit, now the Humberto Santos Award of Merit, in 1995.



**Florence Yaffe,** BA 61, died on June 25, 2016, in Toronto. She was 79. Florence was a dedicated volunteer with the university's alumni activities, particularly

its Toronto Chapter, for which she served as a board member from 1976 to 2002. In 1992, she received the Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award from the Concordia University Alumni Association for demonstrating outstanding service to the alumni association and university.



**Renata Witelson Hornstein,** LLD 14, passed away in Montreal on July 22, 2016. She was 88. Renata and her late husband Michal Hornstein, LLD

14, devoted their lives to many philanthropic causes, generously supporting the arts, health and education. The Hornsteins established the Renata Hornstein Graduate Fellowship in Art History at Concordia in 1998 and pledged \$1 million to the university to establish the Renata Hornstein Doctoral Scholarships in 2014.



**George Russell,** MA (art ed.) 70, died on May 8, 2016, in Laval, Que. He was 83. George was one of Quebec's most venerated abstract artists.

The retired art teacher from Chomedey Polyvalent High School in Laval, Que., donated his life's work — involving hundreds of paintings — to raise funds for the Arthritis Society. The Arthritis Society honoured him by naming its annual Juvenile Arthritis Family Day as the George Russell Family Day.

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HELP A  
STUDENT**

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[concordia.ca/bookfair](http://concordia.ca/bookfair)

Invite your friends, family, colleagues and students to shop at the **20th Annual Concordia Used Book Fair.**

**PRE-SALE  
SUNDAY, OCT. 2**  
**2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
(\$5 entrance fee — 100 per cent goes directly to student support.)

**MONDAY, OCT. 3**  
**10 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

**TUESDAY, OCT. 4**  
**10 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

All proceeds go towards scholarships and Concordia's Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre's Student Emergency and Food Fund.

Atrium, Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex  
1515 Ste. Catherine St. W.,  
Montreal

**University of the Streets Café, fall 2016: City Nights**

Concordia's University of the Streets Café organizes bilingual, public conversations in cafés and community spaces across Montreal.

Under the theme of City Nights, its fall 2016 conversations will look at nighttime in cities and its impact on culture, politics and social engagement. This year introduces the mini UrbanBodies series, held in collaboration with the Art Hives Network.

For more information and dates, visit [concordia.ca/univcafe](http://concordia.ca/univcafe).



