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BREAKING DOWN WALLS TO KNOWLEDGE

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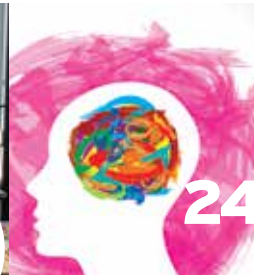
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setting an example



Encouraging the next generation of journalists

“ I'll never forget the morning of November 24, 1974. It was a Sunday. I was looking forward to watching the Grey Cup championship football game between Montreal and Edmonton later that day with friends when the phone rang. It was a fellow student journalist from our college newspaper with some devastating news. As he spoke, my knees began to buckle.

The previous night, six people had been killed in a car accident — two of them were our good friends and colleagues. Michael O'Hearn and Martin O'Connor were editor-in-chief and news editor, respectively, of the *Loyola News* — a student-run paper based at Concordia. Michael and Martin were in their early 20s and soon to embark on what would have certainly been outstanding careers in journalism.

Just a few months earlier, Martin had recruited me to the *Loyola News*. I knew nothing about journalism and was intimidated by the prospect of writing weekly news stories. When I hit a dead end on my very first assignment, I returned to the newsroom dejected. Martin coached me to look beyond the surface and find the story where I hadn't seen one. And thus my first newspaper story was published — and my 45-year career in communications was launched by Michael and Martin.

Thirty years later, in November 2004, about 20 former *Loyola News* staff members gathered in Montreal to mark the anniversary of Michael and Martin's tragic passing. It was a cathartic experience, with many tears and hugs.

Then in 2014 we met again and decided to create a living legacy. To mark the 40th anniversary of our colleagues' passing, we established a bursary in their honour to financially assist, each year, one Concordia student who was either registered in the journalism program or a practising journalist on campus. Three student journalists have received the award, with a fourth award due early in 2019.

Today, with the safety of journalists at risk in various parts of the world and quality journalism under attack at home, there has never been a better time to support student journalism. That's why I co-founded the Michael O'Hearn and Martin O'Connor Student Journalist Bursary at Concordia — and why I am offering to match all donations to the bursary until April 1, 2019, up to a combined maximum of \$2,000."

David Moorcroft, BA 77, is president of Strategy2Communications Inc., a retired senior vice-president of Corporate Communications for the Royal Bank of Canada, and a former editor of the Loyola News (1975-1976).

Join David in encouraging young journalists. Give to the Michael O'Hearn and Martin O'Connor Student Journalist Bursary at Concordia. Visit concordia.ca/FundOne.

Find out how you can join David Moorcroft in contributing to Concordia.

Info: concordia.ca/giving | 514-848-2424, ext. 4856 | 1-888-777-3330, ext. 4856 | giving@concordia.ca #CUpride

ROSSY FOUNDATION FUNDS MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE AT CONCORDIA

Over the past five years, the demand from Canadian post-secondary students for better mental health assistance has shot up by 35 per cent, according to a survey of 15 universities and colleges. In response, institutions such as Concordia are re-examining how they support their students' mental well-being. Now, thanks to a major donation from the Rossy Foundation, members of the university community at both the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses will have access to more support where and when they need it.

The Embedded Wellness Advisor Program innovates on the drop-in centre concept by offering a wide range of providers and mental health allies across the two locations. It will address some of the challenges uncovered by



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

A MAJOR DONATION FROM THE ROSSY FOUNDATION WILL ESTABLISH THE EMBEDDED WELLNESS ADVISOR PROGRAM ON CONCORDIA'S TWO CAMPUSES.

a comprehensive review of student health and well-being services at Concordia. The Embedded Wellness Advisor Program builds on successful pilot projects within Concordia's student residences as well as the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre. These projects demonstrated that approachability makes a crucial difference to those who need care.

"It's not uncommon for students to delay turning to health and counselling services until their distress has become particularly acute," says Gaya Arasaratnam, director of Concordia's Campus Wellness and Support Services. "Thanks to this support from the Rossy Foundation, we hope to reach students in need earlier to provide the right care at the right time and at the right place."

The Rossy Foundation, established in 2004, has emerged as a leader in funding initiatives in cancer care, mental health, civic engagement, education and the arts. The organization has publicly called on Canada's universities and others in the philanthropic sector to partner to improve mental health services for students.

"We are pleased to support Concordia's ongoing efforts to develop and innovate programming that thoughtfully responds to students' mental health needs," says Stephanie Rossy, vice-chair of the Rossy Foundation. "We believe the Embedded Wellness Advisor Program reflects an approach that goes the extra mile in providing more preventive and patient-centred services." ■

—Luke Quin, BA 07

UNIVERSITÉ **Concordia** UNIVERSITY

Saturday, February 16, 2019
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS
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📍 Métro Guy-Concordia

LOYOLA CAMPUS
7141 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal
📍 Métro Vendôme – 105 Bus

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concordia.ca/openhouse

Learn more about programs, admissions, research, facilities and student life.

DOGGONE FOUNDATION HELPS FINE ARTS STUDENTS CONNECT TO THEIR COMMUNITY

The late Elspeth McConnell was a strong believer in community involvement. “Her feeling was that you should look first at what can be done in your own backyard. She wanted Montreal to be a leader,” says Paul Marchand, president of the Doggone Foundation, which McConnell established in 2012.

The next generation of Concordia fine arts students will get a chance to do just that thanks to a \$200,000 gift from the Doggone Foundation to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. The Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Award will give 18 Faculty of Fine Arts students across all nine departments \$5,000 a year to undertake internships in Montreal-based non-profits. Internships can take place at museums, cultural



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DOGGONE FOUNDATION SECRETARY AND CONCORDIA ALUMNA SUSAN AVON SPOKE AT THE DOGGONE FOUNDATION GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT AT CONCORDIA ON OCTOBER 8, 2018.

festivals, exhibition spaces, community theatres, performing arts groups, artist-run centres, co-ops, libraries, schools, art therapy sites or other non-profit arts organizations and projects.

“We are proud to partner with the Doggone

Foundation,” says Rebecca Duclos, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. “We share a vision that students should be active in our community — making things happen that matter — and we are thankful the foundation will fund student internships that are crucial to allowing our scholars to work with non-profit organizations across Montreal.”

Students who apply will be encouraged to come up with an internship project and approach a non-profit art

organization of their choice. The goal of these awards is to allow students to gain on-the-job experience.

“Awards like these are vital to our future careers,” says Valérie Saulnier, a master’s in music therapy student and one of the award’s first recipients. “The foundation’s encouragement makes me want to work hard so I can give back and make a better society.”

The Doggone Foundation recently made landmark gifts to the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia and the McGill University Health Centre. By giving to Concordia, the Doggone Foundation is widening its scope in Montreal.

“We started the discussion with the university and then crafted the program together,” says Susan Avon, BFA 88, MA 94, secretary of the Doggone Foundation. “We’ve heard it’s already wildly successful and we’re looking forward to what’s next.” ■

— Marta Samuel, *GrDip 10*



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

VALÉRIE SAULNIER, A MASTER’S IN MUSIC THERAPY STUDENT, IS AMONG THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE ELSPETH MCCONNELL FINE ARTS AWARDS.

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Alumnus Dominic D'Alessandro gives over \$1 million toward fellowships to support young researchers

“Why don’t you skate, Dad? Why don’t you swim?” my children would ask me when they were young,” says Dominic D’Alessandro, BSc 67, LLD 98. “When I was a little boy, we didn’t have much. Life was tough, but everybody we knew was in the same situation.”

Life changed radically for D’Alessandro after he graduated from Loyola College, one of Concordia’s founding institutions. He has given back to his alma mater a total of more than \$1 million toward the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

FROM A DIFFICULT START, PROPELLED TO SUCCESS

Growing up in Montreal’s Little Burgundy neighbourhood in the 1950s wasn’t easy. His father died when he was seven, four years after the family immigrated to Canada from Italy. His 14-year-old brother went to work delivering bread to support the family. His mother raised four children alone.

D’Alessandro beat the odds and went on to become one of Canada’s most prominent business leaders.

He built an impressive business career, working internationally, then returning home to join the Royal Bank of Canada as assistant controller. Five years later, at age 37, he became the bank’s chief financial officer and

its youngest-ever executive vice-president. He later became president at Laurentian Bank, where he was briefly Canada’s highest-paid banker. He went on to lead Manulife Financial and is credited with transforming it into Canada’s largest public life insurance company.

D’Alessandro remembers sitting in his Royal Bank office on the 41st floor of Montreal’s Place Ville Marie — with its private dining room — looking down over the city.

“I’m very proud of who I am and where I come from. I’ve been fortunate — I’m the son of an immigrant labourer and I ended up on a first-name basis with prime ministers and presidents.”

“I could see Notre-Dame and Des Seigneurs streets, where I grew up. As a child, I would accompany my mother to the bank. She couldn’t speak English and was a little awed by the teller behind the grill. I’d come a long way since then — I’m glad my mother lived long enough to see my success. She was very proud.”

The recipient of numerous awards, he was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 2003 and Canada’s Outstanding CEO of the Year in 2002.



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, DOMINIC D’ALESSANDRO ROSE TO THE TOP OF THE CANADIAN BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY. HE RETIRED AS CEO OF MANULIFE FINANCIAL IN 2009.

D’Alessandro achieved everything he wanted in his professional life, yet he never lost sight of his roots.

FORMATIVE YEARS AT LOYOLA COLLEGE

The young D’Alessandro was a bright student with a natural ability in school. And he loved to read. He skipped two grades and at age 14, enrolled at Loyola College, studying math and physics.

“It was a memorable time, even though it was difficult at home,” D’Alessandro says.

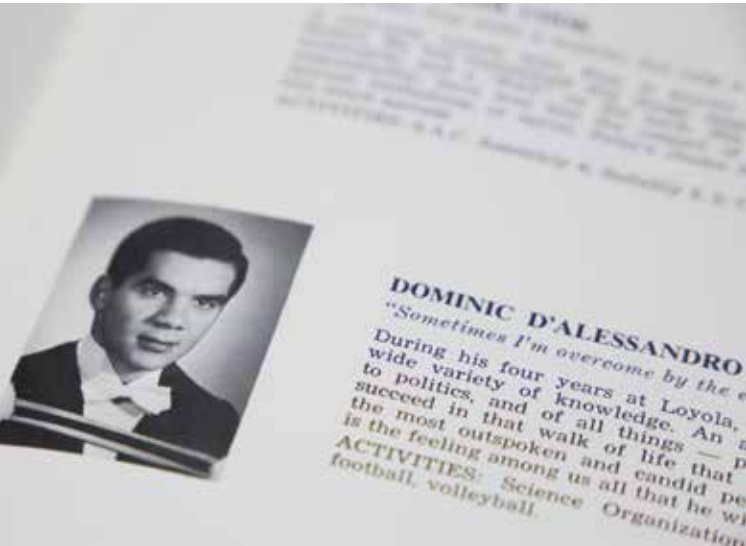
He dropped out of school for a year at age 17, until one of his professors, Fr. Aloysius McPhee, contacted him. “Father McPhee made an impression on me that he cared, and so I took his advice to return to my studies. Who knows what I’d be doing now if it weren’t for him.”

D’Alessandro is grateful to his alma mater for setting the course for his success. His degree opened doors. It was also during his Loyola years that he met his wife of 51 years, Pearl.

GIVING BACK

Through his giving to Concordia, he created the Dominic D’Alessandro Fellowship Fund to support master’s and doctoral students in research-oriented programs.

“I want to make it easier for deserving students who



TOP LEFT: DOMINIC D'ALESSANDRO'S 1967 LOYOLA COLLEGE YEARBOOK PHOTO. LEFT: DOMINIC D'ALESSANDRO AND HIS WIFE, PEARL, AT HIS CONCORDIA HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY IN 1998.

have an appetite to learn. I believe in education — it makes better citizens and better human beings of us all by helping us to understand the world around us. Frankly, I think education is the best investment,” says D’Alessandro.

“It’s wonderful to see the presence and the impact Concordia is having on the city. I think universities are tremendous assets for society and for a community.”

D’Alessandro’s commitment to Concordia extends beyond his philanthropy. He has served on the university’s Board of Governors and now volunteers as honorary vice-chair for the Campaign for Concordia. Next-Gen. Now.

“As a proud Concordia graduate and long-time volunteer, Dominic D’Alessandro embodies the Jesuit and Loyola College ethos to be a ‘man for others,’ ” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “Dominic was an astute businessman who worked hard to succeed. He is generously giving of his time and resources to support our next generation of students.”

“We are grateful to Dominic for his gifts and his leadership on our campaign cabinet and in community organizations,” says Paul Chesser, Concordia’s vice-president of advancement. “It is thanks to such dedicated volunteers that we are making sustained progress toward our \$250-million campaign goal — and advancing our position as Canada’s next-generation university.”

In recognition of D’Alessandro’s achievements, he received an honorary doctorate from Concordia in 1998 and the Loyola Medal in 2004.

“I’m very proud of who I am and where I come from. I’ve been fortunate — I’m the son of an immigrant labourer and I ended up on a first-name basis with prime ministers and presidents.”

‘IF YOU CAN HELP SOMEBODY, WHY WOULDN’T YOU?’

“I’m especially proud that I haven’t lost my values. I remember what it’s like to be disadvantaged,” he says. “I had a hard time as a kid and today I believe that if

you can help somebody, why wouldn’t you?”

D’Alessandro directs his philanthropic support toward numerous causes related to education and health. Over the years, he has served in volunteer roles for a variety of charities including the United Way and Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital.

Retired since 2009, he sits on several corporate boards and enjoys travelling, playing

golf and spending time with his family. Reading remains a great passion.

Below D’Alessandro’s yearbook photo are these words: “There is the feeling among us all that he will make it in life in a very big way.” Prophetic words indeed. ■

— Louise Morgan, *GrDip 99,*
with files from
Lee-Ann Mudaly, *BA 14*

Watch Dominic D’Alessandro discuss his life at bit.ly/ddalessandro.

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CONCORDIA CELEBRATES GINA CODY

In front of a crowd of more than 400 people at the university's D.B. Clarke Theatre on September 24, 2018, **Gina Parvaneh Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, announced her historic \$15-million gift to Concordia and the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. In recognition of her tremendous professional accomplishments and generosity, the faculty was renamed the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. It became the first engineering faculty in Canada named after a woman.

"My hope is that a few years from now there will be so many women like me that I will be forgotten," said Cody in her gift announcement speech. "My gift is for a better society by supporting the next generation of engineers and computer scientists who will develop the technologies of tomorrow." **1**

Gina Cody and her husband **Thomas Cody**, MBA 83 — who met at Concordia — joined her two daughters, **Roya** and **Tina Cody** and niece **Christine Anahita Bigtashi** (far right), Concordia engineering graduate student, under the faculty's newly minted sign. **2**

Montreal Mayor **Valérie Plante** invited **Gina Cody** to sign Montreal's official guest book — the *Livre d'or* — at City Hall's Salon Maisonneuve on October 26. It was a meeting of two women pioneers: Plante is the first woman to become mayor of Montreal and Cody was the first woman to complete her PhD in building engineering at Concordia and the first woman to have an engineering faculty named after her in Canada. **3**

Concordia's fall convocation saw the first cohort of alumni graduate from the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. **Gina Cody** (centre), poses with **Amir Asif**, dean of the Gina Cody School, Concordia President **Alan Shepard**, **Meredith Monk**, LLD 18, **Nathalie Pilon**, LLD 18, president of ABB Canada, Concordia Chancellor **Jonathan Wener**, BComm 71, and **Rebecca Duclos**, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. **4**

Gina Cody poses with **Jacques Chagnon**, BA 75, former member of the Quebec National Assembly, and **Andrew Molson**, Campaign for Concordia co-chair, at the September 24 gift announcement. **5**

The 29th annual Concordia Shuffle, held September 28, raised \$108,000 to support student bursaries and scholarships.

This year's success was in part thanks to the Gina Cody team, who gathered sporting T-shirts with the now iconic artwork. **6**

Students from the newly renamed Gina Cody School gathered to meet with Gina Cody on September 25. Pictured are students from **HackConcordia** with **Gina Cody** and **Amir Asif** (far left). **7**

Fay Arjomandi, BEng 98, joined **Gina Cody** at the cocktail reception on September 24. Arjomandi served as master of ceremonies for the gift announcement and dinner celebration later that evening. Both women are Iranian emigrants and successful engineers and business leaders. Arjomandi is the executive chairwoman of H2 Wellness and founder and chief product officer at mimik. **8**

—Joseph Leger, BA15

Watch Gina Cody's gift announcement at concordia.ca/campaign.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA





CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



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CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS DINNER

The elegant Le Salon 1861 in Montreal was the backdrop for the fourth annual Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends Dinner, held October 25, 2018.

Concordia Chancellor **Jonathan Wener**, ¹ BComm 71, Board of Governors Chair **Norman Hébert Jr.**, ² BComm 77, and Concordia President **Alan Shepard** ³ welcomed the university's major donors and thanked them for their transformative support. Wener is pictured with **Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, CTV Montreal chief news anchor, and Shepard is pictured with **Stephen Jarislowsky**, LLD 03, founder director and chairman of Jarislowsky, Fraser Limited.

The event marked the one-year mark of the Campaign for Concordia. Next-Gen. Now, which is more than halfway to its \$250-million goal.

Amanda Kline, BA 11, reporter at CTV News Montreal, and **Michel Boyer**, BA 12, national correspondent for CTV News, served as masters of ceremonies.

⁴ Co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia **Lino Saputo Jr.**, BA 89, pictured with his wife, **Amelia Saputo**, BA 90, also spoke to the audience. ⁵

Guests enjoyed presentations on the innovative research being conducted by Shauna Janssen, BFA 94, MA 09, PhD 14, director of the Institute for Urban Futures, and **Cheryl Gladu**, ⁶ PhD candidate in Concordia's Individualized Program. Undergraduate student **David Marino**, a finalist on the TVA talent show *La Voix 5*, provided jazzy musical entertainment. ⁷

Other guests included **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, and **Tom Cody**; ⁸ **Shushu Feng**, MSc 16, and **Chaim Kuhnreich**, BA 14; ⁹ and **Miriam Roland**, LLD 18, and **J. Sebastian van Berkomp**, BComm 69, LLD 17. ¹⁰



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Meet Paul Chesser: Concordia's new vice- president of advancement

Former Stinger captain to lead
Advancement and External Relations team

LESLIE SCHACHTER

Concordia's new vice-president of advancement, Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, has an impressive track record both on the field and off. A former Stingers football team captain inducted into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame in 2016, Chesser has scored major gains for fundraising campaigns.

Prior to returning to Concordia, he held leadership positions in development at Carleton University and Queen's University. He most recently served as assistant vice-principal of development at McGill University. Chesser, who returned to his alma mater on December 1, 2018, shares insights into his years of fundraising and the joy of coming full circle.

"I like to say football is a contact sport – and so is advancement work. We have to be in contact with people and build those relationships so that we can earn the right to make those requests for donations for our causes."

Can you tell us about your background, including your education at Concordia?

Paul Chesser: "My father was in the military so as a kid we moved around a lot, but I came to Montreal from North Bay, Ont., in 1989 to study at Concordia. I majored in economics and played varsity football with the Stingers. I completed my studies in the fall of 1993 – the same year I was named all-Canadian defensive end and received the J. P. Metras Trophy, which goes to the top lineman in Canadian university football.

I started to work right away, first in athletics at Concordia, running a summer camp for 275 kids, as well as coaching part time. I also started a graduate diploma in sports administration at what is now the John Molson School of Business. By 1998, I was the



PAUL CHESSER BEGAN AS CONCORDIA'S VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT IN DECEMBER 2018.

defensive coordinator for the Stingers football team, the first Concordia sports team ever to reach the Vanier Cup, the national championship game. The following year an opportunity emerged to lead a group of students for the annual Concordia student phone-a-thon, which was my first foray into full-time fundraising."

You were a star Stinger who today leads an advancement and external relations team. You will now advance the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen.

