

# CONCORDIA

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**FOREVER  
FORWARD**

**FIVE DECADES  
OF CONCORDIA  
AND BEYOND**

50



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# CONCORDIA

U N I V E R S I T Y M A G A Z I N E

## A FRESH, NEW LOOK

Introducing Concordia's 50th-anniversary visual identity and brand campaign



## CONCORDIA AT 50

As the university celebrates its garnet and gold milestone, faculty deans reflect and look ahead

## A GROWING BENEFIT

How Concordia's expansion across campuses enriches Montreal – and the province of Quebec



## QUEERING CONCORDIA

Generations of 2SLGBTQIA+ alumni show why representation still matters

## FROM PODIUM TO PURPOSE

Five former valedictorians share how the university contributed to their success



## 50 YEARS, 50 REMARKABLE ALUMNI

Meet our Great Concordians

fall 2024 volume 48 number 2

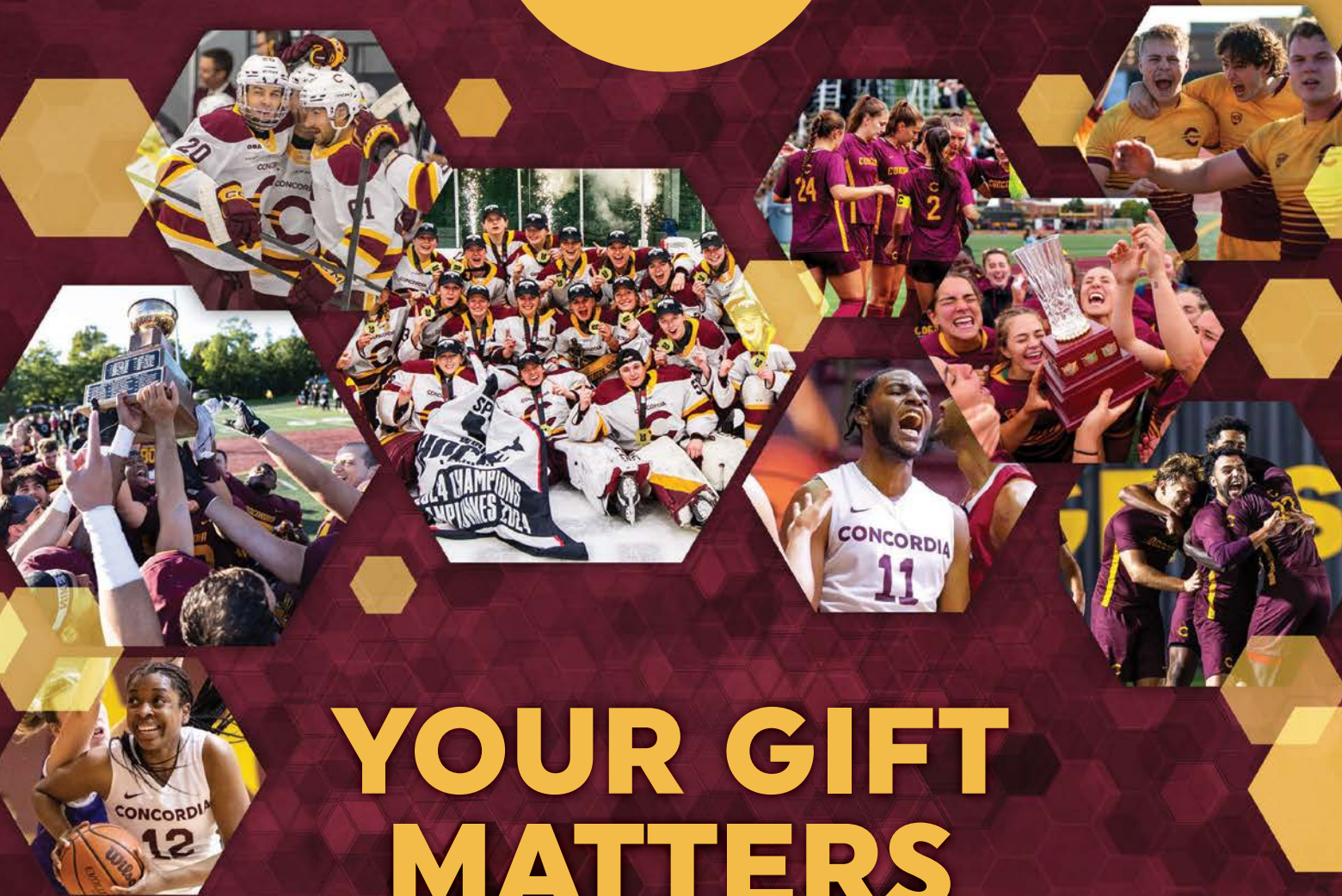
[concordia.ca/magazine](http://concordia.ca/magazine)

**CORRECTION:**  
In our spring 2024 "Words and Music," we noted **David S. Mitchell**'s grad year as BA 75. It should be BA 89. We regret the error.

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# 50 years young

It's here: Concordia is officially 50. This year marks five decades since the union of our founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University. I'm sure that by now you've caught a glimpse of our branding across campus and university communications, or have learned more about this milestone at one of our events.



Concordia's founding in 1974 marked a bold vision for higher education in Montreal, built on the commitment of improving individuals and society. Taking its name from the city's Latin motto, *Concordia Salus* — well-being through harmony — the university has continued to foster a vibrant space where diverse ideas and voices can flourish.

Over the past 50 years, Concordia has grown in both reach and reputation, strengthening its roots here at home while extending its influence across Canada and internationally. For decades, Concordia has stood out as an institution that embraces diversity, openness and opportunity, values that still drive our community and campuses today.

This issue of *Concordia University Magazine* honours the rich history that has shaped our university — one of tradition and innovation — setting new standards in education and research. It also applauds the incredible legacy we're building together, a legacy that continues to define Concordia — and Concordians — today.

In "Concordia at 50" (p. 22), five deans reflect on their respective faculties' progress, as well as their visions for future success. "A Growing Benefit" (p. 28) explores Concordia's physical campus expansion and its impact on Montreal's urban landscape

and cultural identity. I am delighted to feature this piece by the magazine's former editor, Howard Bokser, MBA 85, who recently retired from Concordia as a consultant. His institutional knowledge is without parallel, bringing nearly 30 years of insight into the university's evolution to this story.

"Queering Concordia" (p. 32) honours the achievements of our 2SLGBTQIA+ alumni. Their stories help capture the diversity and inclusivity that define our community. "From Podium to Purpose" (p. 34) celebrates the journeys of valedictorians from the past five decades, each of whom promotes Concordia's ethos in their communities and careers. You'll also meet some of our 50 Great Concordians (p. 38) — remarkable alumni being celebrated in honour of Concordia's 50th anniversary. We're spotlighting one graduate each week until June 2025. Read their stories at [concordia.ca/greatconcordians](http://concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

On behalf of our magazine team, I hope you enjoy this commemorative issue that pays tribute to our journey, as we reflect on our history and the people — alumni, students, donors, faculty, staff and friends — who have guided our past and inspire our future.

Thank you for being part of Concordia's story as we continue to learn, grow and transform together. Here's to the next 50 years!

**Marta Samuel**, GrDip 10  
Editor, *Concordia University Magazine*  
[magazine@concordia.ca](mailto:magazine@concordia.ca)

*All of Concordia's 50th-anniversary content is available in English and French at [concordia.ca/50](http://concordia.ca/50). You can also read the magazine online at [concordia.ca/magazine](http://concordia.ca/magazine).*

## CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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### Keep in touch

To update your address, email or communication preferences, visit our Alumni and Friends service hub at [engage.concordia.ca](http://engage.concordia.ca).

Join the conversation using **#CUmagazine** and by following **@ConcordiaAlumni** on social media.

## INNOVATIVE DESIGNS FOR ACCESSIBILITY

A recent collaboration between **Department of Design and Computation Arts students** and various Montreal organizations has led to **remarkable adaptive designs for individuals with accessibility challenges**. Projects included a custom backpack, a user-friendly web platform and kitchen measurement cups designed for visually impaired users. Students also created guides for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal's National Centre for Dance Therapy and an accessible website for a theatre group.

## \$1.5M FROM NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA

**Natural Resources Canada has awarded more than \$1.5 million** to the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science for two research projects set to run from 2023 to 2027. The projects respectively aim **to enhance oil-spill response and develop low-toxicity surface washing agents for shoreline cleanup**. "These projects will further strengthen Concordia's research capacity in oil-spill studies and enhance its position as a national and international centre of excellence in this field," says Chunjiang An, Concordia University Research Chair in Spill Response and Remediation.



**MAURICE NGWAKUM AKISA, BA 20, WAS ONE OF 145 STUDENTS WORLDWIDE TO BE AWARDED A PRESTIGIOUS SCHWARZMAN SCHOLARSHIP. BORN IN CAMEROON, THE ALUMNUS MOVED AROUND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AS A YOUTH, WHICH SPARKED A PASSION FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS. HE WILL PURSUE A FULLY FUNDED MASTER'S PROGRAM IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY IN BEIJING.**



**THREE PROFESSORS FROM THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE WERE RECENTLY ELECTED AS FELLOWS INTO THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING. ROCH GLITHO, CHRISTIAN MOREAU AND M.N.S. SWAMY WERE AMONG 49 NEW FELLOWS ANNOUNCED BY THE ACADEMY ON MAY 6.**

## AI EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

**Concordia Continuing Education (CCE) has established a multi-year partnership with Ericsson.** The strategic collaboration will combine the company's industry leadership with the university's unique expertise in real-world applications of AI. A specialized AI training course, delivered in tandem with Concordia's Applied AI Institute, will be rolled out globally for Ericsson engineers in Canada, Sweden, India and beyond. It is the first of several AI education programs to be delivered by CCE under the multi-year agreement.

## SUSTAINABILITY STRIDES CELEBRATED

*Times Higher Education (THE)* **recognized Concordia for its dedication to sustainability in its latest Impact Rankings**, placing the university among the world's best for six of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Concordia ranked 26th for SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 51st for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and 80th for SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). In Canada, the university tied for first with eight other institutions for SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and ranked fifth for SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).



GEORGE BUTT (SECOND FROM RIGHT), A MASTER'S STUDENT IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING, AND PIERRE-LUCAS AUBIN-FOURNIER (CENTRE), BENG 20, MASC 22, JOINED NASA ON A PARABOLIC FLIGHT EXPERIMENT. THE PROJECT ADVANCED LUNAR AND MARTIAN SOIL-HANDLING TECHNIQUES USING AN ULTRASONICALLY VIBRATING BLADE. WORKING WITH NASA ENGINEERS, THEY CONTRIBUTED TO PIONEERING SPACE EXPLORATION RESEARCH, WITH DATA COLLECTED TO SUPPORT UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS ON THIS CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY.

### CREE LANGUAGE WORKSHOP ENGAGES COMMUNITY

Manon Tremblay, BA 03, senior director of Indigenous Directions at Concordia, led a first-of-its-kind non-credit Cree language workshop this winter as part of the university's annual Pikiskwétân Indigenous Learning Series. Designed to foster informal learning, the workshop provided insights into Cree culture through language. Participants, including students, faculty and staff, appreciated the interactive format that emphasized storytelling and cultural context. Tremblay noted the workshop's success and expressed interest in expanding similar offerings for other Indigenous languages in the future.

### NEW ERA FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT

A more than \$2-million initiative led by Concordia aims to transform energy management in buildings across Canada. Directed by Andreas Athienitis, a professor at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, the project is co-funded by the Natural Sciences Engineering Research Council of Canada, Hydro-Québec and Mitacs, and will seek to integrate renewable-energy sources and enhance smart-grid interaction. The research will model energy flexibility, scale predictive control strategies, and implement real-world case studies to improve energy efficiency and contribute to a sustainable future for Canada's building sector.

CONCORDIA HAS ANNOUNCED ITS 2024-25 COHORT OF PUBLIC SCHOLARS. THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF 10 DOCTORAL STUDENTS REPRESENTS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH DIVERSITY. FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: ELIZABETH ELEY, BURCU OLGUN, SARAH FARAHDEL, BENG 16, MASC 20, FAISAL SHENNIB, MENG 10, RANA ALI ADEEB. BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: ALEXANDRE PACE, BA 18, MSC 20, AMEER NIZAMI, GRDIP 21, SARAH RAHIMI, BA 18, MSC 20, MUHAMMAD ILYAS NADEEM. ABSENT: ABU SALEH MOHAMMAD SOWAD



## KEY MENTAL-HEALTH RESEARCH

**Mental health and workplace injuries have a complex, bidirectional relationship**, with work-related injuries often leading to mental-health challenges, **according to a recent meta-analysis co-authored by Steve Granger**, assistant professor of Management at the John Molson School of Business, and co-author Nick Turner from the University of Calgary. Their research highlights the need for a dual focus on psychological and physical rehabilitation in return-to-work programs, emphasizing that addressing both aspects can prevent negative mental-health spirals and facilitate reintegration into the workforce.

## STUDY ON CANADIAN RENTAL TRENDS

According to a Concordia research partnership, renting a two-bedroom apartment in Montreal could cost \$4,325 per month by 2032, with Toronto and Vancouver reaching \$5,600 and \$7,750, respectively. **Led by Erkan Yönder**, associate professor at the John Molson School of Business, **the study utilized AI to analyze rental trends**. With Canada's housing supply struggling to keep pace with immigration, the research emphasizes the need for significant construction increases. Yönder urges policymakers and stakeholders to take action for the future of housing in Canada.



**MITCH MITCHELL**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRINT MEDIA AT CONCORDIA, HAS **DONATED A PORTABLE PRINTING PRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDIO ARTS**. THE GIFT COINCIDED WITH THE CREATION OF THE **CLAUDE TRUMAN MITCHELL PRESS AWARD**, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A HIGH-ACHIEVING PRINT-MEDIA STUDENT WITH A CUSTOM INTAGLIO PRESS. "KNOWING A STUDENT WILL HAVE SOMETHING SO TANGIBLE AND LASTING IS A MAGICAL THING," SAYS MITCHELL.



**MORE THAN 1,400 TREES WERE PLANTED ON LOYOLA CAMPUS AS PART OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH SOVERDI**, A MONTREAL-BASED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOCUSED ON URBAN GREEN SPACES. THE INITIATIVE, SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN \$500,000 IN MATERIALS AND SERVICES, ADVANCES THE UNIVERSITY'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND CREATES NEW SPACES FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY AND RELAX.





**ERICSSON HAS DESIGNATED CONCORDIA AS ITS FIRST TIER 1 UNIVERSITY PARTNER** IN NORTH AMERICA. BASED AT THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, THE INITIATIVE WILL ADVANCE RESEARCH IN CYBERSECURITY, AI, CLOUD COMPUTING, AND 5G, FOCUSING ON JOINT PROJECTS, PATENT DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS. "CONCORDIA'S COLLABORATION WITH ERICSSON HIGHLIGHTS OUR COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS THAT DRIVE BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS," SAYS **PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR**.



OLIVIER BOUSSQUET (MU)

**A NEW MURAL UNVEILED ON SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS HONOURS GABOR SZILASI**, WORLD-RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHER AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS. PAINTED BY RAFAEL SOTTOLICHIO, THE WORK IS PART OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC-ART INITIATIVE ORGANIZED BY THE CITY OF MONTREAL. "THIS MURAL REMINDS US THAT GABOR'S WORK CONTINUES TO INSPIRE MANY GENERATIONS OF ARTISTS, STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS," SAID ANNIE GÉRIN, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS. SZILASI IS PICTURED (CENTRE) WITH HIS DAUGHTER ANDREA AND SOTTOLICHIO AT THE MURAL UNVEILING ON SEPTEMBER 27.

## CLIMATE SCIENTISTS SURVEYED

**A survey of climate experts led by Seth Wynes**, a former Concordia postdoctoral fellow, and **co-authored by Damon Matthews**, a professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, indicates that many believe global temperatures will exceed the 2015 Paris Agreement targets of 1.5°C to 2°C. Published in *Communications Earth & Environment*, the study shows that while two-thirds of respondents are optimistic about achieving net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 86 per cent predict warming above 2°C by 2100. The authors emphasize the need for societal changes and effective policy implementation.

## CONCORDIA TO HOST ACFAS 2025

From May 5 to 9, 2025, **Concordia will co-host the 92nd edition of the Congrès de l'Acfas** with the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS), marking **the largest multidisciplinary conference in the Francophonie**. The event celebrates world-class research conducted in French by scholars from the province of Quebec, Canada and beyond. Proposals are now open for faculty to share their expertise and engage in critical discussions. The conference also provides graduate students with a platform to present research and network with established academics. ■



FROM LEFT: CONCORDIA ALUMNAE **ANNELIESE DI BETTA, ISABELLE GRYN, MARIA MANGIOCAVALLO** AND **VALDINA DI BETTA** AT THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO, THE WORLD'S HIGHEST FREE-STANDING MOUNTAIN

## From Concordia to Kilimanjaro

As friends of more than 30 years, Maria Mangiocavallo and Valdina Di Betta have tackled exams and the world's highest free-standing mountain together

KAY PETTIGREW, BA 22

Misery loves company — and in the case of Maria Mangiocavallo, BComm 86, GrDip 89, and Valdina Di Betta, BComm 86, GrDip 89, a study buddy.