**Lucien G. Rolland**, BA 36, April 19, 2016, Saint-Jérôme, Que. He was 99.

**Ernest J. (Ernie) Newton**, attendee 40, June 17, 2016, Montreal. He was 97.

**Leo R. Lafleche**, BA 45, May 11, 2016, Saint-Sauveur, Que. He was 90.

**Edward G. O'Brien**, BA 48, February 12, 2016, Kelowna, B.C. He was 88.

**Kenneth E. Delamater**, BSc 50, April 27, 2016, Montreal. He was 94.

**John G. Gibson**, BComm 50, March 14, 2016, Carleton Place, Ont. He was 88.

**Andrew Kollar**, BComm 50, May 20, 2016, Montreal. He was 90.

**John F. (Jack) McMullan**, BA 53, March 21, 2016, Kirkland, Que. He was 83.

**Trevor J. Phillips**, BA 53, March 31, 2016, South Surrey, B.C. He was 88.

**Neal Potter**, BA 53, March 17, 2016, Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Que. He was 84.

**Jas. Pierre Laberge**, BComm 55, April 1, 2016, Brewster, Mass. He was 84.

**Paul P. Carrière**, BA 57, June 6, 2016, Montreal. He was 80.

**Alexander M. Hryshko**, BComm 57, February 19, 2016, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. He was 85.

**Michael John Doyle**, attendee 58, BA 76, May 9, 2016, Newmarket, Ont. He was 75.

**Abraham Tarasofsky**, BComm 58, April 10, 2016, Ottawa. He was 86.

**Thomas C. Dawson**, BComm 59, March 22, 2016, Toronto. He was 79.

**Peter J. Ludgate**, BSc 60, May 6, 2016, Westmount, Que. He was 93.

**Helen Malmo**, BA 60, July 12, 2016, Montreal. She was 89.

**Nicholas J. Petrella**, BA 61, March 7, 2016, Montreal. He was 75.

**Henry J. Dauderis**, BComm 62, March 1, 2016, Montreal. He was 75.

**Gilbert H. Plaw**, BA 64, MA 79, April 5, 2016, Montreal. He was 76.

**Marvyn Novick**, BA 64, June 21, 2016, Toronto. He was 75.

**Avrum I. (Avie) Silver**, BComm 64, BA 65, May 2, 2016, Mount Pleasant, Sask. He was 74.

**Jill E. Britton**, BSc 65, MTM 69, February 29, 2016, Victoria. She was 71.

**Thomas E. Raynor**, BA 66, April 20, 2016, Montreal. He was 76.

**Hedwige P. Borbely**, BA 67, March 26, 2016, Montreal. She was 94.

**Donald E. Lynes**, BComm 67, February 21, 2016, Kitchener, Ont.

**Ronald J. Constantin**, BSc 68, May 23, 2016, Laval, Que. He was 68.

**Henrik Weissenberger**, BA 68, June 1, 2016, Calgary. He was 96.

**David Wong**, BComm 68, March 18, 2016, Brossard, Que. He was 80.

**Neil M. Cassidy**, BA 69, April 18, 2016, Bedford, N.S. He was 81.

**Albert Edward (Ted) Moore**, BA 70, May 12, 2016, Montreal. He was 68.

**Sharon H. Nelson**, BA 70, MA 80, June 12, 2016, Outremont, Que. She was 68.

**Dawn M. Lang**, BA 71, April 21, 2016, Ormstown, Que. She was 75.

**John Marginson**, attendee 71, June 4, 2016, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. He was 64.

**Roderick Cairns Ramsay**, BA 71, March 2, 2016, Montreal. He was 67.

**Paul D. (Dave) Gareau**, BA 72, February 15, 2016, Toronto. He was 64.

**Jack Manuel Panoyan**, BSc 72, May 22, 2016, Sarasota, Fla. He was 74.

**Richard J. (Dick) Boston**, BA 73, March 2016, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 70.

**Gerald Chirnomas**, BSc 73, April 20, 2016, Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 68.

**Ronald (Ronny) Reinblatt**, BComm 73, May 11, 2016, Montreal.

**John Donald (Jack) Bauer**, BA 74, Cert 86, April 8, 2016, Pincourt, Que. He was 69.

**Vladdy Filipovich**, BSc 74, May 13, 2016, Montreal. He was 82.

**Gerald Robillard**, BA 74, March 19, 2016, Morin-Heights, Que. He was 63.

**Christopher Mark (Chris) Cleaver**, BA 75, May 27, 2016, London, Ont. He was 64.

**Martin R. Colliver**, BSc 75, April 7, 2016, Barrie, Ont. He was 76.

**Erica Drummond-Young**, BA 75, March 22, 2016, Montreal. She was 69.

**Wido J. Heck**, MBA 78, BFA 87, March 30, 2016, Ottawa. He was 88.

**Marvin Meyers**, BComm 78, April 13, 2015, Montreal. He was 61.

**Louise Cale**, BA 80, May 7, 2016, Montreal. She was 93.

**Emidio P. Campanella**, BA 80, April 13, 2016, Hudson, Que. He was 59.

**Linda M. Dickson**, BComm 80, March 9, 2016, Vancouver. She was 56.

**Boshra B. (Ben) Hanna**, BA 80, April 4, 2016, Montreal. He was 88.

**Gilles Jec Sicard**, BComm 81, April 16, 2016, Ottawa. He was 85.

**Joan F. Monette**, Cert 82, BA 89, June 13, 2016, Ottawa. She was 92.

**Jeannette Pierre**, BA 82, April 22, 2016, LaSalle, Que. She was 77.

**Cindy M. Condillac**, BComm 83, May 18, 2016, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. She was 59.

# Arranged wit and red tattoos and pagodas

HOWARD BOKSER

**Howard Richler**, BA (poli. sci.) 69, self-professed logophile (lover of words), takes readers on a delightful romp through some of history's wittiest sayings in **Wordplay: Arranged and Deranged Wit** (Ronsdale Press, \$19.95). Richler shows how wit brings not only laughs but also new insight, as when Mercutio