Now, the university's most ambitious fundraising appeal to date. Are there any parallels between sports and advancement?

PC: "They both require good planning and preparation, a disciplined approach, hard work and proper execution. It's not just one person that can get the job done – it takes a village.

The university community as a whole has a role to play in giving students a positive experience and inspiring donors to make significant and meaningful contributions.

Orchestrating a campaign from advancement is essential, yet everybody on our two campuses must help pitch in. It's the same thing in sports, where one person gets credit for the goal or the touchdown, but there are a lot of people involved in the blocking, tackling, planning, execution.

I like to say football is a contact sport – and so is advancement work. We have to be in contact with people and build those relationships so we can earn the right to make those requests for donations for our causes."

You began your career in advancement at Concordia. What drew you to fundraising in the first place?

PC: "I had been in athletics for five years. I had an opportunity to transition from coaching and leading student athletes to coaching student callers. It was really a great learning experience. As an introduction to fundraising, the opportunity provided me with a chance to absorb all the key components." I learned the

importance of relationship building as well as fostering a sense of trust with donors. I found that fundraising was a fantastic profession as it suited my experience, my skills and my interests.”

What does it mean to you to return to your alma mater?

PC: “I’ve worked at other universities and I’ve adapted as a non-grad, but to do this work at my alma mater is really special for me. I understand the history of Concordia, both Loyola and Sir George Williams, and the 1974 merger into Concordia. I’ve ridden the shuttle bus, I’ve walked the halls and I’ve played sports. I think my deep roots will help me make quicker connections and have more credibility with Concordia alumni.”

What is your vision for Advancement and External Relations?

PC: “It all goes back to teamwork. I want folks in each of our four academic faculties, our researchers, administrators and students to look to the advancement and external relations team as a partner to help the whole university thrive. I want the Concordia community to feel it can depend on us to deliver.

Our academic leadership establishes university priorities and projects for which we raise funds. Our job is to foster a donor-centric environment that connects academic priorities with the interests of donors, community partners and friends.”



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PAUL CHESSEY IS A FORMER STINGERS FOOTBALL TEAM CAPTAIN AND A CONCORDIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE.

What is the key to a successful development initiative?

PC: “I believe that real success comes when we can match the priority needs of the university with the philanthropic interests of donors. When we are brokers in that transaction, we get a very happy academic champion who feels fulfilled in the difference they are making in an area they care about. It all starts with a really ambitious and compelling vision that donors want to be associated with.

Concordia leadership has identified some ambitious plans, some inspiring priorities and projects that will require donor support but will also *inspire* donor support.”

What are some of the main challenges you have experienced, or expect, as an advancement leader?

PC: “Concordia is a forward-looking university born from the merger of two great institutions: Loyola College and Sir George Williams University. Each year, we engage and re-engage as many of our 215,000 alumni as possible. Across the philanthropic landscape, there are many great causes to support. Our challenge is to make the case for Concordia and encourage our friends, volunteers and grads to donate to the university. Higher education is looking for solutions to help solve societal problems for which our donors can help.

We need to build higher education as an important philanthropic priority across the country and around the world. It provides an opportunity for the next generation of leaders to further their own pursuits. Higher education is the platform for research that makes our world a better place. Giving to Concordia is really an investment in our collective future.”

What is your impression of the momentum Concordia has developed over the last few years?

PC: “Concordia’s footprint and reputation have transformed greatly, yet I don’t think the university necessarily gets the credit it deserves as a progressive university. The reality is that when people take a closer look, they will see an agile institution that responds to change and delivers a first-class student experience. Concordia has all the same great attributes that I remember fondly as a student, yet it is a 21st-century university. Concordia is on an upward trajectory and I am delighted to return to help advance it for the next generation of students.” ■

—Leslie Schachter, BA 03, *GrDip* (journ.) 13, is a Montreal freelance writer.



Catch up on #CUalumni achievements
Follow @ConcordiaAlumni on Twitter

ALAN SHEPARD TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Concordia President Alan Shepard has accepted the presidency of Western University in London, Ont., and will be stepping down as the university's president and vice-chancellor in June 2019.

Shepard joined Concordia in 2012 after serving as provost of Ryerson University in Toronto. He had previously held leadership roles in Virginia and Texas and at the University of Guelph.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DURING HIS SIX-PLUS-YEAR TENURE, CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD HAS LED THE UNIVERSITY TO A RISE IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS, INCREASED RESEARCH FUNDING AND STEADILY GROWING ENROLMENT.

Concordia enjoyed a period of extraordinary growth with Shepard at the helm and he leaves the university in a very strong position. During his tenure, Concordia has steadily climbed national and international rankings; it is currently rated the top university in Canada under 50 years old by both Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education, and second in North America by QS. It is earning record research funding. And applications and enrolment have grown broadly: Concordia today counts more than 8,500 international students among a total of more than 50,000,

making it one of Canada's largest comprehensive universities.

Starting in 2015, Shepard led the university community through broad consultations that resulted in nine Strategic Directions, the institution's roadmap guiding its development.

From those directions flowed many initiatives that have distinguished Concordia as a next-generation university, including the largest fundraising effort in the institution's history, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

"Alan Shepard is a builder and inspiring leader," said Norman Hébert Jr., BComm '77, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors.

"He rallied the community around the Strategic Directions, strengthening both Concordia's research and teaching in the process. The success of our fundraising campaign demonstrates the sense of momentum and pride Alan has helped build. I can truly say Alan has left Concordia much stronger than he found it, and the board is extremely grateful."

"The Concordia community has been very welcoming to me and my family and I have truly enjoyed my time here," Shepard said. "The openness and dynamism of Concordians is unique — I'll certainly miss that. I'm extremely proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to seeing Concordia continue its strong momentum for years to come. I will always be a huge fan of Concordia." ■

CONCORDIA MBA EARNS TOP MARKS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The John Molson School of Business (JMSB) MBA, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2018-19, is lauded as one of the most sustainable in the world, according to the *Corporate Knights* 16th annual Better World MBA ranking. The program was rated 32nd in the world based on five sustainability-related indicators, including the number of institutes or centres dedicated to sustainable development

and the percentage of core courses that integrate sustainable development, as well as the gender and racial diversity of faculty.

"The promotion of responsible business plays a significant part in our strategic plan," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the JMSB.

"A key part of our mission is to go beyond the commonplace for business and society. These rankings show that we are doing just that." ■

—Yuri Mytko

CONCORDIA USED BOOK FAIR



CUSTOMERS COMBED THROUGH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NOVELS, TEXTBOOKS, DVDS, VINYL AND MORE AT THE 2018 CONCORDIA USED BOOK FAIR, HELD AT THE ATRIUM OF THE ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND VISUAL ARTS INTEGRATED COMPLEX FROM OCTOBER 29 TO 30. THE EVENT RAISED \$31,831 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE STUDENT EMERGENCY AND FOOD FUND, AS WELL AS THE NON-PROFIT CEED.

THE ANNUAL BOOK FAIR IS A YEAR-ROUND UNDERTAKING THAT REQUIRES TIME, MUSCLE AND LOTS OF PLANNING. MORE THAN 60 STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME TO SET UP AND WORK AT THE FAIR, WHILE SEVERAL CONCORDIA STAFF MEMBERS, RETIREES AND ALUMNI ALSO TOOK PART.

MEMBERS OF THE CONCORDIA COMMUNITY MAY DONATE THEIR BOOKS AT THE LOADING DOCKS OF EITHER THE HENRY F. HALL BLDG. AT THE SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS OR RICHARD J. RENAUD SCIENCE COMPLEX AT THE LOYOLA CAMPUS. VISIT CONCORDIA.CA/BOOKFAIR.



GENEVIÈVE CADIEUX HAS RECEIVED MANY ACCOLADES THROUGHOUT HER CAREER, INCLUDING A GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD AND, MOST RECENTLY, A PRIX DU QUÉBEC.

CONCORDIA'S GENEVIÈVE CADIEUX WINS PRIX DU QUÉBEC

Over her 40-year career, photographer and contemporary artist Geneviève Cadieux has left an indelible mark on more than just the art world. Her seminal piece, *La Voie lactée*, is perched on the roof of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; it also appeared on a Canada Post stamp in 2015. In November, the Government of Quebec rewarded Cadieux, associate professor in Concordia's

Department of Photography, with the prestigious Paul-Émile-Borduas prize for 2018 — one of the 15 Prix du Québec. Each winner receives \$30,000.

"A whole generation of photographers have become successful working artists thanks to Geneviève Cadieux. It's a testament to her work as a faculty member," says Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies.

"She has pushed the boundaries of research-creation in photography at Concordia, urging her students to be ambitious and to take the medium in new directions."

A Montreal native, Cadieux's art primarily explores the body as a landscape and an interface between public and private realms. She is also concerned with the way art integrates into urban environments. ■

—Andy Murdoch

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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#CUalumni #CUpride

TREATING YOURSELF KINDLY IN OLD AGE REDUCES STRESS

The golden years are supposed to be a time for reflection, enjoyment and rest. Instead, many seniors are adversely affected by stressors that are seemingly out of their control, such as declining health, loss of autonomy and life regrets.

Investigators at Concordia's Centre for Research in Human Development in the Department of Psychology, however, have found that reacting to these stressors with self-compassion — essentially, treating yourself in a way that you would treat a close friend or loved

one — lowers cortisol levels and thereby stress. Cortisol is a hormone that is present in all people, but stress can trigger heightened levels of cortisol.

The findings, collected from 233 community-dwelling seniors, were published in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*.

PhD candidate Heather Herriot, MA (psych.) 17, professor Carsten Wrosch and associate professor Jean-Philippe Gouin

concluded that higher levels of self-compassion were associated with lower cortisol levels in seniors who reported higher levels of stressors but not in those who reported lower ones.

This suggests that practising self-compassion is an effective tool to mitigate the effects of chronic, uncontrollable stressors.

Herriot says she hopes the results of the study will help lead to interventions that foster self-compassion in older adults who are struggling with significant stressors. ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99



SELF-COMPASSION IS THE KEY TO REDUCING STRESS IN SENIORS, ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY PHD CANDIDATE HEATHER HERRIOT (PICTURED) AND FACULTY CARSTEN WROSCH AND JEAN-PHILIPPE GOUIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



RACHEL ON UNSPLASH

INDOOR PLAY CAN HAVE A PROTECTIVE EFFECT ON CHILDREN'S WEIGHT, STUDY FINDS.

PLAY KEEPS CHILD OBESITY AT BAY

Children who have access to indoor play equipment show substantial health benefits, including less weight gain, compared to children who do not, suggests a study published in the *American Journal of Health Promotion*.

"We were interested in seeing if just playing — being mildly active, without necessarily getting a high increase in heart rate — was good enough to have some kind of protective effect on children's weight gain," says lead author Caroline Fitzpatrick, MA (psych.) 07, of Concordia's PERFORM Centre.

Using data from a study led by her PERFORM Centre colleague and co-author Tracie Barnett — a researcher at Sainte-Justine Hospital and Research Centre and professor at INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier — Fitzpatrick and her colleagues analyzed 512 students considered at risk of obesity clustered in 296 Montreal-area elementary schools. At-risk students had either one or two parents considered obese.

They found that children enrolled in schools with the most varied indoor play environment had lower overall body fat and smaller waists than children at schools with the least varied environment. The amount of time kids spend at school means the environment very likely plays a role in how they develop physically, including weight gain, Fitzpatrick says.

Even though cultural, social and other factors are cutting into the amount of time kids spend being active, Fitzpatrick says that providing tools for unstructured active play is relatively easy. Skateboards, hula-hoops, trampolines, unicycles, juggling pins, devil sticks and climbing walls could be highly cost-effective ways of offsetting long-term health problems, she notes. "Indoor play might be linked to decreased weight, but it might also be reducing stress levels in children," she says. "It might have some other positive benefits that we haven't examined yet." ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99

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ALEX MEGELAS, PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR FOR CONCORDIA'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, SAYS OF BÂTIMENT 7: "WE'RE HERE FIRST TO LISTEN, TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, THEN PROPOSE SOLUTIONS."

CONCORDIA GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IN NEW WAY

Concordia students and faculty are learning from — and with — the community, through an innovative presence at Bâtiment 7, a former CN train shop in Montreal's Pointe-Saint-Charles neighbourhood.

Concordians at Bâtiment 7 connect the university to community mobilization efforts and grassroots urban development — everything from horizontal governance models to sustainable uses of former industrial spaces.

Open to the public since May 2018, there are more than 10 groups operating as part of Bâtiment 7. Aside from a brew pub and grocery store, there are co-op bicycle and car repair facilities and a youth-run arcade, facilitated by Concordia student Michelle Duchesneau. There are also plans for a daycare, birthing centre and food production hub.

For Concordia, the work at Bâtiment 7 advances the university's interest in city-based learning, says Charmaine Lyn, senior director of the Office of Community Engagement (OCE), which is helping to fund the project along with the Office of Research and SHIFT, Concordia's social innovation hub.

Alex Megelas, MA (ed. studies) 14, is OCE's programs and communications coordinator and one of the university staff assigned to Bâtiment 7. Megelas feels the collaborative model ensures direction comes first and foremost from the community, rather than being driven by external researchers. "This is exciting. We're here first to listen, to build relationships, then propose solutions," he says.

"This type of engagement is critical in bringing our work out of the academy to apply it to real-world problems, and to inform new and socially relevant directions for Concordia researchers to take," adds Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies. ■

—Sylvie Babarik, MA 07

DUTCH SEASCAPE RETURNED TO MAX STERN HEIRS

An 18th-century painting by Dutch master Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek, *Storm at Sea*, is once again with its rightful owners after being recovered from the Hargesheimer Kunstauktionen Düsseldorf, where it was slated to hit the auction block.

Following exchanges about the painting's tainted history between the Holocaust Claims Processing Office, the German auction house and its consignor, *Storm at Sea* was returned in November 2018 to representatives of the Max and Iris Stern Foundation and its three beneficiaries: Concordia University and McGill University in Montreal and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The Concordia-administered Max Stern Art Restitution Project, which lists all the works art dealer Max Stern was forced to sell before he fled Nazi Germany, was a key player in the retrieval.

"Art restitution is an integral part of Holocaust remembrance, respect for human rights and international justice. I would like to congratulate the Stern Foundation and the Düsseldorf auction house on their agreement and exemplary commitment to redressing past injustices," said Stéphane Dion, Canada's ambassador to Germany and special envoy to the European Union and Europe.

Storm at Sea is the 18th painting recovered on behalf of the Stern Foundation. ■

—Fiona Downey, BA 83



STORM AT SEA, BY JOHANNES HERMANUS KOEKKOEK (1778-1851)

Gillian Leithman, BA '00, MSc '05, PhD '16, is assistant professor in the Department of Management at Concordia's John Molson School of Business and a corporate trainer specializing in health and wellness. She has facilitated programs for some of Canada's premier businesses, such as Bell Canada, Air Canada and TELUS.

Leithman will host four sessions for the Alumni Career Workshop Series in 2019.

What do you think is the secret – if there is one – to professional success/happiness?

Gillian Leithman: "Waking up most mornings excited about the day ahead. That means living with passion and purpose. If you are not sure where to start, here are a few good questions to shake things up:

- Are you living in alignment with your values? If you're unsure, ask yourself, 'Who in my life do I admire and why?' Alternatively, imagine someone close to you is describing you: what would you want them to say?
- Make sure you are developing a life outside of work. So many of us are using our technical devices in lieu of forging real relationships, which has led to a loneliness epidemic."

What advice would you give to someone who feels unsatisfied in his or her job?

GL: "Explore new adventures! What did you love pursuing when you were young but had to put aside due to responsibilities such

as raising children or paying the mortgage? Look through a university catalogue and see if any of the courses catch your attention. This could provide another clue to what might fuel your passions."

What has been the biggest challenge you've faced during your career, and how did you overcome it?

GL: "For 11 of the 15 years I've been teaching soft skills – interpersonal and people skills – to students and employees, the discipline has not been taken seriously. That has changed with behavioural science becoming more mainstream – but that has not always been the case. It is hard to stir the course when most people believe that 'soft skills' are just that – soft.

What helped me surmount this challenge was seeing first-hand how this information truly changes people's lives when they apply it."

Can you give us three simple tips for professional development that anyone can use?

GL: "1) Make lifelong learning an objective. Don't stop taking courses – of any kind – just because you have graduated from university. 2) Don't rely on your employer to support your professional development. If your organization does not value training and development, seek it out yourself. 3) Step out of your comfort zone. If you are into social science, take a course in photography. If you work in finance, enrol in a culinary class."

"I maintain that change starts with tiny tweaks."



MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR AND CORPORATE TRAINER GILLIAN LEITHMAN WILL HOST FOUR ALUMNI CAREER WORKSHOP SERIES SESSIONS IN 2019.

Tell us a little bit about your coaching career. What do you focus on?

GL: "My objective is to bridge the gap between the academic and practitioner spheres by creating fun learning experiences using the latest scientific discoveries from the fields of positive psychology, management, neuroscience and performance optimization. I am interested in health, happiness and success because it's fun to teach stuff that has a practical application. I maintain that change starts with tiny tweaks."

What can people expect in your upcoming workshops with Concordia?

GL: "A fun, interactive environment where you'll learn some of the best-kept social science secrets that you can apply, in and out of the office, to achieve greater health, wealth and happiness."

How did Concordia have an impact on your career?

GL: "Concordia gave me hands-on practical skills as well as a solid foundation in research methodology. I also had great teachers, such as my supervisor and mentor, Linda Dyer, whose support was instrumental both academically and professionally." ■

—Meagan Boisse, BA '17

Find out more about Gillian Leithman and the Alumni Career Workshop Series at concordia.ca/alumni-friends/events.

ABB Canada is writing the future of industrial digitalization

In Good Company is a series on inspiring grads who work for corporations and non-profits that hire a large number of Concordia alumni. To be featured, please contact us at alumni@concordia.ca or @ConcordiaAlumni on social media.

Visitors waiting in the reception area of ABB Canada's Montreal head office can expect a warm welcome from staff and a hot coffee from a robotic barista named YuMi. Developed at ABB as a way to allow humans and robots to work in close proximity, the YuMi robot prepares a fresh cup of coffee for anyone who stops by.

For more than four decades, ABB has been a pioneering technology leader in electrification products, robotics and motion, industrial automation and power grids. Serving customers globally in utilities, industry and transport and infrastructure, the company operates in more than 100 countries and with some 147,000 employees, 700 in its Montreal Technoparc headquarters.

Here are three Concordia alumni who are making an impact at ABB Canada.

ENGINEERING NEW SALES EXPERIENCES

As global sales and marketing configurator leader, Mircea Gingu, BEng 12, works on the implementation team responsible for a customer management relationship software. "When you go into Amazon, you can select your shoes, your pants and so on," he says. "We're customizing or digitizing our inventory into such a platform."

Gingu's journey to ABB Canada began during his last year in electrical engineering at Concordia, when he landed a four-month summer internship in sales and marketing. That led to joining the company as an electrical engineering specialist in 2013.

Thinking back on his days at the university, Gingu recalls how his courses helped him develop a systematic approach to solving problems — something that has been invaluable in his career, he says.

Gingu's current role combines all of his skills. "How can we, for example, digitize our portfolio?" Gingu asks. "And how can we explain it to the customer, but in a simple story?"

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now a 10-year veteran at ABB Canada, Celine St-Germain, BComm 02, is responsible for overseeing projects of customized high-voltage power equipment as a project manager. St-Germain supervises each project from the moment the company receives an order until it ships out the product to the customer for delivery.

"When you get to the end of a project and the customer's satisfied, everyone feels fulfilled," she says. "You're just growing every day — learning different things — and you're ready to take on a bigger, more complex project."



COURTESY OF ABB CANADA

PICTURED AT ABB CANADA ARE CONCORDIA ALUMNI CHARLES MAZZA, VICE-PRESIDENT AND COUNTRY HEAD OF SALES, CELINE ST-GERMAIN, PROJECT MANAGER, AND MIRCEA GINGU, GLOBAL SALES AND MARKETING CONFIGURATOR LEADER.