“We actually met because of a failure,” says Di Betta, senior manager of Special Loans and Advisory Services at the Royal Bank of Canada.

“We both failed the mandatory case course needed to obtain our graduate diplomas at what is now the John Molson School of Business,” she explains. The course was a prerequisite to write the chartered professional accountant (CPA) exam.

Rather than dwell on the disappointment, Di Betta reached out to Mangiocavallo, an acquaintance from the undergraduate Accountancy program, and suggested they take a holiday together.

“We teamed up and off we went on a vacation to lick our wounds,” Mangiocavallo says.

### FROM SETBACK TO SUCCESS

When they returned from their trip, Di Betta's twin sister Anneliese, BComm 86, GrDip 88 — who had written the exam successfully and earned her CPA designation — coached the friends, who turned studying into a full-time job. When it came time again to write the exam, they both passed.

“I look back at that initial failure, which was devastating to me at the time. I remember crying for days. Finally, my father got fed up and said, ‘That's enough, just write it next year!’” says Di Betta.

“That's true, it was a total shift in mindset,” Mangiocavallo adds.

So began a lifetime of travels across continents. The two friends, along with Anneliese, have hiked the Grand Canyon, climbed Washington's Mount Rainier and summited Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro with another long-time friend and graduate, Isabelle Gryn, BComm 86.

Mangiocavallo attributes their shared success — from passing the infamous



VALDINA DI BETTA

MARIA MANGIOCAVALLO

CPA exam to their many adventures — to the organizational skills and tenacity they honed at Concordia.

“We learned how to plan and how to persevere. We had to learn skills we never knew before to complete these climbs.”

“Concordia built my confidence,” adds Di Betta.

### BREAKING BARRIERS

The friends were one of only two groups of women among the climbing parties on their Kilimanjaro trip. They were also the only women in their group that successfully completed a guided ascent of Mount Rainier via the challenging Kautz Route.

“The lead guide questioned us in front of everyone, asking how we passed the vetting process as we had ‘no real technical climbing experience.’ Maria saw his unconscious bias right away. We knew we were ready, as we had trained for almost a year, guided by qualified and competent professionals,” Di Betta recalls.

“But by the end of the climb, the lead guide recognized and acknowledged our skills.”

As self-described feminists, the alumnae say they were encouraged to resist the gendered expectations of their upbringings in their careers as well as their outdoor pursuits.

Mangiocavallo was enticed by the career opportunities made possible by studying accountancy. Di Betta says her father and older brother were

instrumental in encouraging her to pursue her studies.

“It was the ‘80s. Our moms were pushing for us to get married, to have kids. But we wanted to be financially independent. And I had this incredible curiosity; I wanted to do and have more than my parents could,” Mangiocavallo explains.

“My dad was a very smart man, despite only having an elementary school education,” Di Betta adds. “He encouraged all his children to get an advanced education and to be independent. He drilled that into us.”

“I decided to get my CPA as a challenge, as a contest to see if I could really do it. I knew it would open a lot of doors.”

### FINDING BELONGING AT CONCORDIA

When it came time to choose a school, Di Betta says she was attracted by Concordia’s diversity.

“I didn’t have the vocabulary at the time to describe it, but Concordia is so diverse. People didn’t talk about diversity then, but I felt at home.”

Today, Mangiocavallo is vice-president of Commercial Banking for the Quebec region at Scotiabank and is actively involved in her community, supporting her alma mater as a member of the John Molson School of Business advisory board. She is also a long-time honorary co-president for the Concordia Golf Classic, one of the university’s signature fundraising events.

Reflecting on their journey, both friends recognize the impact of their shared experience. Their initial setback, which once seemed like a devastating blow, became the foundation for enduring success and an unbreakable bond.

“Looking back, that failure had an enormous positive consequence on my life,” says Di Betta.

“After that, we were unstoppable,” adds Mangiocavallo. ■



# Concordia offers tuition waivers to First Nations and Inuit students from across Quebec

'It's a great step in making higher education a realistic option for more Indigenous people'

JOHANNE CADORETTE, BA 89

First Nations and Inuit students whose communities are situated in Quebec can now benefit from a tuition waiver from Concordia.

The waiver — launched this fall — includes most undergraduate and graduate programs and applies to full- or part-time studies.

“Reducing financial barriers follows the recommendations of our Indigenous Directions Action Plan and is a critical aspect of our commitment towards reconciliation,” says Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, provost and vice-president, Academic.

“[The waiver] is key to ensuring Indigenous students continue to see Concordia as a viable and sustainable partner in their higher-education plans.”

Concordia’s innovative tuition-free initiative sets a new standard for educational accessibility by reaching beyond the university’s immediate geographical boundaries to include all 11 Nations — 10 First Nations as well as the Inuit — across Quebec.

While Indigenous students from communities across Canada are enrolled at Concordia, the majority are from communities within Quebec.

## 'A MUCH-NEEDED ADDITION'

Allan Vicaire, BA 09, senior advisor of Indigenous Directions, explains that while some support may be available for Indigenous students who wish to pursue a university degree, it can be difficult to access.

“There is a misconception that First Nations and Inuit students automatically have their tuition costs covered, either



STUDENTS AT CONCORDIA'S OTSENHÁKTA STUDENT CENTRE

from their band councils or education authorities. It's really not the case.”

Manon Tremblay, BA 03, senior director of Indigenous Directions, sees the tuition waiver as an additional strategy to help Indigenous students succeed.

“Indigenous students at Concordia now benefit from services such as the Otsenhákta Student Centre and the Kaié:ri Nikawerà:ke Indigenous Bridging Program, which reflect the deep and ongoing work that stems from the Indigenous Directions Action Plan,” Tremblay says.

“These services contribute to an enhanced cultural climate for Indigenous students and can help support them throughout their learning journey.

“The tuition waiver is a much-needed addition, as it will open the door for more First Nations and Inuit students to choose to pursue higher education at Concordia while reducing some of the financial burden.”

## BROADER OPPORTUNITIES

Tuition fees will be waived for remaining credits of the program, rather than being limited to a fixed number of years. This flexible approach, coupled with the inclusion of part-time studies, certificate programs and independent studies, broadens the opportunity for a greater number of First Nations and Inuit people in Quebec to access higher education.

It will likely be of significant benefit to students who may need more time to complete a degree, such as disabled students or students who have work or family obligations.

Eliminating tuition fees will also reduce the financial pressure on students from non-urban communities who wish to travel to their home communities during breaks.

“What I appreciate about Concordia’s model is how broad and inclusive it is. It’s a great step in making higher education a realistic option for more Indigenous people,” Vicaire says. ■

# New audio tour celebrates all things Concordia

*Forever Forward* delves into the university's rich history with guided campus tours narrated by alumni

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Concordia's 50th anniversary is being celebrated with a pride-building lineup of special initiatives until June 2025.

One of the highlights is *Forever Forward*, a new audio-based tour and podcast designed to inform how the university community interacts with Concordia's two campuses.

Divided into five chapters and narrated by notable alumni, the tour reflects on aspects of Concordia's past and present that propel the university forward. It is designed to be enjoyed from anywhere, making it accessible to a wide audience.

Each chapter delves into key moments in the university's journey, from the foundational merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University in 1974, to Concordia's present-day standing as a leading centre of next-generation teaching, learning and research.

Here's a breakdown of the five chapters:

## Chapter 1: Loyola's Legacy:

Narrated by Julian McKenzie, BA 16, broadcaster and journalist, this chapter explores the programs, buildings and varsity teams at Loyola that laid the groundwork for the west-end campus we know today.

## Chapter 2: The Path Forward:

Emily Brass, BA 12, a CBC Manitoba anchor and reporter, brings listeners through Loyola's newer facilities and research areas in the sciences and preventive health care that are shaping the future of the campus.

## Chapter 3: Where Communities

**Connect:** Hosted by journalist and podcaster Josie Fomé, BA 17, GrDip 18, this chapter highlights the rich history of Sir George Williams Campus as a connector for various communities.

## Chapter 4: Building a Better

**Tomorrow:** Playwright and queer oral history enthusiast Dane Stewart, MFA 17, explores the programs, initiatives and facilities at Sir George Williams focused on social mobility and addressing societal challenges.

## Chapter 5: A Cornerstone for Arts

**and Culture:** Broadcast journalist and podcaster Jackie Rourke, BA 91, guides listeners through Concordia's contributions to the arts and its lasting legacy on campus and beyond.

Mélodie Le Siège, BA 10, manager of Strategic Content, 50th Anniversary, University Advancement, played a key role in the conception of *Forever Forward* with support from Concordia's Records Management and Archives team and lead writer Marc Lowe, GrDip 94. She sees the audio tour as the perfect way to learn about Concordia's history and its tremendous growth.

"The goal of this audio tour is to celebrate all things Concordia as part of our 50th anniversary," says Le Siège. "This tour, designed to pique the curiosity of listeners and allow them to interact with our campuses in a memorable way, is for everyone from prospective and incoming students to alumni and friends." ■

*Forever Forward* is available at [concordia.ca/50tours](https://concordia.ca/50tours).



## Great Concordian Christine Lengvari strengthens School of Health with \$5-million legacy gift

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

A long-standing donor and volunteer whose expertise helped establish Concordia's planned giving program has further strengthened her alma mater with a remarkable bequest of her own.

Christine Lengvari, BSc 72, has donated \$5 million to benefit nutrition and wellness research at the university's School of Health, which takes a multidisciplinary and hands-on approach to health-related research, education, student training and community engagement.

The major gift in support of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now was celebrated with a special event on Loyola Campus on June 11.

"Christine Lengvari is truly one of our Great Concordians," said President Graham Carr. "This incredibly generous gift, announced as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, will drive advances in nutrition and wellness science and lead to healthier communities.



FROM LEFT: SYLVIA SANTOSA, CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN NUTRITION; VÉRONIQUE PEPIN, INTERIM DEAN, SCHOOL OF HEALTH; PAUL CHESSEY, BA 94, GRDIP 97, VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT; CHRISTINE LENGVARI, BSC 72; AND PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR

"By funding innovative research, this donation will foster new insights, enhance public-health strategies, and ultimately improve society at large."

Lengvari's latest gift comes seven years after the president and CEO of Lengvari Financial made an initial planned gift of \$1 million to Concordia.

"I'm thrilled to be able to give back to my alma mater," Lengvari said. "I believe that targeted planned giving can be essential for creating positive change. Concordia's School of Health is enriching people's lives, and it's an honour to play a part in such vital work."

### BEYOND PHILANTHROPY

Lengvari's commitment to Concordia extends far beyond her financial support.

The Centraide of Montreal cabinet member has given time to Women Who LEAD, which empowers alumnae to enhance leadership skills and make a

positive impact on society.

Lengvari's service has included leadership mandates on alumni association committees, the Concordia University Inter-Generational Fund and the university's Board of Governors. She also served on the client committee of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program for 22 years.

"We are deeply grateful to Christine Lengvari for her extraordinary generosity, which will spark groundbreaking research to address some of society's most pressing health-related issues," said Véronique Pepin, interim dean of Concordia's School of Health.

Added Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement: "Concordia has been fortunate to benefit from Christine Lengvari's leadership and support over the last four decades. Her impactful generosity is an inspiration and a great example to us all." ■

# Quadbridge renews commitment to women in business and tech with \$60,000 gift

JORDAN WHITEHOUSE

Montreal company Quadbridge has renewed its support for women students in business and technology at Concordia with a \$60,000 gift.

The donation will further fund the previously established Quadbridge Scholarships for Women in Tech, as well as new scholarships for women from Iran enrolled in the MBA program at the John Molson School of Business.

PJ Emam, the tech firm's founder, hopes to encourage more women to get involved in tech and assume leadership roles. He also aims to uplift women from his native Iran, a country recently ranked by the World Economic Forum as among the worst for gender equality.

"We want to be part of the solution," says Emam. "We think this funding can help, even if in a small way."

The Quadbridge Scholarships for Women in Tech provide two annual

scholarships for female undergrads — one in business technology management at John Molson, and the other in either software engineering or a computer science program at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"One of the things that drives innovation in tech is diversity of thought, and the perspective of women is so underrepresented right now," remarks Quadbridge CEO Steve Leslie. "It's a huge opportunity if we can help unlock that potential."

## 'A GREAT PARTNERSHIP ON ALL LEVELS'

Emam adds that it was equally important to also include the MBA scholarships to address the underrepresentation of women in business leadership roles.

"I grew up in Iran with two great role models in my mom and sister, who were always fighters," says Emam. "With these MBA scholarships, we want to give



an extra boost to Iranian women to keep fighting, to not give up."

He ultimately hopes that this latest gift will help attract and retain even more women in business and tech.

"I really like the diversity at Concordia, which helps create innovation. This is just a great partnership on all levels." ■

# Former Stinger empowers future student athletes with \$100,000 gift

DAVID SILVERBERG

Being a varsity athlete isn't easy, notes Al Fiumidinisi. It carries financial pressures other students don't necessarily experience.

"Student athletes [at Concordia] have to pay for living expenses, since so many of them are from outside of Quebec," says the former wide receiver for the Stingers.

"It can also be expensive when athletes in sports like football have to eat a lot more than most other students. And then there's tuition and textbooks, too. It's tough."



AL FIUMIDINISI PLAYED FOOTBALL FOR THE CONCORDIA STINGERS IN THE 1980s.

Fiumidinisi, who played football at Concordia in the 1980s and now serves as a senior investment advisor at CIBC in Montreal, recently donated \$100,000 to the John Molson School of Business to support student athletes with scholarships for the next decade.

"Concordia was a great and supportive community, and I have nothing but positive memories," says Fiumidinisi. "Sports can teach you to be a strong leader, to work with a team."

## 'BEING CHARITABLE IS IMPORTANT'

Fiumidinisi began his career in 1987, spending 19 years at Dominion Securities, before landing at CIBC in 2006.

His generosity goes beyond his support for Concordia. He has served as chairman of the board at Notre-Dame de Sion Elementary School, and volunteers his time as a hockey and baseball coach. He also established an endowment fund at the Montreal Children's Hospital 20 years ago.

"If you have the money to give back, you should," says Fiumidinisi. "I have always thought being charitable is an important thing to do." ■

## Department of Art Education receives unexpected endowment for scholarships from estate of late artist

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

A multitalented artist and high-school teacher has empowered students with a surprise bequest of \$95,000 to fund scholarships at the Department of Art Education.

The planned gift was made by the late Rose Szasz, who succumbed to Parkinson's disease in 2021. She was 86.

By all accounts, Szasz lived a fiercely independent life, replete with creativity and purpose.

The focal point for this was her home on Île Bigras, between the Island of Montreal and city of Laval. The community of 400 residents was where Szasz, a painter, sculptor and ceramicist, chose to make a life surrounded by books, plants and plenty of art.

After Szasz purchased her one-storey house in the 1970s, she had it raised and the basement converted into a studio. A separate workshop on her property contained a gigantic kiln where she fired her pottery.

"She had a press and did printmaking, photography and etching," says friend and collaborator Don Goddard. "She was also an accomplished watercolourist."

Indeed, Szasz was honoured by the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour in 2014.

Among some of her neighbours, the artist was a subject of fascination.

"I was always curious to know what Rose was up to, but was too timid to approach her," recalls Claudia Laurin, who grew up next door. "She would be in her studio at all hours."



CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA DONOR ROSE SZASZ, AT HER HOME ON ÎLE BIGRAS

Laurin would later overcome her shyness to form a friendship with her neighbour, and even come to live in Szasz's house after it was sold to Laurin's father in 2019.

Laurin lives there with her husband and two daughters, and says that while the house had to be renovated to accommodate her family of four, she has done her best to preserve Szasz's spirit through her Espace Musée de Rose, which is open to visitors by appointment.

### 'ROSE WAS FEARLESS'

Born in Pécs, Hungary, in 1935, Rose Szasz had a childhood that coincided with what was arguably the most difficult period in the country's long history.

Hungary faced formidable challenges, from Nazi Germany and the Holocaust to an authoritarian Soviet Union that brutally defeated a resistance movement in 1956.

As all of this unfolded, Szasz grew up poor and largely under the care of a single mother and foster family. Her creative talent was evident early on; she graduated from an arts-focused grammar school and later dabbled in photojournalism, a risky proposition behind the Iron Curtain.

"When she wanted to get her truck driver's licence, she had to train to operate heavy machinery and a firearm," remarks friend and Île Bigras neighbour Margaret Jones. "Apparently, she was quite the markswoman."

As Soviet oppression peaked in the late 1950s, Szasz planned her escape.

"Soldiers invaded her dormitory and started to round people up," recalls Jones. "She ran out the back door and went to the train station with a friend, only to find that the platform was packed."

