

BRUNNEN

CHAMPIONING OUR IMPACT ON SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT 2024



**MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

CHAMPIONING OUR IMPACT ON SOCIETY

This year we launched two projects that will help define Concordia's future. We secured the largest grant in our history, \$123 million to help communities across Canada become carbon neutral. And we unveiled PLAN/NET ZERØ, an ambitious plan to decarbonize our 80 buildings by transforming our campuses into living labs where green technology can be tested at scale.

We also began designing exciting new partnerships that reflect our commitment to diversity. We became the first university in Quebec to offer a new admissions pathway for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students, and launched the Concordia Africa Initiative to support youth entrepreneurship and employability.

Four of our outstanding faculty were inducted into the Royal Society of Canada; a fifth was named personality of the year by *L'actualité*, while one of the coaches of our Stingers women's hockey team was named to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Our students have also had outstanding achievements. For the second time in three years Concordia students were selected as a Rhodes Scholar and a Schwarzman Scholar and, for the first time, a Concordia student received the Mackenzie King Open Scholarship, which is granted to only one person per year. Finally, the captain of our women's ice hockey team was named Hockey Canada's female player of the year.

I hope you're beaming with pride and inspiration about these stories and the many highlights from our thriving community that fill the pages to follow.



GRAHAM CARR

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR





NEXT
GEN
NOW

DEDICATED TO LONG-TERM ADVANCES IN EDUCATION

AS A NEXT-GENERATION UNIVERSITY, WE REIMAGINE THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. CONCORDIA'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CROSS-FUNCTIONAL RESEARCH BENEFITS OUR 50,000 STUDENTS. CONCORDIA IS THE TOP-RANKED UNIVERSITY IN CANADA UNDER 50, LOCATED IN VIBRANT MONTREAL ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA NATION.

WE STRIVE TO BE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD.

LEARNING

Disrupting the traditional classroom with new concepts

DISCOVERY

Performing innovative and dynamic knowledge-creation across disciplines

ENGAGEMENT

Bringing our insight, understanding, expertise and commitment to the public

INNOVATION

Adopting novel approaches, judicious risk-taking and purposeful experimentation

SPACES

Using buildings to their fullest potential to foster multidisciplinary collaboration

NEXT-GEN SUSTAINABILITY

PROMOTING A HEALTHY PLANET

\$123M RESEARCH GRANT TO ELECTRIFY SOCIETY AND DECARBONIZE COMMUNITIES

Volt-Age will redefine electrification, smart buildings and net-zero communities

The Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) awarded Concordia a historic \$123-million-plus grant to support the activities and initiatives to be encompassed in the university's Volt-Age program. Canadian Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne announced the funding in April.

The investment, the largest single research award in the university's history, significantly amplifies Concordia's already formidable expertise in several areas related to electrification, smart buildings and net-zero communities, furthering its leadership in helping Canada achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

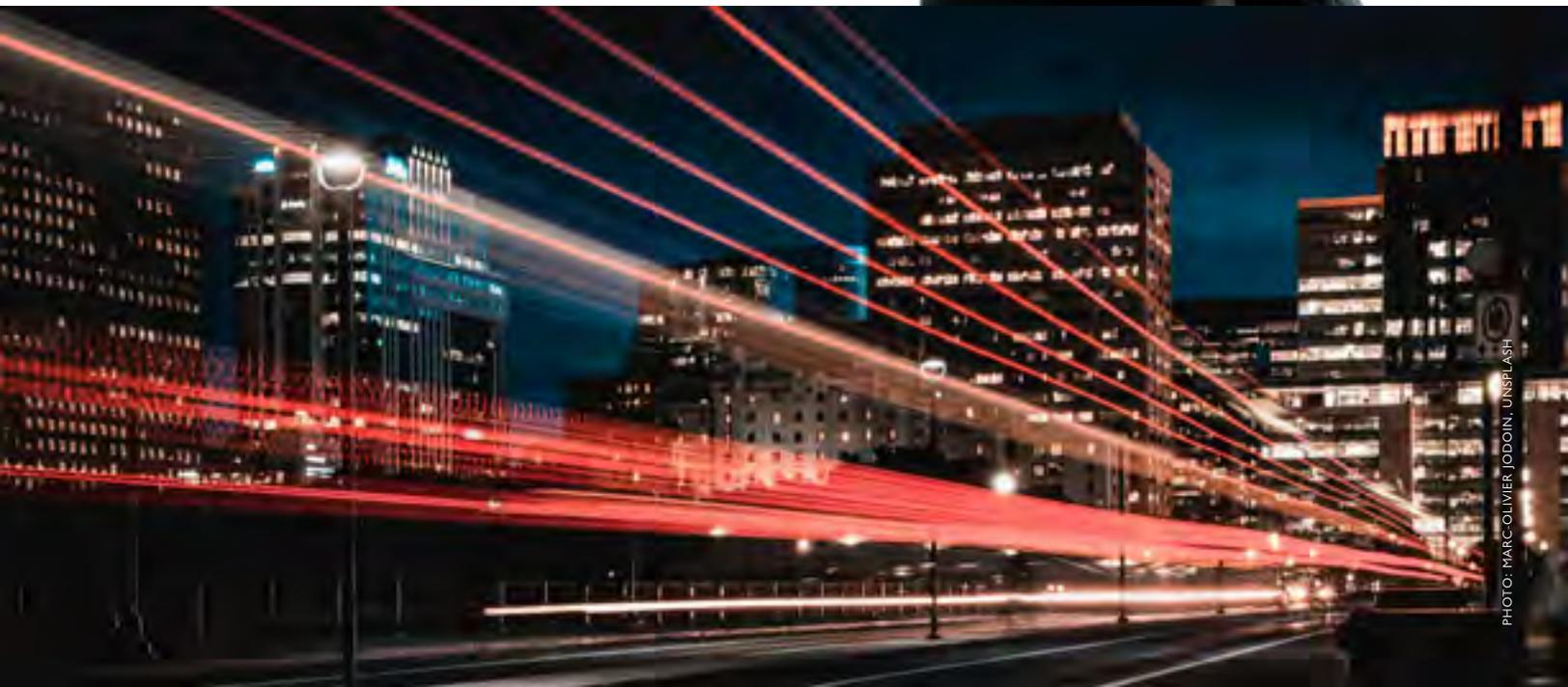
Volt-Age, originally called Electrifying Society: Towards Decarbonized Resilient Communities, officially launched in October. It brings together Concordia researchers from across all faculties and colleagues from seven Canadian universities. More than 25 non-academic partners, including from various levels of government and Hydro-Québec, Indigenous Clean Energy, Nouveau Monde Graphite, Lion Electric and others, are also involved.

They will work with Indigenous, private, public and not-for-profit sector experts to deliver integrated, affordable decarbonization solutions, focused on electrification. This includes energy systems and storage, transportation and smart buildings, deployment of digital twin technology, cybersecurity and the internet of things.

Together, the university and its partners are establishing a world-leading research program designed to apply novel technologies to create innovative energy sources, secure critical infrastructure and deliver affordable, green energy under diverse conditions in municipalities and communities across Canada. Central to the program is a network of living labs to incubate new ideas, test and bundle new technologies, nurture startups and mobilize citizen engagement to foster social adoption of the innovations developed through the research program.

Karim Zaghbi, professor of chemical and materials engineering and CEO of Volt-Age, says that Volt-Age's arrival is timely because "a new era of electrification is crucial if we are to create green and resilient communities that will thrive for years to come." ▶

The impressive list of advisory board members, who played a crucial role in creating Volt-Age, includes chair Norman Hébert, BComm 77, executive chair of Groupe Park Avenue and former chair of Concordia's Board of Governors, and Grégoire Baillargeon, president of BMO Financial Group Quebec and vice-chair of BMO Capital Markets.





CONCORDIA INTRODUCES ITS BOLD CLIMATE INITIATIVE PLAN/NET ZERØ

In line with Concordia's pledge to have sustainability guide every aspect of its activities and be a leader in climate action, the university launched PLAN/NET ZERØ. The forward-looking project aims to show how large institutions can work with diverse partners to target net-zero emissions now.

As one of Canada's largest and most urban universities, Concordia's stated goal is to achieve carbon neutrality before 2040. To do so, it will transform its two Montreal campuses into living labs that reduce energy consumption, optimize heating systems and encourage behavioural change, and serve as a blueprint for cities around the world.

"The need for a clean-energy transition to decarbonize our rapidly urbanizing planet is urgent," says Concordia President Graham Carr. "With 80 buildings across 62 acres on two very different campuses, Concordia offers a unique space to develop and test innovative, integrated, scalable decarbonization solutions that can be blueprints for cities around the world."

Sir George Williams Campus in the heart of downtown and Loyola Campus in residential Notre-Dame-de-Grâce contain urban greenspaces and examples of almost every phase of Montreal's architectural history over the last 150 years. Their buildings include contemporary LEED-standard research pavilions, 20th-century office towers and low-rise heritage buildings.

Serving 50,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff, as well as thousands of visitors each day, Concordia's campuses span a huge range of activities, from academic to administrative, sports, research, performance, study, BIXI bike stations, car parks, retail spaces and more. Ranked among the top 10 in Canada by the London-based Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action and Sustainable Cities and Communities, Concordia is well positioned to lead a project at the scale of PLAN/NET ZERØ.

The expertise of its Next-Generation Cities Institute and across the university in energy-efficient buildings, smart cities, electrification and renewables, sustainable mobility solutions, energy storage, applied artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and smart-grid security is recognized globally. PLAN/NET ZERØ will take advantage of Concordia's strengths and its vast network of community, civic, academic and industrial partnerships.