St-Germain remembers how she struggled with group projects while at Concordia. Now, she says those same projects conjure up her most cherished memories at the university. "It was really nice to collaborate with such a culturally diverse group of students," she says. "I took that experience to heart because it's exactly like that today, working at a global company like ABB — surrounded by talented professionals, each with their own experiences and perspectives on the world."

A NON-LINEAR THINKER

Charles Mazza, BSc 89, is often asked why he pursued a degree in chemistry rather than chemical engineering. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd do the exact same thing," says Mazza, vice-president and country head of sales at ABB Canada. "Chemistry provided me incredible breadth, open-mindedness and ways of seeing things in a non-linear fashion."

After graduating from Concordia, Mazza spent more than 20 years in the pulp and paper industry, where he transitioned from the technical side to sales and then to management. "I just saw that the career opportunities were strong and that the connection between science and business led to a unique skill set that could be leveraged," says Mazza, who earned a graduate diploma in management from Athabasca University in 2000.


He also takes great pride in knowing that he's helping prepare the next generation of talent in his role. "It's a passion of mine to coach and to bring on the next generation to help them excel within the industry, but also beyond that," Mazza says. "We want them to succeed, so providing that opportunity is something I really enjoy doing." ■

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08



**CONCORDIA'S
4TH SPACE IS
PART LIVING LAB,
DESIGN SHOWROOM,
EXHIBITION SPACE,
SCIENCE CENTRE AND
PERFORMANCE VENUE**





BREAKING DOWN WALLS TO KNOWLEDGE

TOULA DRIMONIS, BA 93

Anyone who visits Concordia's new 4TH SPACE — Canada's first dedicated street-front showcase for academic research and experiential learning opportunities — is in for a memorable stopover.

Following a soft launch in November 2018, 4TH SPACE presented workshops on how to make vegan cheese, how to use a chocolate printer and how to raise crickets. If visitors were lucky, some might have left with a sourdough starter kit. These workshops were part of *What is Food?* — an inaugural installation at 4TH SPACE located on the ground floor of the J. W. McConnell Building on the corner of De Maisonneuve Blvd. and Mackay St.

Few projects at Concordia have inspired as much anticipation and enthusiasm as 4TH SPACE. The next-gen, multi-purpose venue was officially inaugurated in the presence of elected officials in January 2019. 4TH SPACE is a versatile and daring new platform for a rotating selection of research projects.

Everyone involved is buzzing with excitement. "It's part living lab, design showroom, exhibition space, science centre and performance venue," says Nadia Bhuiyan, vice-provost of Partnerships and Experiential Learning. "Through rotating residencies and curated programs, researchers and students will present work that is designed to engage the public."

SHARING RESEARCH TO BENEFIT SOCIETY

The result is a sharing of cutting-edge research in an interactive and engaging environment that greatly differs from a more traditional, static academic setting. And that's the goal, says Graham Carr, provost and vice-president, Academic. He considers 4TH SPACE an opportunity to make Concordia visible to the external community and a vitrine onto what typically happens in labs. He views the space as fundamentally representative of the university itself.

"Our mission as a university is to teach students — yet ultimately, it's about using our research to benefit society," Carr says. "We have some amazing research taking place here, and by showcasing it, we can nurture

a real engagement with both our students and society at large.”

The street-level venue, once the main floor of the Concordia Bookstore, has taken on a new vocation after two years of planning, consultations and a \$1.9-million investment.

While academic research is commonly shared through academic journals and conference presentations, “here is a space where you can show your research — and stimulate interest, exchanges and conversations across disciplines, bringing people together from different faculties,” says Justin Powlowski, Concordia’s associate vice-president of Strategy and Operations, Research and Graduate Studies. “It’s a way to make research more accessible through a non-standard way of disseminating information.”

Powlowski is counting on the space’s unique ability to be different things to different people. “Its flexibility and multi-purpose functionality are what everyone is hoping leads to experiential learning and enhanced collaborative thinking,” he says.

LOOKING AT FOOD DIFFERENTLY

The *What is Food?* installation is a superb example of a non-conventional, collaborative program that encourages participants to question how they think about and see the familiar through a different lens. During labs, participants were encouraged to sample foods and think about industrial versus artisanal fermentation, how our senses shape our food expectations, the trust we place in its preparation, how culture-dependent our food choices often are, and their overall thoughts on the edibility of food.

In the New Year, 4TH SPACE opened with an exploration of cities to investigate an important question: “What makes a city sustainable, resilient, liveable and playable?” Concordia city cluster researchers are tackling such big questions. They are combining forces across the university’s four faculties and examining ways to bolster renewable energy sources, smart technology and the fight against climate change. The Cities Project at 4TH SPACE draws from the university’s invaluable interdisciplinary strengths and treasure trove of expertise that can teach and inspire.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

LAURENCE PARENT, A PARTNER IN 4TH SPACE'S VIBRATIONS EXHIBITION, PRAISES THE VENUE'S ACCESSIBILITY — INCLUDING WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBILITY — TO THE PUBLIC.

Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies trusts 4TH SPACE’s ability to serve as a dynamic lab to foster diverse, stimulating conversations and viewpoints, and translate these into public experiences that will benefit the Montreal community and beyond.

Extensive consultations took place to determine the specific technical, architectural and functional requirements of 4TH SPACE. It needed to foster meaningful and inspiring interactions between members of the university community and non-academic participants. The goal was to develop a space that accurately embodies the university’s spirit of inclusiveness and innovation.

“4TH SPACE was designed to inspire researchers and community partners to share the fascinating ideas percolating behind university walls — and connect people with knowledge-creation generated at Concordia,” says Guy. “It will also provide all students with the opportunity to engage in experiential learning opportunities, share their work with the world and bring their ideas to life.”

Installations, rotating residencies, screenings, idea labs, lectures, performances, hack-a-thons, curated programs and screenings are part of the planned

programming. Innovative and inspired ways of connecting and learning are continuously being explored and proposed.

The university makes no secret of its high hopes for the venue’s ability to inspire participants to collaborate, experiment and explore new ideas. Concordia President Alan Shepard refers to the 4TH SPACE as the “future of what knowledge creation and outreach will look like.” The venue features large, glass entrances that during warmer months can roll up like garage doors to connect the space to passersby and to the city itself.

4TH SPACE will set a new standard in accessible knowledge. Powlowski emphasizes the “by-product” of these non-traditional approaches to accessing knowledge. “It benefits our researchers and faculty members to explain things to non-specialists outside of academia, to students and to the public at large,” he says. “They spend so much time alone during their research, in their labs. This approach allows them to think outside the box and branch out as well. It’s also the reason why the space was intentionally created on street level with high visibility to those passing by.”

(AT RIGHT) SAMUEL THULIN IS A HORIZON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES AND WAS A PARTNER IN 4TH SPACE'S VIBRATIONS EXHIBITION.

VIBRATING TO THE BEAT OF A DIFFERENT DRUM

In December 2018, 4TH SPACE featured the *Vibrations* artistic project. It brought together deaf and disabled artists to co-produce artworks that explore our sensorial relationships to the world through vibration and touch. It focused on how artistic creation can contribute to challenging ableism — discrimination against disabled people — and audism — the belief that hearing people are superior to deaf people. The exhibition ran simultaneously in Montreal and East London, United Kingdom

One of the partners in *Vibrations*, Laurence Parent, is completing her PhD in humanities at Concordia. She holds an MA in critical disability studies and her work and activism focus on disabled Montrealers and everyday barriers to mobility. Parent, who started using a wheelchair at the age of five, has spent the last decade exposing how inaccessible Montreal's public transit system can be for people with disabilities. Even though she's written a thesis on the subject, the visual component of her research was extremely important to her.

"Having access to a venue like 4TH SPACE is wonderful because platforms where we can present non-traditional work are very limited," Parent says. "Furthermore, wheelchair-accessible spaces are rare in Montreal. I think it's extremely important to make academic research more accessible to the public and 4TH SPACE will certainly contribute to that."

Parent hopes the venue will become a space where academics, artists and community members will meet to work together on projects that are meaningful and have potential to effect real change in people's lives.

Samuel Thulin, MA (comm. studies) 09 — Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Communication Studies and a researcher/artist at Concordia's Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology — was also a partner of the *Vibrations* exhibition. The research team, he says, went to great lengths to look at all aspects of accessibility for both the show and the venue.



"We're providing different avenues for people to interact with research in an accessible way," Thulin says. "It extends far beyond physical accessibility. That includes braille, audio descriptions, subtitling. We installed the show with a focus on disability, for example, examining the height of the pieces, keeping in mind how someone in a wheelchair would experience it."

Thulin admits not all goals have been reached yet, due to physical or structural limitations. "It's still a learning process and we're adjusting and thinking through the process as we learn how design and space can be more, or less, accessible," he says.

BREAKING DOWN WALLS

Challenging ableism and audism through the arts were the show's primary goals. "I hope it allows people to think differently about research, art and accessibility. It's not just about making a space that's

accessible for deaf and disabled people, but equally about making a space where the artistic works and research of deaf and disabled people are accessible to a wide public," says Thulin. "4TH SPACE allows researchers to be cultural producers for a wider audience beyond the university crowd. It's really about breaking down walls and enabling different people to be affected by both the research and the art — and hopefully changing things for the better."

Bhuiyan hopes the space becomes an inviting and accessible window to the world inside the university. "I want people to walk by and get excited by

NADIA BHUIYAN (LEFT), CONCORDIA'S VICE-PROVOST OF PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, AND HER TEAM SPEARHEADED THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW 4TH SPACE. SHE IS PICTURED WITH CANADIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MARC MILLER, MONTREAL MAYOR VALÉRIE PLANTE AND CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD AT THE PUBLIC LAUNCH IN JANUARY 2019.

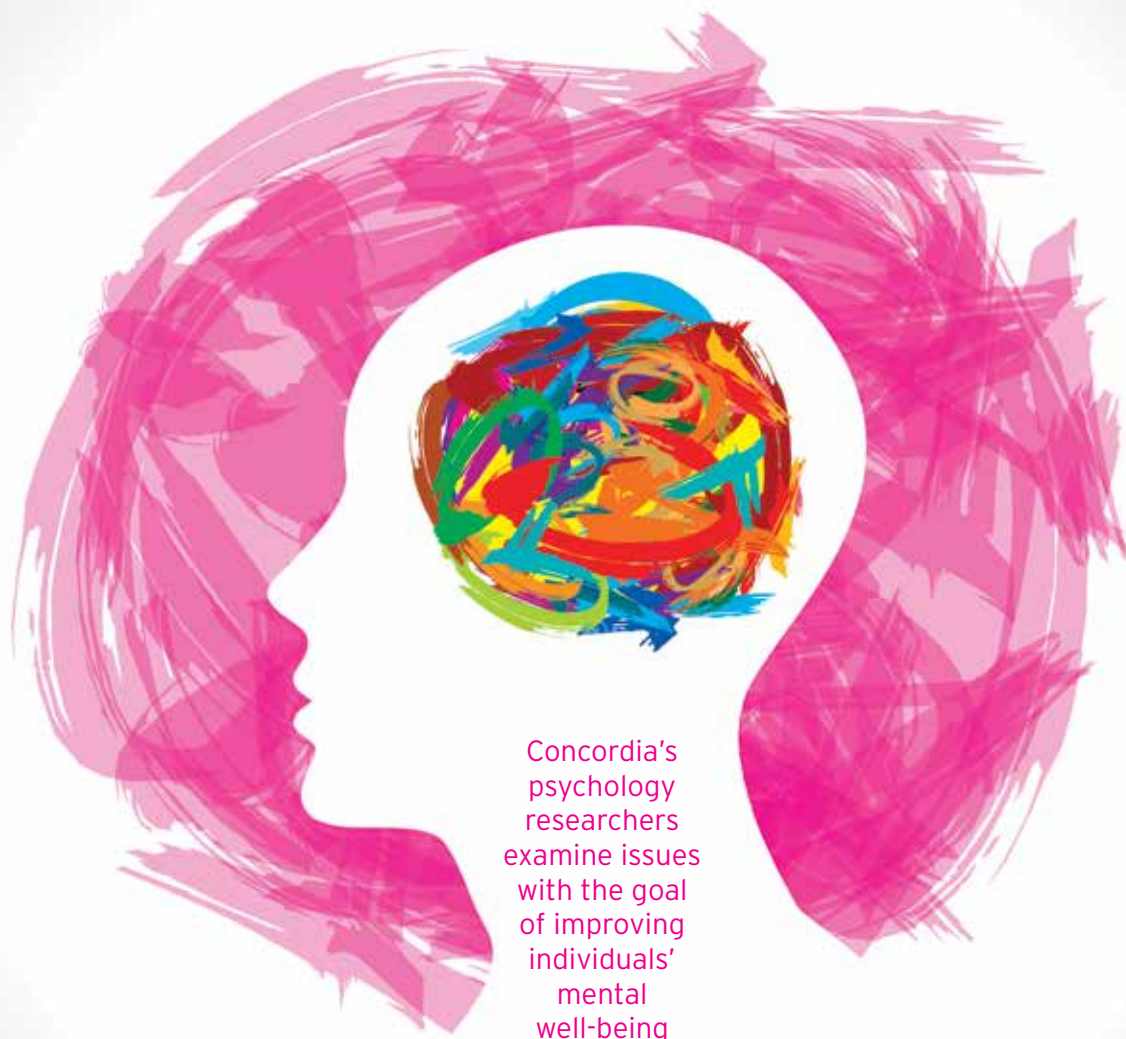
the research and academic activities that take place at Concordia," she says. "I hope it will pique the curiosity of future students and encourage community, industry and government partners to want to collaborate with us on exciting research."

Carr shares that enthusiasm. "I don't think there's another university in Canada or even North America that has a dedicated space to display academic research and artistic collaborations like this," he says. "4TH SPACE's uniqueness is bold and refreshing." ■

Learn more at concordia.ca/about/next-generation/4th-space.

—Toula Drimonis is a Montreal freelance writer.





Concordia's
psychology
researchers
examine issues
with the goal
of improving
individuals'
mental
well-being

Concordia's Department of Psychology is an epicentre for critical health research. Its professors examine issues such as poverty's impact on mental health, how bilingualism may ward off dementia and why some young people are more resilient than others against alcohol or drug abuse.

Virginia Penhune, chair and professor of psychology, reports the department produces the largest volume of health research in the university. It's also one of Concordia's largest

departments, counting more than 1,400 undergraduate and 130 graduate students. Its research productivity is the result of an ongoing exchange with the community at large. "Not only does the department take information and research to the community — the community brings us new ideas and directions in research," Penhune says.

Much of this work takes place within the department's 40 labs, three research centres (see sidebar on page 29) and interdisciplinary facilities like Concordia's PERFORM Centre, which

focuses on prevention and improved long-term health through clinical research, education and public programs.

Uniting researchers across disciplines is a faculty hallmark, says André Roy, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science. "We have an outstanding Department of Psychology that distinguishes itself in many different ways and covers a broad range of activities in both research and teaching, from neuroscience to clinical application," he says.

These six researchers are among those leading the way.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HEALTH

LISA SERBIN

PROFESSOR, HONORARY CONCORDIA RESEARCH CHAIR IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, MEMBER OF THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Serbin is co-director of the Concordia Longitudinal Risk Project — the Department of Psychology’s longest-running study. It has followed more than 4,000 Quebec families from low-income neighbourhoods for more than 40 years. Serbin, who joined the project in 1981, and her co-director Dale Stack are collecting and analyzing information about four generations of these families, amounting to more than 10,000 people.

With four decades’ worth of valuable data, Serbin and her colleagues have used the cohort for an array of health-related research, including the impact of poverty on health, links between childhood behaviour and later use of health care, and how positive parenting — offering children encouraging, non-punitive guidance — contributes to reducing health risks associated with poverty.

Serbin’s 2011 study published in the *International Journal of Behavioral Development* showed growing up poor increases one’s likelihood of raising his or her own children in poverty. She’s now investigating how that cycle can be broken. She explores intergenerational transfer — how parents’ education, parenting and mental, physical and environmental health affect their children over the long term.

“We can look across generations and over time and see which factors protect the youngest generation, who may currently be living in environments with high health risk,” says Serbin. “What can improve kids’ chances of a better outcome than that of their parents? It comes down to important things like education and parenting.”

Serbin found that involvement, structure and support from parents might reduce some effects of growing up in poverty, and were shown to reduce medical emergencies, injuries, infections and respiratory illnesses during early childhood.

“Our projects are highly collaborative across areas, departments and institutions,” says Serbin. For example, she and Stack are collaborating with colleagues from Concordia and McGill on a project led by Lisa Kakinami, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, in association with Concordia’s PERFORM Centre.

Using data from the Concordia Longitudinal Risk Project, their research looks at how a neighbourhood’s built environment — walkability, access to playgrounds and parks, proximity to fast-food restaurants and grocery stores — impacts health, including cardiovascular and obesity risks, over time, from childhood through adulthood.

“Our projects are highly collaborative across areas, departments and institutions.”



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR LISA SERBIN IS CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CONCORDIA LONGITUDINAL RISK PROJECT, THE DEPARTMENT’S LONGEST-RUNNING STUDY, LAUNCHED IN 1976.

NATALIE PHILLIPS

PROFESSOR, MEMBER OF CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON AGING (ENGAGE), BILINGUALISM INTEREST GROUP AND CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Speaking more than one language may help protect the brain against neurodegenerative disease, according to Natalie Phillips, who leads Concordia's Cognition, Aging and Psychophysiology (CAP) Lab.

"In the brains of Alzheimer's patients who were multilingual, we saw evidence suggesting that they were more resilient against the disease," says Phillips, whose research was published in the journal *Neuropsychologia* in 2018.

"Many lifestyle factors contribute to cognitive reserve — or resilience against disease — such as being educated, socially engaged, physically active and having a stimulating occupation or rich social networks," she adds. "We think speaking more than one language is one of those enriching lifestyle factors."

SHIMON AMIR

PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S CENTER FOR STUDIES IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROBIOLOGY, DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROFESSOR

Shimon Amir studies circadian rhythms. His research explores the function and regulation of circadian clocks in regions of the brain responsible for motivation, emotion, addiction and motor control — to understand how disruption of these clocks leads to disease.

"Most organisms have clock genes in every cell of the body. All these clocks are synchronized through a master clock that sits in the brain and receives light information from the eyes. That's how the body's clock is synchronized with day and night," he explains. "It's a 24-hour clock made up of several genes that interact to generate this cycle."

Right now, Amir is focusing on the role of clock genes in three

As a team leader in the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, a national initiative aimed at tackling the growing incidence of dementia and related diseases, Phillips and her team are exploring in another study the relationship between hearing and vision loss and cognitive decline in older patients with dementia.

Her research examines the cognitive and sensory functions of 1,650 patients either with, or at risk of getting, a neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's. Data from brain imaging, genetics, visual acuity and hearing ability sheds light on possible links between the senses, cognitive function and long-term cognitive health.

"In persons with Alzheimer's disease who have hearing loss, we're seeing more brain changes than those in patients not experiencing any sensory loss, particularly in a region called the hippocampus, which is important for learning and memory," she says. "And in patients at risk for dementia, we see



NATALIE PHILLIPS, PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, IS A TEAM LEADER IN THE NATIONAL CANADIAN CONSORTIUM ON NEURODEGENERATION IN AGING.

that hearing loss is associated with more white matter in the temporal lobes."

While these findings are preliminary, "this may be evidence for compensation through greater brain connectivity in individuals who have a sensory loss compared to those who don't," Phillips says.



SHIMON AMIR, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, WAS AWARDED THE TITLE OF DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROFESSOR, THE UNIVERSITY'S HIGHEST FORM OF RECOGNITION FOR OVERALL RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS, IN 2018.

different areas: depression and anxiety-like behaviours, alcohol use disorders, and circadian and motor dysfunction in Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

"In Parkinson's, one of the dysfunctions is disruption of circadian rhythms," he says. "Patients have problems with sleep, wake up at night

and fall asleep during the day. We study the role clock genes in the striatum — a part of the brain which is the focal point for Parkinson's — play in motor and circadian abnormalities associated with the disease."