"They made the sensible decision to go see a movie. When they returned to the station, everyone had been cleared out by the Soviets. Miraculously, they caught a train and were able to cross the border."

Like thousands of her compatriots, Szasz found refuge at a displaced-persons camp and made her way to Canada.

When she showed up at Sir George Williams University — a decade and a half before it merged with Loyola College to become Concordia — she spoke only Hungarian, yet persuaded administrators to admit her into the Studio Arts program.

Szasz soon acquired a command of English and thrived on campus.



Later, after a stint at Bell Telephone, she completed a teacher's certificate at McGill University, and was listed among the staff at Northmount High School in Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal, for both 1963 and 1964.

In 1966, she was awarded a scholarship by the School of Art and Design at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to study under Arthur Lismer, a member of the Group of Seven. Szasz later earned her MFA from the Instituto Allende at the University of Guanajuato, Mexico.

Upon her return to Montreal, she worked as an art teacher at Riverdale High School in the northwestern suburb of Pierrefonds.

She also exhibited widely, notably at the Canadian Guild of Craft in downtown Montreal, where she was honoured with an award for excellence in 1988.

### 'SHE TOOK PRIDE IN MENTORING YOUNGER ARTISTS'

Szasz gave her last art class at Riverdale a decade later. In retirement, there was more time to create and to cultivate old and new relationships.

Two of her closest friends were Margaret Jones and her husband, Jon, both art collectors and teachers themselves (Jon, a carver and painter, taught at Riverdale with Szasz). A staff party at the couple's Île Bigras home was what sparked Szasz's initial enchantment with the community.

Margaret and Jon have fond remembrances of their time on the island with Szasz.

"Île Bigras was the kind of place where you could take a walk in the morning and not return until evening, having been invited to someone's house for lunch, coffee and maybe even dinner," says Jon. "It was neighbourly that way, which I think Rose appreciated."

As Szasz entered her 80s, however, her health declined. After she collapsed in her

yard one day, doctors discovered a heart malfunction and put in a pacemaker.

Then her Parkinson's worsened. "When we finally helped her decide to move to a special-care facility in 2019, that was quite hard," admits Margaret Jones. "But when the movers came to take her things, she was quite stoic about it."

After two years at the care facility, Szasz died in September of 2021.

While there is no definitive explanation as to why she left a portion of her estate to Concordia, there are a few theories.

"Rose was the kind of art teacher who wanted her kids to explore their creativity unselfconsciously," says Don Goddard. "She took pride in being a specialist and in mentoring younger artists."

There's another reason, too, adds Margaret Jones.

"She was grateful for the life that she had built for herself as a teacher and an independent artist. I think Rose wanted to help others have that kind of life, too." ■

SZASZ WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED PAINTER, SCULPTOR AND CERAMICIST.



## Shuffle 2024: 1,026 participants, 73 teams and \$225,000 raised for students

SANDRA EVOUGHLIAN

Faculty, staff, retirees and friends took to Montreal streets under a radiant sun to raise \$225,000 for Concordia students as part of the university's Shuffle walkathon on September 20.

A record 1,026 participants, from 73 teams, walked the 6.5-kilometre Shuffle from Concordia's downtown Sir George Williams Campus to Loyola Campus in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Since its 1990 launch, Shuffle has raised \$3.1 million for students.

The 2024 edition coincided with the university's 50th-anniversary and Homecoming weekend.

"It is a great pleasure to be with you to support our wonderful university," said honorary emcee Maya Johnson, BA 06, CTV Montreal News anchor.

After the walk, participants celebrated their efforts as well as Concordia's 50th anniversary with a community barbecue, where President Graham Carr shared his gratitude.



FROM LEFT: **CHERRY MARSHALL**, BA 06, MA 10, ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT, **MAYA JOHNSON**, BA 06, AND **PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR**

"With another successful Shuffle, we're making the best possible investment in our future by ensuring Concordia's students have every opportunity to reach their full potential," said Carr.

Among this year's Shuffle participants were Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Concordia co-chancellor, who co-captained the Gina Cody School (GCS) EDI Trekkers team with Dean Mourad Debbabi. The two led some 50 trekkers as Shuffle Team of the Year by raising more than \$32,000.

Hardial Rosner, BA 13, administrative coordinator of Facilities Management, was named Shuffler of the Year. In 2023, a pregnant Rosner raised more than \$8,500 for the cause.

Despite being on maternity leave in 2024, she surpassed her previous record by raising \$10,000 from 90 donors. She also Shuffled with her son in tow.

Other top teams included the Pace Makers, the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) Rock Stars and Facilities Footsteps.

Among individual fundraisers, other notable Shufflers included Gina Cody herself, who raised nearly \$20,000; Les Lawton, former coach of the Stingers women's hockey team;



THE 35TH EDITION OF SHUFFLE CELEBRATED CONCORDIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

CONCORDIA STAFF **JOHANNE PELLETIER** AND **SYLVAIN-JACQUES DESJARDINS**, BA 97, PICTURED WITH FURRY FRIENDS HAWK AND BOWIE. DESJARDINS HELPED RAISE MORE THAN \$1,000 AS TEAM BOWIE LEAD.



and Marilyn Roy, widow of biology professor Bob Roy.

Funds raised through Shuffle support the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now through scholarships, bursaries and services that enhance the university experience for students. ■

## Concordia Golf Classic reaches new heights, raising record \$621,000 for students

MARTA SAMUEL, GRDIP 10

Industry leaders, along with Concordia alumni, donors and friends, gathered under sunny skies on September 3 for the university's annual Golf Classic fundraiser. The sold-out event brought in a record \$605,000 in support of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now.

As one of the university's most successful fundraisers — and the only one in Quebec to unite executives from all of the province's major banks — the Golf Classic has raised more than \$8.3 million for student awards since launching in 2004.

"It's a great pleasure to support my alma mater," said co-president Maria Mangiocavallo, BComm 86, GrDip 89, at Golf Griffon des Sources in Mirabel, Que.

"Concordia helped me launch my career in banking. So it's an honour for me to help today's students launch their successful careers."

More than half of Concordia's 50,000 students rely on financial aid. Golf Classic awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, include bursaries to assist students in financial need, and scholarships to attract and reward students who excel in academics or in varsity sports.

"These bursaries and scholarships can change students' lives," adds Mangiocavallo, who serves as vice-president, Commercial Banking, Quebec Region at Scotiabank.

"They can mean the difference between being able to pursue higher education and having to abandon it."

Close to 1,700 students have benefited from Golf Classic awards to date, providing them with the financial

assistance they need to focus on their studies and pursue their goals.

"Private support of higher education is an important investment in our community," said Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement, at the post-tournament reception.

"The high calibre of our students is a clear source of Concordia's strength. We're grateful for your generosity that helps us keep up our momentum." ■



## Who was Joyce H. Newton and why did she give \$316,000 to Concordia?

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Future students at Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment will soon benefit from a planned gift of \$316,000 from the late Joyce H. Newton.

Her bequest — which represented half of her estate — reflects a lifelong commitment to education and philanthropy.

Born in Montreal on April 14, 1936, Newton led a life marked by dedication, prudence and quiet generosity. She passed away of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) on April 6, 2021, just shy of her 85th birthday.

Newton was known for her diligence and attention to detail throughout a decades-long career in alumni records at McGill University, where she also completed an undergraduate degree in 1958.

Her life was deeply intertwined with Montreal's academic and cultural fabric. Her father, Thomas C. Newton, hailed from Edinburgh, Scotland, and her mother, Mary Hamilton David, had roots in Braemar and Scone, towns in Scotland.

The family's Scottish heritage and active lifestyle in the west end of Montreal shaped Newton's childhood. She enjoyed frequent trips to the Laurentians and Eastern Townships, and was an avid cross-country skier, tennis player, figure skater and member of the Girl Guides.

In the late 1940s, the Newton family embarked on a memorable cross-Atlantic trip to Scotland aboard the passenger ship *Lismoria* and travelled widely throughout the country. These experiences fostered a lifelong love for travel, which led Newton to explore parts of Canada, the United States, Europe and the Caribbean as an adult.



**JOYCE H. NEWTON** DIVIDED HER ESTATE BETWEEN MONTREAL'S TWO ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES.

### 'DIGNIFIED, REFINED AND QUIET'

Newton's professional life was characterized by her dedication to her alma mater, McGill, the other recipient of her estate. She worked well past the typical retirement age and maintained alumni records with meticulous care.

"What I remember most about Joyce was her kind and gentle way — and her strong work ethic," recalls Susan Reid, a former colleague. "She was known for her efficiency and accuracy in all levels of her work."

Another colleague, Susan Button, remembers Joyce as "dignified, refined and quiet. She would come out on our ladies' payday lunches for a laugh and a glass of wine.

"When I remember Joyce, I think of a kind, soft-spoken lady."

Though she never wed or had children of her own, Newton's life was rich with friendships and charity work. Her modest lifestyle belied her significant philanthropic contributions.

She supported dozens of non-profit organizations, from animal-welfare

groups to institutions like the Old Brewery Mission, McCord Museum and Douglas Hospital.

Friends often noted that her apartment was sparsely furnished, a reflection of her frugality and preference for saving.

Significant bequests to both Concordia and McGill's Department of Geography underscore Newton's deep commitment to education.

She left her entire estate to the two English-language Montreal institutions, equally divided to support students in geography-related fields.

"Joyce Newton's gift has come as a wonderful surprise," remarks Craig Townsend, chair of the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia.

"Her generosity will provide invaluable support to our students and ensure that her legacy endures. We are deeply thankful and grateful for this contribution." ■

## 'We believe in the power of education to transform lives'

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Constantine Constandis, BComm 79, and Anne Upton-Constandis, BComm 80, are dedicated to making an enduring impact on future generations.

Both chartered accountants and Concordia alumni, the couple recently announced a major planned gift that will benefit John Molson School of Business students.

Constantine and Anne are designating 25 per cent of their estate — a multi-million-dollar commitment — to establish an endowed scholarship in support of students enrolled in Concordia's MBA program or Graduate Diploma in Chartered Professional Accountancy program.

The Constandis-Upton endowment acknowledges the profound influence that family had on their journeys.

"We believe in the power of education to transform lives," says Constantine. "Our parents instilled a strong work ethic and the importance of education, and we want to pass that on."

Adds Anne: "Creating this scholarship is our way of giving back to the institution that provided us with so many opportunities. We hope it will help students achieve their dreams, just as we were able to achieve ours."

### 'EDUCATION WAS A CORNERSTONE IN OUR LIVES'

After a stint at accountancy firm Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers), the bulk of Constantine's career post-Concordia — three and a half decades — was spent in the wine and spirits industry. It was marked by significant roles in Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia.



CONSTANTINE CONSTANDIS, BCOMM 79, AND ANNE UPTON-CONSTANDIS, BCOMM 80

Constantine served as a senior executive with Pernod Ricard, the French multinational behind brands such as Absolut, Jameson, Havana Club and Beefeater.

His distinguished career also included roles as president of Pernod Ricard China, Pernod Ricard Asia Travel Retail, CFO for the North America spirits operation of Allied Domecq and CFO for Seagram's operations in Europe and Africa.

As CEO of Corby Spirit and Wine Limited, Constantine led the Toronto-based subsidiary of Pernod Ricard and the largest publicly listed Canadian alcohol manufacturer and distributor.

Anne's career began at Coopers & Lybrand and was followed by internal audit roles with CN Rail and Via Rail. She then furthered her education in architectural design (International Academy of Design) and theatre design (Concordia and State University of New York-Purchase).

Another 25 per cent of the couple's estate has been set aside for Habitat for Humanity, the non-profit made famous, in part, by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Anne is involved with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina,

where she and Constantine live, as a volunteer builder and fundraiser.

"Habitat contributes to communities in such a tangible and meaningful way," says Anne. "It's been incredibly rewarding to work closely with an organization like that, and to help create a legacy that will benefit families well into the future."

Constantine's late parents, Greek immigrants who settled in Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal, took enormous pride in the accomplishments of their son and daughter-in-law. Anne's parents, Charles and Suzanne Upton, both served with the RCMP for decades and now enjoy a comfortable retirement in Cornwall, Ontario.

"This scholarship fund is intended to honour the sacrifices of our parents," says Constantine.

"Education was a cornerstone in our lives. We hope our contribution will help students realize their potential and make a positive impact on their communities and the world." ■

*View videos and read about recent gifts to the Campaign for Concordia at [concordia.ca/campaign](https://concordia.ca/campaign).*

# A FRESH, NEW LOOK

CONCORDIA'S 50TH-ANNIVERSARY VISUAL IDENTITY AND BRAND CAMPAIGN IS NOW SHOWCASED ACROSS THE LOYOLA AND SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUSES

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01



As Concordia celebrates its 50th anniversary, its bold new visual identity can now be seen around Montreal, as well as the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses.

Anniversary branding is featured across campus interiors and exteriors, banners on Montreal lamp posts, shuttle bus backs, swag, transit and in media and digital advertisements.

First unveiled during the spring 2024 convocations, the anniversary campaign features a striking 50th-anniversary logo. It uses bright colours and a retro look, combining a stylized amphitheatre with a bisected vinyl record — an homage to music from the 1970s to 2020s — that forms a “C.”

The amphitheatre symbolizes Concordia as a gathering place for ideas and community, while each colour band represents each of the university’s five decades. The logo colour scheme features garnet and gold — the university’s official colours — with shades of orange reminiscent of Montreal’s metro.

University Advancement and University Communications Services led the creation of the new visual identity and slogan, *50 Years: Forever Forward*, which captures the lasting impact that Concordia has had on its community and the boundless possibilities for the future.



“Focus groups consisting of Concordia leaders, alumni, students, faculty and staff helped select the 50th visual identity,” says Mélodie Le Siège, BA 10, manager of Strategic Content, 50th Anniversary, University Advancement.

“Our logo skilfully connects our past, present and future in a vibrant, memorable image,” says Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins, BA 97, director of Advancement Communications and 50th Anniversary.

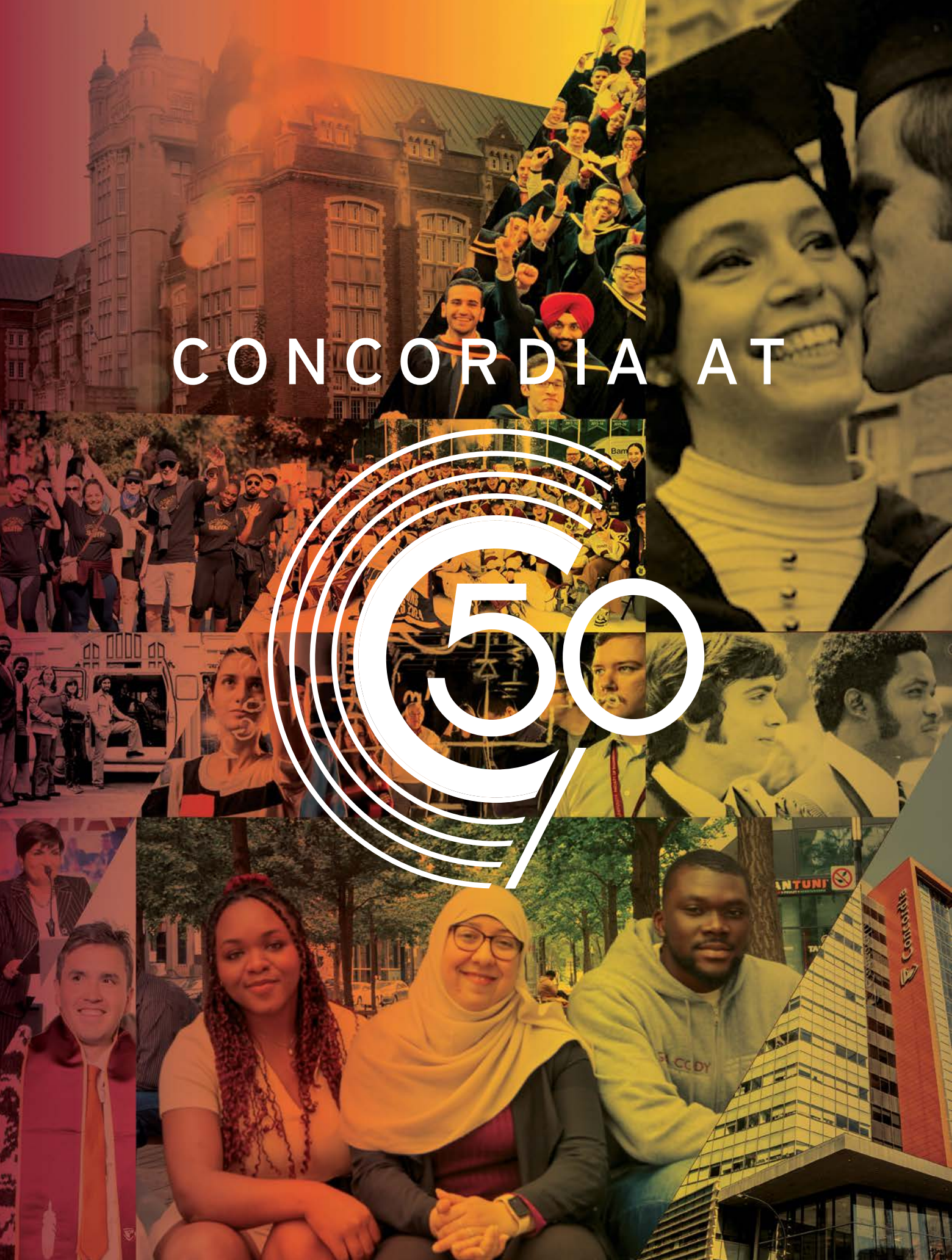
“I thank our creative team for developing a 50th logo that reflects the energy and momentum that have propelled Concordia forward over the past five decades.”