Concordia partners with Arkema and Rondol for battery innovation

As part of its leadership in battery-components modernization, the university signed a five-year collaborative agreement with world-leading material sciences company Arkema and extrusion tech specialist Rondol Industrie, both from France. The partnership promises to stimulate progress in the battery industry, as the use of renewable energy in society continues to increase. The partners are combining efforts to explore the benefits of an emerging extrusion process named PEXBASO.

The agreement is in line with Concordia's Volt-Age program. The project focuses on the production of innovative rechargeable battery components and has been designed to meet the rising demands for sustainable and new materials.

Concordia-led initiative will accelerate climate action in Montreal

To help the City of Montreal meet its target of carbon neutrality by 2050, Concordia has launched the UNIVER/CITY 2030 initiative, based at Concordia's Next-Generation Cities Institute. The partnership seeks to bring Montreal's universities together to help achieve municipal goals related to socioecological transitions, with an initial focus on reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change.

"UNIVER/CITY 2030 creates new ways for universities to work with each other and with government, civic society groups, communities and businesses, using shared goals as the glue that holds everything together," explains Jason Ens, Concordia's executive director of academic policy, planning and strategic initiatives, who developed the project's proposal.

Student-developed video game assesses urban livability and sustainability ▼

A group of Concordia Institute of Co-operative Education student interns working through the Next-Generation Cities Institute is designing a video game called CityPlayer to help city dwellers, planners, researchers and decision-makers visualize potential solutions for urban development in real time.

"The player can make fundamental changes to a city at the intersection of livability and sustainability," explains Christopher Gibbs, the long-time video game industry veteran leading the project. "We are turning our gamification imagination into reality in a real-world environment where we are applying what we learned in class," adds Jiarui Li, BSc 22, the project's lead gamification programmer.



NEXT-GEN ENGAGEMENT

UPHOLDING OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

New admissions pathway for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students

Concordia introduced the university-preparatory Kaié:ri Nikawerà:ke Indigenous Bridging Program to help Indigenous students gain the prerequisite courses needed to apply for a BEng degree.

“Kaié:ri Nikawerà:ke” is a Kanien'kéha term that means “the four winds” or “the four directions.”

Through this initiative by the Office of Indigenous Directions, eligible First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who lack the required engineering prerequisites will be able to enrol in math and science courses. To facilitate their transition into undergraduate studies, they will also follow university skills courses designed by the Student Success Centre and participate in events at the Otsenhákta Student Centre. In many remote communities, certain courses are not offered to students due to a lack of teachers, leaving students unable to complete their high school diplomas and move on to CEGEP or university.

The creation of the program is one of the steps outlined in Concordia's Indigenous Directions Action Plan, which provides concrete actions to decolonize and indigenize the university.

Concordia prof explores the gender gap in engineering

As a young engineer, Ann-Louise Howard, MA 13, PhD 22, assistant professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences, did not enjoy the work in the male-dominated profession and ultimately left the field. She now says her early experience led to a deep curiosity about the work environment's impact on people, and she eventually devoted her doctoral thesis to studying women engineers' workplace experiences.

Howard's thesis work opened a window into the sometimes dangerous, covert, gendered dynamics of engineering that help maintain the status quo. She found that while many women navigate their gendered environment well, it can have a profound effect on them.

Black Perspectives Office awards three new fellowships for 2023 ▼

Graduate students Anthony Mclachlan, Anick Jasmin and Dalia Elsayed were the 2023 recipients of research fellowships from Concordia's Black Perspectives Office (BPO). "The research fellowship was created as a tangible means of fostering Black flourishing and promoting the richness and breadth of Black knowledges, skills and experiences," says Maurice Riley Case, manager of the BPO.

Mclachlan's research looks at institutions that regulate and define the mainstream social order. Jasmin's research considers the reasons Black Haitian women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). And Elsayed's doctoral research seeks to understand how higher education institutions in Canada contribute to the construction of Blackness, from a Black feminist perspective.



Harambec: Reviving the Black Feminist Collective ▲

A new community-based project in collaboration with Concordia aims to restore "the tradition of Black Feminist organizing at Concordia that bloomed in the '70s and '80s," says one of its creators, Marlihan Lopez, undergraduate program and outreach coordinator at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Harambec: Reviving the Black Feminist Collective will provide resources for and by Black women and gender-expansive people in the areas of teaching, experiential learning, research, professional development, mentorship and more.

The name "Harambec" is a portmanteau of *harambee*, the African principle of self-help, and Quebec. It is intended to represent the daily challenges that African-descended women face in the province.

Initiative establishes innovative partnerships in Africa

The Concordia Africa Initiative seeks to establish relationships and learn from Africa through unique collaborations that focus on youth employability and entrepreneurship. Of all the world's continents, Africa has the youngest population, with more than 60 per cent aged 25 or younger. By 2030, it is estimated that young Africans will constitute 42 per cent of global youth.

"Concordia has placed Africa at the heart of its international relations because of the endless opportunities for innovative collaborations," Graham Carr explains. "Like Africa, Concordia is young, diverse and brimming with talent who will have a profound and exciting impact on the world."



Interuniversity cohort installs temporary artworks in Griffintown ▲

Commuters and passersby of Montreal's newly launched light-rail Réseau express métropolitain (REM) were able to enjoy the installation of four temporary public artworks at the Griffintown neighbourhood's Place des Aiguilleurs. The REM-financed project resulted from a collaborative effort by students in a Concordia summer course in public art and sustainability.

"We've had a lot of fun so far; the group has been fantastic," says artist Yann Pocreau. He joined Concordia studio arts associate professor Kelly Jazvac and assistant professor Juan Ortiz-Apuy to mentor 19 students from the four major Montreal universities — Concordia, UQAM, McGill and Université de Montréal.

Canada Council Art Bank selects 3 Concordia artists

In celebration of its 50th anniversary in 2023, the Canada Council Art Bank announced the acquisition of 72 new works by emerging and established artists from across Canada. Three of the selected works are by Concordia fine arts graduates and artists from the university's Art Volt Collection (AVC): Dayna Danger, MFA 17, Louis-Charles Dionne, BFA 17, and Laila Mestari, BFA 17.

"The AVC is a launch pad for our recent fine arts alumni," says Annie Gérin, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. "I'm thrilled to see that their talent and hard work are being recognized at this stage of their career."

Recent postdoc Léuli Eshrāghi is MMFA's 1st curator of Indigenous arts

Léuli Eshrāghi, a former Concordia Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow, became the first curator of Indigenous arts at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA). In this groundbreaking role, Eshrāghi is responsible for the development and realization of exhibitions that showcase the exceptional work of Indigenous artists from Quebec, Canada and around the world.

Eshrāghi is a member of the Sāmoan clans Seumanutafa and Tautua with a multifaceted background as a Sāmoan, Persian, Cantonese and European author, artist, researcher and curator. In addition to their curatorial duties, Eshrāghi will conduct crucial research into Indigenous arts and develop cultural mediation activities catering to a wide range of audiences.

Commemorating Canada's largest student anti-Black racism protest ►

Concordia President Graham Carr, Anne Whitelaw, provost and vice-president, academic, and Angélique Willkie, special advisor to the provost on Black integration and knowledges, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the Henry F. Hall Building as the location of Canada's largest student protest against anti-Black racism. The event was held February 6, the anniversary of the 1969 Sir George Williams University student protest.

Carr had earlier issued an apology on behalf of the university for the subsequent arrest of 97 students, which had dire consequences on the lives of Black and Caribbean students and their supporters who stood up to the systemic racism they experienced at Sir George Williams University.

Kahnawake Survival School collaboration inspires next generation of journalists

A partnership between the Department of Journalism and Kahnawake Survival School (KSS) sought to inspire Indigenous students to consider a career in the media. The collaboration was headquartered at the department's Institute for Inclusive, Investigative and Innovative Journalism (I3J) and steered by Kristy Snell, Concordia's journalist-in-residence, I3J's academic director and a member of Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation in Saskatchewan.

"KSS students came up with story ideas, did interviews, picked quotes and did the writing," Snell says. CBC Montreal gave the finished stories a home on its website and airwaves. "Our Concordia students acted as mentors, answering questions and offering solutions and motivation."