Amir and his team at the Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology work with mice, using genetic techniques to knock out specific genes. Most such genetic studies remove the gene from the entire organism. However, Amir removes them selectively from the striatum only. "We take out the clock genes from the striatum while the clocks elsewhere in the brain and body remain intact," he says. "This approach allows us to study the role of clock genes in the striatum in the control of those behaviours that I described."

Ultimately a greater understanding of how circadian genes influence behaviours could lead to more appropriate behavioural and pharmacological approaches in treating diseases.



“What brings someone from having a few drinks to drinking heavily over the course of a night?”

ROISIN O’CONNOR

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
MEMBER, CENTRE FOR CLINICAL
RESEARCH IN HEALTH

Roisin O’Connor wants to understand what protects some young people from excessive drinking or substance abuse.

“We know that young people who drink to cope tend to be at greater risk for having problems with alcohol later on,” says O’Connor, who is researching social anxiety in young adults as a predictor of alcohol use disorders. “What brings someone from having a few drinks to drinking heavily over the course of a night?”

O’Connor used smartphones to collect data from students at a party. “By taking a magnifying glass to a single event, I wanted to understand what happens when someone goes from a breath alcohol concentration of zero to a light intoxication level [0.04 grams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood],” she says.

“At a light level of intoxication, socially anxious people activated very different beliefs about alcohol. For example, ‘Alcohol will help me cope’ — compared to others who are not socially anxious,” she reports. “Our research suggests that for people who are socially anxious, the risk to consume more alcohol is happening in the moment. This is about risk within the event, and understanding how risk for alcohol use disorders unfolds.”

While the study is ongoing, O’Connor says she expects to see that “when people high on social anxiety begin drinking, there will be a steep decrease in their anxiety that predicts heavy drinking that night. We also expect that this influences broader risk for developing an alcohol use disorder.” She hopes to follow the participants until their late 20s to understand how this might impact their relationships and careers.

On another project, O’Connor works with an Indigenous community in Quebec to explore what helps young



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ROISIN O’CONNOR (LEFT), ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, IS STUDYING SOCIAL ANXIETY IN YOUNG ADULTS AND RISK FOR PROBLEM ALCOHOL USE.

people to succeed academically and socially. Her research involves identifying an appropriate model of resilience against alcohol and drug abuse that’s specific to an individual’s community. She is also working to develop intervention processes tailored to its needs. “Preliminary data suggests that young people who strongly connect with their culture are less at risk for trying alcohol,” she says.

AARON JOHNSON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MEMBER OF CONCORDIA'S ENGAGE AND THE CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN REHABILITATION OF GREATER MONTREAL

At the Concordia Vision Lab, Aaron Johnson studies the benefits of Apple iPad technology as a reading rehabilitation device for older adults suffering from vision loss. His research has shown the iPad is as useful at improving reading as more traditional devices, such as magnifiers or optical devices.

"One of the problems with traditional technology is that it highlights an individual's vision loss, which some people don't like because it makes them feel different or draws attention to them," he says. "The nice thing about the iPad is that anyone can pull it out. It won't be different from the rest of the population."



AARON JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, STUDIES VISION LOSS IN OLDER ADULTS.

Johnson is working on a new long-term project that examines the link between vision loss, cognitive decline and balance. He's collaborating with Department of Psychology colleagues Natalie Phillips and Karen Li, a professor who studies balance in older adults, postdoctoral research fellow Caitlin Murphy, GrDip 08, MSc 10, and colleagues from the School of Optometry at Université de Montréal.

"We're bringing individuals in and running a very detailed eye scan," Johnson says. "In those same people, we're also getting additional information from tests of their cognition and balance. We can then start seeing if there is some connection between these areas."

Johnson notes that in comparison to normally sighted people, those with macular degeneration, which is a major cause of vision loss in Canada, are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and four times as likely to fall. He hopes to discover whether a quick eye scan can help predict cognitive and balance decline in older adults.

DIANE POULIN-DUBOIS

PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S COGNITIVE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY, RESEARCH CHAIR IN DEVELOPMENTAL CYBERNETICS, AND MEMBER OF THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Diane Poulin-Dubois studies early cognitive and language development. In two recent publications in *Developmental Psychology*, Poulin-Dubois and colleagues in San Diego, Calif., Mexico City and Geneva, Switzerland, followed a group of monolingual and bilingual children from 2012 to 2017.

The researchers developed a computerized test that measures early word comprehension — and observed that vocabulary size at 22 months predicted language skills at 36 months, as well as the score on a popular school-readiness screening test called the Lollipop test, administered at 48 months.

These results offer the possibility of early diagnosis of language delay in babies. "In the United States and Canada, 40 to 50 per cent of children aged seven to 14 who are referred to psychological services have undiagnosed language problems," says Poulin-Dubois, also a member of Concordia's Bilingualism Interest Group. "We know that children with language problems are more likely to have difficulties in school and less likely to graduate and find employment. That's the chain reaction."

Their project received US\$2.2 million in funding from the U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Another line of Poulin-Dubois's research, funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, involves how understanding

and measuring emotional processing in babies can help researchers trying to diagnose early signs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

For example, she's examining whether her lab tests can be used to help researchers design tests for early risk of ASD. "The answer is yes," she says, explaining that studies in her lab have shown a link between performance in these behavioural tests at the age of 18 months and the same children's results on a standard autism test, the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT). When followed for many years, she reports, kids who score poorly on the M-CHAT have more risk of being later diagnosed with ASD. ■

—Simona Rabinovitch is a Montreal freelance writer.

AS DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S COGNITIVE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY, DIANE POULIN-DUBOIS (RIGHT) STUDIES EARLY COGNITIVE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT.

INTERDISCIPLINARY POWERHOUSES

The Department of Psychology houses three multi-university research centres and a discussion group, which advance knowledge through interdisciplinary collaboration between members – faculty, researchers, students and community groups and the public – across Montreal and around the world.

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROBIOLOGY (CSBN)

The CSBN is one of the leading behavioural neuroscience centres in Canada. Addiction, sexual behaviour, learning and memory, and circadian rhythms are just a few of its research areas. Founded in 1983, the CSBN brings together experts from Concordia, McGill University and Université de Montréal who investigate brain mechanisms, underlying behaviour and disease.

concordia.ca/research/neuroscience

CENTRE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH IN HEALTH (CCRH)

Focusing on physical and mental health, the CCRH's diverse research explores how psychology interacts with biology and sociocultural elements like social networks, cultures and neighbourhoods.

concordia.ca/research/clinical-research-health

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CRHD)

Since 1981, CRHD researchers have examined human development from infancy to old age, including cognitive development in early childhood, bilingualism, social withdrawal and motor changes in old age. Members from many Quebec institutions and disciplines collaborate with community partners, educators, health care experts and policy makers. crhd.concordia.ca

BILINGUALISM INTEREST GROUP (BIG)


How do language and music connect? How does bilingualism affect infants and impact aging? These are just a few of the diverse research topics explored by the BIG discussion group of Concordia faculty members and students, who meet monthly.

bilingualism.concordia.ca



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Concordia and its scholars are helping
define future urban landscapes



THE FUTURE IS THE CITY



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ABOVE LEFT: CHERYL GLADU, PHD CANDIDATE IN CONCORDIA'S INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAM, AND SHAUNA JANSSEN, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR URBAN FUTURES, PRESENTED THEIR RESEARCH ON CITIES AT THE CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS DINNER AT LE SALON 1861 IN MONTREAL ON OCTOBER 25, 2018. ABOVE RIGHT: ANJALI AWASTHI OF THE CONCORDIA INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING.

JASMIN LEGATOS

Technology is changing the way we build and run our urban environment. Cities are no longer just cities — they're smart cities that use data to manage resources such as traffic and transportation, power usage and water supply more efficiently.

Concordia's commitment to the city of the future is in line with its nine strategic directions, a roadmap to remain a next-generation institution that includes the direction Embrace the City, Embrace the World. Through research and work on the ground in Montreal and abroad, "Concordia's researchers are reimagining and reinventing ways in which we dwell in and develop metropolitan areas," says Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies.

As part of its focus on the city of the future, Concordia launched a search for a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities, which comes with \$10 million in funding from the Government of Canada.

"We are challenging this top-down approach by asserting that smart cities are for all of us."

The CERC is one facet of the university's Smart Cities hub — a framework for its cities-centred research activities, which focuses on four areas of interest: clean energy systems; integrated built environment design; smart technologies; and collaborative knowledge mobilization and policy implications.

This intensification comes at a time when the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) expects urban dwellers to reach 68 per cent of the global population by 2050. In North America over 80 per cent of people call cities home. As cities grow in both quantity and size, how do we expand our urban footprint while reducing our ecological one? What infrastructure do we need? What is the best way to incorporate technology? Meet three Concordians who are advancing intelligent communities of the future by answering some of these big questions.

THE CITY AS A STAGE

Shauna Janssen, BFA 94, MA 09, PhD 14, sees the city as a theatre and our social interactions, as performances playing out across a stage. "Together, these performances tell the story of our city and cultures of our city," says Janssen, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Theatre. She is also director of the Institute of Urban Futures (IUF), a multidisciplinary research centre that brings together stakeholders from Concordia's four academic faculties to explore creative ways of imagining future cities.

Housed in the Faculty of Fine Arts, the IUF uses the lens of arts and humanities to "unearth and connect with cultures that are often overlooked in our cities," says Janssen, who also holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Performative Urbanism. As urban areas become more connected through technology, the potential for exclusion and



inequality is high. “Currently, cities are being designed with a top-down approach — technology is shaping how we build. At the institute, we are challenging this top-down approach by asserting that smart cities are for all of us.”

The IUF is putting this philosophy into practice through projects like *Bâtiment 7*, a former CN train yard turned community space in Montreal’s Pointe-Saint-Charles neighbourhood, partly funded by Concordia. Professors took part in a design *charrette* — a planning session where stakeholders collaborate on a vision for development — for the space. Janssen explains that this process and the work that follows will bring best practices for building and developing our cities to the initiative. “We get to support communities in a way that is different than what they get from the City of Montreal or from developers,” she says. “We bring in more of the ethos of inclusivity and diversity. We’re facilitating and taking part in a process of co-creation.”

“If you know that people in your neighbourhood are recycling, composting and sharing their cars, you’re more likely to adopt those habits, too.”

EVALUATING URBAN MOBILITY

Mass and alternative transportation is often posited as a way to reduce our reliance on congestion-causing, fossil-fuel-guzzling cars. While dedicated bus lanes might work for one city, they could be disastrous in another, so research is critical.

Researchers can help determine the best public transportation option for any city, says Anjali Awasthi, assistant professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering.

In a paper published in the journal *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and*

Practice, Awasthi explains how using a tool called ideal-solution multicriteria decision-making helped Luxembourg’s Ministry of Transport determine the best public transport project for its city. They could build a new downtown tramway, re-organize bus lines or implement an electric car-sharing service. It’s one of the few times this technique has been used to evaluate the sustainability of urban mobility projects.

Each option was evaluated against a list of almost three dozen criteria, such as infrastructure costs, fossil fuel consumption and affordability for the end user. Committee members rated each option based on how well they responded to the different criteria. For instance, if they found electric car-sharing expensive for the end user, it received a higher rating and was therefore determined to be less sustainable than the other options. Once the scores were added up, there was no question that the tramway was the right choice for Luxembourg.

“It is the best alternative because it scored highest on all the parameters that

are being studied, so therefore any solution that we evaluate is being compared to the best possible one,” says Awasthi.

Though the results of the study were somewhat limited — there were only seven people on the Luxembourg committee — the evaluation method can easily be used in other contexts.

“It’s not at all complicated to transport this kind of measurement from Luxembourg to a city like Montreal,” she says. “We just need a new set of data and a new list of priorities and maybe more stakeholders participating.”

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Collaboration is the focus of Cheryl Gladu’s work. A PhD candidate in Concordia’s Individualized Program, Gladu studies co-housing, a phenomenon that emerged in Northern Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. It’s a way of living where individuals share certain common spaces and make decisions based on consensus.

“People collaborate to ensure things run smoothly — and common areas are specifically designed to encourage meaningful encounters between neighbours,” she explains. It’s a bottom-up approach that Gladu thinks can be applied to decisions regarding the role of technology in our cities.

Gladu helped design the first net-zero triplex in Canada and is interested in how design facilitates collective behaviour change. She suggests that co-housing can do more than just help us feel more engaged in our communities — co-housing neighbourhoods outperform green buildings when it comes to environmental measures. “If you know that people in your neighbourhood are recycling, composting and sharing their cars, you’re more likely to adopt those habits, too,” she says.

People in these types of communities — there are 18 in Canada — are also happier, her research shows. Co-housing asks its members to consider what they need, not what they want, Gladu adds. “While smart technologies are great — sometimes what people really need is a place to age with dignity, support in childcare or a place hall where they can gather for a shared meal with friends,” she says. ■

— *With files from Sylvie Babarik, Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99, and Joseph Leger, BA 15.*

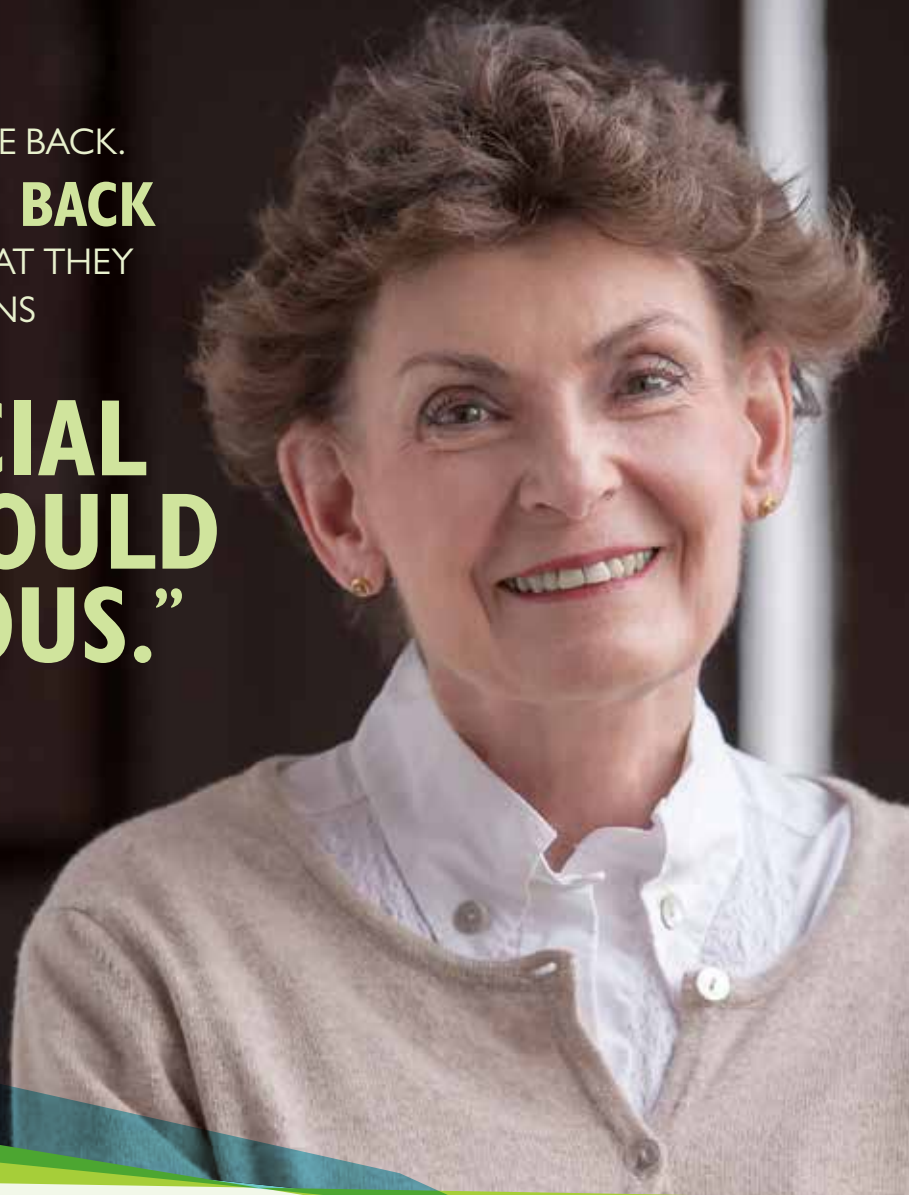
“ I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK.

IF EVERYBODY GAVE BACK

JUST A SMALL PORTION OF WHAT THEY
GAINED FROM THE INSTITUTIONS
THAT BENEFITED THEM,

**THE FINANCIAL
RESULTS WOULD
BE ENORMOUS.”**

– Patricia Dudar, BSc 68, BEd 69, MSc 77



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RICHARD BURNETT, BA 88

Concordia's LGBTQ alumni work in diverse sectors, from government to business, the arts to academia and beyond. The following five graduates share how being part of the LGBTQ community — and Concordia — has influenced their life and work. Join the *Queer Concordia Alumni* group on Facebook. For more information on *Queer Homecoming*, visit concordia.ca/homecoming.

QUEER GRADS MAKE THEIR MARK IN THE WORLD

MAUREEN BRADLEY: TEACHER AND MENTOR

Independent Canadian filmmaker Maureen Bradley, BA 90, MA 95, teaches screenwriting, film studies and film production at the University of Victoria.

Although Bradley shot her first feature film — *Two 4 One* — in 2014, she has made more than 50 short films. In 1992, Bradley reached her largest audience, more than 10 million viewers, appearing as a writer-director on the CBC TV series *Road Movies*.

She is arguably best known for her historic 1990 documentary *We're Here, We're Queer, We're Fabulous*, about the police raid on the Sex Garage loft party. Today the event is widely considered to be "Montreal's Stonewall," a turning point for LGBTQ rights in Quebec.

How does being part of the LGBTQ community inform your life and work?

MB: "Growing up queer and working class, I always have that lens of being in the margins. So I do what I can to help — right now I am mentoring a black trans filmmaker. I always keep an eye out for students who aren't mainstream," she says.

What was your Concordia experience like?

MB: "I came out at Concordia, though I didn't come flying out. It wasn't like that in 1987-88. Just being in classes with professors like Thomas Waugh was mind-blowing, because I saw it possible to be who you are and be respected."
(Profiles continued on page 36.)



COURTESY OF MAUREEN BRADLEY

FILMMAKER MAUREEN BRADLEY'S *WE'RE HERE, WE'RE QUEER, WE'RE FABULOUS* DOCUMENTED THE 1990 MONTREAL POLICE RAID ON THE SEX GARAGE LOFT PARTY, WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE "MONTREAL'S STONEWALL," A TURNING POINT FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS IN QUEBEC.

27,000 QUEER MEMORIES – AND COUNTING

Queering the Map, an online project from Concordia Department of Design and Computation Arts student Lucas LaRochelle, is giving queer voices worldwide a safe place to record their stories.

When users click on a point on the map, a story pops up that connects a person to a place and a memory, from bitter laments and broken hearts to joyful recollections. There are over 27,000 stories on the map written in more than 25 languages with submissions from every continent (except Antarctica).