The logo is also featured in limited-edition merchandise — hoodies, T-shirts, caps and tote bags — currently on sale at the Concordia Bookstore and online shop.

Le Siège thanks the many campus partners who collaborated on installations, such as Facilities Management, Business Services, Recreation and Athletics, Hospitality Concordia, and Campus Safety and Prevention Services. ■

CONCORDIA AT

50







**AS THE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ITS GARNET AND GOLD MILESTONE,  
FIVE FACULTY DEANS REFLECT AND LOOK AHEAD**

**JORDAN WHITEHOUSE**

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**T**he unification of Sir George Williams University and Loyola College in 1974 laid the foundation for what would become a bold experiment in merging two campuses and academic cultures.

Concordia's subsequent evolution over the past 50 years has been nothing short of remarkable. Throughout this half-century, one theme has remained constant: growth and innovation.

The university's current deans, each a steward of their faculty's unique journey, shared their perspectives on this trajectory — growth in student numbers and academic staff, growth in alumni (now 262,000 strong around the world), growth in cutting-edge programs and groundbreaking research, growth in diversity and inclusion, and, perhaps most strikingly, growth in Concordia's global reputation as a leader in post-secondary education.

In the reflections that follow, these leaders offer an inside look at the transformative progress within their faculties and provide a glimpse into the future of Concordia.





### FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

With its 27 academic units and research centres across the humanities, sciences and social sciences, the Faculty of Arts and Science is the very definition of diversity. And it's always been that way, says Dean Pascale Sicotte.

"We've always been interdisciplinary, we've always been diverse — it's in our DNA," she says. "The opportunity is to build on the work that's come before and bring together this range of disciplines in a way that's meaningful, to push us forward, to examine new boundaries, to meet today's challenges."

Sicotte highlights several impactful examples of faculty research: groundbreaking work on aging, advances in synthetic biology and biomanufacturing aimed at enhancing food security and sustainability, efforts to foster immigrant inclusion, and the promotion of multilingualism to bridge Quebec's French and English communities.

As for the future, Sicotte says the faculty needs to keep coming together to build on this kind of interdisciplinary work and to keep advancing knowledge.

"But to also keep assessing critically the knowledge that's being produced," she adds.

"This is important. We don't only produce knowledge. We instill in all our students the critical thinking and capacity to reflect on what's happening around them so that they can be in a position to keep learning throughout their lives."

This is needed now more than ever, remarks Sicotte.

"As the past few years have proven, we can't know what's going to happen in the future."

In short, she says, if there is a student-centred mission that guides the Faculty of Arts and Science, it is to prepare students to be citizens of the world.

"We want to create spaces where everyone has a voice, where important discussions take place and where we can rethink the world of tomorrow, so it becomes a better one," says Sicotte. "This is what we'll continue to foster here."

### FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

If you want to know how much has changed at the Faculty of Fine Arts over the past 50 years, talk to alumni who were there just before or after the merger, says Dean Annie Gérin.

"They always remind me of one thing — that courses were given in offices above the YMCA in downtown Montreal," she says.

"That is really telling because we're now known in Canada as having some of the best fine-arts facilities. It's a big reason why people come here."

Those facilities — and the work of the professors and students using them — are also a big reason why the faculty is now consistently ranked among the top 100 art and design schools in the world by QS World University Rankings.

"It's incredible how far we've come," Gérin observes. "We've had alumni and professors nominated for and winning Oscars, we're constantly shortlisted or winning Sobey Awards, Scotiabank Awards, Governor General's Awards — you name it. There's a lot to be proud of."

That pride extends to the faculty's ability to not only diversify its student and teaching body in recent years, but the curriculum as well, adds Gérin.

A prime example is Curriculab, she says. It's a platform launched by the Faculty of Fine Arts for supporting professors and departments across the faculty wanting to bring decolonization, anti-racism and sustainability perspectives into curricula.

Gérin is also immensely proud of the breadth and impact of the research and professional work that has been happening at her faculty.

This includes more community-based programs like creative arts therapies — "an absolute jewel that's giving all kinds of new opportunities for creatives to make a great living and have a big impact in the health sector."

The future of the faculty will be about building on this progress while also responding to the changing demands of the art world and the world in general, says Gérin.



This is why the faculty released its first strategic plan in 2022. The initiative includes a sustainability action plan which will launch this fall.

It's also the reason the faculty is establishing new, leading-edge programs in film production, screenwriting and curatorial practice, adds Gérin.

"My hope is that we'll continue being agile and to keep innovating in our programs and research in response to the way the art world is constantly changing."



#### GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

**R**emarkable growth. Those are the two words that Dean Mourad Debbabi uses when describing the evolution of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science over the past five decades.

"Not just in terms of the number of students and faculty members we have now — more than 11,000 and 260, respectively — but also in terms of our creation of new academic program offerings and our significant expansion of research," he says.

Specifically, Debbabi points to the faculty's growth in five strategic areas: aerospace, electrification, smart cities and buildings, cybersecurity and software engineering.

"We've built a very solid reputation in these areas," he says. "In software engineering, for example, our researchers rank number one in Canada, second in North America and fifth in the world in the current Computer Science Rankings."

There have also been major strides on the equity, diversity and inclusion front.

This has been especially true since 2018, Debbabi notes, when the school became the first engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman — the engineer and business leader Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89. Cody, a prominent advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, made a historic donation of \$15 million to her alma mater that same year.

Over the past three years alone, Debbabi says the number of

students from underrepresented groups enrolled in his faculty rose from 22 per cent to 27 per cent.

There are already clear signs of success.

Debbabi points to new programs in the pipeline in the areas of chemical engineering, cybersecurity, applied artificial intelligence, and cyber physical systems and critical-infrastructure protection.

There was also the 2023 announcement of the historic \$123-million research grant that the Government of Canada awarded to Concordia to help electrify society and decarbonize communities.

Additionally, through its Security Research Centre, Concordia is a founding member of the National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC), notes Debbabi. The NCC has been appointed by the Government of Canada to lead the new Cyber Security Innovation Network (CSIN), which will receive up to \$80 million over four years.

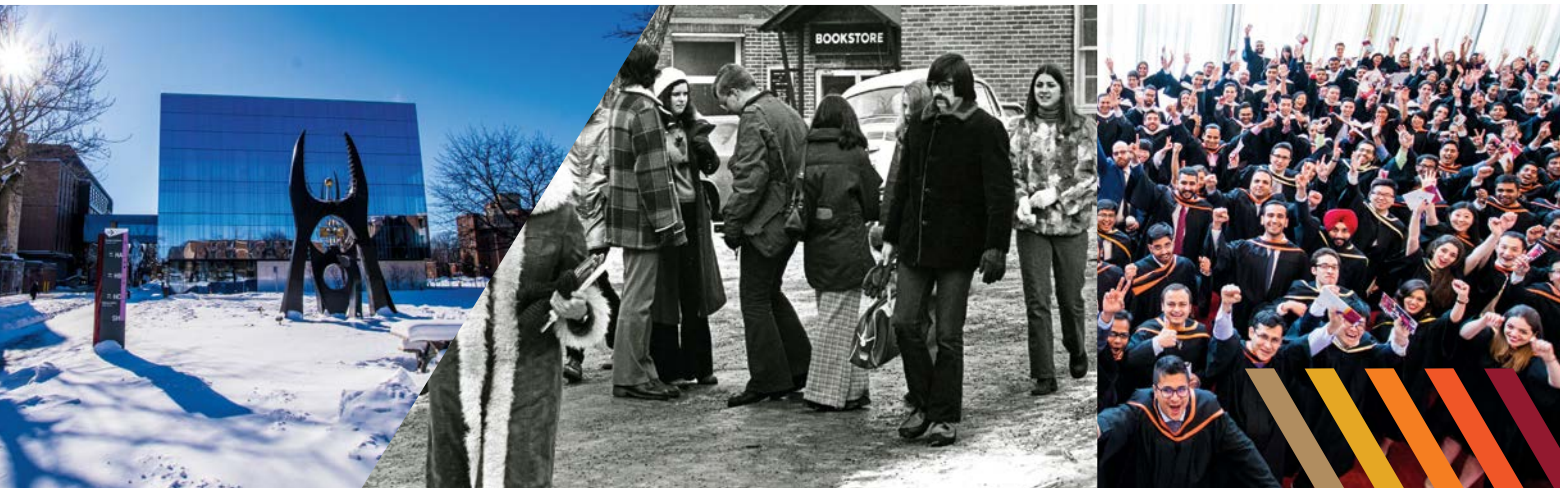
And then there are the faculty's plans to invest in new areas of strategic importance, such as quantum computing, and to bring research to market through commercialization, intellectual property, startups and more.

"Without question, the future looks like more growth, innovation, and societal and economic impact," says Debbabi. "More training, more education, more academic programs in cutting-edge areas, and also strengthening what we have in research capacity and bringing emerging research to a level where we continue to compete nationally and globally."

#### JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**S**o much has happened at the John Molson School of Business over the past 50 years that it's tough to narrow down just a few notable milestones, says the first woman to lead the faculty.

There is no doubt that the renaming of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration to the John Molson School of Business in 2000 marked a significant shift, says Dean Anne-Marie Croteau. "That was huge for our reputation, our positioning in the landscape of business schools in the world. It gave us a different stature, a very impressive one, and we've grown so much since then."



Today, with its 9,000-plus students, 250-plus faculty and 18 programs across five departments, John Molson is one of the largest business schools in the world.

But size isn't everything, says the alumna.

"I'm also very proud of the quality of our research — both from renowned, well-established faculty, but also emergent researchers.

"We're not afraid to mix up research with practice. And that is something that students and employers really appreciate — that there is this combination of learning from established researchers and others from industry, including alumni and professional mentors, with major business knowledge."

Earlier this year, this school's MBA program was ranked second overall in Canada by *Bloomberg Businessweek*. The John Molson MBA and Executive MBA is consistently ranked in the top 10 in Canada and among the top 100 in the world by QS and *The Princeton Review*. "These competitive rankings attest to the quality of our programs and our commitment to continuous improvement," says Croteau.

Another noteworthy accomplishment is the school's position as a Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) Champion for 2024-25, the first Canadian school to participate. The PRME Champion program's mission is to contribute to thought and action leadership on responsible-management education that aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The current cohort includes 47 schools from 25 countries.

In 2019, John Molson became the first business school in Canada to receive gender-parity certification by Women in Governance (La Gouvernance au féminin). This certification has been renewed every year since. The Canadian not-for-profit organization supports women in their leadership development, career advancement and access to board seats across the country.

In addition, the John Molson School was the first in Montreal and the fourth in Canada to receive accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB International accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide.

The goal is to achieve what's called the "triple crown accreditation," which includes accreditation from the three main international accreditation agencies: AACSB, European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), and Association for MBAs (AMBA).

The vision guiding the future of the school is all about three words, says Croteau: relevant, responsible and respected. "Relevant is about the importance of being practical overall and being impactful in our research," she says. "Responsible is the way we manage ourselves, but also the way we teach our students to be responsible business people. And respected is about continuing to build on this incredible reputation we've worked so hard to achieve."



## SCHOOL OF HEALTH

Back in 2015, when the idea for a School of Health started percolating at Concordia, more than 150 faculty members were identified who work in health-related areas.

And yet, not many people outside of Concordia

realized the university had this health focus, says the school's first dean, Véronique Pepin.

"And why didn't they? Because we didn't have an official home for health at Concordia," she says. "Now we do. And now we're working on bringing all of our health experts scattered across our campuses together to leverage that expertise and build on it."

Pepin's appointment as interim dean in August 2023 was the unofficial launch of the School of Health. Since then, she and her colleagues have hosted the school's first conference and student poster competition and secured the school's first major gift — a \$5-million bequest from long-time Concordia donor and volunteer Christine Lengvari, BSc '72 (more on page 12).

Pepin has also appointed two associate deans — Alisa Piekny (Research and Infrastructure) and Alexandre Champagne (Academic Programs and Student Services). Together, they and the entire School of Health team have been hard at work on refining what the school is all about while getting the word out.

"The first thing to understand is that the School of Health isn't just a rebranding of Loyola Campus's PERFORM Centre," notes Pepin.

"This is a completely new project that integrates the PERFORM infrastructure and activities. It's much broader, and it's organized around three academic themes — biomedical sciences and engineering, clinical research and prevention, and community health."

Pepin says it is also important to understand that although the School of Health will have its own curriculum, it is a department-free school. Faculty members stay in their home faculty but can choose to become a member of the School of Health if they see a benefit to their research or teaching and wish to contribute to the school's mission.

A very first call for membership will soon be launched.

"I'm really excited about that because when we have our members, things will become even more concrete," says Pepin.

The mission for the years ahead is to support these new members, support the three core academic themes, as well as any others that emerge, and focus on inclusivity and sustainability.

"At the end of the day, we want to foster a truly cross-sectoral environment, and we want to be agile," says Pepin. "We want to be a leading school of health that's known for its innovation." ■



## IT HAPPENED HERE FIRST

Innovation has been a constant theme at Concordia over the past 50 years. Look back at key moments that Concordians achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world.

### 1974

Concordia is established through the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University. The name of the new university comes from Montreal's motto – *Concordia Salus* – meaning well-being through harmony.

### 1979

Robert Bradley, BSc 79, becomes the first Concordia student to earn a Rhodes Scholarship.

### 1983

Trailblazing Black educator and human-rights advocate Esmeralda Thornhill, LL.D 97, introduces the first university-accredited course on Black women in Canada.

### 1998

The Concordia Stingers women's hockey team wins its first of four national championships.

### 1992

Former Governor General Jeanne Sauvé becomes Concordia's first woman chancellor.

### 1990

The Concordia Stingers men's basketball team wins the national championship – the first team from the province of Quebec to achieve the feat.

### 2000

Concordia becomes the first and only Canadian university to offer an MA in creative arts therapies.

### 2009

The John Molson Building opens with a fully functional solar wall that generates electricity from the sun – a world first for a university building.

### 2012

A Concordia research team, led by Department of Biology professor Vladimir Titorenko, finds the first compound that kills cancer cells and extends lifespans.

### 2020

The \$63.1-million Applied Science Hub opens on Loyola Campus. The state-of-the-art facility earns LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification the following year.

### 2019

Concordia becomes the first Canadian university to issue a sustainable bond.

### 2018

Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, makes a \$15-million gift to her alma mater. The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science becomes the first engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman.

### 2021

Space Concordia's Rocketry Division sets a world record for developing and firing the first rocket engine by civilians.

### 2024

For the first time, Concordia is number one in North America in the *Times Higher Education* Young University Rankings.

Learn what else Concordians did first at [concordia.ca/concordiafirsts](https://concordia.ca/concordiafirsts).

# A GROWING BENEFIT

How Concordia's expansion across campuses enriches Montreal – and the province of Quebec

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

**W**hether on the bustling Ste. Catherine Street or De Maisonneuve Boulevard in downtown Montreal's Quartier Concordia, or on the vibrant stretch of Sherbrooke Street in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG), Concordia's presence is undeniable. The university doesn't just occupy space; it breathes life into the city.

Thousands of students fill the streets and public transportation, heading to classes, labs, the sports field or the library. The more than 50,000 individuals — including faculty, staff and visitors — fill cafés, shops and restaurants during the day, and bars, music venues and other sites at night. Many live in the surrounding housing. They bring a youthfulness, energy, joie de vivre and international flavour, helping solidify Montreal's ranking as one of the top 10 student cities in the world.

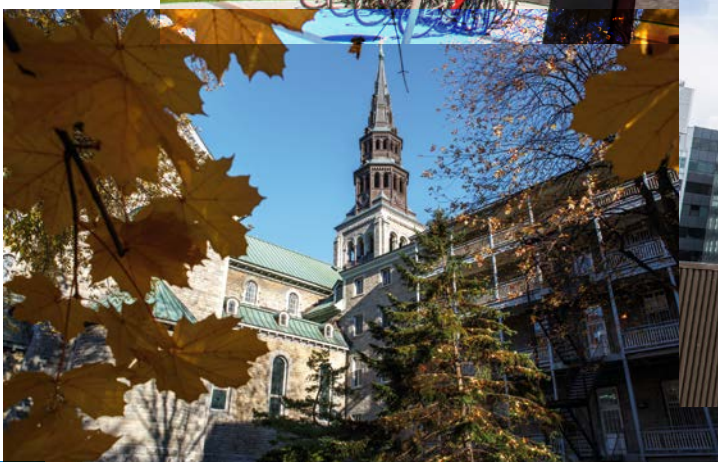
The university also supports the city in ways that may be less evident, yet more quantifiable. According to *Economic Impact Assessment of Concordia University*, an independent report commissioned by the university and released in December 2023, Concordia generated nearly \$2 billion in value added to the economies of Montreal and Quebec in 2022 alone.