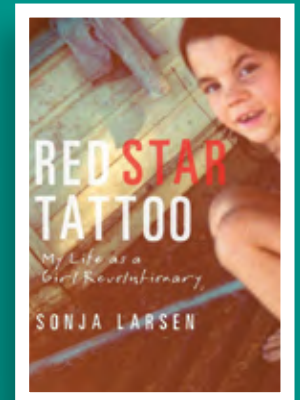
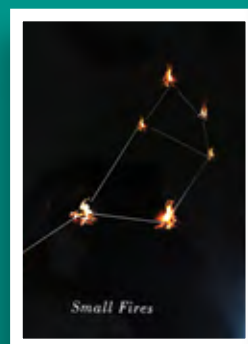
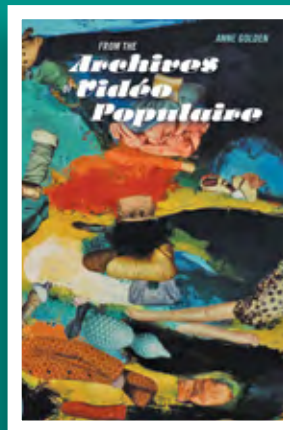
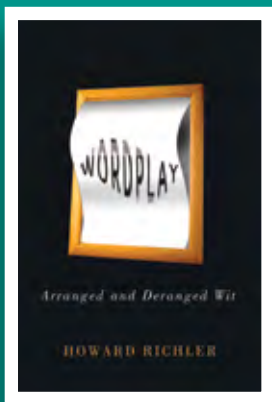
on the lives and relationships of people in Montreal's Chinese community. The title piece of **The Red Pagoda and Other Stories** (e-book, \$2.99) was nominated for an Arthur Ellis award for Best Mystery Short Story of the Year. Lee's previous books, *Guitar Hero* (2013) and *The Fragrant Garden* (2005), were named a Best Book

remember life events. Golden is an independent curator and writer, and artistic director of Groupe Intervention Vidéo in Montreal. She teaches in the Media Arts Department at John Abbott College in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.

**Kelly Norah Drukker**, BA (Eng. & cr. writing) 99, MA

Drukker's work has appeared in journals in Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland. She lives in Montreal.

From hardscrabble Milwaukee, Wis., dreamy Hawaii and turbulent Montreal to free-spirited California. **Sonja Larsen**, BA (comm. studies) 08,



in Romeo and Juliet exits after being stabbed by a sword: "Ask for me tomorrow and you will find me a grave man." Readers can enjoy other humorous examples such as H.L. Mencken's quip, "Television is like a steak: a medium rarely well done." The volume includes whimsical illustrations and language games. Richler's most recent book was *How Happy Became Homosexual and other Mysterious Semantic Shifts* (2013).

In her new collection of previously published short stories, **Day's Lee**, BA (journ. & Eng.) 78, focuses

for Kids and Teens by the Canadian Children's Book Centre. **dayslee.ca**

**Anne Golden**, BFA (film studies) 84, memorably adds to the "documentary fiction" genre with her new novel, **From the Archives of Vidéo Populaire** (Pedlar, \$22). This "oral history" presents recollections by four founders and dozens of artists who passed through the doors of a Montreal-based video production centre — often the site of political and creative tension. Problem is, the accounts don't always mesh — they do, however, provide insight into how people

(Eng.) 13, traces a series of journeys, real and imagined, in **Small Fires** (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$16.95). The collection opens with a section of poems set on Inis Mór, a remote, Irish-speaking island off the west coast of County Galway. There, the poet-as-speaker discovers how the remnants of the island's early Christian monastic culture brush up against 21st-century island life. In detailed and musical language, *Small Fires*'s poems highlight aspects of landscape and culture in regions haunted by marginal and silenced histories.