After *Queering the Map* went viral last winter, it became a target for alt-right hackers and was inundated with pro-Trump

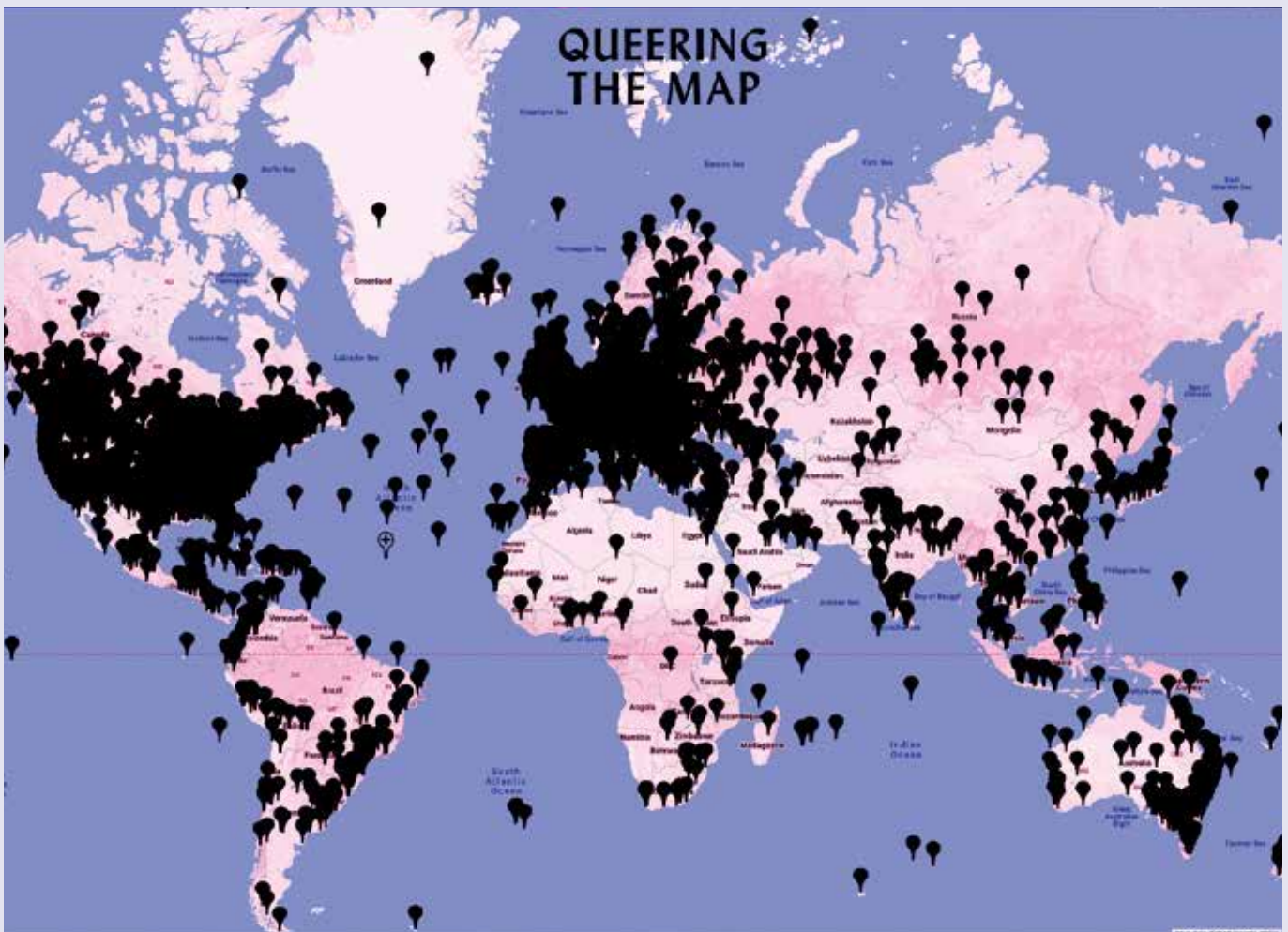
propaganda. Today, submissions are monitored, yet the criteria for moderation is very open, LaRochelle says.

“It’s essentially: no hate speech, no spam, no advertising and no full names, addresses or phone numbers. One of the primary tenets of the project is anonymity,” he says.

Queering the Map’s reach has gone beyond anything LaRochelle had ever anticipated. “It’s incredible,” he adds. “The range of experience that’s being articulated is something I’m continuously in awe of.” ■

Visit queeringthemap.com.

– Mackenzie Lad



ELIE CHIVI: MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

Dubai-born, Toronto-based Elie Chivi, BA (applied human sciences & cr. writing) 09, is director of sponsorship activation for WE Day. It's part of WE Charity, which partners with communities through a holistic, sustainable development model that equips families with the tools and skills they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

"WE Day is a series of live events that honour people making a difference around the world. It's a powerful experience with world-renowned speakers and performers, mixed with real inspirational stories of change," says Chivi. He also contributes to Toronto's popular LGBTQ yohomo.ca blog.

How does being part of the LGBTQ community inform your life and work?

EC: "I was raised in quite a homophobic environment in the Middle East, and I think dealing with homophobia builds resilience in most queer people within our community.

I am very outspoken about queer issues in the workplace, whether it be about more inclusive messaging at our events, making sure language is neutral, advocating for queer stories to be represented onstage or simply just being a visible member of the community — and also being Middle Eastern."



AMONG HIS OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES AT CONCORDIA, ELIE CHIVI SERVED AS VP OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION IN 2008-09.

What was your Concordia experience like?

EC: "Crazy! I was quite active on campus. I was president of the International Students Association and VP of events at Queer Concordia, and then became VP of communications for the Concordia Student Union my final year.

Outside Queer Concordia, I sometimes felt like I was the one gay person in the room. Yet at Concordia I felt there was an atmosphere of inclusiveness no matter who you were!"

CHASE ROSS: TRANS TRAILBLAZER



CHASE ROSS IS A TRANS ACTIVIST AND YOUTUBE CONTRIBUTOR WHO REGULARLY SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITIES AND LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTRES.

Chase Ross, BA 14, MA 18, is a trans activist, speaker, educator and academic — and hugely popular YouTuber.

"In 2006, I realized I was trans and decided to document every part of my transition. Pictures, videos, voice clips, you name it, I did it. I started hormones in 2010 at the age of 19 and started a project that is still going on today,"

Ross notes on his uppercasechase.com website.

Ross continues to speak out about transgender issues on social media and at public speaking engagements around the world.

How does being part of the LGBTQ community inform your life and work?

CR: "I do feel part of a community, but I also feel like I've created a community within my channel because there weren't many trans YouTubers before I came along in 2006. I was part of that first wave, and it has exploded since. It's been amazing to see how trans visibility has grown.

Being a part of the LGBTQ community has influenced everything in my life, from papers I wrote in high school to my master's thesis. It's been really cool to bring my YouTube life into my academic life."

What was your Concordia experience like?

CR: "Concordia was great but a little nightmare at the beginning, because back then there was nothing in place to change your name, that kind of stuff. But I was in sociology, so I had no issues with any of my professors. Everybody was on board. I felt welcome and lucky that I was at Concordia."

ARSHAD KHAN: BREAKING THE CELLULOID CLOSET



COURTESY OF ARSHAD KHAN

ARSHAD KHAN'S 2017 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARY *ABU* DEPICTS HIS EXPERIENCES AFTER HE CAME OUT TO HIS PAKISTANI-MUSLIM FAMILY.

Arshad Khan, BFA 12, is a Montreal-based film director, producer, writer and film festival strategist. Khan's internationally acclaimed, award-winning autobiographical documentary *Abu* (2017) has played at film festivals around the world.

Abu documents his rocky relationship with his father after Khan came out as a gay man. It also chronicles the wider story of young gay people fighting homophobia and "invisibility within South Asian and Muslim culture."

Khan also teaches guerilla filmmaking to underprivileged youth in Canada and Pakistan.

How does being part of the LGBTQ community inform your life and work?

AK: "Being gay is a part of my identity. When I embraced it, it opened my eyes to injustice, not just against my person but to other people as well. It allowed me to connect the dots. And this informs my work deeply. *Abu* was a very personal film and I think this sincerity gives the work its edge," says Khan.

What was your Concordia experience like?

AK: "I arrived in Montreal as a budding filmmaker and my studies at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema were very exciting. It was an invaluable experience which combined the technical and artistic, and was a very high-end education for a very reasonable price."

MELISSA-ANN LEDO: RAISING DIVERSE FAMILIES

Melissa-Ann Ledo, BFA 06, MA 17, is a pedagogical consultant, artist and educator based in Montreal.

She is the educational director of an organization that runs Mik^w Chiyâm, an interdisciplinary arts program, and N'we Jinan Integrative Arts Program. These programs invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to conduct creative residencies alongside youth within First Nations communities.

She started The Queerest Little Ledo Productions to keep connected to the queer community. She launched its Rainbow Story Hour — inspired by the Drag Queen Story Hours across North America — at Montreal's Librairie Drawn & Quarterly.

"I wanted a Montreal twist, so in addition to drag queens we also feature queer comedians, advocates, puppeteers, performers and social media celebrities reading stories to children, to help kids diversify their cultural experiences. We get mostly children under the age of five and they absolutely love it!" she says.

How does being part of the LGBTQ community inform your life and work?

MAL: "As an educator, throughout my career it's been crucial for me to be out, open and provide a safe environment for all of my students. It is important for young people to see successful, out queer people doing meaningful work, to see that being queer won't limit your path."

What was your Concordia experience like?

MAL: "It was very positive. I feel like my Concordia experience continued after completing both my degrees — I kept in touch with my teachers. They have been mentors." ■

—Richard Burnett is a Montreal freelance writer.



NICOLAS GOJIN (L'HIBOU)

MELISSA-ANN LEDO ORGANIZES THE RAINBOW STORY HOUR AT MONTREAL'S LIBRAIRIE DRAWN & QUARTERLY.

Irving Layton Award for Creative Writing: Poetry

Interior with Congenital Hearing Loss

By Michael Lottner

Concordia's Department of English confers prizes for excellence in the studies of English literature and creative writing. The Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, worth \$500 each, are presented to undergraduate students for works of poetry and fiction. To qualify for the poetry award, students must submit one or several poems.

Michael Lottner, BA (Eng. & creative writing) 18, was the recipient of the 2018 poetry award. He writes: "I live in Calais and work at a quince orchard. In my spare time I race horses. I still write avidly."



COURTESY MICHAEL LOTTNER

MICHAEL LOTTNER

Let me begin with a few elementary gnostic points.

You are right to be skeptical of the sound

that beams through sleep. Mint is scrunched between crushed

ice and your glass. You are the backbone who presides

over your politics of incompleteness.

And now you've done it. But it is not enough

to fade into air like pollen. Know what I am jealous of?

A spell cast with correct intonation.

Like your sentence. Like your motto. Like the efficacy

of God's isolation in a crowded room.

There is a long history to why enormous rainfalls

are not the weather I requested. After surgery I was given

a crescent bowl for vomit. An orange popsicle.

You are charged with diffusing the long history.

Use the long history to uncover what hearing means to me.

As though my voice is the hearing I supposedly lost.

And, cupping hand over helix,

or wearing hearing aids, likeness looms up

with an ogre's appetite. I do not think this is true.

Truth is, the concert was terrific. But I could only pretend.

You have been so patient. Here is your reward.

There is no loss because there is no sound.

There is no wallpaper because there are no walls.



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Space Concordia students and alumni discuss how the club helps them “reach into the void” to see what’s possible in space exploration – and themselves

AN OUT-OF-THIS-W

DAMON VAN DER LINDE, BA 08

Space may be the final frontier for some — yet for students who dream of exploring the universe, Space Concordia could be the launch pad to a new frontier. The student society allows members to design real space technology and contribute to groundbreaking research before taking off to a wide range of related careers.

Today, the Space Concordia team of nearly 100 students from a variety of academic fields builds satellites, propels rockets, designs rovers and robots or works on other out-of-this-world projects.

Since it began in 2010, Space Concordia’s teams have consistently succeeded at national and international

competitions, with wins at events every year. In 2018, after sending their rocket 25,063 feet (7,369 metres) into the sky at the Spaceport America Cup, the world’s largest intercollegiate rocket engineering competition, the Concordia contingent finished in first place in the 30,000-foot (9,144-metre) and payload competitions — ahead of squads from McGill University and Stanford University. Another highlight is a first prize win at the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge.

Competing in events is only part of Space Concordia’s mission. Members say projects are devised to have real-world applications: rockets designed to reach orbital altitude, or high-altitude balloons that carry equipment for

scientific research. Space Concordia even plans to launch a satellite into orbit, which will be a first for any university in Quebec.

Members, who come from all university faculties, also collaborate with supportive Concordia professors, help plan events such as the Montreal Space Symposium, promote club activities and interact with different players in the space industry outside the university. The student group’s networking events are also a place to make connections with professional engineers, researchers, CEOs and astronauts.

Meet five current and former Space Concordia team members who rave about the experience.

“Space Concordia was the pinnacle of my education.”

WORLD EXPERIENCE

FROM CONCORDIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

ALEX POTAPOVS, BENG 12, IS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER AT OTTAWA-BASED NEPTEC DESIGN GROUP, WHICH DESIGNS ELECTRO-OPTICAL AND ELECTROMECHANICAL SYSTEMS FOR MISSION-CRITICAL SPACE APPLICATIONS.

How did your time with Space Concordia influence your career choice?

Alex Potapovs: "Space Concordia was an introduction to the space technology sector. It prepared me for a career since I learned how to work not just in an academic setting but also how to practically apply knowledge.

It taught me how to work in teams, how to network, how to reach out to industry professionals. It helped make me resourceful and put me in touch with the right people at the start of my career in the space industry. It's a small industry, so I'm still in contact with people I met during my time at the club."

What was your most remarkable Space Concordia experience?

AP: "We were invited to a gala at the National Air and Space Museum in Ottawa to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of the *Alouette 1*, Canada's first satellite. It was at this event that they announced we won first place in the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge.

The banquet was attended by a lot of people from the space industry. For that moment everyone was focused on us and people came over to congratulate us. There were even some of the original engineers who designed the *Alouette* back in 1962. We felt very important.

At that point, I was already working at MDA Corporate before I graduated. Now I'm at Neptec Design Group in Ottawa working as a mechanical team lead on projects we're building for the international space station, so it's pretty exciting."

ALEX POTAPOVS, A MECHANICAL ENGINEER AT NEPTEC DESIGN GROUP IN OTTAWA, WAS A MEMBER OF THE SPACE CONCORDIA TEAM THAT WON THE CANADIAN SATELLITE DESIGN CHALLENGE IN 2012.

Had you not joined Space Concordia, would your university experience have been as enriching?

AP: "It's hard to even imagine what my time at university would have been like. Before Space Concordia, I was on track to be an automotive engineer or something to that effect. After doing the project with Space Concordia, my career took a totally different turn. I would say overall Space Concordia was the pinnacle of my education.

It gave me the confidence to see that it's possible to go there — not just the confidence but the competence as well."



LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

HANNAH JACK HALCRO IS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN THE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AND NOW PRESIDENT OF SPACE CONCORDIA.

How did your time with Space Concordia influence your career choice?

Hannah Jack Halcro: "I know I'm very interested in space in general but I don't know what particular aspect I'd want to actually work in, and Space Concordia gives me the opportunity to try out different roles.

Right now, as president, I'm in more of a management or leadership role, but maybe next year I'll do something technical. I think without any student clubs I wouldn't have that kind of insight into what I like."

What was your most remarkable Space Concordia experience?

HJH: "When the SpaceX *Falcon Heavy* launched in the spring, sending Elon Musk's car into space, a group of Space Concordia members got together in our small lab, where we livestreamed the event on TV. It was just so many nerds screaming at a TV as if it was the biggest rocket launch that ever happened. It was a strong sense of community, and we were brought together by this passion for a cool thing that was happening.

There is the scientific value of space exploration, but it's also humanity reaching into the void and seeing what's there. It's not something you think about all the time but it's something that's in the background."

Had you not joined Space Concordia, would your university experience have been as enriching?

HJH: "It would have been completely different. I go to school for Space Concordia as much as for my degree. An actual entry-level engineering job is not going to be anything like actually working on a project built by people who you care about, but also doing real science in a place where very few people can go. My focus has shifted from learning to be an engineer to learning to build space technology and manage a team. It truly changed me."

"There is the scientific value of space exploration, but it's also humanity reaching into the void and seeing what's there."



HANNAH JACK HALCRO SAYS BEING SPACE CONCORDIA'S PRESIDENT ALLOWS HER TO LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP. NEXT YEAR SHE HOPES TO TAKE ON MORE TECHNICAL CHALLENGES.



EMMANUEL PAPANAGIOTOU, FOURTH FROM RIGHT, IS PURSUING AN MASC AT THE SPACE FLIGHT LABORATORY AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S INSTITUTE OF AEROSPACE STUDIES. HE SAYS SPACE CONCORDIA TAUGHT HIM THE BENEFITS – AND CHALLENGES – OF BEING PART OF A TEAM.

CURIOSITY SPARK

EMMANUEL PAPANAGIOTOU, BENG 17, IS AN MASC CANDIDATE AT THE SPACE FLIGHT LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO INSTITUTE OF AEROSPACE STUDIES.

How did your time with Space Concordia influence your career choice?

Emmanuel Papanagiotou: "I always liked the space industry and would follow the news about it, but I can't say that when I started university I knew that was the field where I wanted to work.

As an undergraduate I was very involved at Space Concordia and spent a lot of hours in the lab. I was working on the *Aleksandr Satellite*, where my main role was the Attitude Determination and Control Subsystem. It was a small team, so I needed to take initiative for pretty much everything, including talking to companies for procuring materials.

Space Concordia is not only good for technical skills but also for networking. It has a big network and a big agenda of activities for outreach, which attract other students as well as people from academia.

We were invited to a handful of presentations by the Canadian Space Agency and they talked about the industry and what kinds of professions you can follow. All these things sparked my curiosity to work in this interdisciplinary environment while pushing the envelope a little bit — it resonated with my own personality."

What was your most remarkable Space Concordia experience?

EP: "The biggest highlight was when we won first place in the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge in 2016 against nearly a dozen other teams from different universities. All the hard work we put in together paid off. It was a really nice culmination of all the effort."

Had you not joined Space Concordia, would your university experience have been as enriching?

EP: "When you join a club, your reach of activities can span a broad range initially, until you find your fit. This experience showed me the ways with which I could contribute to the space industry in the future. Without Space Concordia I would have had fewer technical and social experiences.

It also taught me that being in a team is not only about the good stuff — it's about having to deal with people while working through hard times."

"It taught me that being in a team is not only about the good stuff – it's about having to deal with people while working through hard times."

“You get to meet and work with many people who are passionate about the same things you are.”



SPACE CONCORDIA'S INTERDISCIPLINARY ASPECT AND DIVERSE MEMBERS HELPED ANITA HAURIE IN HER CURRENT ROLE AS A GAMEPLAY PROGRAMMER AT UBISOFT IN MONTREAL.

ROCKETRY SKILLS AND PEOPLE SKILLS

ANITA HAURIE, BENG 18, IS A GAMEPLAY PROGRAMMER FOR UBISOFT IN MONTREAL.

How did your time with Space Concordia influence your career choice?

Anita Haurie: “I’m a programmer in video game development, so I didn’t end up in the space industry, which is what I always thought I’d be doing. I got really lucky with my first internship and found an industry that I really fell in love with.

That isn’t to say the stuff I learned at Space Concordia didn’t help me in my career. I definitely developed a lot of team skills and people skills applicable to any career. I know that it helped me in interviews. Being involved with the rocketry team was basically my first engineering experience that wasn’t a class project, and that really helped me at the beginning of my career.”

What was your most remarkable Space Concordia experience?

AH: “I think it was being part of the high-altitude balloon team. We worked on it for a couple of months preparing everything and making sure the parts were working fine. When it came down to the launch day, all we had to do was fill the balloon and let it go, knowing that afterwards we would get to look at the camera footage that actually lets you see the atmosphere and the curvature of the earth. It’s really exciting to know that we can do that.”

Had you not joined Space Concordia, would your university experience have been as enriching?

AH: “I learned a lot from the interdisciplinary aspect of the club. In my job now I work with people from very different fields: I’m working very closely with artists and designers, and it’s always interesting.

At Ubisoft you have to learn to work with people from different backgrounds

and different perspectives, and I think that was the big part of what Space Concordia was for me. You’re working with people from all the engineering fields; people you wouldn’t necessarily work with otherwise.