NEXT-GEN DISCOVERY & INNOVATION

UNCOVERING NEW POSSIBILITIES

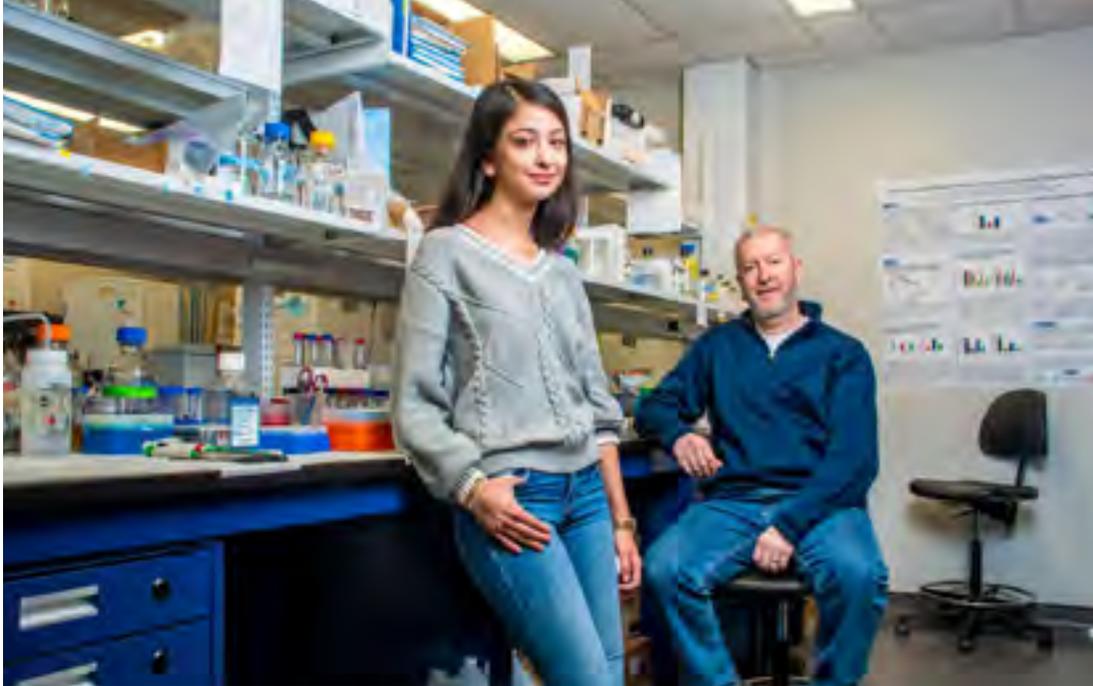


\$23M grant for Concordia-led artificial intelligence research team ◀

Professor Jason Edward Lewis and colleagues were awarded a grant worth almost \$23 million from the New Frontiers in Research Fund. Lewis is co-leading an international, interdisciplinary team of experts that will explore how Indigenous communities and AI scientists can mutually benefit by augmenting the frameworks of Indigenous knowledge with innovative AI technologies. He is the Concordia University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary and a professor in the Department of Design and Computation Arts.

The Indigenous-led project, Abundant Intelligences: Expanding Artificial Intelligence through Indigenous Knowledge Systems, involves 37 co-investigators and collaborators, the majority Indigenous researchers and community members. It is headquartered at Concordia's Indigenous Futures Research Centre, where Lewis is co-director.

"The current trajectory of AI development prioritizes Western ways of thinking about humans and our world," he says. "The plan is to explore a more extensive spectrum of intelligent human and non-human behaviours that we use to make sense of the world."



Vitamin B5 may be the key to treating a rare genetic condition ▲

Published research led by undergrad Paria Asadi found that vitamin B5 can mitigate the dangerous effects related to mutations in the transport and Golgi organization 2 (TANGO2) gene in fruit flies. In the study, flies with TANGO2 deficiency disease (TDD) died faster, had mobility and learning issues and neuromuscular defects. Supplementing them with vitamin B5 improved or eliminated these symptoms in some.

Individuals with TDD can't properly metabolize lipids — fatty compounds that perform several important functions — and the researchers suspected boosting vitamin B5 production may affect lipid metabolism in the flies. "And that was exactly the case," reports Michael Sacher, biology professor and the paper's supervising author.

Faster, more accurate 3D modelling tool recreates a landscape's digital twin

Concordia researchers have developed a new technique that can help create high-quality, accurate 3D models of large-scale landscapes. The researchers provided a framework that reconstructs the geometry, structure and appearance of an area using highly detailed images taken by aircraft and then processed to produce precise 3D models of cityscapes, landscapes or mixed areas.

Charalambos Poullis, professor of computer science and software engineering, and PhD student Qiao Chen developed the framework, called HybridFlow. "It can be used by stakeholders and authorities to simulate 'what-if' scenarios in cases of flooding or other natural disasters," Poullis says.

\$497K to help Canada meet its emission reduction

To help meet the country's goal of reducing emissions to 40 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the Government of Canada's Climate Action and Awareness Fund awarded \$497,000 to a Concordia research team. The funding will support the development of innovative technologies to help Canadian businesses decrease their greenhouse gas emissions.

Principal investigator Yaser Khojasteh, assistant professor of chemical and materials engineering, and his team will focus on techniques to develop ecofriendly, cost-effective CO₂ capture and utilization processes. "To date, no research on the design and simulation of these technologies has been conducted," he relates.



Concordia urban forest-mapping project wraps up ▲

A Concordia project cataloguing the diversity of the urban forest in a Montreal residential neighbourhood found that private residences and institutions such as schools and places of worship usually had different tree populations from those planted by municipal authorities in city parks and roadways or sidewalks. While the city-planted trees tended to be bigger and more resilient, the often-smaller private trees served other functions, such as providing fruit, flowers or aesthetic beauty.

“Our findings likely reflect the different motivations, goals and aims among decision-makers of where trees were planted,” says MSc student Kayleigh Hutt-Taylor, who co-led the project with Carly Ziter, assistant professor of biology.

Identifying fake news requires actively open-minded thinking

People who actively seek information that may contradict their pre-existing beliefs are more likely to correctly identify a fake headline on social media and avoid them in future, according to a published study co-authored by Mahdi Mirhoseini, assistant professor of supply chain and business technology management.

The researchers compared two theories that explain why people believe fake information: classical reasoning, which says that people who think critically will eventually arrive at the truth; and motivated reasoning, which says that people will stick to their ideology no matter what. To arrive at the truth independent of political beliefs, Mirhoseini reports, “classical reasoning is more powerful than motivated reasoning.”

Imperial or metric measurements can alter food price perception ▼

In a published paper, researchers revealed that consumers pay far more attention to the numerical component of a price than its measurement unit, whether pounds, kilograms or some other, which can affect how they perceive the expensiveness of products or a particular store’s overall price image.

“It’s a uniquely Canadian experience, because prices of produce here are displayed in pounds and kilograms at the same time,” says Mrugank Thakor, professor of marketing, who co-authored the paper with his former students Yonglan Liu and Rui Chen. “Prices per pound look cheaper because the number is smaller, prices per kilogram more expensive because the number is bigger.”



INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Irish Studies prof brings genre-crossing virtual reality theatre project ▶

Emer O'Toole, associate professor in the School of Irish Studies, coordinated the Concordia performance of Brú Theatre Company's immersive experience, *Ar Ais Arís (Back Again)*. The 16-minute piece examines classic Gaelic stories through a contemporary lens. The production invites participants to encounter three generation-spanning Irish texts, all dealing with the theme of migration.

Visitors wore virtual reality headsets to experience the work. Each 180° film interpreted a different text by Irish writers using movement, text, music and breathtaking visual landscapes.

"It's a virtual reality piece of visual, performance and sound art," O'Toole explains.

Indoor lighting more aligned with our biology

Research has shown that indoor lighting has the capacity to influence mood, enhance focus and regulate sleep. That's why the Next-Generation Cities Institute was among the first workplaces in North America to install a human-centric lighting system that mimics the natural daylight cycle — sunrise and sunset — and its impact on our circadian rhythm.

"We wanted to give people a better quality of life and work while kind of being 'locked' behind spaces with no access to daylight," says Michael Bossert, the institute's manager of research innovation and business development. "Having access to fresh air and adequate light quality is directly connected to livability and well-being."



Canada Foundation for Innovation awards Concordia \$1.5M

The Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund awarded more than \$1.5 million for nine research projects at Concordia:

- Eugene Belilovsky and Mirco Ravanelli, computer science and software engineering, for advancing AI models for natural language processing, computer vision and speech recognition
- Emily Coffey, psychology, for studying the link between poor sleep and memory decline in older adults
- Ashlee Howarth, chemistry and biochemistry, for designing new materials to harvest water from the air
- Sana Jahanshahi-Anbuhi, chemical and materials engineering, for developing face masks that can analyze human breath and detect diseases
- Chunyan Lai, electrical and computer engineering, for a new high-speed testing system for electric cars
- Eric Pedersen, biology, for tracking fish to predict how they'll respond to climate change
- Ingo Salzmänn, physics, chemistry and biochemistry, for optimizing materials for next-generation solar and thermoelectric devices
- Christopher Steele, psychology, for revealing the microscopic details of brains' neural networks
- Pantcho Stoyanov and Deniz Meneksedag Erol, chemical and materials engineering, for improving airplane efficiency



NEXT-GEN

HEALTH

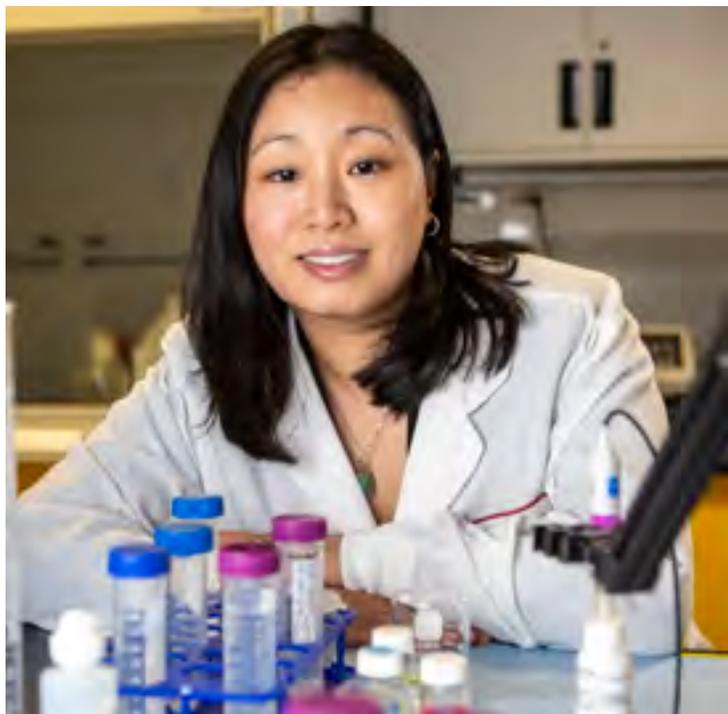
ENHANCING HUMAN WELFARE

Body phenotypes say a lot, but not everything, about a person's health ▼

Researchers studying body phenotypes — the observable characteristics like height, behaviour, appearance and other measurables — found that regardless of the muscle they had, high levels of fat mass in an individual were associated with poorer overall health. The published findings show that the negative impact of excess adiposity — fat tissue — on a person's cardiometabolic health was not offset even by high levels of muscle mass.