brings readers along for the ride in her unforgettable memoir, **Red Star Tattoo** (Random House Canada, \$32). As a teen, Larsen moves to Brooklyn, N.Y., embedding herself with the secretive Communist Party USA Provisional Wing. Yet even as she and her comrades count down the days until the dawn of their new American revolution, her doubts about the cause become increasingly difficult to ignore. *Red Star Tattoo* explores the seductions and dangers of extremism, and asks what it takes to survive a scarred childhood. Larsen lives in Vancouver. **sonjabegonia.net ■**



# Postcard from Antarctica

ELENA RAZNOVAN, MBA 15

My father and I embarked on a 14-day trip to the Antarctic with an open mind, open heart and a mild fear of the digital detox ahead.

Unlike other expeditions, this adventure in March 2016 would take us below the Antarctic Circle. We would be disconnected for two weeks, so I came equipped with USBs chock-full of entertainment and photos of loved ones, to at least get me through the Drake Passage crossing. Little did I know, they would remain untouched aboard the *Ocean Endeavour*.

During our trip, I had the chance to reflect on my incredible four-year journey as a part-time MBA student at Concordia's John Molson School of Business and on my professional life. Here are some of my take-aways (not found on a PowerPoint anywhere).

## RESEARCH AND MONEY

It was clear to me early on that researchers come here with the curiosity and drive to explore and discover the unknown. Antarctica is the continent we know least about, because it was the last to be reached. To this day, no one lives there.

The researchers who do make it down to conduct studies on behalf of their nations have similar stories of camaraderie, friendship and survival. Antarctica is the definition of a conflict-free international landscape with no agenda.

Regardless of nationality or purpose, if you have three elephant seals lounging in your Zodiac boat yet the only guy



ELENA RAZNOVAN



ELENA RAZNOVAN

AMONG OTHER WONDERS ON HER VOYAGE TO ANTARCTICA, ELENA RAZNOVAN ENCOUNTERED THE LOVELY SIGHT – BUT UNPLEASANT SMELL – OF PENGUINS.

available to help you is a plumber by trade, no amount of money will fix this conundrum for you. Life there is more about survival than money, and

that is what makes Antarctica, and the experience, invaluable.

## QUALITY VS. QUANTITY

Every meal was an opportunity to meet people, learn their stories and share experiences. Sitting down at a table and having conversations about international matters, face to face, with intelligent strangers, was a real treat. No networking event ever prepared me for what to say to the retired general manager of General Motors Australia. This is probably why I asked him about the Mustang, before I snapped out of it and discussed the Camaro. We laughed, and laughed.

## A NOTE ON MOMENTS

In experiential marketing, taught by the one and only Jordan LeBel, we learned how to connect customers with a brand by offering an unforgettable experience. You create moments to engage a person's five senses, because this is how memories are made. People will remember what they touched, smelled, saw — you get the idea.

No one on the trip will ever forget the smell of penguin poo. That stuff was everywhere! Even the Jamaican research team that came down to study it found it pretty phenomenal. The wind at my back, the water drenching us on the Zodiac, the big beautiful snowflakes that landed on my nose, the warmth of the sun, the sound of cracking ice and calving glaciers — those memories frame the essence of my experience.

I was tethered to my camera. I was convinced that the pictures will be what will remind me of the trip. But I always found time to take a look around. Take it all in. Laugh at the seals, the penguins, the whales — and I missed some pretty epic shots. And that's what I continue to reflect on every day.

What I took away were the jokes, the conversations, the friendships and the memories. I always said that I had a photographic memory, but experiences trump that. ■

*Elena Raznovan, MBA 15, received the Stanley G. French Medal, awarded to a graduating MBA student with high academic standing, for outstanding contributions to student life. She is now a brand consultant at Manulife in Montreal. Raznovan also improves student experience by coaching case competition teams.*

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