One of the best things about Space Concordia is that you get to meet and work with many people who are passionate about the same things you are. You get to meet friends and colleagues, and it gives you the opportunity to apply the knowledge you learn in class. I think it helped me gain confidence in my skills and to learn what engineering actually was.”

HIGHLIGHT OF HIS UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

JAN CLARENCE DEE, BENG 17, IS A CONSULTANT AT EUROCONSULT, A MONTREAL-BASED CONSULTING AND ANALYST FIRM SPECIALIZING IN SATELLITE-ENABLED VERTICAL MARKETS.

How did your time with Space Concordia influence your career choice?

Jan Clarence Dee: "Space Concordia is the reason I am in the space industry in the first place. I wasn't actually that into space when I was a kid. I grew up in the Philippines, where there was no space industry.

I moved to Canada and, at the time I was looking at universities, Chris Hadfield was releasing his videos from space. This was also when Concordia won first place at the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge, and I thought it was so interesting that I could actually work on satellites this early in my career. I immediately joined and I haven't looked back."

"Space Concordia is in such a good position now because everyone in the field in Canada knows it."

What was your most remarkable Space Concordia experience?

JCD: "Being a team lead at Space Concordia. Before, I didn't think of myself as much of a leader, and being put in that position with responsibility was very challenging but very enriching. It was a lot of hard work, but it was well worth it. I learned so many things and met so many cool people not only in school but in the industry as well."

Had you not joined Space Concordia, would your university experience have been as enriching?

JCD: "Space Concordia is by far the highlight of my university experience and is the reason for all the opportunities that came my way. In fact, I owe almost every offer I got and everything I learned to Space Concordia.

It also opened my eyes to the world of space and the many fields beyond just satellite engineering.

After working in the field, I wanted to try something new and focus on the business aspect of space. Right now, I work as a space consultant researching different market trends, advising government agencies and studying new space projects around the world.

The space industry is actually a small field. Once you make your mark everybody knows you, and Space Concordia is in such a good position because everyone in the field in Canada knows about it." ■

—Damon van der Linde, BA o8, is a Vancouver freelance writer.

WATCH SPACE CONCORDIA'S VIDEOS:

Students talk Space Concordia:
bit.ly/studentstalkspace

Icarus balloon launches:
bit.ly/icarusconcordia

Support the team: To donate to the Space Concordia team, visit
concordia.ca/fundone/spaceconcordia.



SPACE CONCORDIA WAS "BY FAR THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE," SAYS JAN CLARENCE DEE, NOW A CONSULTANT AT EUROCONSULT IN MONTREAL.

John Molson MBA at 50: '80s and '90s grads look back

In the continuing series to mark the 50th anniversary of the John Molson MBA, we connect with the illustrious program's grads to discover how it shaped their future and helped propel their success.

BRENDA GEWURZ: A REAL IMPACT ON A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER

Brenda Gewurz, MBA 82, is vice-president of marketing and sales at Montreal-based developer Proment. She is also a licensed real estate broker with her own firm, Brissaw Inc. Gewurz looks back at how she transitioned from the classroom to the boardroom, how Concordia's childcare facilities helped her succeed both in business and as a mother, and the lasting value of her business school education.

Why did you choose to pursue an MBA?

Brenda Gewurz: "I had obtained my BSc and MSc from McGill and was working in a lab doing medical research. And though I've always been a technical person and liked science, I didn't like the loneliness of being in the lab. I thought if I got an MBA then I could work on the management side of pharmaceuticals."

You then switched careers?

BG: "It took me eight years to finish my MBA. During that time, I had my two youngest children and was working part-time for my husband, who is in real estate development. I spent a lot of time listening to him talk about real estate and decided to switch fields totally. I also took real estate courses at Concordia."

How were you able to juggle the MBA and being a working parent?

BG: "My fellow students would complain that they had no time to study. I'd laugh: 'Yeah, sure. You don't know what busy is.' I had a three-year-old who I put in the Concordia daycare while I was in class. He was a part-time student too! There were few daycares in the '70s, so that was critical. I don't know if I would have been able to do the MBA without it."

One of the reasons I chose Concordia was because it allowed you to do the program part-time. I think it's very important that people can work before and during their MBA. That way you get a better sense of what you want to specialize in, as well as where your skills and interests lie.

I also think that working during the MBA was helpful during our case studies — I was often able to bring in my own experiences."

Since you finished your MBA, the world of marketing has changed. What did you learn that's still valuable today?

BG: "The rigour and discipline you learn can apply to anything. And also, with social media, there's a lot of science involved."



BRENDA GEWURZ'S MBA HELPED HER MAKE THE SUCCESSFUL MOVE FROM SCIENCE TO BUSINESS. AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER, GEWURZ RECEIVED THE 2018 SAMUEL BRONFMAN MEDAL, THE HIGHEST HONOUR GIVEN BY MONTREAL JEWISH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FEDERATION C.J.A.

How many women were in your MBA program?

BG: "There was only one other woman in my year. She was a mother too, and we would see each other at the daycare. However, I never thought of myself being out of the ordinary while I was at Concordia — it never dawned on me that I was one of very few women."

What's your advice for people currently in an MBA program?

BG: "I think it doesn't matter if you are using every one of the subjects you learned. An MBA teaches you discipline and a way of looking at and solving problems that is critical in any business."

"I think that working during the MBA was helpful during our case studies — I was often able to bring in my own experiences."

JAMES MCKENNA: LEARNING TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT HELPED BUILD A FINANCE CAREER

James McKenna, MBA '96, is managing director in the global investment banking group at RBC Capital Markets in Toronto. He looks back at what he learned as an MBA student, how he still leans on those lessons in his day-to-day and what he'd do differently if he got to do it all over again.

Why did you choose to pursue an MBA?

James McKenna: "My undergrad in economics was very theoretical and someone suggested to me that an MBA, which is more practical and case-based, would help me better transition to a job in finance."

What do you think about your decision to pursue an MBA right after your BA?

JM: "The beauty of the MBA program is that it brings together a bunch of smart people from different backgrounds who draw upon their personal experiences during the case work and courses. You learn a lot from that. I was probably one of the younger people in my class and I didn't have that much to share because I hadn't really spent time in the workforce. If I were to do it again, I'd do the exact same program but I'd bring a couple of years of experience to the table."

How did you land your current position?

JM: "After I graduated, I got hired on the finance team at Bell Canada — I found that job through a posting at Concordia. Then I was hired by RBC in Montreal. A few years in, an opportunity came up in Toronto; it seemed like a good career move and I haven't looked back since."



JAMES MCKENNA FOUND HIS FIRST FINANCE JOB, AT BELL CANADA, THANKS TO A CONCORDIA POSTING. TODAY HE'S MANAGING DIRECTOR IN THE GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANKING GROUP AT RBC CAPITAL MARKETS IN TORONTO.

What's the most valuable thing you learned during your MBA?

JM: "In the MBA program, you're constantly working with others. Since joining the workforce, everything I've done has been team-based, so learning how to work in groups with people you've just met, and with tight and changing deadlines, has been a skill that's served me well. This is how you learn to build relationships and, in my business, relationships are very important."

You would think that, for a job in finance, math would be the most important thing. But what I draw upon the most from my education are the strategy and marketing courses where you learn how to sell ideas or concepts."

What did you like about the Concordia MBA?

JM: "I didn't get involved in student life as an undergrad, but when I joined Concordia I got involved with the MBA Society student association. I also participated, and was part of the winning team, in an international case competition. Each of those extracurricular activities helped further my connection to other students."

How did Concordia contribute to your success?

JM: "It gave me the tools that I needed, like the basic learning, but it also gave me the confidence to bring all that I learned together and apply it to real-world situations. The MBA program was the first time I had to do presentations; I learned how to present my ideas in a concise, coherent way. It's a skill I practise every day."

Have you returned to JMSB since you graduated?

JM: "I toured the new building last year and what a difference from when I was there. The school put a lot of money into the campus and into technology. It looks great!" ■

—Jasmin Legatos is a Montreal freelance writer and editor.

"Learning how to work in groups with people you've just met, and with tight and changing deadlines, has been a skill that's served me well."



Pioneering BEng alumnae

Concordia's first Bachelor of Engineering class graduated 50 years ago. Meet two women grads who have pursued careers in the field.

J A S M I N L E G A T O S

The first bachelor of engineering class graduated from Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, in 1968. Through 2018-19, Concordia celebrates the 50th anniversary of the BEng program at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. Renamed in fall 2018 in honour of Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, it is the first engineering faculty in Canada — and one of the few in the world — named after a woman.

First woman to graduate with a BEng

Jose Bakker, BEng 69, didn't want to sit in an office and count all day. As a high school student at an all-girls Catholic school who liked math, bookkeeping was the traditional career choice in the 1960s.

"The nuns didn't think engineering was a good option for me. They thought I should go into teaching or something. Or maybe they thought I was boy crazy," she says from her home in northwestern Oregon. Bakker wasn't deterred.

While Sir George Williams University had no physics prerequisite for admission, the then-17-year-old Bakker picked up a physics textbook and taught herself what she needed to know the summer before she began her degree.

That tenacity paid off — four years later she was one of 30 to graduate with a BEng out of a class that initially counted 100 students. She was also the only woman — a fact that no one seemed to acknowledge on graduation day in 1969. "I was kind of disappointed because no



JOSE BAKKER NOW LIVES IN NORTHWESTERN OREGON WITH HER HUSBAND.



JOSE BAKKER (FIRST ROW, RIGHT), WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO GRADUATE WITH A BENG FROM SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY. WHILE AT THE UNIVERSITY, SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS GARNET KEY SOCIETY.

one made a fuss about me," she admits.

Though she did sometimes feel like a fish out of water surrounded by male classmates, Bakker says they were like a family. "They all protected me. I was like their little sister," she says.

While at Concordia, Bakker was admitted into the prestigious Garnet Key Society. "As a member of the Key I met a wide range of people from other disciplines and cultures and it broadened my experience of university life," she says. "I still have the jacket of my uniform and I was very proud to have been part of the Key."

She recalls one teacher in particular, Matthew McCartney Douglass, who left a lasting impression.

"He was my mentor. He and I got along really well and he's the one who convinced me to pursue civil engineering, where I felt more

comfortable, rather than electrical," she says. Douglass also helped her get her iron ring back after she lost it years after leaving Concordia.

Bakker still wears the ring. "You never know who you will meet; they might ask about it," she says.

Shortly after graduating, Bakker was hired by the Montreal Engineering Company and moved to Nova Scotia, where she designed a coal mine in Cape Breton. From the East Coast she headed west to Toronto to design mini steel mills and then to Louisiana, Connecticut, upstate New York and Texas to work on the construction of nuclear power plants.

"I didn't sit at a desk!" she says, while recalling all the places engineering helped take her.

Bakker retired in 1990 after 20 years in the field. When she left engineering,

BEng 50

Bakker was a supervisor — a role she found particularly rewarding. “I liked the challenges and I liked to encourage the people working for me.”

While in Texas, she met her husband. When his work took him to Oregon, Bakker, who had spent her career working for Canadian companies, decided against sitting the engineering exams to get her U.S. accreditation.

“When you work in construction, you work an average of 60 hours a week,” she explains. “I thought that maybe I’d take a rest.”

The fact that Bakker was successful, that she got job offers despite being turned down by some companies because of her gender, is partly due to her time at Concordia. “They must have trained us in the right way.”

A few tries before finding her true calling

You don’t often hear of people transferring into engineering at the university level. Yet Zey Emir, BEng 89, did just that. The Istanbul, Turkey, native had originally planned to pursue a finance degree at an institution in her home country. “However, my parents had already immigrated to Canada and wanted me to join them,” explains Emir, who today is president of Revay and Associates Limited, a Montreal-based consulting firm that specializes in construction claims and disputes.

Still, engineering wasn’t where she immediately settled. Emir began her university career studying psychology at Concordia. “The courses were interesting, but I didn’t see how I could have the career I wanted without a master’s degree or PhD,” she says.

At the time, Emir’s brother was already studying civil engineering at Concordia. “I found what he was learning about fascinating,” she says. After a year in psychology, she made the switch.

In her new faculty, Emir experienced the same jitters as other students beginning their engineering careers, wondering in part who her friends would be. Those concerns melted away as Emir dug into the hard work of an engineering undergraduate, which often requires working closely with fellow students.

One specific relationship lasted well beyond university. “I remember the day I met my future husband. He was in my materials lab and we paired up to perform a slump test on a concrete



ZEY EMIR, BENG 89, IS PRESIDENT OF CONSTRUCTION CONSULTING FIRM REVAY AND ASSOCIATES.

sample,” she says. They started dating soon afterward. “Throughout our marriage, we debated who approached whom to be partners. This debate has never been resolved.”

Emir credits Concordia’s engineering program for providing her with a marketable degree. “I learned to think critically, meet deadlines, work under pressure and multi-task,” she says. “I also learned that hard work is easier when you work in a team and find reasons to laugh frequently.”

Though she graduated during a recession, Emir landed a job straight out of school as a junior engineer at Revay, where she’s spent her entire career. “It’s a fascinating field. Our work involves many facets of construction projects — legal and contractual aspects, engineering and construction as well as scheduling and costing.”

Since leaving Concordia, Emir has been back several times to speak as a panellist at career days. She and other Revay staff also frequently appear as guest lecturers in construction management classes.

The campus has changed quite a bit in 30 years, she admits. “There are several new buildings and more gathering spaces available to students,” she points out. “That said, we still had a collegiate feeling back then when groups would come together to study or hang out at Reggie’s.” ■

—*Jasmin Legatos is a Montreal editor and writer.*

Taking research and engagement to the next level

TAYLOR TOWER

“GOING BEYOND” WITH EXPERTS-IN-RESIDENCE

As part of its commitment to connecting to the community, the Faculty of Arts and Science kicked off the fourth season of its event series Beyond Disciplines in November 2018.

The event featured presentations from the faculty’s five experts-in-residence: Morton S. Minc, BA 67, Jurist-in-Residence; David Heurtel, Public Administration Scholar-in-Residence; Eva Pomeroy, Social Innovator-in-Residence; Steve Bonspiel, Journalist-in-Residence; and Rhonda Mullins, MA 96, Literary Translator-in-Residence.

“Beyond Disciplines perfectly encapsulates this faculty’s ethos that collaboration and co-learning are the keys to initiating change, growth and understanding,” says André Roy, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Now in its fourth season, Beyond Disciplines is an event series that invites the public to engage and exchange with the Faculty of Arts and Science by tackling the complex issues of our time from a variety of perspectives. “What I heard again and again from our experts-in-residence is the surprising and rewarding ways their experience of engaging with the students and the Concordia community opened up opportunities for a dynamic exchange of knowledge,” says Roy.

The experts are embedded in the university and welcome the public and

Concordia community to attend a variety of events, including workshops and speaker series. Among his many activities as Jurist-in-Residence, Morton Minc hosts conversations with distinguished figures in Quebec and Canadian law, from the Court of Appeal of Quebec to the Supreme Court of Canada, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

“My experience with the Jurist-in-Residence program has opened my eyes to the myriad possibilities available to me,” says Katelynd Campo, a sociology major with a minor in law and society. “Judge Minc’s mentoring and guidance not only led me on a new career path but his lectures and speaker series augmented my classroom experience and enhanced my understanding of various social problems in a way that textbooks can’t.”

Bonspiel, the Journalist-in-Residence, guided students in creating in-depth coverage on the preservation of the Mohawk language. The project, *Living the Language: The Mohawk Revival*, looks at the many external factors, including colonialism, that have contributed to silencing the Mohawk language, Kanien’kéha. “To me, teaching is a microcosm of life,” says Bonspiel. “My experience as Journalist-in-Residence has taught me so much and I can tell by looking into the eyes of my students that they too have been changed.”

The Social Innovator-in-Residence, Pomeroy, is exploring the possibilities for social innovation through U. Lab, a learning model developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



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1 JOURNALIST-IN-RESIDENCE STEVE BONSPIEL, BACK RIGHT, PICTURED WITH HIS STUDENTS.

2 MIA CONSALVO IS THE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN GAME STUDIES AND DESIGN.

3 THE GENOME FOUNDRY OPENED ON THE LOYOLA CAMPUS IN AUGUST 2018.

and used around the world. Bringing together community members, students and faculty, U. Lab harnesses the contributions of a diverse group to bring ideas to life, ones with lasting implications for changing our world. “We’re seeing a new configuration of the learning space,” says Pomeroy. “It becomes a natural feedback loop between what is learned in class and the real world.”

Mullins, the Literary Translator-in-Residence, led a master’s seminar with students from a variety of backgrounds and found the experience invigorated her passion for the art of translation. “Students appreciated the unconventional path that led me to translation, and I fed off their dedication and ceaseless curiosity,” says Mullins.

Heurtel’s mandate as Public Administration Scholar-in-Residence has just begun. The former member of the Quebec National Assembly looks forward to pulling back the curtain on public policy. “By showing the practical side of policy and the factors that influence the policy cycle, I want to bridge the gap between theory and practice in order to give people a more holistic understanding,” says Heurtel.

The Beyond Disciplines event series continues into 2019. More information can be found at concordia.ca/artsci.



CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS PUTTING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

Four faculty researchers received funding through two new Canada Research Chairs (CRC) and two renewals.

Among the chairs are Mia Consalvo, professor in the Department of Communication Studies, with a renewed research mandate in Game Studies and Design.

Jean-Philippe Gouin, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, has been renewed as a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Chronic Stress and Health.

Michael Hallett, professor in the Department of Biology, holds the CRC in Bioinformatics Algorithms and also received research infrastructure funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

Additionally, Aashiq Kachroo, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, is the CRC in Systems and Synthetic Biology.

"Momentum is the key word for our researchers," says Roy. "Our faculty members are constantly reaching higher and these chairships speak to that forward movement."

ANOTHER CANADIAN FIRST

Michael Hallett and Aashiq Kachroo are also involved in a Canadian first that opened in August 2018: the Genome Foundry.

The foundry is part of Concordia's synthetic biology hub alongside the faculty's Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology. "The Genome Foundry is a thrilling initiative for the Faculty of Arts and Science and for Concordia as we boldly direct how this infrastructure will be developed and used on a global scale," says Roy. "It is a shining example of our commitment to collaboration as a path to innovation and impact."

Synthetic biology is a rapidly evolving field where the design principles of engineering fuse with the tools of biology. The Genome Foundry brings together faculty members and researchers from the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and Faculty of Arts and Science to create meaningful synthetic biological systems that have major implications for health, the environment and the economy, to name a few areas of focus.

"This is a monumental addition to Canada's synthetic biology ecosystem," says Vincent Martin, co-director of the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology and professor in the Department of Biology. "It empowers us to navigate uncharted waters alongside our international colleagues, and to incubate the future leaders of our field."

The faculty is playing a leading role in applying statistics to health research with the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology and Department of Mathematics and Statistics in co-directing a new Health Science Collaborating Centre, in partnership with several other Quebec universities.

"This demonstrates an important aspect of statistics in health research and collaboration between statisticians and health care researchers," says Cody Hyndman, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Roy is looking forward to what is in store for the Faculty of Arts and Science in 2019. "We'll continue to push beyond disciplines and beyond the walls of the university," he says. ■

"This is a monumental addition to Canada's synthetic biology ecosystem."



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



Concordia welcomes six new honorary degree recipients

MARTA SAMUEL

Each year, Concordia presents outstanding individuals with honorary degrees at its spring and fall convocations. These leaders are recognized for their extraordinary contributions to their respective fields in Canada and the world.

In fall 2018, Concordia bestowed an honorary degree to Ulrike Ottinger at the university on September 21 and five honorary degrees at ceremonies held at Montreal’s Place des Arts on November 19. The new recipients shared their wisdom and insight with graduating students in their respective faculties, who now join Concordia’s growing community of more than 215,000 alumni worldwide.