The researchers based their study on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Study (NHANES), a cross-sectional representative sample of the United States population collected between 1999 and 2006. Individuals were categorized into one of four proposed phenotypes: low-adiposity/high-muscle, high-adiposity/low-muscle, high-adiposity/high-muscle or low-adiposity/low-muscle.

“We wanted to see whether this proposed categorization was better than the traditional body-mass index (BMI) at predicting all these different cardiometabolic outcomes,” says Sylvia Santosa, professor of health, kinesiology and applied physiology and one of the paper's authors. Surprisingly, they found BMI, though far from perfect, was in some cases a better predictor of cardiometabolic risks like diabetes and hypertension.



Alcohol abuse and anxiety sensitivity linked

A published study led by PhD candidate Charlotte Corran and supervised by Roisin O'Connor, professor of psychology, looked at the influences of anxiety sensitivity (AS) on young adults' alcohol consumption. The researchers found that motives and expectations around drinking were often mutually reinforcing both on average and at specific instances. These results help to explain the risk AS poses for problematic alcohol use.

"We know that anxiety sensitivity is a risk factor for alcohol-related problems in the long term, but the association is not always straightforward," says Corran. "The goal was to clarify the effect of AS on alcohol use and problems through this unfolding bidirectional cognitive process."

\$1.8M for research and training in behaviour change and disease prevention

A Concordia-led preventive-health initiative spearheaded by Simon Bacon, professor of health, kinesiology and applied physiology, received \$1.8 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and other partners. The funds will create a training platform focusing on the development and testing of behavioural change interventions.

"We know that changes in lifestyle such as improved diet and regular exercise — even in moderation — can greatly help minimize the impact of preventable disease," Bacon notes. "This platform will allow us to create the infrastructure to train people how to develop and test interventions and integrate these across the health-care spectrum."



Preschoolers like learning from a competent robot ▲

For a published study, Concordia researchers showed three-year-olds and five-year-olds a video of a young woman and a small robot with humanoid characteristics. The robot labelled familiar objects between them correctly, and the human incorrectly. When asked what each object was called, the three-year-olds showed no preference but the five-year-olds were much more likely to state the term provided by the robot.

"We can see that by age five, children are choosing to learn from a competent teacher over someone more familiar to them — even if the competent teacher is a robot," says the paper's lead author, PhD candidate Anna-Elisabeth Baumann. Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow Elizabeth Goldman and undergraduate research assistant Alexandra Meltzer also contributed to the study.



NEXT-GEN LEARNING

INSPIRING ACADEMIC AND PRACTICAL KNOW-HOW

Concordians launch Quebec's first space-bound student-built satellite ▼

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on a resupply mission to the International Space Station in June. On board was Space Concordia's Orbital Dust Imaging Nanosat (SC-ODIN), the first space-bound student-built satellite in Quebec.

SC-ODIN was developed in partnership with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and Nanoracks — a satellite rideshare service provider. Its primary mission is to gather multispectral images of aerosol particles from dust storms on the Namibian coast to provide data for climate research.

"This is a major accomplishment for our student society," says Simon Randy, president of Space Concordia. "It positions Concordia at the forefront of space exploration and provides students with invaluable experience and opportunity."

Space Concordia is also working on a joint project with AstroYeast — a team composed mostly of Concordia students and recent graduates — to develop a microfluidics framework to study the effects of microgravity on nutrient-producing yeast. This is part of CUBICS, a CSA initiative that provides professors in post-secondary institutions with an opportunity to engage their students in an end-to-end space mission.



ADOBE STOCK

Electric Aircraft Technologies Symposium student design challenge winners ►

A team of Concordia engineering graduate students won the student design challenge at the 2023 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics / Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Electrified Aircraft Technologies Symposium. The Concordia team looked at how carbon dioxide and noise emissions can be reduced by implementing hybrid-electric propulsion technology on an existing aircraft.

The team proposed an innovative concept where solar panels would be placed on selected parts of the aircraft to supplement the electrical power that is usually drawn from the engines. The forward-looking proposal incorporated projected improvements in solar-panel and battery technologies to target an entry into service by 2035.

Decolonizing and indigenizing the curriculum and pedagogy

Concordia committed to recognize and integrate Indigenous ways of knowing in its curriculum and pedagogy after the release of its Indigenous Directions Action Plan in 2019. The aim was to develop a university-wide plan that seeks to introduce Indigenous perspectives in the curriculum and help train faculty to teach Indigenous subjects and facilitate respectful classroom discussions.

The university moved toward that commitment with the inauguration of a five-year plan to decolonize and indigenize its curriculum and pedagogy. “The plan challenges us — as educators — to go beyond our comfort zones and reconceptualize our curriculum in respectful and meaningful ways,” says Anne Whitelaw, provost and vice-president, academic.



John Molson students engage with local fast-food restaurants

For Xiaodan Pan, associate professor of supply chain and business technology management, the key to learning any software is understanding its real-world application. So she had her students use a simulation software called Arena to improve fast-food restaurants’ efficiency.

Students looked at restaurants that provide services through various channels — in person, by phone, with an app, online and through third-party providers such as Uber Eats or DoorDash — and simulate the multi-channel food service’s operations to see what works best. “The students thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of the simulation project, which further enhanced their engagement and enthusiasm,” Pan says.

NEXT-GEN STUDENTS & FACULTY



Journalism grad Bogdan Lytvynenko wins Rhodes Scholarship ▲

Concordia's Bogdan Lytvynenko, BA 23, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, the oldest and one of the most prestigious graduate fellowships in the world. He became the 12th Rhodes Scholar in Concordia's history and the first since 2021. A native of Ukraine, the recent Department of Journalism graduate moved to Canada at age 12. Lytvynenko joins a select cohort of more than 100 scholars from around the world — with only two from Quebec and 11 from Canada — who will embark on graduate studies at the University of Oxford in 2024.

"I will never forget the phone call when I broke the news to my family," he recalls. "The first thing I said was, 'We did it!' I consider this my entire family's achievement as they were my number-one supporters on this journey to Oxford."

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emmy Fecteau, the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team captain and a BEd in English as a Second Language student, was named the Isobel Gathorne-Hardy female player of the year by Hockey Canada. The national hockey organization also tapped Fecteau as one of eight athletes to participate in the Creating Coaches initiative. She was also named the Stingers' 2023 Female Athlete of the Year and recipient of the Denise Beaudet Award in recognition of her academic, athletic and community service.

Fecteau was also captain of the gold-medal-winning Canadian women's hockey team at the 31st winter edition of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) 2023 World University Games, held in Lake Placid, New York, in January. Fecteau's fellow Stingers Rosalie Bégin-Cyr and Tyler Hylland also earned gold medals with their Canadian women's and men's teams. ▼



Hashem Almousa, PhD '23, was selected for a 2023 Lady Mireille and Sir Dennis Gillings Global Public Health Fellowship. The two-year fellowship grants young scientists the resources to undertake world-class public health research at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France. Fellows are also trained in leadership and management skills, enabling them to maximize the health impacts of their research. The fellowships are available to PhD graduates from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health in Chapel Hill and Concordia.

Concordia student-run literary journal **Headlight Anthology** picked up a Forces AVENIR 2023 prize in the Arts, Literature and Culture category for its revival after a short hiatus. Forces AVENIR is a Quebec-wide competition that aims to recognize and promote student engagement. Operating since 1998, *Headlight Anthology* is an annual literary journal led by graduate students in English and publishes poets, writers and artists from the university, Montreal and beyond.

Madeline Montgomery, who is pursuing an MA in drama therapy, was the 2023 recipient of the Mackenzie King Open Scholarship. Montgomery is the first Concordian to win the \$8,500 award, granted annually to one student who holds a Canadian university degree and is pursuing graduate studies in any discipline.

Aerospace engineering student **Marion Thénault** won aerials gold at the Freestyle Skiing World Cup in Ruka, Finland, in December. The Sherbrooke, Quebec, native defeated the 2022-23 overall season champion, Danielle Scott of Australia.

Riya Dutta, a graduate student in software engineering, took first place in the national 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) showcase at the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies annual conference in Victoria in November. Her winning presentation was titled "Like clean hands? Diversify your research!"

Léa Clermont-Dion, a filmmaker and postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, won two honours at the 38th Géméaux Awards, the 2023 celebration of Canadian television and digital media broadcast in French. Her documentary *Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age (Je vous salue salope : la misogynie au temps du numérique)*, which Clermont-Dion co-directed and co-wrote, won in the categories of Best Direction in a Documentary Program or Series: Society, History, Politics and Economy, and Best Research in a Documentary Program or Series.