"This assessment puts a dollar figure — a very significant one — on what we've long known: that Concordia alumni, researchers and students, as well as the university itself, provide our local economy with a major, quantifiable economic benefit," says Concordia President Graham Carr.

*Economic Impact Assessment* breaks down these contributions into three principal areas: \$925 million in human capital enhancement — increased productivity — through the university's 179,000 graduates working in the province; \$301 million through research conducted and disseminated by Concordia; and \$763 million spent by Concordia as well as its students and visitors from outside Quebec.

Less subtle, however, is Concordia's impressive physical presence.





## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Much of the university's current public face is relatively new. It began to take shape in the late 1990s and, more dramatically, in the early 2000s, reflecting the growth of the university's ambition, research profile, international reputation and more.

Since the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University in 1974, not much on the university's two campuses changed until 1999 apart from two new spaces — the J.W. McConnell Building on De Maisonneuve Boulevard across from the Henry F. Hall Building, and the Loyola Concert Hall in NDG — circa 1992.

From 1999 until now, the changes are striking. That transformation was done with foresight. In the mid-1990s, the university's leaders had to contemplate its future — and resolved to go big.

The first major step involved the NDG campus, which was underutilized. To study its options, the university created the Rector's Advisory Task Force on the Revitalization of the

Loyola Campus, chaired by Board of Governors member Lillian Vineberg-Goodman, BFA 83. The task force's recommendation for Loyola — made in 1998 and soon accepted by the university — was to significantly invest in updating and adding facilities for the sciences, psychology, the performing arts, and communication studies and journalism.

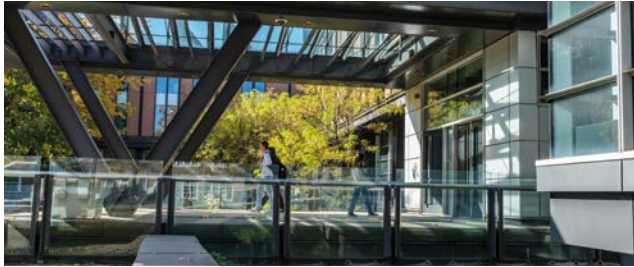
Yet the board did not stop at Loyola. In 2000, it approved the \$350-million Concordia Space Plan, a far-looking vision for both campuses.

"When somebody comes up with an innovative idea, Concordia makes it happen," said Vineberg-Goodman in a recent interview with the university. "We were able to not only revitalize the Loyola Campus, but revitalize the entire university."

Over the next decade, the university transformed Loyola from a sleepy suburban site to a thriving campus, thanks to the opening of a quartet of buildings, as well as major additions on Sir George Williams Campus (more on page 31).

“Concordia’s expansion has been a catalyst for positive change, supporting economic growth, cultural vitality and urban development while fostering innovation and sustainability across Montreal.”

- MICHAEL DI GRAPPA, VICE-PRESIDENT OF SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY



### GROWTH DECISIONS

Michael Di Grappa, BA 84, Concordia’s vice-president of Services and Sustainability, was the university’s vice-rector of Services in the early 2000s. He recounts that in the mid-1990s the university’s government funding did not meet its needs.

“There was a crisis mentality at the time regarding space and university finances,” Di Grappa says. “That is when the university took a creative and innovative approach to space planning.”

Recommendations by the task force led to plans to build what would become the Renaud Science Complex. The building was financed entirely by university funds, the result of a \$200-million bond issue, and philanthropy — specifically a lead gift by Richard J. Renaud, BComm 69, LLD 09.

The university was also able to move out of its many rental spaces and acquire other properties, including the Guy Métro Building, the site of the former York Theatre, the Faubourg Tower, a vacant lot at the corner of De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Guy Street, and the Grey Nuns site.

“With these new properties, the university developed plans to provide state-of-the-art and expanded facilities for each faculty. Combined with some other major renovations, the total budget for these projects was more than \$500 million,” Di Grappa says.

The driving force behind this vision, Di Grappa notes, was Concordia’s co-chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, who, at the time, was vice-chair of the Board of Governors and chair of the university’s real-estate planning committee.

“Jonathan always spoke of planning universities over a 100-year time frame, to always think about future needs and future generations of students, faculty and researchers,” he says.

“Without those properties added between 2000 and 2012, Concordia would not be what it is today. It would not have been able to grow nor attract leading faculty and researchers. It would not be as diverse; it would not have had the impact it has had on Montreal and its local communities at Sir George Williams and Loyola,” Di Grappa adds.

### ‘A CATALYST FOR POSITIVE CHANGE’

Concordia’s expansion over the past 25 years has positively impacted the NDG and Quartier Concordia neighbourhoods, as well as the City of Montreal overall, in several ways.

That starts with economic and cultural benefits, yet there’s much more. Concordia’s growth has also brought urban renewal through the transformation of old or underdeveloped areas.

“The university’s investments in green buildings and infrastructure improvements, such as LEED-certified buildings, have set an example of environmental responsibility,” says Di Grappa. “Concordia’s innovation and research centres have also boosted Montreal’s standing as a hub for technology, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.”

A vibrant Loyola deepens ties with the NDG community by providing spaces for public events, workshops and partnerships with community organizations.

Finally, Concordia’s growth has elevated its reputation as a research and teaching institution, solidifying Montreal’s identity as North America’s best student city. Rooted in a bilingual city with strong ties to a vast number of industries, the university attracts top talent and investment, “helping Montreal to compete on the global stage as a centre for higher education and innovation,” Di Grappa says.

“Overall, Concordia’s expansion has been a catalyst for positive change, supporting economic growth, cultural vitality and urban development while fostering innovation and sustainability across Montreal.” ■





# BUILDING ON 50 YEARS

Discover how some of Concordia's new and revitalized buildings have redefined the university's presence in the city, turning urban areas into thriving hubs of creativity and collaboration.

## Loyola Campus

### 1989

- Concordia's football stadium officially opens
- Major expansion and renovation of the Vanier Library takes place, doubling its shelf capacity

### 1990

- Construction begins on the acoustically advanced Loyola Concert Hall; it is renamed the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall in 1999
- The Department of Psychology moves into the renovated Psychology Building, the former Loyola High School

### 2003

- The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex is the first major campus addition in more than a decade and the first completely new building on the campus since the Student Centre opened in 1973

### 2005

- The Communication Studies and Journalism Building, converted from the Drummond and Drummond Auditorium buildings, is completely renovated and expanded

### 2011

- The PERFORM Centre, now School of Health, opens, as does the state-of-the-art Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, a cutting-edge genomics facility and computational resource centre

### 2012

- The Loyola Refectory is fully renovated and repurposed as the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre

### 2020

- The Applied Science Hub opens, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and research in fields such as agriculture, health and sustainable development

Learn more at [concordia.ca/timeline](https://concordia.ca/timeline).

## Sir George Williams Campus

### 1979-80

- Some of the Faculty of Fine Arts departments move into the Visual Arts Building, a renovated former parking garage

### 1992

- The J.W. McConnell Building – Concordia's first new building project – opens; it houses the R. Howard Webster Library and Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery

### 1997

- Concordia acquires the Faubourg Tower Building, which becomes home to Concordia Continuing Education and eventually the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, and more

### 1998

- Concordia buys the Guy Métro Building; it later renovates the premises and reclads the façade to match the newer surrounding buildings

### 2005

- The two-towered Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex gathers most of the engineering, computer science and fine arts departments under one address

### 2006

- Le Gym fitness centre opens to students, alumni and the general public

### 2007

- Concordia purchases the historic Grey Nuns Motherhouse and starts major renovations on what would be called the Grey Nuns Building; in 2014, students begin moving into the Grey Nuns Residence

### 2009

- The John Molson School of Business takes over its new premises, the John Molson Building, marking the first time all business departments reside under one roof

### 2019

- 4TH SPACE welcomes the public to a street-level vitrine in the Library Building that is at once a science centre, living lab, theatre, design showroom and public exhibition space

### 2020

- The temporary, modular Learning Square opens its doors



# Queering Concordia

GENERATIONS OF 2SLGBTQIA+ ALUMNI SHOW WHY REPRESENTATION STILL MATTERS

RICHARD BURNETT, BA 88

**H.** Nigel Thomas, BA 74, MA 75, an award-winning author and educator, emigrated from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 1968 to attend Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's two founding institutions.

Being Black and openly gay presented significant challenges. Gay sex was only partially decriminalized in Canada in 1969, and the American Psychological Association did not declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder until 1973.

It was also a fraught time for students of colour at the university: The 1969 Sir George Williams student protest — a demonstration against institutional racism largely led by Black and Caribbean students — made international headlines.

"It was more important for me back then to be Black than to be gay," Thomas explains.

But queer life at Concordia would flourish after the merger of Loyola and Sir George in 1974.

In the decades since, 2SLGBTQIA+ generational issues have profoundly shaped the lives of queer students, and influenced how the university has adapted and changed over the past 50 years.

## 'A DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES'

For Mo (Maureen) Bradley, BA 90, MA 95 — an independent filmmaker, media artist and writing professor at the University of Victoria — one event was pivotal to her journey.

On July 16, 1990, protestors gathered outside a police station in downtown Montreal to protest a violent raid on



H. NIGEL THOMAS

the underground Sex Garage queer loft party.

The raid ignited 36 hours of clashes between the queer community and police. Now widely considered to be "Montreal's Stonewall," the event has become a symbol of defiance and a reminder of the continued struggle for equality.

Concordia's burgeoning 2SLGBTQIA+ movements also inspired Bradley, who with Danielle Comeau, BA 90, co-directed the acclaimed documentary *We're Here, We're Queer, We're Fabulous* about Sex Garage, to live out and proud.

"When I started at Concordia in 1987, I began meeting other queer students and teachers. I was in school with brilliant thinkers who changed my life."

Doug Janoff, MA 91, a senior foreign service officer with the Government of Canada and author of *Pink Blood: Homophobic Violence in Canada*, joined Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia in 1985 when, he remarks, "being gay was becoming more fashionable and gay people were becoming more visible."

When tensions began to surface during the AIDS crisis, Janoff learned the benefits of true diversity.

"I thought there was just one monolithic gay community at the time, dominated by gay white clones who set the agenda," he reflects.

"That experience toughened me up and made me understand there are a diversity of opinions and experiences in our community."



MO BRADLEY



DOUG JANOFF

## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Kat Setzer, MA 00, serves as programming director of image+nation, Montreal's influential 2SLGBTQIA+ film festival, the first of its kind in Canada.

Setzer moved to Montreal from Vancouver to study at Concordia in the 1990s. During that turbulent era for queer rights, they became involved with important local 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, notably the city's original Pride organization, Divers/Cité, as well as image+nation.

Setzer's real-life queer activism complemented their education at Concordia.

"I focused on queer cinema, which fused theory with practice. I strongly believe in the power of representation, and believe we have to give back and be political in this world to make it a better place."

While the lifelong work of queer Concordians continues to reverberate and influence, new generations of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and alumni are also figuring out how to come out and be in the world.

Trans comedian and television personality Tranna Wintour, BA 10, says affirming her identity took many years.

"Everything I learned at Concordia has genuinely served me well, but I also feel like I didn't get the full university experience because I wasn't out as trans, nor involved with student groups," says Wintour.

"I think before coming to an understanding of my identity, I definitely had a lack of confidence from really understanding who I was."

## OUT IN THE WORLD

Learning about 2SLGBTQIA+ realities and being encouraged to explore them at Concordia has positively affected the lives of the university's graduates.

H. Nigel Thomas became a professor of American literature at Université Laval in Quebec City. The celebrated writer has also authored 13 books. His 1993 debut, *Spirits in the Dark*, made an important and timely contribution to the representation of the



KAT SETZER

2SLGBTQIA+ and Caribbean-Canadian experience.

"I am happy my writing has opened up a new world in Canada and the Caribbean," remarks Thomas.

For their part, Kat Setzer is proud Concordia continues to teach queer culture to new generations of students. The Simone de Beauvoir Institute, for instance, launched a major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality in 2019.

"We all need to see and read stories about ourselves, stories that reflect our lives," says Setzer.

After directing more than 50 short films and videos, including the award-winning feature film *Two 4 One*, Mo Bradley says their Concordia experience informs the way they teach their own students today.

"Understanding the intersectional nature of everything was important to me as a student," Bradley says. "Feminism, queerness, understanding race, class and disability. Today I cover all the bases when building a good syllabus."

When he was a student at Concordia, Doug Janoff — whose accomplished career has included diplomatic postings in Afghanistan and Pakistan — used to wear a pinback button with the slogan 'Out of the closet and into the street.'

"I really believed it," he remarks. "I just wanted everyone to come out. And I was judgmental of people who didn't."

"But age has mellowed me. And this has given me a more humane approach to human sexuality and identity, and made me understand that there are some people who, unfortunately, will never be able to come out."

For Tranna Wintour, emceeding Concordia's Queer Homecoming in September offered an opportunity to reconnect with the Concordia community.

"Queer life has improved, but we are still living in a precarious and scary time for 2SLGBTQIA+ people around the world," Wintour observes.

"For that reason alone, we can't take celebrations for queer alumni for granted." ■

Read the full story and companion pieces at [concordia.ca/50](http://concordia.ca/50).



TRANNA WINTOUR

## NEW BEGINNINGS

The establishment of Concordia and its fresh approach to academic and personal freedom nurtured and strengthened queer rights and life on campus. Learn about some key moments in the university's history that helped shape its future.

### 1978

The student association Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia is founded. The name changes to Concordia Queer Collective in 1992 (now Queer Concordia).

### 1985

The first lesbian-studies course in Canada is taught by Yvonne Klein, BA 71, at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute (SdBI).

### 1988

The SdBI building on Bishop Street — which had housed the lesbian bar Madame Arthur's from 1973 to 1975 — hosts regular meetings of the trailblazing Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia.

### 1988

Concordia becomes the fourth university in Canada to introduce an HIV/AIDS policy.

### 2021

Concordia's Centre for Gender Advocacy wins a landmark constitutional legal challenge when the Quebec Superior Court rules parts of the Quebec Civil Code unconstitutional with regard to the civil rights of trans, non-binary and intersex people.



# FROM PODIUM TO PURPOSE: 50 YEARS OF VALEDICTORIANS

**5 exceptional alumni from each decade of Concordia's history share how the university contributed to their success**

KAY PETTIGREW, BA 22

Since 1974, Concordia has recognized nearly 300 standout students as valedictorians, chosen for their remarkable achievements across academics, student life and contributions to the university community.

We spoke with five of these distinguished alumni — one from each decade since the merger of Sir George Williams University and Loyola College — to explore how stepping up to the convocation podium influenced their journeys after graduation.



CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

**LOUIS HUGO FRANCESCUTTI, BSC 80**

Louis Hugo Francescutti is an emergency physician, author, university professor, safety and injury-prevention advocate and motivational speaker. He is the former president of both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Canadian Medical Association, and was appointed an honorary colonel by the Canadian Armed Forces. As of December 2023, he is also a Member of the Order of Canada.

“I count myself blessed with the opportunities that I’ve had and my position in life,” he says. “I’m about to be 71 in December, but I don’t feel it.”

Though many of his colleagues have long retired, Francescutti remains driven. One of his recent projects is an AI chatbot designed in collaboration with students from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. The initiative is expected to help emergency-room patients experiencing homelessness by quickly connecting them with available beds and transportation.

Francescutti is also part of a team of parents working to create safe, inclusive living environments for disabled people who require full-time care, like his daughter, Laura.

“Laura is not going to be able to fend for herself when my wife and I are gone,” he says. “I want to create an environment where she — and others like her — can have top-quality support.”

Francescutti underscores that effective collaboration has been the key to success.

“I learned a long time ago at Concordia that it’s best to surround yourself with people who are far smarter than you. Keep learning from them, but more importantly, ensure that an idea can continue by creating a sense of ownership in others, even if it originated with you,” he says.

“You don’t realize the opportunities before you in your early stages of career training, but later, you see they were the building blocks.”

**“I count myself blessed with the opportunities that I’ve had and my position in life.”**

**- Louis Hugo Francescutti**



COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

**MARIKA GILES SAMSON, BA 96**

“I joke that I got my degree in debating and student government,” says Marika Giles Samson, a past president of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) who now serves as director of the Court Challenges Program (CCP), an organization that provides financial support so that Canadians can bring important test cases to court. These cases aim to define and defend constitutional and quasi-constitutional rights, particularly official language rights and human rights, on a national level.