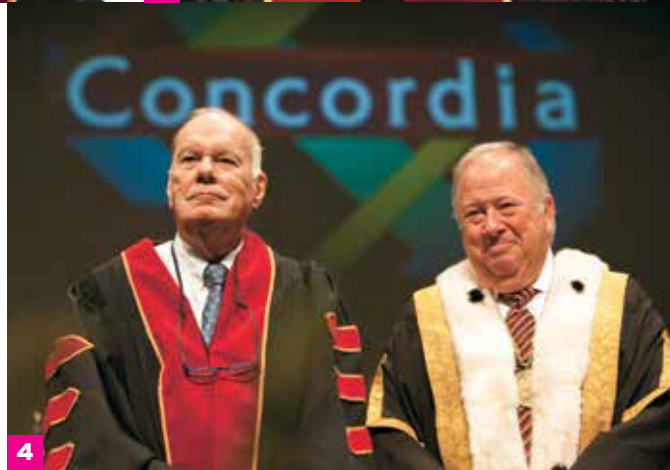
Read highlights from the latest recipients’ convocation addresses below. To view videos of the full speeches, visit concordia.ca/graduation-convocation/ceremonies/past.

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

An artist, photographer and filmmaker, the prolific career of **Ulrike Ottinger**, DFA 18, **1** began in Germany, where she opened her own studio at an early age. Ottinger has appropriated ever-changing media and styles to deconstruct normative European and Asian views of gender, the body and cultural identity. Her novel use of colour, flamboyant costumes and masquerade in film expanded feminist and queer aesthetics in the 1970s and 1980s.

“Stay persistent because boundaries exist to be overcome. Once you catch fire, you have already overtaken the first hurdle.”

Meredith Monk, DFA 18, **2** is a composer, singer, director, choreographer, filmmaker and creator of new opera, music-theatre works, films and installations. Considered one of the most distinctive and influential artists of our time, her work has been presented at major venues throughout the world. Monk received two of the



highest honours bestowed to a living artist in the United States: the 2017 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize and a 2015 National Medal of Arts from former U.S. president Barak Obama.

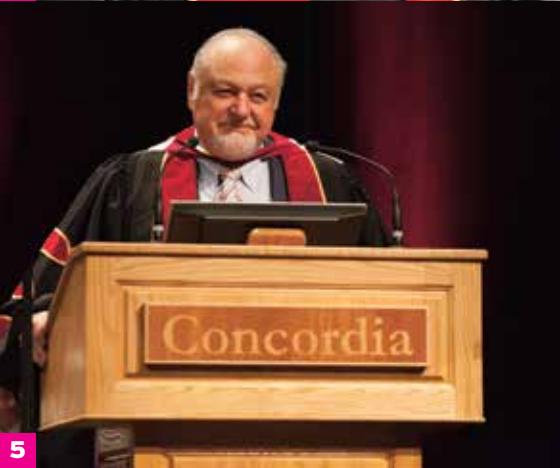
“Part of your purpose on this earth is to find out what your voice has to give to the community and the planet — it will never be the same without you.”

GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Nathalie Pilon, LLD 18, **3** is a leader whose vision connects people and technology. As president of ABB Canada in Montreal, she draws upon her passion for people, technology and sustainability to motivate the organization to fulfill its goal as a driver of Canada’s energy and industrial revolutions. Pilon was named one of Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women’s Executive Network in 2011 and received the Leadership Award from the Association of Women in Finance in 2015.



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“We’re counting on you, as global citizens, to help us make the world a better place. Let’s write the future together.”

**JOHN MOLSON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

Louis A. Tanguay, BComm 75, LLD 18, enjoyed a successful career at Bell Canada in Montreal from 1957 to 2001. During his rise through the company, he headed its three-year re-engineering program in the 1990s and served as president of Bell Canada Innovation Centre, president of Bell Quebec and COO, president and CEO of Bell Canada International.

Tanguay has been generous with his time and experience to public, private and not-for-profit organizations. He has served on the boards of directors of more than 30 companies across various industries. Tanguay is pictured with **Concordia Chancellor Jonathan Wener**, BComm 71. **4**

“Knowledge is central to successful operations. Knowing your business involves understanding what each employee is doing.”

Luigi Liberatore, LLD 18, **5** has dedicated his professional life to developing small and mid-size businesses in Canada as both a real estate developer and venture capitalist. A leader in the business community, Liberatore served as chairman of the Montreal Board of Trade, guiding its merger with the Chamber of Commerce

of Metropolitan Montreal. He is also a generous philanthropist known for his passion for developing healthy, well-educated citizens and communities.

“Remember that success is only truly worthwhile if it help builds characters and societies positively.”

**“Don’t be complacent – continue to learn.
Don’t be discouraged – you are prepared.”**

**FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SCIENCE**

Miriam Roland, LLD 18, studied international relations and psychology in the U.S. before returning to her native Montreal, subsequently setting up a private psychotherapy practice. Beyond her support and involvement at Concordia, Roland has been an active board or committee member at a number of universities and organizations in Montreal and the U.S. Roland is pictured with **Concordia**

**President Alan
Shepard. 6**

“Take the energy that you have to change this wondrous world

to enable people to live better lives. Don’t be complacent – continue to learn. Don’t be discouraged – you are prepared.” ■

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.

To listen to podcasts or watch videos of Advancement and Alumni Relations events, please visit concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts and concordia.ca/alumni/videos.



HOMEcomings 2018

SEPTEMBER 20

Proud Concordians gathered for the second Queer Homecoming, held at the Concordia Conference Centre. The evening featured a discussion by **Florence Gagnon**, BFA 11, publisher of *Lez Spread the Word*, and **Robert-Paul Juster**, BA 06, director of the Centre d'études sur le sexe/genre, l'allotastie, et la résilience at the Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire en santé mentale de Montréal, moderated by Montreal author **Richard Burnett**, BA 88. **1**

SEPTEMBER 21

Homecoming cocktail

Concordia President Alan Shepard welcomed alumni to the Homecoming Cocktail at the Grey Nuns Building to celebrate the next-generation university. The Beth McKenna Quartet entertained the guests, including **Diane Girard**, BSc 68, and **Margaret Cuddihy**, BA 68. **2**

Talk shop with top alumni

Alumni gathered at the Concordia Conference Centre for roundtable networking and career discussions with seasoned professionals.

Loyola Class of '68 dinner

The Loyola College Class of 1968 celebrated its golden anniversary in style with a dinner at the Concordia Conference Centre, chaired by **Walter Tomenson**, BA 68, and **Michael Minkoff**, BComm 68. Concordia President Alan Shepard spoke to the returning class members. **3**

1973 Warriors soccer dinner

The Loyola Warriors men's soccer team celebrated the 45th anniversary of their national championship season at a reunion at the Loyola Jesuit Hall and

Conference Centre. They then watched the Stingers men's soccer team at the Concordia Stadium. Members of the squad, including **Duncan MacFarlane**, BSc 75, **Anthony Madiou**, BComm 75, and **James Corsi**, BEng 76, were honoured at halftime. **4** The following day, all Stingers, Warriors and Georgian soccer alumni were invited to play in a friendly alumni game at Concordia Stadium.

Applied Human Sciences 20th anniversary

Alumni, students, and former and current faculty and staff celebrated the 20th anniversary of Concordia's Department of Applied Human Sciences at the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre. Current chair and professor **Peter Morden**, BA 94, welcomed guest speakers **Maggie Blaise**, BA 00, manager of leisure services at Vigi Santé, **Nakuset**, BA 00, executive director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, and **Randy Swedberg**, the department's first chair. **5**

SEPTEMBER 22

Distinguished alumni lecture series

The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series talk, called Back to the future — reclaiming the internet, featured a discussion with **Jeremy Clark**, assistant professor in the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering, and **Fay Arjomandi**, BEng 98, chairperson at H2 Wellness, moderated by **Mario Ciaramicoli**, BEng 02, president of the Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Chapter and a Concordia University Alumni Association director. **6**

BEng 50th

The first Bachelor of Engineering degrees were conferred 50 years ago by Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions. Amir Asif, dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, welcomed BEng alumni and friends to mark the occasion at the Engineering,

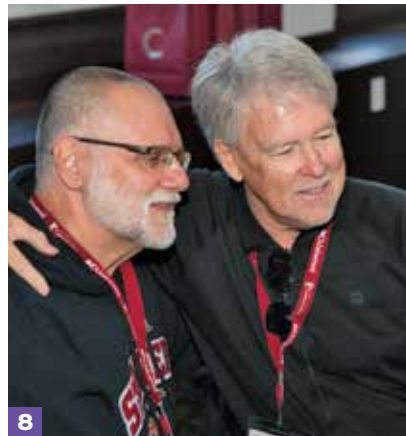
Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. Among the guests were **Serge Pressoir**, BEng 61, BSc 70, and founding faculty dean **Jack Bordan**, LLD 82. **7**

1968 Loyola Warriors football team breakfast

The 1968 Loyola Warriors football team, including **Joe Visocchi**, BA 71, and **Richard Jones**, BA 65, celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre. **8**

Honouring coach Pete Regimbald

After 50 years of loyal service as a player and coach, **Pete Regimbald**, BA 73, bid farewell to the Concordia football program at the end of the 2018 season. Many former and current players, coaches and friends honoured "Coach Pete," as he is affectionately known, with an emotional send-off. He is pictured with his wife, **Diane Regimbald**. **9**





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Alumni Zone and Stingers football

Those celebrating anniversaries and other graduates and friends came out to Concordia Stadium to enjoy the Alumni Zone before the Stingers vs. Université de Montréal Carabins football game. At halftime, the 2018 Sports Hall of Fame inductees were honoured. Among the fans were **Jaime Burt**, BFA 00, **Loan Duong**, BA 00, and **Katherine and Jon Kronemeyer**, BA 02. ¹⁰

Athletic Therapy 30th anniversary reunion

Athletic Therapy graduates, faculty and staff returned to campus to celebrate the program's 30th anniversary. They gathered at the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre.

JMSB alumni panel discussion

The John Molson School of Business and its alumni chapter hosted a lively panel discussion, 'The cannabis industry: how long will the high last?' at the John Molson Building.

Pictured are speakers **Alexandre Autmezguine**, founder and president of Patients of the Co-operation of Calix; **Justin Kausel**, BA 08, director of business development at Greenstream Technologies Inc.; **Andrea Paine**, BA 85, national director of government relations at Aurora Cannabis; and moderator **Layial El-Hadi**, assistant professor in the Centre for Engineering in Society. ¹¹

MBA 50th anniversary dinner

Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, dean of the John Molson School of Business, welcomed alumni and guests to the Concordia Conference Centre to mark the 50th anniversary of the John Molson MBA program. Croteau is pictured with the book *Back To Beer... and Hockey: The Story of Eric Molson* by Helen Antoniou, which she presented as a gift to Paul Stinis, MBA 90, senior vice-president and treasurer of BCE Inc., who delivered the welcoming remarks. ¹²

SEPTEMBER 23

Sports Hall of Fame brunch

The 2018 Sports Hall of Fame inductees were feted at the Concordia Conference Centre. The stellar group of outstanding athletes included: woman's hockey standout **Lisa Marie Breton-Lebreux**, BA 04 (centre), pictured with current women's hockey coach **Julie Chu** and former coach **Les Lawton** ¹³; football linebacker **Dwayne Bromfield**, attendee 99 ¹⁴; and the 1997-98 women's hockey and 1998 football teams.

SEPTEMBER 24

Wild Talks lecture: Christine Jones

Tony Award-winning set designer **Christine Jones**, BFA 89, delivered a colourful presentation to a full house at the D.B. Clarke Theatre at the third annual Wild Talks lecture. Jones is pictured with **Catherine Wild**, the former dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and the lecture series' namesake. ¹⁵



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ALUMNI NEWS

Shuffle

More than 600 Concordians joined forces at Shuffle 29 on September 28 for the annual inter-campus walkathon. They raised an impressive \$108,000 for student scholarships and bursaries. Pictured are advisory committee members **Roberto Chen-Rangel**, BA 99, **Cindy Parkinson**, **Faye Corbin**, BA 83, and **Zara Saeeozakerin**. [16](#)

Women and Leadership

Researcher, lawyer and journalist Hadiya Roderique — whose *Globe and Mail* article “Black on Bay Street” went viral last fall — spoke at Women and Leadership events at Toronto’s Le Richmond on October 23 and at Montreal’s Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites on November 8. Roderique shared her insights during her talks, called The power of inclusive leadership and benefits of diverse teams. Pictured at the Toronto event are **Irene Anyanwu**, BComm 87, and **Angela Adediran**, BComm 01. [17](#)

TIFF alumni event

During the Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto-area alumni, including **Mustafa Nazarali**, BComm 91, **Jeff Wolpert**, BFA 79, and **Joanne McConnell** [18](#), gathered at the Real Sports Bar & Grill on September 13 to glean behind-the-camera insight from movie-industry insiders.

The Walrus Talks Disruption Part of Thinking Out Loud, Concordia’s podcast and events series

The Walrus Talks events across Canada featured seven prominent experts, including two Concordians, talking on the idea of disruption. Alumni were invited for a reception before each event.

Concordia faculty members Ann-Louise Davidson of the Department of Education and Concordia University Research Chair in Maker Culture, and Elizabeth Fast of the Department of Applied Human Sciences were among the speakers at Calgary’s Theatre Junction Grand on October 22. At the cocktail reception, Graham Carr,

Concordia’s provost and vice-president, Academic, welcomed alumni, including **Jessica Myatt**, BA 10, and **Kathryn McCaughey**, BA 11. [19](#)

At Toronto’s Isabel Bader Theatre on November 6, professors Vincent Martin, Concordia University Research Chair in Microbial Engineering and Synthetic Biology, and Yasmine Jiwani of the Department of Communication Studies joined other experts, including comedian and writer Tranna Wintour, BA 10. Concordia President Alan Shepard welcomed alumni, including **Barbara Stanley**, BA 67, at the reception at the Victoria College building. [20](#)

Guylaine Beaudry, vice-provost of digital strategy and University Librarian, and Fenwick McKelvey, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies, presented at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa on November 20. Alumni, including **Anne Boudreault**, BA 97, with **André Breault**, met beforehand at a cocktail reception. [21](#)

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

76 Jim Corsi, BEng, was named organization goaltending development coach for the Columbus Blue Jackets of the National Hockey League in September 2018. Jim coached with the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team during the 2017-18 season.

79 Arshad Ahmad, BComm (fin.), became vice chancellor of Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan in August 2018. Arshad, a former Concordia finance professor, had been vice-provost of Teaching and Learning at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont.

82 David Birnbaum, BA (journ.), was re-elected member of the National Assembly for the D'Arcy-McGee riding, representing the Quebec Liberal Party, in the Quebec provincial elections held October 1, 2018.

84 Jennie Moushos, BComm (acct.), won the Insurance Person of the Year Award at the 2018 Salute Insurance Person of the Year gala in November. Jennie is senior vice-president of Intact Insurance's western division in Calgary.

88 Louis Gagnon, BSc (act. math.), became United States and Canada region president for Mercer in New York City in October 2018. Mercer is an international health, wealth and career consultant. Louis had been CEO of Mercer Canada.

89 Lars Eller, BComm (fin. & mgmt. admin.), was appointed president and

CEO of Farmers & Merchants Bancorp Inc. in Archbold, Ohio, in September 2018. Lars was previously with Royal Bank America.

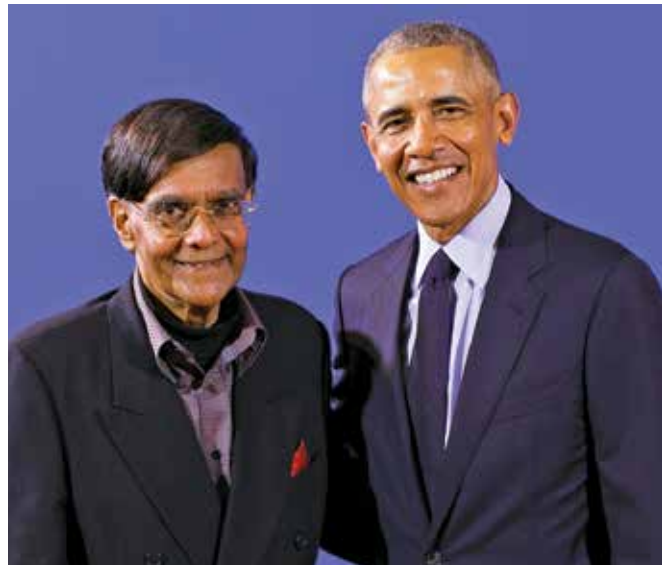
Lino Saputo Jr. is CEO of Saputo Inc., which won the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Award for Outstanding Corporation, 250 or more employees, on National Philanthropy Day in November 2018. Lino is currently co-chair of the university's Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

Gilbert Tordjman, BSc (biochem.), was named vice-president of finance and administration at l'Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal in October 2018. Gilbert had been Concordia's executive director of Advancement Services.

90 Deanna Reder, BA (Eng. & west. soci. & cult.), is associate professor in the departments of First Nations Studies and English at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Deanna was elected a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada in September 2018.

91 James Christoff, BA (poli. sci.), MA 17, was appointed Canada's Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan in September 2018. After graduating with a Master of Public Administration degree from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ont., in 2017, James served as Canada's deputy high commissioner in Nigeria.

Edward Ierfino, BComm (fin.), became CEO and CFO of financial services company Anchor Capital Corporation in Calgary in October 2018. Edward previously had been president of consultancy firm EGI Holdings Corporation.



Mohan Munasinghe, MA (econ.) 75, co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Peace, participated in a panel discussion of eminent speakers — including former United States president **Barack Obama** — at the global Climate Change Leadership Summit in Porto, Portugal, in July 2018. Mohan spoke of the role of business in addressing climate change and sustainability issues. He is chairman of the President's Expert Committee on Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Distinguished Guest Professor at Peking University in China.

Captain Christopher Robinson, BComm (mgmt. admin.), is a commander of the Canadian Submarine Force as well as of the 4th Maritime Operations Group in Victoria. Christopher was invested with the Order of Military Merit, officer level, by Governor General of Canada Julie Payette in November 2018.

92 Marino Garcia Alda, BComm (mktg.), was named senior vice-president of corporate and business development for biotechnology company Zealand Pharma A/S in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 2018. Prior to joining Zealand, Marino was with Synergy Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Marie-Andrée Boutin, MBA, was appointed executive vice-president of Strategy and Operations — Retail for Cominar Real Estate Investment Trust in Quebec City in September 2018. Marie-

Andrée had spent more than 20 years at shoe retailer Aldo.

Michael Grant, BAdmin, was named assistant deputy minister for the Americas at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa in September 2018. Michael was previously ambassador and deputy permanent representative at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York City.

Paul LePage, MBA, was named president and CEO at Montreal-based health care company Intelrad Medical Systems in September 2018. Paul most recently was president of Telus Health and Payment Solutions.

93 Jin-Me Yoon, MFA, is professor in the Department of Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Jin-Me was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Academy of Arts & Humanities, Division of Arts) in September 2018.



1 Jackie Rae Wloski, BA (design and comp. arts) 71, held a solo show at Espace Georges Laoun Opticien in Montreal from December 3 to 28, 2018. 1) *Lost in My Drawing*

2 Andrée Brochu, BFA (studio arts) 74, is a Montreal-based artist and member of RAAV (Regroupement des artistes en arts visuel du Québec). 2) *Voir loin*

3 Marie-Ange Hoda Ackad, BComm 81, BFA (studio arts) 01, had two of her works selected for *CLICK_BAIT*, the first installment of Dab Art's quarterly arts publication and online exhibition (artsy.net/show/dab-art-click-bait), which was online from September 1 to December 1, 2018. The journals will be added to the permanent catalogue in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art – Balch Art Research Library. 3) *Untitled*

4 Rochelle Mayer, BComm 83, BFA (studio arts) 10, participated in the duo exhibition, "Un duo étonnant et qui se complète," at Espace Georges Laoun Opticien in Montreal from November 2 to 29, 2018. rochellemayer.ca 4) *La débâcle*

5 Louise Rouleau, attendee (graphic design) 83, under the name L'OR, exhibited her paintings – including one of a Concordia student association building – at Leunig's Bistro & Café in Burlington, Vt., from June 5 to 19, 2018. 5) *Concordia Student Association Building*

6 G. Scott MacLeod, BFA (studio arts) 03, MA (art ed.) 13, illustrated *The Saga of Murdo MacLeod and His First Contact With the Abenaki* by Mike Burns. The graphic novel and four illustrations were included in the group exhibition "Tionnehkwén: Seeds of Life" at Métèque atelier d'art in Montreal from September 30 to October 14, 2018. The exhibition featured Indigenous and immigrant artists. macleod9.com 6) *The Saga of Murdo MacLeod and His First Contact With the Abenaki*

7 Rasa Pavilanis, BFA (painting and drawing) 07, held a solo exhibition at Centre d'art E.K. Voland in Montreal from October 24 to 27, 2018. 7) *Beyond the Wooded Garden*



1

Clara (Cousineau) Couzino, BFA (studio arts) 18, **1** won the \$15,000 BMO 1st Art! Competition for her artwork, *Objectifier l'écriture*, in July 2018. The annual competition celebrates the creativity of art school students from more than 100 Canadian post-secondary institutions.