Maurice F. Ngwakum-Akisa, BA '20, an economics, computer science and business graduate, was among the few hundred students from around the world to receive a 2023 Schwarzman Scholarship. He will join his peers for a one-year, fully funded master's program in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. ▶

Concordia's hackathon returned to its in-person format in January, and welcomed a record 900 attendees for ConUHacks VII. The 24-hour hacking marathon received more than 1,500 applications from 75 high schools, colleges and universities across Canada and the United States.

Derek Xavier Garcia, a PhD candidate in history, earned the opportunity to finish his dissertation close to his area of study, Latino education in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, thanks to being selected for a Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Latino Studies. Garcia began his residence at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in September. While the Mellon Foundation receives over 100 submissions a year, only two offers are made for the \$35,000 USD award.

The John Molson School of Business undergraduate student delegation reached the podium again at the **2023 Jeux du Commerce case competition** at HEC Montréal in January. The students' efforts yielded 10 podium finishes in seven different academic disciplines and placed third overall at the event.



FACULTY HONOURS



The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) honoured four Concordia faculty with some of the highest accolades available to scientists, scholars and artists from across the country. **Angélique Willkie**, associate professor of contemporary dance, and **Nadia Myre**, assistant professor of studio arts, were inducted as new RSC fellows for their remarkable contributions in the arts. **Mireille Paquet**, associate professor of political science, became a member of the society's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. And **Michel Magnan**, professor in accountancy and current RSC member, was honoured with the Yvan Allaire Medal for his outstanding contribution in governance of public and private organizations. ▲

After 25 years of membership with the RSC, **Michel Laroche**, professor of marketing, was appointed a Lifetime Member. Laroche was the first John Molson School of Business faculty member to join the national academy for distinguished Canadians.

Dajana Vuckovic, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry and director of the Centre for Biological Applications of Mass Spectrometry, won the 2023 Fred Beamish Award presented by the Analytical Chemistry Division of the Canadian Society for Chemistry. Vuckovic, the first Concordia professor to receive the award, was recognized for her many important contributions to the field of analytical chemistry.

Osama Moselhi, professor of building, civil and environmental engineering, was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada. The accolade for Moselhi, whose career blends academic and industry expertise, reflects contributions to construction engineering and education.

Deanna Bowen's two-storey, 17-panel mural, which exposes histories of anti-Black racism faced by her family and countless others in the country, adorned the façade of the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. Bowen is assistant professor of intersectional, feminist and decolonial 2D-4D image making and co-director of the Post Image Cluster at Concordia's Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology. ►



Morton Minc, BA 67, former chief justice of the Municipal Court of Montreal, received the inaugural Dean Jason Carey Distinction Award for Social Innovation: Law and Justice, presented by the University of Alberta, Campus Saint-Jean. Minc has led Concordia's Jurist-in-Residence Program since 2017.

Concordia Stingers women's hockey coach **Caroline Ouellette** became only the 10th woman inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Ouellette won four Olympic gold medals, six International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship gold medals and six silver medals with Team Canada.

Louise Champoux-Paillé, John Molson executive-in-residence and Lorenzetti Centre co-director, received the Prix du CIQ 2023 from the Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec. The lifetime achievement award recognizes her involvement in governance, contribution to the professional system and efforts in promoting the representation of women and overall diversity within organizational bodies. ▼



New residencies

Naomi Frost, currently a PhD candidate in the Department of History, was named Concordia Library's latest researcher-in-residence. Frost earned a MA in history at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

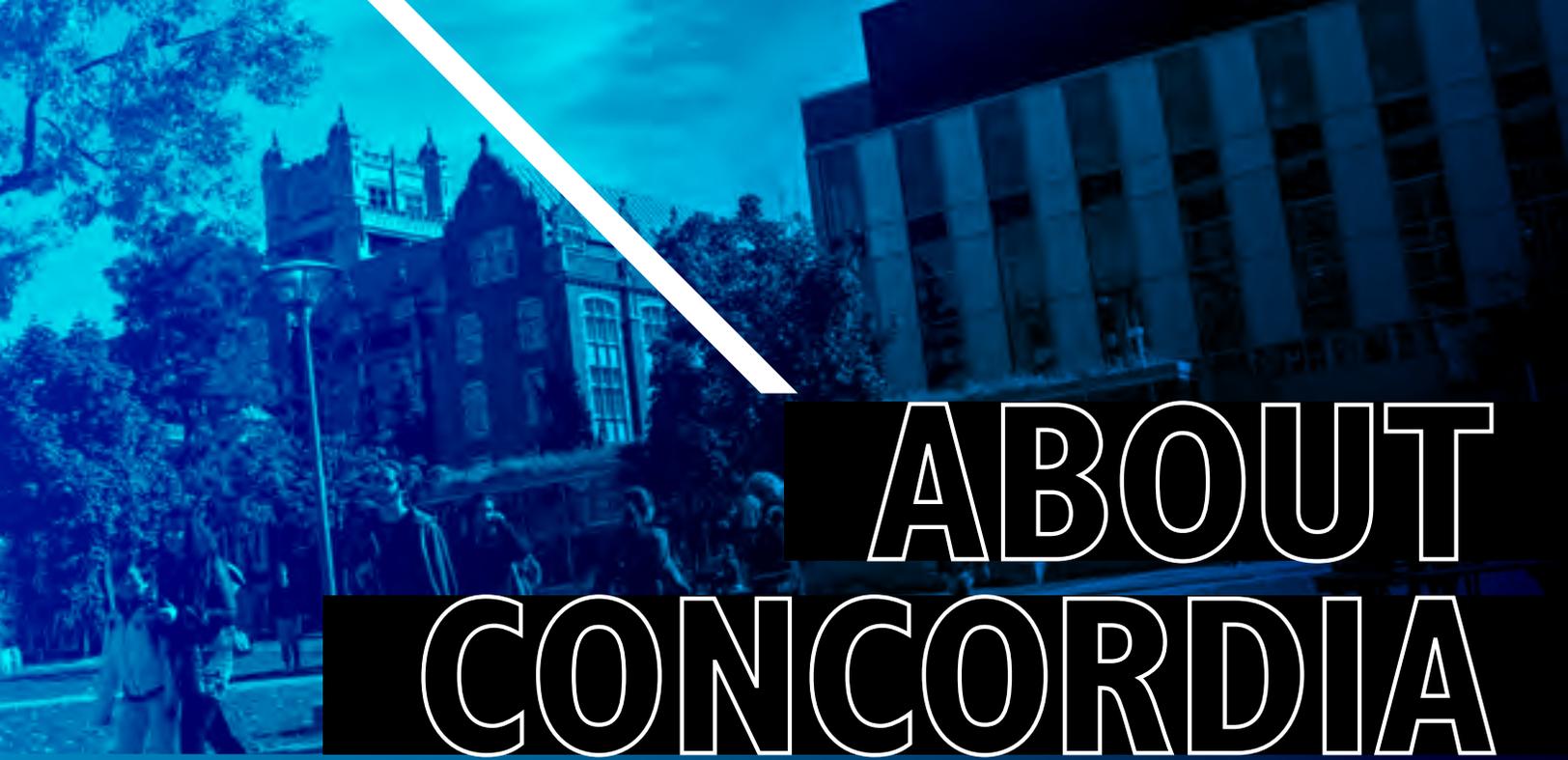
Ghislain Picard and **Geoff Kelley** began offering their considerable knowledge of leadership, politics and the inside workings of government to Concordia students as experts-in-residence. Picard is Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador and Kelley was a long-serving Member of the National Assembly of Quebec.

L'actualité magazine names Karim Zaghib among personalities of the year

Karim Zaghib, professor of chemical and materials engineering and CEO of Volt-Age, was named one of Quebec's Personalities of the Year for 2023 by *L'actualité* magazine. The awardees were chosen for their determination and impact on Quebec's society in areas including entrepreneurship, arts and culture, education and politics. Zaghib was selected for his profound impact in the field of electrochemistry and his pioneering efforts in the realm of eco-conscious battery development, including over 600 co-invented patents and 62 licences.

Since his arrival at Concordia in 2022, Zaghib has been instrumental in the creation of Volt-Age, a world-leading research program dedicated to integrating cutting-edge technologies for carbon-neutral buildings, advanced energy storage, smart grids and the electrification of transportation.





ABOUT CONCORDIA

**#1 university
in Canada**
under 50 years

**400 undergrad
& 120 graduate
programs**

**Among top 3
favourite
student cities**
in North America

**Top 200
in world**
for support of SDGs

Concordia is a next-generation university, continually reimagining the future of higher education. Located in the vibrant and multicultural city of Montreal, Concordia is the top-ranked university in Canada founded within the last 50 years and annually registers some 50,000 students through its innovative approach to experiential learning and cross-functional research.

concordia.ca/about

PROMOTING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Concordia has joined the Decade of Action to achieve the United Nations' ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. The goals draw on our strengths in community health, global literacy, water security, environmental impact and sustainable infrastructure design.

ESSENTIAL PLAYER IN MONTREAL

Concordia's commitment to supporting its city by advancing research-creation, innovation and culture will ensure Montreal's vitality in the years ahead.

INTERESTED AND INVOLVED STUDENTS

The diverse and engaged students add a dynamic energy and vision to the university experience.

50,000

students

11,000+

international students

5,000+

co-op students

150

countries represented

FACULTY NETWORK

Professors and researchers collaborate across disciplines and network with the community to deliver groundbreaking knowledge-creation.