In addition to her involvement in the CSU, Samson was debating in national and international competitions while pursuing her communications studies degree. At the end of a busy four years, she discovered she was short a credit, so she decided to pursue a sociology minor.

**“Mentorship is about creating space for people to feel included and capable, and helping them find their place.”**

**- Marika Giles Samson**

“I think it was quite transformative for me, not just because of the subject matter,” she says. “I don’t think my later academic path would have been possible otherwise.”

By focusing on her coursework and “learning how to be an actual student,” Samson found her calling. Though she had often felt pigeonholed when others suggested a career in law, friends convinced her to give it a try. Improved grades and academic strategies allowed her to complete her law degree at York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School.

“It was a lightbulb moment, I just found my thing,” says Samson. “We talk about one’s discipline shaping the way you see the world. For me, law channelled my energies and my thinking.”

After a few years as a litigator, Samson went on to get a master’s and a doctorate in law. She has since made a career out of a commitment to human rights and the rule of law. Highlights include teaching advocacy and human

rights at McGill University's Faculty of Law and a stint as interim executive director of the faculty's Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (CHRLP).

She has also been an active mentor, supporting law students at the CHRLP's International Human Rights Internship Program and hiring law students to work at the CCP. Samson's own mentors include Brian Counihan, a former dean of Students at Concordia, who taught her to make space for others to flourish.

"Mentorship isn't about instruction," she remarks. "It's about creating space for people to feel included and capable, and helping them find their place."

"Everybody should have the opportunity to learn and grow."



#### SUE-ANNE FOX, BCOMM 01

Unlike Samson, Sue-Anne Fox always knew she wanted to be a lawyer. After graduating high school, she spent a year as a page in the House of Commons while studying at the University of Ottawa before transferring to Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

"Concordia attracted me because of its emphasis on the practical," she says.

Graduating at the top of her class, Fox moved directly into law school. She credits her undergraduate degree in marketing and international business with providing a significant advantage in her legal career.

Today, Fox serves as managing counsel at TD Bank Financial Group. Having a foundation in business has been invaluable to her professional journey.

"It helped me develop trust with my business counterparts," she notes. "It isn't just, 'I'm a lawyer providing legal advice,' but 'I'm a lawyer who understands what you're trying to do and I'm capable of working with you to help you achieve your objective.'"

**"Concordia attracted me because of its emphasis on the practical."**

**- Sue-Anne Fox**

Fox adds that developing practical, business-oriented solutions involves nurturing positive relationships not just with her clients, but with colleagues as well.

"Putting theory into practice, when the bank launched an electronic alert functionality, I was the legal lead for the project," she explains. "I was able to leverage my relationships with peers to deliver cross-disciplinary consolidated feedback."

Time-management and collaboration skills acquired through group work and case competitions at Concordia have also been critical for Fox since she delivered her valedictory address.

"When I think back to my undergrad experience, there was a lot of learning how to get people to work together as a team," she recalls. "When you graduate and enter the workforce, you realize the practical application of the skills you've developed and had the chance to test out while in an educational environment."

"We didn't just learn about these soft skills at Concordia, we developed them and learned how to apply them."



#### KEROLES RIAD, BENG 13, MSC 16, PHD 21

If you've ever used a compost bin on campus at Concordia, then you have Keroles Riad to thank.

Riad was an undergraduate at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science when he started Waste Not, Want Not (WNWN), an initiative that decreased overall annual waste for each Concordian by 16 per cent and supported the university's sustainability goals.

"WNWN started as a passion project and had very little to do with my degree or research," he explains.

"But I've realized this kind of initiative requires you to be methodical and systematic, which is where my engineering mindset came in. It was also a great opportunity to manage a team and lead projects."

Riad has since transformed his passion into a company called enuf, a certified B-Corp he founded to continue tackling the waste crisis. As CEO, he leads a team in providing waste audits, composting services and "green brigades" that help attendees sort their waste at events.

This focus on sustainability also informs his ongoing research in 3D printing. As a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at Carleton University in Ottawa, Riad recently co-authored

**“We have to try, fail, learn and adjust,  
then try over and over again.”**

**- Keroles Riad**

a paper with Paula Wood-Adams, former Concordia professor, researcher and dean of Graduate Studies, about the use of nanotechnology in improving the sustainability of 3D-printed materials.

“Paula facilitated a visit to Axis Prototype, a printing company in Montreal, where I learned that the photocurable resins used in 3D printing are sensitive to sunlight — one of the biggest problems facing the industry,” Riad explains. “That became my research project.”

Lasers used in 3D printing use the same type of ultraviolet (UV) light as the sun. When UV-printed parts are exposed to sunlight, the materials continue to cure, often breaking apart within a couple of weeks. Riad’s recent paper with Wood-Adams is the culmination of a decade of study towards creating a stable resin to address this problem.

“We thought we’d do it in six months, but it took us 10 years instead,” he says with a laugh.

“It’s been interesting to learn how persistent you have to be to accomplish your research goal. Experimentalists are stubborn by training — we have to try, fail, learn and adjust, then try over and over again.”



#### DESIRÉE DE JESUS, PHD 20

Desirée de Jesus has been a researcher since childhood, exploring and reimagining stories from television and movies.

“When I was young, I’d go to the library and look up all the books I could find on whatever I had just watched,” she recalls. “Then I’d create a little file with notes about recasting, how the story should have gone, or what it would be like as a video game.”

De Jesus describes this early curiosity as “critical fabulation” — an approach she stills uses today as an assistant professor of communication and media studies at York University. Her work explores the intersections of race, gender, aesthetics and technology through research-creation methods like video essays and experimental video art.

The former Concordia Public Scholar and valedictorian’s experience at Concordia’s Technoculture, Art and Games (TAG) — Canada’s largest and most established games research centre — was pivotal. A game jam at TAG exposed de Jesus to alternative research methods like play, deformation and creation, boosting her confidence in her experimental research and dissemination methods.

Her work has largely centred on Black girlhoods, including a recent animation project that reconstructs surveillance videos of police brutality against young Black girls. Rooted in community engagement, her collaborative research projects ensure participants have input and approval in the process.

That ethical approach to her research, guided by responsibility and accountability, was modelled by Concordia professor Danielle Bobker and associate professor Gada Mahrouse with their Feminism and Controversial Humour working group.

“I’ve been in discussion with other scholars who work on Black girlhoods about how to uphold my responsibility to these girls, to their images and consent,” explains de Jesus. “Seeing Danielle and Gada deal with some of the tensions and ethics of undertaking certain kinds of research was really formative. Having people that can help me think through these questions today has been very useful.”

She adds that her involvement in the Concordia President’s Task Force on Anti-Black Racism was also instrumental in shaping her growth as both a researcher and a citizen.

“I’m grateful to have been a part of Concordia’s measures to make amends and gesture towards a new relationship with Black communities, to own up to what’s been a fraught dynamic. I see myself as part of a longer trajectory of Black students at Concordia who are committed to making a difference.

“I think these efforts are worth recognizing as an important part of what we are celebrating.” ■

**“I see myself as part of a longer  
trajectory of Black students at  
Concordia who are committed  
to making a difference.”**

**- Desirée de Jesus**

# 50 YEARS, 50 REMARKABLE ALUMNI

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

**A**mong the ranks of Concordia's worldwide network of alumni are a Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate, a Tony Award winner, a member of the Senate of Canada, multiple Rhodes Scholars and members of the Order of Canada — not to mention numerous CEOs and visionary entrepreneurs.

Fifty of these extraordinary individuals are being celebrated as part of the Great Concordians initiative, relaunched in June 2024 to mark the 50th anniversary of Concordia.

Accomplished across a wide range of disciplines — from the arts and social justice to science, technology and business — the honourees showcase the breadth of talent and leadership that Concordia has nurtured over the decades. Their journeys exemplify how Concordia alumni drive change on local, national and global scales.

As the Great Concordians series unfolds weekly until June 2025, it will continue to spotlight the enduring impact of these trailblazing leaders, inspiring future generations.



**BOGDAN LYTVYENKO, BA 23**  
**Driven Rhodes Scholarship recipient**

“It’s truly a great honour to play a part in shaping Concordia’s legacy, especially considering the remarkable achievements of both the university and its alumni over the past 50 years.”



**MYRNA LASHLEY, BA 84**  
**Distinguished academic and advocate**

“Effective advocacy work must be evidence-based and rooted in empathy. The evidence-based part is critical — I tell my students that we must never forget that, because otherwise you can lose your credibility. And credibility is difficult to earn back. But empathy must guide us forward as well.”



**RENÉ PAREDES, BA 12**  
**All-star placekicker**

“My advice to student athletes, in particular, is to work hard, be humble and be patient. There’s nothing like the feeling of being on a team and working together to achieve a common goal.”





**CUCKOO KOCHAR, MENG 78**  
**Socially conscious property developer**  
 “I’ve always had an entrepreneurial streak and a willingness to take on risk. As I’ve built my company, I’ve tried to hire the best talent possible and then treat them well to ensure they feel invested in our success.”



**CHRISTINE JONES, BFA 89**  
**Tony Award-winning scenographer**  
 “Concordia was incredibly impactful and meaningful in terms of my artistic life. I felt like the training that I got set me apart. I believe that it has the best undergraduate theatre department in North America.”



**DUNCAN CREE, BENG 99, MENG 03, PHD 09**  
**Trailblazing engineer**  
 “I would encourage students, and especially Indigenous students, to pursue their dreams relentlessly. Passion and perseverance are so important in the face of challenges. Maintain a strong work ethic and stay focused on your long-term goals.”



**MICHAEL MEANEY, BA 75, MA 77, PHD 82**  
**Groundbreaking neuroscientist**  
 “You have to get accustomed to failure, otherwise the winning is no joy. Your ability to recover from setbacks will determine how successful you become.”



**SUE MOLLOY, BENG 98**  
**Pioneering entrepreneur and ocean engineer**  
 “What I loved about Concordia was the sense of community. It was a vibrant place where students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines could interact freely.”



**INDER BEDI, BCOMM 96**  
**Sustainable fashion and design innovator**  
 “Concordia has always held a special place in my heart because it provided me with direction, motivation and inspiration. I’m grateful and proud to be recognized alongside so many outstanding graduates.”



**HARDY GREWAL, BCOMM 83**  
**Philanthropist and restaurant-management mogul**

“Hard work is essential, but equally crucial is the ability to make informed decisions and take calculated risks at opportune times. Also, never underestimate the importance of mentorship and peer learning within your chosen field.”



**CHRISTINE LENGVARI, BSC 72**  
**Dedicated alumna, volunteer and donor**

“It’s a great honour because we have so many outstanding people at Concordia. I’m always inspired by the members of this incredible community and what they’ve accomplished in life.”



**ROBERT BRADLEY, BSC 79**  
**Mathematician and Concordia's first Rhodes Scholar**

“Take advantage of opportunities for growth and learning. I always tell my students: Prioritize genuine curiosity and seek out experiences that nourish your academic, professional and personal development.”



**AJAY GUPTA, BCOMM 95**  
**Wealth-management veteran**

“It’s a privilege to be one of the 50 Great Concordians. Concordia provided a real-life practical education, and the value of my degree has appreciated over time.”



**LILLIAN VINEBERG-GOODMAN, BFA 83**  
**Artist, community organizer and pre-eminent builder of Concordia**

“Concordia has been a fantastic institution, offering meaningful opportunities and increasingly being recognized for excellence in research and education. There are so many outstanding individuals who have benefited from their time at [the university].”



**JENNISON ASUNCION, BA 97, MA 01**  
**Digital accessibility guru**

“I’ve always been very grateful, not only for the quality education I received, but also for the inclusive and welcoming environment I was offered as a person with a disability. Whenever someone asks me where I studied, I’m always proud to tell them that I went to Concordia.”



**ZOE SALZMAN, BA 03**  
**Experienced trial attorney**

“The critical-thinking skills I honed at Concordia, particularly through the Liberal Arts College, laid the foundation for my career. As a lawyer, I use these skills daily to read case law, write, think critically and argue my points in court.”



**MOHAN MUNASINGHE, MA 75**  
**Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate**

“As a lifelong campaigner for peace, I strongly urge students to take an interest in national and world affairs, and engage in anti-war activism — especially to outlaw nuclear weapons.”



**KAREN HOGAN, BCOMM 93, GRDIP 95**  
**Auditor General of Canada**

“Many of the things I learned at Concordia I use daily in my job now. As Auditor General, you have to think about all of Canada’s people, and it starts with being open-minded — a value I strongly associate with Concordia.”



**JACQUES GOULET, BSC 87**  
**Executive chair of Sun Life Canada**

“Concordia provided me with a transformative experience. As someone from a small town who was not fluent in English, the opportunity to study actuarial mathematics in Montreal was a significant step in my development.”



**JACQUELINE BECKLES, BA 95**  
**General counsel with the Department of Justice Canada**

“If something looks like it might be fun and rewarding, follow that. Your instincts are telling you something about yourself. Don’t feel obligated to follow what others think you should do. Be fearless and jump right in.”



**TONY LOFFREDA, BCOMM 85**  
**Canadian Senator**

“My experience as a Concordia student was transformative. What a privilege to be part of a community that fosters and values diversity, innovation and excellence. Without question, this acknowledgment motivates me to keep making positive contributions to society and to inspire future generations of Concordia students.”

*Learn more about the Great Concordians at*  
**[concordia.ca/greatconcordians](http://concordia.ca/greatconcordians)**.

# Novels, poetry, photo collections and other new works by Concordia alumni



IAN HARRISON,  
B COMM 01

A finalist for the 2023 Hamilton Literary Children's Book Award, **What the Dog Knows** (Dundurn Press, \$23) is a tribute to the many dogs that writer **Sylvia McNicoll**, BA 78, has loved. McNicoll has authored more than 35 novels for young audiences.

**Richard Bercuson**, BA 74, and E.W. Zrudlo have co-authored **The Burden of Guilt** (Amazon, \$19.95). The fast-paced novel of intrigue, primarily set in Paris in 1980, asks who the genuine figures of courage were throughout the Nazi occupation of France.

**Top Gun Governance** (Newman Springs, \$52.06) by **Derek Stevens**, BA 76, BCompSc 90, examines governance and management challenges in an unpredictable world and offers insights and practices designed to improve judgment and prediction in any industry.

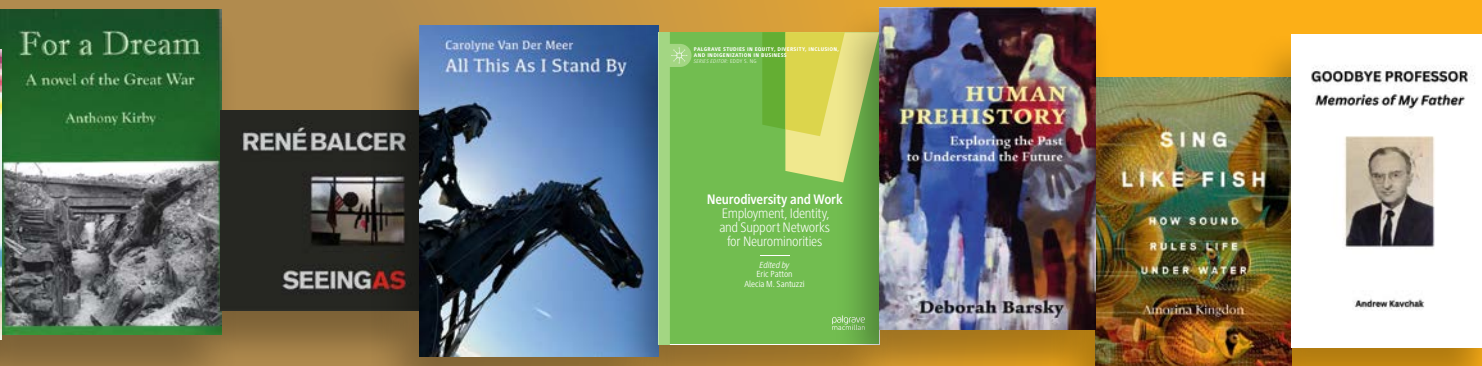
**Louise Carson**, BFA 79, has written **The Cat Looked Back** (Signature Editions, \$19.95), the latest instalment in her Maples Mysteries series. When two houses are burned to the ground in suspicious circumstances, housekeeper Prudence Crick is drawn to the scene of the crime and into the lives of the victims, which includes one uncatchable cat.

**Bella Ellwood-Clayton**, BA 99, has published her debut novel. In **Weekend Friends** (Post Hill Press, \$18.99), a food photographer and her tween daughter move from Alaska to Boca Raton to escape a painful past, but soon find themselves entangled in lies and deception that unravel their fresh start.

**Shepherd's Sight: A Farming Life** (ECW Press, \$24.95), the latest from **Barbara McLean**, BA 71, is a poignant reflection on the joys and challenges of farm life as the author contemplates the future and meaning of her labour.