Phyllis Aronoff, MA (English) 92, **2** and **Howard Scott**, BA (trans.) 79, MA (arts humanities) 84, **3** won the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award in the category of Translation (from French to English) for *Descent into Night/Explication de la nuit* (Mawenzi House Publishers) by Edem Awumey.

Stéphanie Jasmin, BFA (film prod.) 99, **4** won the Siminovitch Prize, the richest award in Canadian theatre, in November 2018. Stéphanie is co-artistic director of Montreal-based UBU theatre company and has designed videos and conceived the sets for many UBU productions. She has also written and directed two plays.

ORDER OF CANADA

Two Concordia alumni were among those appointed as Members of the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, on December 27, 2018.

Darren Entwistle, BA 86, LLD 12, is CEO of Telus in Vancouver and a volunteer for the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. He was appointed to the order for his "leadership in fostering corporate social responsibility in the telecommunications industry."



2

Quebec businessman **Henri-Paul Rousseau**, LLD 04, left an important mark on several of the province's top institutions, including Power Corporation. He was named to the order for "his many contributions to the economy and for his social and community involvement."

Alumni took home a number of honours in fall 2018.

RÉSEAU DES FEMMES D'AFFAIRES DU QUÉBEC: 2018 PRIX FEMMES D'AFFAIRES DU QUÉBEC

Françoise Bertrand, LLD 13, administratrice de sociétés — Prix réalisations

Svetlana Sidenko, BComm (MIS) 00, MSc (admin.) 06, présidente, IT Chapter — Entreprise à propriété féminine certifiée

WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE NETWORK: CANADA'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN – TOP 100 FOR 2018

Madeleine Chenette, BA (rec. & leisure studies) 85, Montreal products industry lead and office managing director, Accenture — HSBC Corporate Executives category

Julie Quenneville, BA (journ.) 00, president, McGill University Health Centre Foundation — Mercedes-Benz Emerging Leaders category

2018 QUEBEC WRITERS' FEDERATION LITERARY AWARDS

Sina Queyras, MA (Eng.) 95, A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, *My Ariel*

Anne Renaud, BA 83, Children's and Young Adult Literature, *Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament*

Lynn Verge, GrDip (admin.) 04, Judy Mappin Community Award



3

THE 2017-2018 MONTREAL ENGLISH THEATRE AWARDS

Tyrone Benskin, attendee 81, Outstanding Supporting Performance — Actor, *Marjorie Prime*

Anisa Cameron, BFA (drama for human dev.) 02, Outstanding Community Production, director, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Michael Payette, BFA (theatre & dev.) 07, Outstanding Direction, *Around the World in 80 Days*

Michaela Di Cesare, BA (Eng. & cr. wr.) 09, Outstanding New Text (Original or Adaptation), *Successions*

Letitia Brookes, BFA (theatre) 12, Outstanding Lead Performance — Actress, *The Mountaintop*

Michael Hughes, BFA (theatre & dev.) 13, and **Chimwemwe Miller**, BFA (interdisc. studies) 15, co-winners, Outstanding Ensemble, *Around the World in 80 Days*

Evan Stepanian, BFA (electro. studies) 15, Outstanding Contribution to Theatre: Live Musical Performance, *Sapientia*

Zoe (McKean) Roux, BFA (design for the theatre) 16, Outstanding Emerging Artist-Production: Set & Lighting Design, *Invasive Species* and *Smackhead*



4



La Presse foreign correspondent **Agnès Gruda**, BA 79, was among the members of the media who attended a discussion on human rights in Saudi Arabia at Concordia's Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) in October 2018. Agnès, centre, was joined by **Kyle Mathews**, executive director of MIGS, human rights activist and dissident **Omar Abdulaziz**, **Marie Lamensch**, BA 09, assistant to the director of MIGS, and Middle East journalist **Lisa Goldman**.

94 Patricia "Patsy" Van Roost, BFA (studio art), won a 2018 Charles Biddle Award in November. The distinction highlights the exceptional contribution of an immigrant whose personal or professional commitment contributes to the cultural and artistic development of Quebec. Patsy is a multidisciplinary artist who immigrated to Canada from Belgium in 1981.

96 Heather C. Kirk, BComm (fin.), stepped in as executive vice-president and CFO for Cominar Real Estate Investment Trust in Quebec City in December 2018. Heather had been with BMO Capital Markets' Canadian Real Estate Equity Research team.

97 Lucas Pontillo, BComm (fin.), was appointed executive vice-president and global chief financial officer at Fiera Capital Corporation, an independent asset management firm in Toronto, in October 2018. Lucas was previously with Manulife Asset Management Canada.

98 Christopher Avery, AMBA, became president and CEO of First Air in October

2018. First Air is the leading airline in Canada's Arctic, based in Kuujuaq, Que. Christopher had been First Air's vice-president of customer and commercial operations.

Sonja Boodajee, BFA (art ed.), MFA (creative arts therapies) 05, is a Montreal-based art therapist. Sonja delivered a presentation of her work with traumatic brain injury populations at the Canadian Art Therapy Association's 39th annual conference, held at Concordia in October 2018. "I'm grateful that the creative arts therapies department saw my potential when they accepted me in 2001."

02 Sylvia Rich, BA (west. soc. & cult.), will begin as assistant professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa in July 2019. Sylvia holds a doctorate in law from the University of Oxford and common and civil law degrees from McGill University.

07 Julien BriseBois, EMBA, became general manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning of the National Hockey League in September 2018. Julien had been the team's assistant general manager.



The first-ever televised English-language debate between the leaders of Quebec's major political parties was held September 13, 2018. The debate was co-anchored by three Concordia graduates: **Debra Arbec**, BA 89, host of CBC News' *Montreal at 6*; **Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, CTV Montreal News chief news anchor; and **Jamie Orchard**, BA 91, senior anchor for Global Montreal's *Evening News*.



COURTESY ARM NATION

Maureen Marovitch, BA (comm. studies) 91, and **David Finch**, BA (sci. & human affairs) 92, run Montreal-based video production company Picture This Productions (picturethis.ca). Their series *Arm Nation* (armnation.tv) chronicles the training, competitions and personal battles of a dozen Indigenous male and female arm wrestling competitors across Canada. The show was aired and is available for streaming in English and Dene on the APTN network (aptn.ca). Pictured above left is competitor **Brenden Lemmon-Mulvihill** practising in his garage.

08 Shahab Mihandoust, MCSc, BFA (film prod.) 14, and **Ariane Lorrain**, BFA (film prod.) 15, co-directed the documentary *Zagros*. The film won the Best Canadian Short or Medium-Length Film at the Montreal International Documentary Festival in November 2018.

10 Sophie Dupuis, BFA (film prod.) is a Montreal-based filmmaker. Sophie's first feature, *Chien de garde*,

was chosen to represent Canada in the Best Foreign Language Film category for the 91st Academy Awards.

Christopher Skeete, BA (comm. public affairs & policy studies & poli. sci.), was elected a member of the National Assembly for the Sainte-Rose riding, representing the Coalition Avenir Québec, in the Quebec provincial elections held October 1, 2018.

Concordia mourns loss of two beloved professors and alumni



LINDA KAY: TEACHER, MENTOR AND PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST

Linda Kay, MA 01, a professor emerita who served for more than 20 years in Concordia's Department of Journalism — as professor, graduate diploma director and chair — died on October 12, 2018, in Montreal. She was 66.

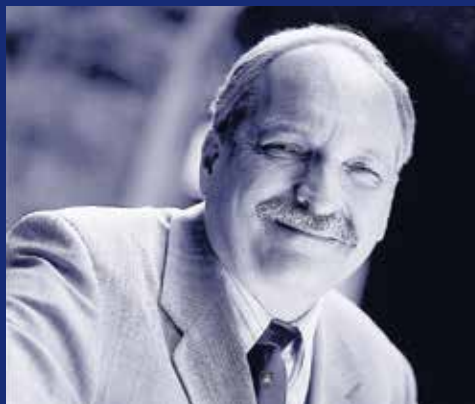
"Linda was a deeply respected professor who led the department to new heights," says David Secko, professor and chair of journalism. "She was such an amazing teacher to everyone, students, faculty and staff, and we will sorely miss her."

Kay joined Concordia in 1990 and became a full professor in 2014. She began her journalism career at the *Paterson News* in New Jersey, followed by the *San Diego Tribune* in California, where she was the paper's first female sportswriter. In 1979, Kay was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for best local reporting for a story covering an airplane crash. She joined *The Chicago Tribune* as a columnist and the paper's first female sportswriter.

Among the many outlets Kay wrote for were *The Globe and Mail*, *The London Free Press*, the *Montreal Gazette*, *Chatelaine* and *Newsweek*. In 2013, she was named a Woman of Distinction in Communications by the Women's Y Foundation of Montreal and won the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence in the Faculty of Arts and Science in 2007.

Kay discovered the untold story of groundbreaking French- and English-speaking female journalists reporting on the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Her research resulted in her 2012 book *The Sweet Sixteen: The Journey That Inspired the Canadian Women's Press Club* (McGill-Queen's University Press). A French translation, *Elles étaient seize : Les premières femmes journalistes au Canada* (Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal) was a finalist for the 2016 Prix du Canada.

—Taylor Tower



DENNIS MURPHY: COMMUNICATION STUDIES PIONEER

Dennis Murphy, BA 67, who played an integral role in advancing the reputation of Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, passed away on November 20, 2018, in Montreal. He was 72.

Murphy was a member of the first graduating class of the Department of Communication Arts at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions. He earned an MA from San Francisco State University in 1972 and a PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1982. Murphy returned to Loyola in 1970 to become a faculty member in Communication Arts, which changed its name to Communication Studies in 1977, and he remained until his retirement in 2010.

"Dennis was an extraordinary colleague who gave so much of his energy to the Department of Communication Studies and to the university as a whole," says Charles Acland, professor and chair of the department. "He had a highly advanced expertise in media ethics, and he inspired several generations of students with his thirst for critical investigation about that topic."

During his long career, Murphy influenced countless students, many who went on to prominent careers in media. The long list includes René Balcer, BA 78, LLD 08, writer and producer of *Law & Order* and co-creator of *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. "Dennis shaped my belief that by bearing witness to our times and provoking reflective thought, television could be an agent for change," Balcer said in 2009. "In many ways, there would not be a *Law and Order* — at least not the socially engaged drama that we see today — if it weren't for what I learned from Dennis Murphy."

Murphy also served as a vice-dean in Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science and executive director of University Communications.

—Howard Bokser

David Milton Campbell, attendee 42, September 13, 2018, Toronto. He was 98.

Elinor (Tait) Roast, BSc 46, November 10, 2018, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. She was 96.

Fernando Dufour, BSc 47, BA 59, MSc 79, October 3, 2018, Montreal. He was 93.

Leon Copnick, BA 49, September 1, 2018, Montreal.

John Alphonse Paré, BA 49, October 19, 2018, Edmonton. He was 93.

David Zacharin, BSc 49, November 8, 2018, Montreal.

Reva (Jezaroff) Cooperman, BA 50, September 2, 2018, Montreal. She was 88.

Richard Blackwell Beaumont, BComm 52, November 9, 2018, Oakville, Ont. He was 88.

Carl Kohler, BComm 52, December 26, 2017, Phoenix, Ariz. He was 89.

William Badke, BComm 53, November 4, 2018, Kitchener, Ont. He was 91.

Emily (Davis) Clyke, BA 53, June 10, 2018, Montreal. She was 104.

John G. McCarney, BA 55, May 8, 2018, Peterborough, Ont. He was 87.

Morton H. Bessner, BA 56, September 25, 2018, Montreal.

Gerald G. Friedlanski(y), BA 59, October 2, 2018, Montreal. He was 81.

Guy Sauv e, BComm 59, September 13, 2018, Montreal. He was 83.

Howard Backman, BEng 60, October 11, 2018, Montreal. He was 79.

Robert G. Beauregard, BA 60, October 30, 2018, Naples, Fla. He was 79.

Richard Cathcart, BComm 61, March 12, 2018, Ottawa. He was 78.

Z non Bryniawsky, BA 62, April 13, 2018, Montreal.

William R. Conrod, BSc 62, September 2018, Ottawa.

Kevin C. Kelly, BSc 63, September 23, 2018, Kingston, Ont. He was 77.

Stephen Ruby, BSc 65, October 9, 2018, Montreal. He was 75.

Catherine Ruth MacGregor, BSc 66, November 6, 2018, Montreal. She was 73.

Father George S. Oakes, BComm 66, December 2018, Montreal.

Andrew K. Gaston, BSc 67, GrDip 78, August 21, 2018, LaSalle, Que.

Adam M. Zygmuntowicz, BA 67, August 30, 2018, Montreal.

Peter Adamakos, BA 68, August 16, 2018, Ottawa. He was 72.

Murray Luck, BA 68, October 22, 2018, Montreal. He was 72.

Geraldine Malcoff, BA 68, November 12, 2018, Montreal.

Kathleen Camozzi, BA 69, October 28, 2018, Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 69.

George R. Sharp, BSc 69, MSc 72, PhD 76, October 9, 2018, Winnipeg. He was 72.

John V. Radcliffe, BA 70, August 29, 2018, Montreal.

William R. Lawler, BA 71, November 4, 2018, Toronto. He was 90.

John A. Rosenberg, BA 71, September 29, 2018, Montreal. He was 69.

Rose Adesky, BA 72, October 20, 2018, Montreal. She was 88.

Brian Quinn, BSc 72, October 15, 2018, Montreal. He was 71.

Mich le Drouin, MA 74, September 16, 2018, Montreal. She was 85.

Timothy Donald William Ross, BA 75, GrDip 78, August 26, 2018, Nanaimo, B.C. He was 70.

Joseph S. Connolly, BFA 76, October 27, 2018, Toronto. He was 96.

Hannelore (Zeibig) Acemian, BA 77, October 19, 2018, Montreal. She was 77.

Gilles Kourie, BComm 77, April 2, 2018, Laval, Que. He was 77.

Josephine (D'Souza) Lobo, BA 77, November 29, 2018, Montreal. She was 79.

Jeffrey I. McGill, MSc 77, August 10, 2018, Kingston, Ont. He was 68.

Barbara (Freundlich) Kneller, BA 79, November 15, 2018, Montreal. She was 92.

Monique Michelle Ledermann, BA 79, November 21, 2018, Montreal. She was 71.

Baruch Cohen, BA 80, MA 85, September 26, 2018, Montreal. He was 98.

Ignazio Loverso, BComm 80, April 23, 2018, in Montreal. He was 61.

Robert J. McCreath, BComm 81, September 4, 2018, Montreal. He was 81.

Alan Lindhorst, BCSc 83, August 10, 2018, Montreal. He was 59.

Gerry McCallum, BComm 83, March 11, 2018, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 71.

Adele Keyes-Lessard, BA 84, November 2018, Calgary. She was 78.

Christopher Myatt, BComm 85, June 19, 2018, Brossard, Que. He was 56.

Sandra J. Ransom, BA 86, September 20, 2018, Montreal. She was 70.

Gregory Gregoriou, BA 88, November 20, 2018, Plattsburgh, N.Y. He was 62.

Cynthia Skoda, BFA 91, September 11, 2018, Montreal. She was 52.

Dimitrios Souranis, BA 93, October 27, 2018, Montreal. He was 94.

Michael Simoncic, BA 95, August 2018, Hamilton, Ont. He was 48.

Susan Aberman, GrDip 05, September 15, 2018, Montreal. She was 66.

Susan Briscoe, MA 05, August 31, 2018, Montreal. She was 51.

Nancy E. Freeman, BA 08, July 20, 2018, Montreal. She was 70. ■

Four decades of friendships

SIMON BATCUP, BCOMM 81

I arrived in Canada fresh from the U.K. in January 1978 — and I knew nobody. I enrolled at Concordia in September and without a doubt it transformed my life.

Many of the folks I met at my alma mater have remained lifelong friends. We were in the same courses and became friends in our first year, yet we truly bonded in the 1980-81 school year. We ran the Commerce Students Association together on the Sir George Williams Campus, calling ourselves the Access '80 team.

Over the years, every one of us on the 1980-81 executive has joined at least one of our reunions, along with several friends who, while not in the association executive, were active and engaged students.

While living in the same city, our group would get together for weddings, baby showers and city visits on a regular basis. Then as careers took us in different directions, the visits became fewer. We did stay in touch — taking advantage of business trips and visits home to catch up, but it was not the same.

While we didn't do it often, we would try and get together in smaller groups every few years to renew our relationships, act like we were students again and reminisce about old times.

Fast forward to 2006, 25 years after graduation. We were spread across



(LEFT) ACCESS '80 ELECTION POSTER FEATURING (CLOCKWISE) SIMON BATCUP, BCOMM 81, GENE DAVID, BCOMM 81, BRUCE WILSON, BCOMM 81, MARIA PICCIANO, BCOMM 81, HARALD BARFOD, BCOMM 81, CATHY COLLARD, BCOMM 81, GRDIP 82, AND STEVE DA SILVA, BCOMM 81, MBA 92.

(ABOVE) BACK ROW: SIMON BATCUP, BCOMM 81, VOULA COCOLAKIS, WILF BLUM, HARALD BARFOD, BCOMM 81, BRUCE WILSON, BCOMM 81, DANIEL SAUVE, BCOMM 81, GRDIP 83; FRONT ROW: STEVE DA SILVA, BCOMM 81, MBA 92, CHANTAL DEMERS, JOANNE CAZA, BA 81, LINDA BIBEAU, ANGIE WILSON, LUCE VEILLETTE

the country, seeing each other only occasionally. Something had to be done. After some discussion, we realized a trip was in order. With a little work, the plan was set: a trip to Napa, Calif.

Meeting first in San Francisco, we started with a reunion lunch, followed by a long weekend in the Napa Valley. As soon as we were together, the years fell away. It was as if we had seen each other the week before. It was the impetus we needed.

“We were 19 years old when we met. We are now turning 60-plus — and I have to say, I could not ask for a finer group of friends.”

We held our 30th anniversary reunion in Las Vegas in 2011. A round of golf, a couple of shows and a few really good reunion dinners — we laughed for three days straight!

The next time we were all together was 2014, 33 years after graduation. We met for 10 days in Portugal, a brilliant vacation. We hired a tour bus and I smiled hearing that marvelous mix of

French and English as we were driving from one destination to another! Friendship crosses many boundaries — including language and politics. The highlight was a reunion dinner in Lisbon, listening to traditional fado.

Skip ahead to 2018. Amidst the fires that hit British Columbia, we met at a resort in Vernon, B.C. We hit a new attendance record, with 13 Concordia graduates in our party of 18. We came together from Montreal, Toronto and

Vancouver. We did not let the smoke dampen our excitement. Golf, wine tours and spa treatments, as well as the now customary reunion dinner made the long weekend an absolute hit.

We were 19 years old when we met. We are now turning 60-plus — and I have to say, I could not ask for a finer group of friends. A word of advice from this graduate: Enjoy your years at Concordia, they won't last forever, but your friendships just might! ■



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