2,250+

professors and librarians

130+

research chairs and professorships

\$87.5 million

research income



BLACK PERSPECTIVES

Concordia is dedicated to addressing and challenging anti-Black systemic racism and being inclusive and accessible to Black students, staff and faculty and fostering relationships with Black communities.

The work of the Black Perspectives Office is rooted in an anti-racist and anti-oppressive framework and informed by generations of Black students and community activism.

1

Task Force on
Anti-Black Racism

Dozens of

courses focused on
Black, Indigenous and
People of Colour

1968

Concordia Caribbean
Students' Union founded

2,220+

items in the Negro
Community Centre fonds

COMMITTED TO DECOLONIZATION AND INDIGENIZATION

Concordia acknowledges that it is situated on unceded Indigenous lands and recognizes the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as the custodians of the surrounding lands and waters. The university is committed to truth and reconciliation and engaging with ongoing Indigenous issues.

1st

First Peoples major
in Quebec

1

Indigenous Directions
Action Plan

1992

Aboriginal centre opens

30

Indigenous graduate
scholarships

THE FUTURE OF GIVING

INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

The **Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now** raised **\$30 million** over the last calendar year, with a cumulative total of **\$281 million** to date, to transform teaching, learning and research. Our Future of Giving report spotlights donors who contributed to our momentum in 2023. Visit concordia.ca/campaign to learn more.

CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: CO-CHAIRS

GINA CODY, MENG 81, PHD 89
**FORMER STUDENT, BUSINESS LEADER,
PHILANTHROPIST**

Gina Cody was recognized by the Women's YWCA Foundation of Montreal with a Women of Distinction Achievement Award.

ANDREW MOLSON
**CHAIR, AVENIR GLOBAL, VICE-CHAIR OF
THE MOLSON-COORS BEVERAGE COMPANY,
PHILANTHROPIST**

Andrew Molson co-led an unprecedented \$110-million campaign to completion for the Montreal General Hospital Foundation.

LINO A. SAPUTO, BA 89
**BOARD CHAIR AND CEO OF SAPUTO, INC.,
PHILANTHROPIST**

Lino A. Saputo was named a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to Canadian business and philanthropy.



JOYCE FAMILY FOUNDATION BOLSTERS STUDENTS FROM RURAL AREAS OF QUEBEC AND CANADA

Students from rural communities in Quebec and Canada are at the heart of a new bursary program made possible thanks to a \$2-million gift from the Joyce Family Foundation to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now.

Established by the late Ronald V. Joyce, co-founder of Tim Hortons, the foundation's primary focus is to provide access to education for children and youth with significant financial need or who face other socio-economic barriers to success.

That philanthropic mission aligns well with Concordia's values, says Concordia President Graham Carr.

"Our institution has a proud history of extending opportunities to a wide range of students," says Carr. "Rural communities have played an immense role in the development of Quebec and Canada. Many of those communities are now under significant pressure. We deeply appreciate how the Joyce Family Foundation is empowering young people from remote regions across the country to have a positive impact on their communities and society as a whole."

The Joyce Family Foundation Bursary for Rural Students will allow for nine to 14 financial awards to be annually disbursed on a renewable basis to undergraduate students, regardless of faculty. Preference will be given to students who have fewer avenues for funding or support.



"We are proud to partner with Concordia University to help foster the academic and professional ambitions of students from rural areas in Canada," states the Honorable Ed Lumley, chair of the Joyce Family Foundation. "Our founder, Ron Joyce, firmly believed in education and hard work as a catalyst for change. He would have urged future bursary recipients to passionately follow their dreams and leverage their talents to uplift their families and communities."

Concordia aims to identify an applicant pool for the new bursary that comprises two-thirds of students from Quebec and one-third from the rest of Canada.

Recipients will be eligible for and encouraged to take advantage of resources offered through the Student Success Centre as well as Beat the Odds, a donor-supported internship program that facilitates professional mentorships, workshops, peer networks and more. ■

Enjoy testimonials from donors and other campaign-related videos at concordia.ca/alumni-friends/news/videos.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

MAJOR GIFTS TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT-GEN NOW

Learn more about our culture of philanthropy at concordia.ca/campaign.

CORPORATE GIFTS

BEHAVIOUR INTERACTIVE SPURS INNOVATION FOR QUEBEC'S VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY

A \$2-million gift from Behaviour Interactive — Canada's largest video game developer and publisher — to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now will enhance the university's ability to develop new talent and innovation for a critical economic sector.

Behaviour Interactive is known the world over for its bestselling multiplayer game, *Dead by Daylight*, and its work with the likes of Microsoft, Sony, EA, Warner, Netflix and Take-Two, among others. The studio and its co-founder and CEO, **Rémi Racine**, are pioneers in the Canadian video game industry and play a leadership role in its promotion to future generations of talent. ▼

The major support will fund a new research chair at the Department of Design and Computation Arts and provide financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students.

"This is a significant investment in leading-edge research and student training for our top-ranked Faculty of Fine Arts," says Concordia President Graham Carr. "We thank Behaviour Interactive for such a generous gift. It will help prepare our students for careers in the fast-paced world of game development and enable our researchers to deliver new design ideas to an industry that annually contributes more than \$5 billion to Canada's economy."

Racine says that more targeted investment is needed to help ensure the future growth of Montreal's vibrant community of developers and creators.

"We have a healthy video game development ecosystem here in Montreal and Quebec, and across the country," observes Racine, whose company has been named one of the best managed in Canada. "Whether the pipeline that nourishes that ecosystem can thrive and compete globally in the decades to come depends largely on the steps we take today to foster new talent and keep pace with new technology.

"This is what this gift to Concordia is all about. As a post-secondary research institution with strengths in concept art, design and experiential education, the university plays an important role in a sector with tremendous socio-economic benefits and promise. We take pride in our ability to help nurture more of this success." ■





Power Corporation of Canada donated **\$4 million** to Volt-Age, a Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) program jointly led by Concordia. Designed to develop novel energy sources, secure new infrastructure and deliver affordable, green energy under diverse conditions across Canada, the program was created in April 2023 when the Government of Canada awarded Concordia a grant of more than \$123 million, the largest in the university's history. ▲

Hydro-Québec donated **\$500,000** toward the NSERC/Hydro-Québec Industrial Research Chair in Optimized Operation and Energy Efficiency: Towards High Performance Buildings — a position held by Andreas Athienitis at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

A number of donors encouraged student-led innovation at the Gina Cody School with major gifts. These included **\$300,000** from the **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec** and **\$120,000** from **Bombardier Inc.**

Support of **\$135,000** from **Addenda Capital Inc.**, a privately owned investment management firm headquartered in Montreal, will help fund a micro-certification in sustainability at the John Molson School of Business.

Velan Inc., a Montreal-based world leader in the design and production of industrial steel valves, donated **\$36,000** to support scholarships for women in engineering at the Gina Cody School.

RBC Dominion Securities supported the 2023 Concordia Golf Classic with a gift of **\$25,000**.

FOUNDATION GIFTS

The **Doggone Foundation** strengthened its support for the Faculty of Fine Arts with a donation of **\$540,000** to establish the Elspeth McConnell Critical Curatorial Laboratory Fund.

The **Trottier Family Foundation** gave **\$400,000** to support Space Concordia's *Starsailor* project. An initiative of the student association's Rocketry Division, *Starsailor* set a world record in 2021 when it became the first rocket engine developed and successfully tested by civilians.

The **Trottier Family Foundation** also donated **\$357,000** to strengthen efforts undertaken at the John Molson School of Business to grow Canada's climate-finance sector and advance the consideration of the Climate-Aligned Finance Act (CAFA) in the Senate of Canada.

The **Engineering and Computer Science Association**, a not-for-profit organization that represents more than 6,500 students, gave **\$299,550** to support an equipment fund at the Gina Cody School.

The **Luigi Liberatore Foundation** made a **\$100,000** gift to the 2023 Concordia Golf Classic.

The **Andrew J. Lutfy Foundation** donated **\$50,000** to support student case-competition participants at the John Molson School.

The **Dr. Louis G. Johnson Foundation** donated **\$50,000** toward nanoscience research at the Faculty of Arts and Science.

The **Naim S. Mahlab Foundation** donated **\$50,000** in support of the Naim Mahlab Fellowships — awarded to students enrolled at the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies — as well as the Student Emergency and Food Fund.

The **Tenaquip Foundation** donated **\$30,000** in support of various graduate scholarships.

The **Ajram Family Foundation** gave **\$29,000** to support the Beat the Odds internship program, the Student Emergency and Food Fund, the Supplemental Award for Work-Study fund and the Parental Leave Supplement Award for Graduate Students fund.



PERSONAL GIFTS

'CONCORDIA HAS DELIVERED SO MUCH BENEFIT TO ME IN MY LIFE'

Several years ago, **Mark Goodman**, BComm 81, established a scholarship fund at the John Molson School of Business. Yet the CEO of Vexxit recently saw an opportunity to do more with a new gift to his alma mater. ►

"I decided that instead of giving to 15 or 20 different places, I would give to one or two — and Concordia would be one of those," explains Goodman. "Concordia has delivered so much benefit to me in my life, and my son graduated from Concordia as well. So this gift is just my way of giving back and saying 'thank you.'"

The entrepreneur's most recent donation will provide flexible funding for the John Molson School's greatest needs, from experiential learning opportunities to programs offered by Career Management Services.

Goodman's career has been a storied one. In 2006, he joined Twist Image, a digital marketing agency, as a partner. Then, in 2015, Goodman helped launch Mirum, another digital marketing company, before starting his own consultancy four years later.