**Fishmonger and Wordsmith** (Cat Creek, \$13.02), by **Kristina Drake**, BA 06, offers heartwarming vignettes of two best friends cherishing life's simple pleasures and challenges, celebrating the essence of friendship through reflective and charming stories.

**Anthony Kirby**, BA 78, has written **For a Dream: A Novel of the Great War** (Amazon, \$20). The story follows a bank official turned soldier and a nurse through pivotal moments of the First World War as they navigate various horrors and hopes for Ireland's future.



**René Balcer**, BA 78, LLD 08, a writer, producer and director of television (*Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*) and documentary films, has published **Seeing As** (ACC Art Books, \$14.5). The collection of photographs captures diverse locations from West Africa to the Arctic and is infused with a sense of disquietude, narrative and social justice.

The poems in **All This As I Stand By** (Ekstasis Editions, \$23.95), the fifth poetry collection from **Carolyne Van Der Meer**, MA 97, explore the unimportant, the everyday, the avoided and the forgotten.

**Neurodiversity and Work** (Palgrave Macmillan, \$291.95), a new interdisciplinary work from **Eric Patton**, MSc 00, PhD 07, a professor of Management at Saint Joseph's University, connects neurodiversity to disability in the workplace and examines the factors that contribute to the successful employment and integration of neurodiverse workers.

In **Human Prehistory: Exploring the Past to Understand the Future** (Cambridge University Press, \$42.95), **Deborah Barsky**, BA 91, a researcher at the Catalan Institute of

Human Paleocology and Social Evolution, uses archaeological knowledge to address contemporary challenges such as racism, the rapid pace of technological change, human migration and war.

Science writer **Amorina Kingdon**, GrDip 10, has published **Sing Like Fish: How Sound Rules Life Under Water** (Crown, \$39.99), which explores how marine scientists have uncovered the vital role of sound in the ocean, revealing how it travels through water, aids marine life and is impacted by human activity.

In **Goodbye Professor: Memories of My Father** (self-published, \$9.99) **Andrew Kavchak**, BA 85, pens a touching tribute to his late father, Andrzej (Andrew) Kawczak, a former professor, and then chair, of the Department of Philosophy at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions. Kavchak traces his father's roots from Poland in the mid-1920s to the United States and Canada up until his passing in 2023. ■

Tyra Maria Trono is the recipient of the 2023 Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography and 2023 Lande Award in Photography



TYRA MARIA TRONO

# Perception and belonging

**T**yra Maria Trono, BFA 21, is a Filipina artist, cultural worker and independent curator based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. The MFA student's research focuses on questions related to the formation of perception within the process of cultural identification, and how belonging to a diasporic community redirects the path of this process. In 2024, Trono was selected to participate in the Curatorial Conversations program of the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde in Manila, Philippines. ■ Learn more at [tyramariatrono.com](https://tyramariatrono.com).

"PARADISE IS NEARBY," PHOTOGRAPHY, 2024





"LET'S EAT!!!," INSTALLATION, 2023



"ADOBO PLEASE WITH A SIDE OF TURON," PHOTOGRAPHY, 2024



"CELEBRATION, RITUAL, FILIPINO PARTY," INSTALLATION, 2023



"BICOL, PHILIPPINES," PHOTOGRAPHY, 2024



**1** The Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) honoured 10 distinguished recipients of **Alumni Recognition Awards** at its annual ceremony on May 28 at Maison Alcan. Emceed by **Sabrina Marandola**, BA 03, host of CBC Radio One's *Let's Go with Sabrina Marandola*, the event featured remarks by **President Graham Carr** and CUAA president **Nura Jabagi**, MBA 14, PhD 21. Pictured with **Paul Chesser**, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement, (far right) are, from left, Marandola, President Graham Carr, and:

**Maria Mangiocavallo**, BComm 86, GrDip 89 Humberto Santos Award of Merit and Service

**Harvin Hilaire**, BComm 24 Outstanding Student Leader Award

**Leslie Raenden** Honorary Life Membership

**Gwen Tolbart**, BA 95 International Excellence Award

**Mary Rawlins**, BFA 01, GrDip 06 Outstanding Faculty and Staff Award

**Andrea Polatos**, EMBA 09 MBA Alumna of the Year

**Riya Dutta**, BEng 20, MASc 23 Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award

**Catherine Cabot**, BEng 07 Benoît Pelland Alumna of the Year

**Timothy Field**, BComm 96, MBA 00, Outstanding Faculty and Staff Award

**Alanna K. Silver**, BA 21 (not pictured) John F. Lemieux Young Alumna Medal

**2** **An Evening with Andrew Lutfy**, CEO of real-estate developer Carbonleo, drew a sold-out crowd to hear about his high-profile Royalmount mall project. The April 4 talk was organized by the Concordia Real Estate Club student group in collaboration with the Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate at the John Molson School of Business.

**3** **Andrew Molson**, Campaign for Concordia co-chair, and **Helen Antoniou**, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors, were guests of honour at a May 22 fundraiser for the **Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21** at Montreal's Maison Forget. They are pictured with President Graham Carr and **Marie Chapman**, the museum's CEO.

**4** Nearly 100 alumni gathered at the inaugural **Women Who LEAD Summer Networking Cocktail** at Warwick Le Crystal in Montreal on June 13.

**5** The **Black Alumni Network** hosted a **summer social** on June 13 at Montreal restaurant Palme, owned by **Lee-Anne Millaire Lafleur**, BA 06.





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DANNY DAO



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**6** The 2024 **launch exhibition of the Art Volt Collection** on June 19 showcased works by 10 recent Faculty of Fine Arts graduates. Established in 2019 with donor support, Art Volt is a professional-development platform designed to advance the post-Concordia journeys of emerging creatives.

**7** Board of Governors chair **Helen Antoniou** sat down with **Hilary Pearson**, founding president of Philanthropic Foundations Canada, to discuss insights from her new book, *From Charity to Change*:

*Inside the World of Canadian Foundations*, exploring how philanthropy is tackling today's most pressing challenges.

More than **1,800 alumni and friends** returned to campus for a special 50th-anniversary edition of **Homecoming** from September 18 to 21. Among the more than 25 events:

**8** Choral group **Choir! Choir!** led an epic singalong and dance party featuring hits of the past five decades at Loyola's Oscar Peterson Concert Hall.

**9** The **50th-anniversary Homecoming concert** featured Juno Award-winning blues singer **Dawn Tyler Watson**, BFA 94, (pictured) and the Celtic trio Trilangue, including **Kate Bevan-Baker**, PhD 18, GrCert 19.

**10** **Loyola College** graduates gathered at the **Nifty 50 Homecoming reunion** to honour the legacy of one of Concordia's founding institutions. Among many heartfelt speeches, former Loyola Alumni Association president **Donal Ryan**,

BComm 67, gave a tribute to his late friend and long-time volunteer **John Limeburner**, BComm 68.

**11** The **Homecoming football game** and **Alumni Zone tailgate** united sports fans who enjoyed a game between the Stingers and McGill Redbirds. The **football reunion dinner** celebrated football alumni and honoured long-time dedicated volunteers **Pete Regimbald**, BA 73, former coach, and his wife Diane (both pictured centre).







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**12** **Queer Homecoming**, hosted by artist and producer **Tranna Wintour**, BA 10, included storytelling by **Johanne Pelletier**, director of Public Engagement at Concordia, and a drag performance by **Kiara** (pictured), Attd. 19, a standout from Season 1 of *Canada's Drag Race*.

**13** Alumni and friends enjoyed a lively discussion

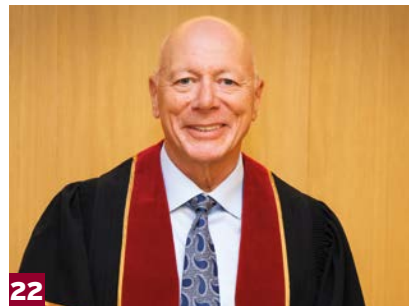
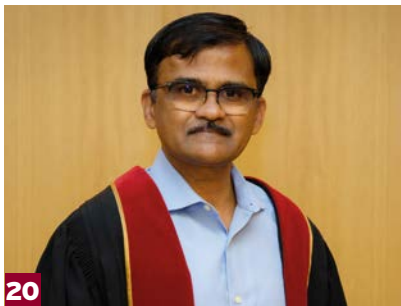
with **2023 Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning author Sarah Bernstein**, BA 09, moderated by President Graham Carr at the Quebec Government Office in London, United Kingdom, on October 10.

**14** The Faculty of Fine Arts co-presented the **Canadian avant-première of *The Spoils*** on October 16. The documentary explores the

global struggle over Nazi-looted art and connects to the **Max Stern Art Restitution Project**, an initiative co-supported by Concordia.

**15** **Julie Healy**, BSc 83, former Department of Recreation and Athletics administrator and women's hockey assistant coach, was inducted into the **Concordia Sports Hall of Fame** as a builder on October 20.

**16** The **Otsenhákta Student Centre's** third annual **Concordia Pow Wow** celebrated First Nations, Inuit and Métis students at Concordia and highlighted the traditions of different Indigenous peoples on September 13 on Loyola Campus.



New **honorary doctorates** were commemorated at dinner receptions and faculty convocations:

**SPRING**

- 17 **Lyse Doucet**, LLD 24
- 18 **My Thanh Nguyen**, BSc 86, MSc 88, LLD 24
- 19 **Friederike Otto**, DSc 24
- 20 **Mallikarjun Tatipamula**, DSc 24
- 21 **Frances Northcutt**, DSc 24
- 22 **Luc Maurice**, LLD 24
- 23 **Sheila C. Johnson**, LLD 24
- 24 **Fabienne Colas**, DFA 24
- 25 **Denis Villeneuve**, DFA 24

**FALL**

- 26 **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, DSc 24
- 27 **John Sicard**, BCompSc 88, DSc 24
- 28 **Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii)**, LLD 24

## ALUMNI UPDATES

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

**71 Jonathan Wener,** BComm, was named honorary co-chair of the Jewish General Hospital Foundation's Tomorrows Are Made Here campaign.

**80 Pierre Colas,** BComm, was named trustee at Margaux Real Estate Investment Trust.

**81 Joyce Napier,** BA, was named Canada's Ambassador to the Holy See.

**82 Brenda Gewurz,** MBA, was named honorary co-chair of the Jewish General Hospital Foundation's Tomorrows Are Made Here campaign.

**83 Lillian Vineberg-Goodman,** BFA, was named honorary co-chair of the Jewish General Hospital Foundation's Tomorrows Are Made Here campaign.

**84 Nick Leontidis,** BEng, MEng 90, was appointed chief operating officer at CAE Inc.

**86 Steven Leonard,** BComm, GrDip 89, was named president and CEO at Aimia.

**Marianna Simeone,** BA, was appointed head of the Quebec Government Office in Toronto.

**87 Jacques Goulet,** BSc, was named executive chair of Sun Life Canada.

**88 James Clark,** BComm, was named CEO of Martello Technologies Group.

**Brenda Shanahan,** MBA, was appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada to the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians.

**89 Deborah Di Gregorio,** BComm, was named interim chief financial officer at Alithya Group.

**Lino A. Saputo,** BA, transitioned into the role of executive chairman at Saputo Inc.

**90 Patrick Leroux,** BComm, was named managing partner at BFL Canada.

**91 James Christoff,** BA, was named High Commissioner in the Republic of South Africa by Global Affairs Canada.

**94 Andie Andreou,** BComm, GrDip 96, was appointed CEO of Altis Recruitment and Technology Inc.

**95 Leslie Antoun,** BEng, was reappointed as director of the Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated.

**Sonia Gélinas,** BSc, was named partner at Normandin Beaudry.

**97 Rana Ghorayeb,** BA, MEng 01, was appointed executive vice-president and head of Real Estate at Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

**Stéphan Morency,** BComm, was named executive vice-president of Strategic Initiatives at Fondation.

**98 Ari Grief,** BFA, was named director of Marketing and Advertising for the NHL's Detroit Red Wings.

**Constantino Malatesta,** BComm, GrDip 00, was appointed interim chief financial officer at CAE Inc.

**Myriam Montrat,** MA, was named High Commissioner in the Republic of Ghana by Global Affairs Canada.

**99 Isabelle Dessureault,** MBA, was named Quebec delegate to Miami by Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie.

**03 Vivek Venkatesh,** MA, PhD 08, was appointed dean of McGill University's Faculty of Education.

**04 Usman Raja,** PhD, was named associate dean of Research and Graduate Programs at Brock University.

**Henri-Paul Rousseau,** LLD, was appointed delegate general of Quebec in Paris by Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie.

**05 Paul Furfaro,** BComm, was named president of Global Medical Cannabis at Village Farms International.

**Ufuk Ali Gueray,** BFA, was appointed assistant professor of Fine Arts (painting) at NSCAD University.

**06 Caroline Baker,** BComm, was appointed country managing director for North America at Vistra.

**07 Julien Brisebois,** EMBA, was named assistant general manager for Team Canada at the 4 Nations Face-Off taking place in February 2025, and to the management group for Canada's men's Olympic hockey team.

**09 Alvaro Gonzalez Ribadeneira,** MBA, was named broker at Middlegate Global Credit.

**Julia Qiwen Zhu,** BComm, was appointed chief financial officer and director general of Finance and Administration at the National Film Board of Canada.

**11 Raymond Taza,** BEng, joined Eaton Global Energy Infrastructure Solutions as technical sales representative for the province of Quebec.

**13 Émile Bouchard,** BComm, was named vice-president of Private Wealth Solutions at Hamilton Lane.

**Camille Ingarao,** BA, joined Miller Thomson as a lawyer.

**15 Stephen Atkinson,** MBA, was named managing partner at BFL Canada.

**23 Kathy Baig,** DSc 23, was named director general of École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS).

## KUDOS

**Elliot Lifson**, BSc 64, BA 65, was named an officer of the Order of Quebec. He was first named a member in 2020.

**Joe Panunto**, BA 66, received a King Charles III Coronation Medal.

**Sid Marty**, BA 67, was the winner of the Al and Eurithe Purdy Poetry Prize.

**Sheldon Teitelbaum**, BA 77, was named co-winner of Germany's 2024 Kurd Lasswitz Prize for critical writing.

**Lillian Vineberg-Goodman**, BFA 83, was named 2024 Person of the Year by the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal.

**Fred Pye**, BA 85, EMBA, 88, was named Fund Manager Innovator of the Year at the Wealth Professionals Awards.

**Clara Gutsche**, MFA 86, won the 2024 Scotiabank Photography Award.

**Jean-Hugues Roy**, GrDip 89, was awarded a Michener-L. Richard O'Hagan Fellowship from the Michener Awards Foundation.

**1 Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel**, BFA 90, won the 2024 Grand Prix from the Conseil des arts de Montréal. Gabriel is the first Indigenous winner of the award.



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ALAN LISSNER



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**Simeon Pompey**, BA 90, won the Lorie Kane Community Spirit Award from Golf Canada.

**Dimitris Ilias**, BFA 92, GrDip 99, and wife Maria Diamantis, were awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal.

**Christopher Pollon**, GrDip 92, was shortlisted for the \$60,000 Balsillie Prize for Public Policy for his book *Pitfall: The Race to Mine the World's Most Vulnerable Places*.

**Ehab Abouheif**, BSc 93, MSc 95, was named a 2023 fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Adam Koniuszewski**, BComm 93, GrDip 95, rode more than 10,000 kilometres by bike on the EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail.

**Nicolas Baier**, Attd. 94, was shortlisted for the 2024 Scotiabank Photography Award.

**Anonietta Grassi**, BFA 94, was named a 2024 Guggenheim Fellow.

**2 Lori Graham**, BA 96, retired from her role as CTV News Montreal's weather specialist after 25 years.

**Julie Quenneville**, BA 00, was named one of Women We Admire's Top Women Leaders of Toronto for 2024.

**Patti Sonntag**, BA 00, won a Canadian Association of Journalists Award in Data Journalism. Sonntag also won the Media Award for "Online – Best in-depth feature or series" from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

**Michael Yaroshevsky**, MFA 03, won the Experimental Award at the Yorkton Film Festival in Saskatchewan.



**Abbas Akhavan**, BFA 04, was selected to represent Canada at the 2026 Venice Biennale.

**Aaron Derfel**, BA 06, won the 2024 Medical Journalism Award from the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians. He also won the 2023 Canadian Association of Journalists' McGillivray Award.

**Michelle Lacombe**, BFA 06, is one of five winners of the 2025 MNBAQ Contemporary Art Award.

**Marianna Milhorat**, BFA 07, won Best Documentary Feature at the Mimesis Documentary Film Festival in Boulder, Col., for her first feature, *Just Above the Surface of the Earth (For a Coming Extinction)*.

**Priscilla Guy**, BFA 09, won the CALQ Prize for Artist of the Year in Gaspésie from Le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and Culture Gaspésie.