By 2021, he was ready for something new. That's when he founded Vexxit, an online platform that connects businesses and consumers with lawyers and accountants.

"It was the building of something new that really attracted me," says Goodman. "I thought I could make a big impact."

He'd like to continue making an impact at his alma mater, too.

"I hope to stay involved with Concordia," adds Goodman. "I still have a view of trying to be involved with the school and giving back in other ways, whether it's with my experience or through mentorships." ■



Dominic D'Alessandro, BSc 67, LLD 98, former president and CEO of Manulife Financial, gave **\$2 million** to support a fellowship fund to encourage academic excellence for graduate students in research-oriented programs.

An anonymous gift of **\$1 million** established an endowment to support undergraduate students at the John Molson School.

A donation of **\$500,000** from **Barry Lorenzetti**, founder of BFL Canada, will strengthen the work of the Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership at the John Molson School and support two separate scholarship funds.

Michael Novak gave **\$250,000** to support a project at District 3, Concordia's innovation hub that encourages the entrepreneurial journeys of startup founders.

An anonymous donor gave **\$250,000** to support Concordia students.

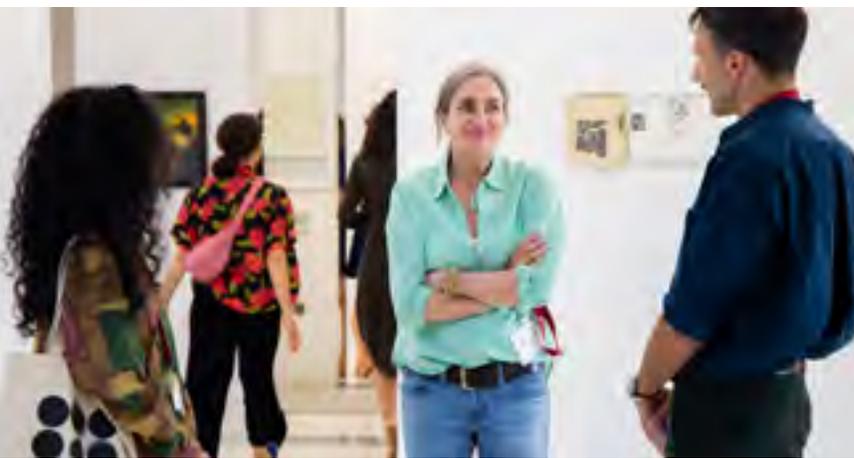
Former Concordia Stingers football player **Alfonso Fiumidinisi**, BComm 23, made a gift of **\$100,000** in support of student athletes at the John Molson School.

J. Ross Quigley gave **\$100,000** to further support a Faculty of Fine Arts graduate award established in honour of his friend, the late Montreal artist Tom Hopkins, MFA 87.

Anne-Marie Croteau, current dean of the John Molson School and a long-time faculty member, donated **\$55,000** to establish the Anne-Marie Croteau Student Awards.

Peter Kruyt, BComm 78, a long-time major donor, made a gift of **\$50,000** in support of the university.

Leslie Raenden furthered her major support for the Faculty of Fine Arts with a donation of **\$50,000** to strengthen Art Volt, a platform launched in 2020 to encourage the artistic careers of recent graduates. ▼



David G. Schurman, BSc 66, donated **\$50,000** to be equally shared by the School of Irish Studies and the Department of Education.

Norman Raschkowan donated **\$43,936** toward creative arts therapies for children and youth at Montreal schools. The program will be led by creative arts therapies interns as part of their graduate training.

Benjamin Crudo, BEng 12, donated **\$45,000** to strengthen a scholarship endowment for software engineering students created in 2020 in honour of his parents.

Richard Lapointe, BComm 90, donated **\$35,500** to support case-competition programs at the John Molson School.

A donor made an anonymous gift of **\$30,000** toward an endowment for undergraduate student aid.

A gift of more than **\$38,000** from **Robert A. Calderisi**, BA 68, LLD 17, will further support a scholarship fund for biochemistry students that the former Rhodes Scholar endowed in honour of his late twin, Ronald Calderisi, BSc 68, in 2015.

Michael W. Heslop, MBA 87, donated **\$30,000** to establish the Bevan-Heslop Beat the Odds Internship Fund to provide internships for students at the John Molson School.

Nicholas J. Houseman, MBA 99, furthered his support for undergraduate student bursaries with a gift of **\$30,000**.

A donation of **\$30,000** from **Kathryn Xistris**, BEng 85, will support the Dr. George D. Xistris Scholarship Endowment in Mechanical Engineering, established in honour of her father, whose academic career at Concordia spanned three decades.

In memory of her father, **Jieling Sheng**, BEng 98, donated **\$27,500** to bolster the Sheng Family Graduate Scholarship in Electrical Engineering.

Nichola J. Dyer, BA 85, a member of the first cohort of economics co-op students who enjoyed a long career at the World Bank, donated **\$25,000** to further support a scholarship in her name for students at the Institute for Co-operative Education.

A gift of **\$25,000** from Jonathan Margel, BComm 10, further supported the Jonathan and Daniella Margel Bursaries for students at the John Molson School.

Yasser Waly, BA 05, donated **\$25,000** in support of student bursaries and scholarships.

PLANNED GIFTS AND GIFTS-IN-KIND

DEDICATED DONOR HONOURS LATE WIFE WITH SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN STEM

When **Joseph Pataki**, BEng 74, talks about the arc of his life, the engineer and entrepreneur keeps coming back to two things: his late wife, Gabriella, and his alma mater. ▶

Talking about Gabriella, who died at age 74 in October 2021, is still difficult for Pataki. But it is thanks in large measure to her that the graduate of Sir George Williams University — one of Concordia's founding institutions — has pledged \$75,000 to create an endowment in support of the Joseph and Gabriella Pataki Scholarship for International Female Students in Engineering.

He has also included a \$125,000 bequest in his will to continue his support for the endowment — a legacy that he and Gabriella will leave at the university.

Although they didn't meet at Sir George, he and Gabriella dated while he was a student there, attending night courses in the late 1960s. By 1971, when Pataki enrolled to earn his degree in mechanical engineering, they were married and had a daughter, Erika.

His late wife — who was born Gabriella Muranyi in Hungary and emigrated with her parents in the late 1950s following the Hungarian Revolution — “was very much part of me and supplemented my vision,” Pataki says. She supported him, working full-time at Bell Canada while Pataki balanced his studies with a job as a draughtsman at Canadair.

“She played a very big part in our success,” he adds, alluding to the recent 40th-anniversary of the firm he co-founded, Quad Engineering.



The experience of the women in his life — his wife, his daughter and now his granddaughter — led Pataki to support engineering education for women.

Directing that philanthropy specifically toward international students arises from his own roots as the son of Hungarian immigrants and his pride in Concordia's growing international reputation.

“Concordia has had a big influence on me,” Pataki says. “It helped me to develop my independent thinking and risk-taking. I have been amazed at how the faculties and graduate-studies programs have grown over the last 50 years.”

To learn more about planned giving at Concordia, visit:

concordia.ca/plannedgiving. ■

Avrum Miller, BA 69, MBA 86, and **Louise Singer**, BA 77, pledged a bequest of **\$1.5 million** to create an endowment in support of undergraduate and graduate scholarships across faculties.

The estate of **John D. Jackson** donated a total of **\$481,000** to support the Concordia Centre for Broadcasting and Journalism Studies (CCBJS). Jackson, the former chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology who co-founded the CCBJS more than four decades ago, passed away in November 2021 at age 89.

A three-time graduate of Concordia who resides in the United States made an anonymous bequest of **\$300,000** USD to the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Sandra L. Curtis, PhD 97, professor emerita in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies, made a planned gift of **\$245,000** to endow scholarships for graduate students in music therapy.

A planned gift of **\$122,000** will honour the memory of **Elizabeth Merson Ostro**, BA 44, who passed away in 2020 at age 98, through a named bursary for students in the Department of Studio Arts.

A donation of **\$50,000** from the estate of **Gerald J. Wareham**, BComm 50, will support Concordia's Greatest Needs.

Les Lawton — Concordia Sports Hall of Famer and former Concordia Stingers women's hockey coach — made a planned gift of **\$50,000** in support of women's varsity hockey.

John De Vries, BA 65, and his spouse made a bequest of 25 per cent of their estate toward bursaries for students enrolled in the Department of Sociology.

Martin E. Hill, BComm 70, made a significant bequest to the Loyola College Alumni Endowment out of appreciation for the education he received at one of Concordia's two founding institutions.

A retired faculty member made a substantial bequest to supplement an endowment for Faculty of Arts and Science scholarships.

The **Altus Group** provided the John Molson School with software licences worth more than **\$1.3 million**. The gift will provide real-estate finance students with access to ARGUS, the company's asset and portfolio management enterprise software.

Multidisciplinary artist **Pnina C. Gagnon** donated archival materials to the Concordia Library and Archives, a gift-in-kind valued at more than **\$47,500**.

Leila Sujir, professor emeritus in the Department of Studio Arts, donated archival material related to her research and work to the Concordia Library and Record Management and Archives, a gift-in-kind valued at **\$28,000**.

A work of art by prominent Quebec painter and retired faculty member Françoise Sullivan was donated to the Department of Studio Arts by staffer **Tony Patricio**, a gift-in-kind valued at **\$25,000**.

YOUR LEGACY STARTS HERE

Concordia's **Giftabulator** instantly shows you the amount of tax your estate could be facing.

The free tool allows you to create different scenarios about gifting and saving taxes.

Learn more at concordia.ca/giftabulator.

CONCORDIA



ANNUAL GIVING

The Concordia community — alumni, friends, faculty, staff, retirees and students — make annual gifts that range from \$5 to \$24,999 toward student awards, bursaries, departments, services, athletic programs, equipment, labs and more designations. In 2023, the Campaign for Concordia received 20,714 such gifts from 8,400 donors for a total of **\$2,543,076.07**. This amount does not include gifts of more than \$25,000.

KEY EVENTS

GINA CODY SCHOOL DAY

Engineering and computer science students and alumni participated in another successful edition of **Gina Cody School Day**, held on March 15. The faculty celebration included a keynote lecture on the ethical implications of ChatGPT and a showcase of student-led research projects. ▲

University Advancement also celebrated the fifth anniversary of the naming of the Gina Cody School on September 26, a milestone made possible thanks to a \$15-million gift from **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, in 2018. Events included remarks from **Mourad Debbabi**, dean of the Gina Cody School, **Paul Chesser**, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement, and **Concordia President Graham Carr**, who presented Cody with a special commemorative book prepared in her honour.

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL DAY

John Molson School Day inspired students, faculty and alumni alike on October 30. The faculty celebration included special lectures as well as a lunch event that gave current students the chance to network with successful alumni.

CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC

With the support of its dedicated volunteer co-chairs, the 20th edition of the **Concordia Golf Classic** raised a record **\$600,000**-plus for students in need. The annual event has raised more than **\$7.6 million** since 2004.

SHUFFLE 34

The 34th edition of **Shuffle**, Concordia's annual walkathon in support of students and awards, was held on September 22. More than 600 participants helped make the event a success, with more than **\$220,000** raised.

BOOK FAIR AND GIVEAWAY

The volunteer-powered **Concordia EPIC Used Book Fair**, staffed by student volunteers and overseen by university volunteers, raised a record **\$34,000** for students in March. A further **\$5,100** was raised by the **Concordia EPIC Used Book Giveaway** in November.

HOMECOMING

The Concordia community took pride at several Homecoming 2023 events held from September 21 to 24. *To learn more, visit: concordia.ca/homecoming.*

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Countless Concordians were distinguished in 2023 — including our Top 50 Under 50 Shaping Tomorrow (concordia.ca/CU50under50). Other notable distinctions included:

Bogdan Lytvynenko, BA 23, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

Sarah Bernstein, BA 09, won the Scotiabank Giller Prize for her novel *Study for Obedience*, which was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Three Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema graduates were behind nominated films at the 95th Academy Awards:

- **David Christensen**, BFA 89, producer, *The Flying Sailor*
- **Luigi Allemano**, associate professor, film animation; original film score and sound design, *The Flying Sailor*
- **Peggy Arel**, Attd, stop-motion animator, Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*

Hashem Almousa, PhD 23, received the Lady Mireille and Sir Dennis Gillings Global Public Health Fellowship. The two-year program grants young scientists the resources to undertake world-class public health research at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France.

ORDER OF CANADA

Richard J. Burzynski, Attd 83

"For his dedication and influential leadership in shaping the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS."

Louis H. Francescutti, BSc 80

"For his leadership in emergency and preventive medicine, and for his advocacy of and support for society's most vulnerable."

Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild, LLD 18

"For his lifelong contributions to reconciliation in Canada and around the globe, and for his inspirational leadership promoting Indigenous athletes in international sports events."

Donald A. MacPherson, BA 82

"For his long-time advocacy of harm reduction and evidence-based approaches to drug policy reform."

Osama E. Moselhi, PhD 78

"For his groundbreaking contributions to the field of construction engineering and management."

Peter R. O'Brien, founding chair, Concordia's School of Irish Studies

"For his committed volunteer leadership of health, education and faith-based organizations in his community."

Lino A. Saputo, BA 89

"For his contributions to Canadian business as a dedicated corporate leader and for his philanthropic ventures supporting charitable organizations."

Kim Thúy, LLD 17

"For amplifying the voices and experiences of migrants and refugees as an acclaimed novelist on Canada's literary scene."

SOCIAL MEDIA

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IN MEMORIAM

The Concordia community mourned the loss of notable alumni and friends in 2023.

Daniel Langlois, LLD 04

The visionary businessman and philanthropist — commemorated “as one of the most active patrons of culture of our time” when conferred an honorary doctorate by Concordia in 2004 — tragically passed away with his partner Dominique Marchand on the island of Dominica on December 1. He was 66.

Maria Birks, major donor

The former director of the Birks Family Foundation who championed the Concordia University Press and the novel programs offered by Concordia's Centre for the Arts in Human Development (CAHD) passed away on November 19. She was 78.

Bina Ellen, major donor

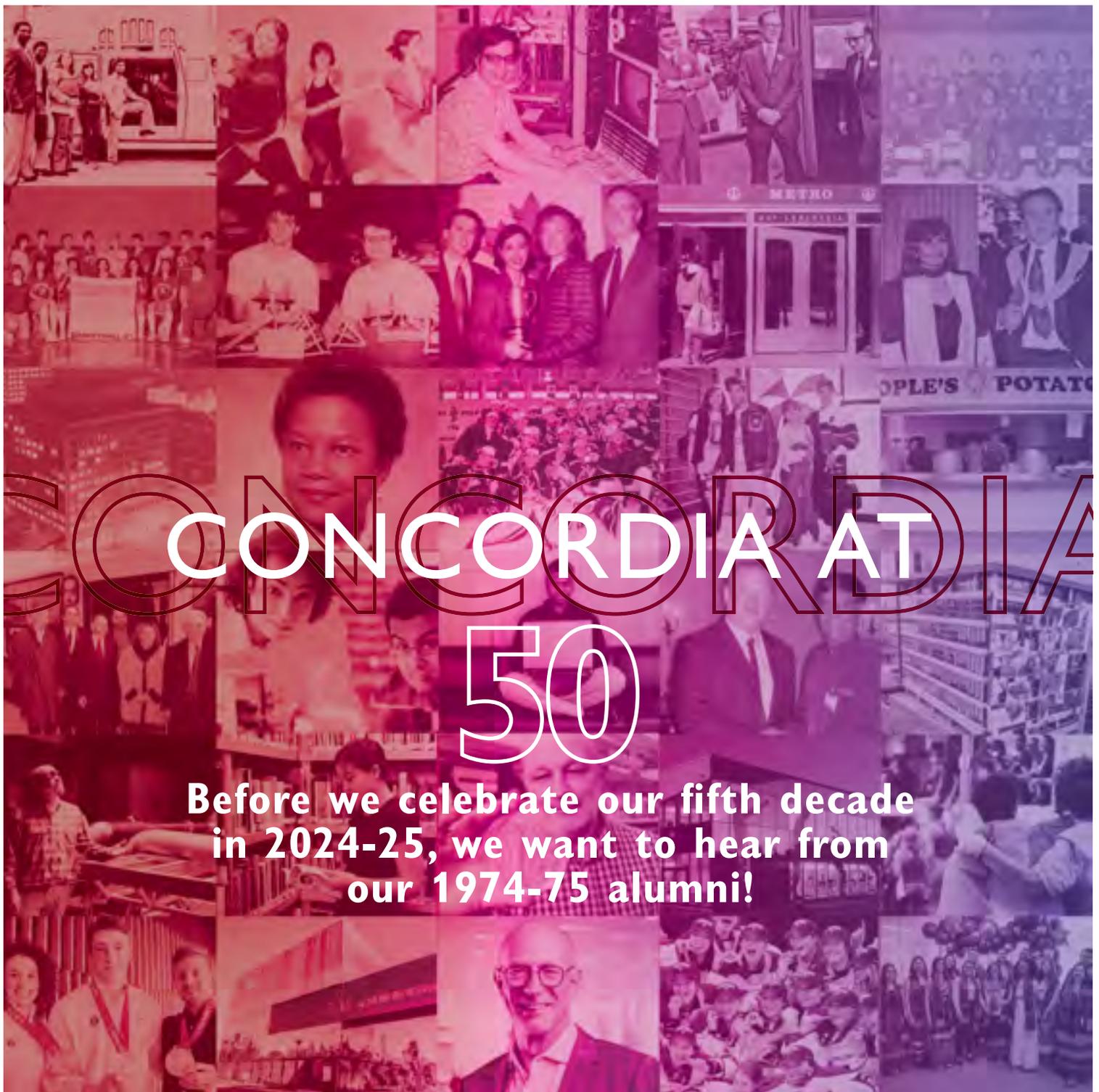
The co-namesake of the university's Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, also a supporter of the CAHD, passed away on August 8. She was 97.

Egbert Gaye, BA 89

The journalist, community leader and founder of *Montreal Community Contact*, a mainstay of the city's Black community, passed away on June 4. He was 67.

Myer “Mike” Gutwillig, BA 48, BFA 97

The author, journalist, PR executive and realtor — a man-about-town who once wrote a musical about Montreal's iconic Wilensky's lunch counter — passed away on January 2 at age 97.



CONCORDIA 50

Before we celebrate our fifth decade
in 2024-25, we want to hear from
our 1974-75 alumni!

- ▶ **Were you** part of Concordia's first graduating class and have a memory to share?
- ▶ **Did you** meet your spouse, best friend or business partner at Concordia?
- ▶ **Is there** a Concordia professor who helped shape your journey?

Write to magazine@concordia.ca to tell us your unique story from 1974-75.



CONCORDIA