**Anne-Marie Proulx**, BFA 09, MA 13, is one of five winners of the 2025 MNBAQ Contemporary Art Award.

**Malena Szlam**, MFA 10, won the Prix Giverny Capital, a \$10,000 grant awarded to a Quebec-based visual artist.

**Laura Hudspith**, BFA 13, was named a winner of CIBC's C2 Art Program.

**Iulian Boz**, BComm 14, GrDip 17, won men's bronze at the 2024 World Savate Assaut Championships.

**Chantal Hébert**, LLD 14, won a Michener-Baxter Award for exceptional service to Canadian public-service journalism.

**3 Lucas Lawton**, BA 17, was named lead in Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*.

**Fawn Parker**, BA 17, is among the shortlisted authors for the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

**Lucie MacAulay**, BFA 18, was named women's world champion at the 2024 World Savate Assaut Championships.

**Terry Mosher**, LLD 18, won a Michener-Baxter Award for exceptional service to Canadian public-service journalism.

**Timothy Thomasson**, BFA 18, MDes 23, won a 2024 Prix Ars Electronica.

**Francisco Gonzalez-Rosas**, MFA 19, received an Emerging Digital Artists Award from EQ Bank.

**Santiago Tamayo Soler**, BFA 19, won the 2024 Impressions Residency at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. He is also one of five winners of the 2025 MNBAQ Contemporary Art Award.

**Rosetta Chang**, BComm 20, won women's bronze at the 2024 World Savate Assaut Championships.

**Zhikun Chen**, MASc 20, won a Prix Relève Étoile Louis-Berlinguet from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT).

**Scott DeJong**, MA 20, current Concordia PhD student, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for his work on combatting disinformation through educational games.

**Jamie Fabian**, BA 22, was a recipient of a King Charles III Coronation Medal.

**Nicole Nashen**, BA 22, was a recipient of a King Charles III Coronation Medal.

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**Kathy Baig**, DSc 23, was inducted into the Ambassadors Club by the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

**Kuh Del Rosario**, MFA 24, won a 2024 Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Scholarship in Contemporary Art.

**Marielle Dalpé**, BFA 16, won the Emerging Filmmaker Award and Animation Award at the Yorkton Film Festival in Saskatchewan.

#### BLACK CHANGEMAKERS

Five Concordians were named CBC Quebec’s 2024 Black Changemakers. The editorial series recognizes the outstanding contributions of Black “innovators, movers, shakers and connectors.”

**Cynthia Waithe**, BA 93

**Sharon Nelson**, BSc 97, BEng 10

**Shanice Nicole Yarde**, BA 14

**Tamara A. Medford-Williams**, Cert 19, BA 20, GrDip 21

**Ayanna Alleyne**, Attendee

#### 4 SOBEY ART AWARD

Multidisciplinary artist **Nico Williams**, MFA 21, won the 2024 Sobeys Art Award. The \$100,000 prize — the largest in Canadian contemporary art — showcases emerging artists from six regions across Canada. Fellow alumni were also named to the long list:

**Zoe Kreye**, BFA 05

**Frances Adair Mckenzie**, BFA 09

**Marigold Santos**, MFA 11

**Eve Tagny**, BFA 11

**Chun Hua Catherine Dong**, MFA 15

**Jason Sikoak**, BFA 23

#### TOP 50 WOMEN LEADERS OF MONTREAL

Each year, Women We Admire recognizes the exceptional achievements and contributions of women across industries and sectors. Among its list of Top 50 Women Leaders in Montreal for 2024 are Concordia alumnae making an impact.

**Hellen Christodoulou**, BEng 80, MEng 81

**Carolena Gordon**, BA 87

**Christine Regimbal**, BComm 90, GrDip 93

**Leslie Quinton**, BA 94

**Andrea Roy**, BComm 01

**Kate Shingler**, GrDip 01

**Celine Reze Cohen**, BComm 02

**Patricia Lemoine-Smith**, BFA 03

**Bhoomi Pathak**, BComm 04

**Dimitra Georgakis**, BComm 05

**Marianne Perron**, BA 08

**Laura Duckett**, BEng 11

**Catherine Doyle**, BComm 17

#### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LITERARY AWARDS

In recognition of Canada’s top literary talent, the Canada Council for the Arts presents its Governor General’s Literary Awards each year. Among the 2024 finalists are:

**Caroline Merola**, BFA 83 (French: Young People’s Literature – Illustrated Books)

**Lazer Lederhendler**, MA 93 (English translation)

**Katia Grubisic**, MA 06 (English translation)

**Aleshia Jensen**, BA 13 (English translation)

**Mathieu Rolland**, BA 14, MA 16 (French fiction)

**Aimee Wall**, MA 15 (English translation)

**Charlotte Parent**, BFA 17 (French: Young People’s Literature – Illustrated Books)

4



CORY HUNLIN

## CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television presents its annual Canadian Screen Awards to acknowledge work in Canada's film, television and digital-media sectors. Concordia alumni took home top prizes across categories.

**Jennifer Kawaja**, BA 82, GrDip 84, Best Web Program or Series, Fiction

**Debra L. Arbec**, BA 89, Best News Anchor, Local

**Christina Fon**, BA 90, Best Drama Series

**Laura Clunie**, BA 97, Best Pre-School Program or Series

**Maureen Grant**, BFA 98, BFA 00, MA 07, Best Picture Editing, Comedy; and Best Picture Editing, Web Program or Series

**Sara Gabrielle Kay**, BFA 99, Achievement in Casting

**Elise G. Cousineau**, BA 00, Best Web Program or Series, Fiction

**Jonathan S. Dowler**, BFA 00, Best Picture Editing, Reality/Competition

**Linda Ludwick**, BComm 01, Best Drama Series; and Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary Program

**Kaveh S. Nabatian**, BFA 01, Best Cinematography in a Feature Length Documentary

**Qurram Hussain**, BEng 03, Achievement in Music

**Laura Perlmutter**, BA 03, Best Web Program or Series, Fiction

**Vanessa Matsui**, BFA 04, Best Web Program or Series, Fiction

**Philippe Chabot**, BFA 07, Best Drama Series

**Peter Knegt**, MA 08, Best Web Program or Series, Non-Fiction

**Simon Allard**, BFA 12, Best Animated Short

**Bertrand Paquette-Bigras**, BFA 12, Best Animated Short

**Colin L. Racicot**, BFA 13, Best Animated Short

**Raquel Sancinetti**, BFA 13, Best Short Documentary

## ORDER OF CANADA

Seven Concordians were among the latest appointees to the Order of Canada announced in June. The country's top honour is bestowed by Governor General Mary Simon in recognition of exceptional contributions to the country.

**Monique Leroux**, LLD 11, Companion

**Terry Copp**, BA 59, Member

**Joyce Napier**, BA 81, Member

**Myrna Lashley**, BA 84, Member

**Bruce Lourie**, BSc 84, Member

**Kent Nagano**, DFA 19, Officer

**Frances M. Shaver**, former professor, Member

# TAKE PRIDE in your alma mater!



**Sunil Gupta, BComm 77**  
Award-winning photographer



**Lillian Roy, BA 22**  
News editor, *Montreal Gazette*



**Dayna Lapkovsky, BA 02**  
Founder and facilitator, *frank*



**Salvatore Iacono, BEng 86**  
President and CEO, Cadillac Fairview



**Antoine Yared, BFA 11**  
Theatre and television actor



**Linda Stroude, BComm 96, GrDip 97**  
CFO, Starlight Children's Foundation Canada

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#CUpride #CUalumni

**1** Twenty-five paintings by **Shelley Freeman**, BFA 99, were on display at Espace Mur-mur des arts at the Georgette-Lepage Library in Brossard, Que., from May 3 to June 30. The solo exhibition featured artwork that explored an underwater or underground perspective of depth. 1) "Deep-rooted Series #9," oils on panel, 2023. [shelleyfreeman.ca](http://shelleyfreeman.ca)

**2** *Labyrinth*, a solo exhibition by **Chrissy Cheung**, BFA 00, runs until November 30 at Luppolo Brewing Company in Vancouver, B.C. The show features 25 original artworks, highlighting the progression of Cheung's abstract style over the past decade. 2) "Lightstorm," ink on 100 per cent rag. [observeroftime.com](http://observeroftime.com)

**3** **Apostolos Kouroumalis** (Toly A.K.), BFA 99, took part in the *Réflexions sur le changement* group exhibition at Georges Laoun Opticien on St. Denis Street from October 1 to 26. His painting was inspired by an archival photo of Montreal. 3) "Montreal in the 1960s," acrylics.



**4** A new installation of artwork by **Alyson Champ**, BA 93, is on display at Salle Culturelle Alfred-Langevin in Huntingdon, Que., until December 8. The 12 charcoal drawings featured in the *Étalement* exhibition represent Champ's visual exploration of urban sprawl and its impact on the agricultural land of the Montérégie-Ouest region. 4) "Cornfield subdivision," liquid charcoal and charcoal on paper, 2024. [alysonchamp.com](http://alysonchamp.com)

**5** **Kylie Sandford**, BFA 93, is taking part in the Biennale des artistes des Cantons-de-l'Est group exhibition at Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke. *L'écologie du paysage*, the group exhibition that runs from September 26, 2024, to January 5, 2025, features Sandford's seven-part painting. 5) "Territoire/Territory," oil on canvas, 2024. [kyliesandford.com](http://kyliesandford.com)



## Jacklin 'Jackie' Webb (1942 - 2024)

Educator and performing-arts luminary

Jacklin 'Jackie' Webb, BA 71, who passed away on January 10, 2024, in Montreal, was a beloved figure in both education and the performing arts.

Born in 1942 in Trinidad and Tobago, Webb earned degrees from Concordia and McGill University. Her career in education began at Roslyn Elementary. She later became a principal at several Montreal schools and was honoured with the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of



Administrators of English Schools of Quebec.

Webb was also passionate about the performing arts. After moving to Montreal in

1963, she joined the Black Theatre Workshop (BTW), where she performed in numerous productions, including *A Raisin in the Sun*

(1979) and *Here Comes the Groom* (1989), for which she won Best Actress at the Quebec Drama Festival. Webb additionally served as board president of the BTW for 27 years.

Her career also included film roles in *Time at the Top* (1999) and *The Trotsky* (2009).

Webb's impact on those around her was profound and lasting. She will be deeply missed by a large circle of family, friends, colleagues and castmates. ■

## Steven Appelbaum (1941 - 2024)

Distinguished professor emeritus at the John Molson School of Business



Steven Appelbaum, a distinguished professor emeritus at the John Molson School of Business, passed away in Montreal on June 7, 2024.

Born in Philadelphia, Appelbaum earned degrees

from Temple University, St. Joseph's University and the University of Ottawa before joining Concordia in 1979. His 44-year tenure included roles as department chair and dean, where he was

instrumental in founding the Executive MBA program in 1985, the first of its kind in Quebec.

Appelbaum's vision and dedication transformed the John Molson School into a leading Canadian institution, with the EMBA program recently ranked second in Canada and 30th globally by *CEO Magazine*. His contributions extended beyond administration: He was a prolific researcher and teacher, with numerous accolades including being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and

twice winning Outstanding Teaching Awards.

Appelbaum's research in organizational behaviour led to 12 textbooks and more than 150 scholarly articles. A Concordia University Research Chair from 2002 to 2009, he consulted widely in organizational development and management training.

Colleagues remember Appelbaum as a dedicated academic, supportive mentor and valued member of the Concordia community. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Shapiro, and his children and granddaughter. ■

## William 'Bill' Reimer (1944 - 2024)

Professor emeritus of sociology and anthropology

William Reimer, esteemed professor emeritus of sociology and anthropology, passed away on July 15 in Vancouver.

Reimer was a key mentor and scholar who transformed the understanding of rural communities. Originally from Vancouver, his early experiences with rural life sparked a lifelong interest. Reimer earned his PhD in sociology from the University of British Columbia and joined Concordia in 1973.

A transformative sabbatical in 1978 led



him to focus on rural sociology, culminating in his leadership of the New Rural Economy (NRE) project, a

major \$3-million SSHRC-funded initiative. Reimer's research addressed social inclusion and exclusion in

rural Canada, the impacts of technology, and wildfires. He also directed the Rural Policy Learning Commons, influencing policymakers and researchers.

Colleagues praised Reimer for his kindness, mentorship and scholarly impact. His wife, Frances Shaver (pictured), a recent Order of Canada recipient, and their children, Daegan and Jean-Pierre, BA 97, are all closely connected to Concordia. Reimer will be remembered for his thoughtful inquiry, dedication to rural sociology and genuine interest in others. ■

**Jean P. Beauregard**, L BSc 48, April 19, 2024, Ottawa. He was 95.

**Carmen Moore**, S BA 51, June 12, 2024, Vancouver Island, B.C. She was 98.

**Gildo Renzi**, L BA 52, July 1, 2024, St-Lambert, Que. He was 93.

**François (Frank) Clément**, L BA 53, September 8, 2024, Beaconsfield, Que. He was 93.

**Malcolm Spicer**, L BA 53, March 5, 2024, Montreal. He was 92.

**Solomon Bierbrier**, S BA 54, April 11, 2024. He was 95.

**Demetrius (Jimmy) Manolakos**, S BA 56, September 25, 2024, Montreal. He was 89.

**Aaron Spector**, S BSc 56, June 9, 2024, Montreal. He was 90.

**Hartland McKeown**, S BComm 57, March 28, 2024, Cowansville, Que. He was 89.

**Donald Thomas Whelan**, L BSc 57, May 1, 2024, Ancaster, Ont. He was 87.

**Dieter (Bill) Meznel**, S BComm 58, July 29, 2024, Toronto, Ont. He was 95.

**Theodore Wyglinski**, L BSc 58, March 19, 2024. He was 87.

**Coleman J. Newman**, S BA 59, August 3, 2024, Montreal. He was 89.

**Serge Jacques**, S BComm 61, May 16, 2024.

**Freda G. Rashkovan**, S BA 61, S MA 74, May 1, 2024, Montreal.

**Walter Piech**, S BSc 62, August 11, 2024, Guelph, Ont. He was 87.

**Marion Mawhinney**, S BA 64, July 11, 2024, Bridgewater, N.S. She was 83.

**Vernon E. Eccles**, S BA 65, August 29, 2024. He was 87.

**Michael Lichacz**, L BA 65, BA 79, June 23, 2024. He was 79.

**Frederick Tiplady**, S BA 65, MA 92, June 1, 2024, Montreal. He was 86.

**Joyce Barakett**, S BA 66, May 14, 2024, Westmount, Que. She was 83.

**Roberta (Frizzell) McAlpine**, S BA 66, June 22, 2024, Scarborough, Ont. She was 94.

**Katharina Maria (Kasriel) Czerny**, L BA 67, June 23, 2024, Ottawa, Ont. She was 79.

**John Michael Little**, L BSc 67, March 29, 2024, Montreal. He was 78.

**Lawrence McMenemy**, L BComm 67, September 6, 2024, Boston, Mass.

**Brian Hawker**, BA 68, MA 95, April 16, 2024, Guelph, Ont. He was 79.

**Alexander Liros**, S BA 68, March 7, 2024, Toronto, Ont. He was 80.

**Robert Depaola**, S BA 69, March 21, 2024, Montreal. He was 87.

# Enrico Rajah (1956 - 2023)

College dean and professor



**E**nrico 'Rico' Rajah, BA 79, passed away on November 11, 2023, at the age of 67.

A distinguished educator, Rajah earned his geography degree at Concordia in just two years, later returning to his native Trinidad to dedicate more than four decades to St. Mary's College in Port of Spain.

Beginning as a geography teacher and rising to the position of dean, Rajah made a lasting impact on the college and its students. His leadership extended beyond the classroom as he took on the role of buildings manager and grounds manager after his retirement, continuing to support the institution.

Known for his cheerful personality, Rajah was

beloved by colleagues and students alike, many of whom remained in contact with him throughout his life. In addition to his academic contributions, Rajah was deeply involved in Trinidad and Tobago's vibrant Carnival culture, serving as public relations officer for the award-winning Trini Revellers masquerade band for more than 40 years. ■

**Stanley Edward Bateman**, S BComm 70, October 26, 2023, Toronto, Ont. He was 81.

**John Corrigan**, L BA 70, June 16, 2024, Montreal. He was 75.

**Elizabeth Jean Johnston**, S BA 70, January 25, 2024. She was 92.

**Brian Pollock**, S BEng 70, August 31, 2024. He was 77.

**James White**, L BA 70, May 16, 2024, Toronto, Ont. He was 75.

**Marian Burke**, L BA 71, March 26, 2024, Westmount, Que.

**Igor Kossatkine**, S BA 71, June 21, 2024, Ottawa, Ont. He was 89.

**Gerald "Gerry" Nemiroff**, S BFA 71, June 6, 2024, Winnipeg, Man. He was 82.

**Dennis Francis Smith**, S BA 71, September 18, 2024. He was 74.

**Joe L. Visocchi**, L BA 71, March 22, 2024, Laval, Que. He was 73.

**Atanas Katrapani**, S BA 72, July 28, 2024, Montreal. He was 80.

**Alan S. Knopp**, L BComm 73, August 7, 2024.

**Dora Benedik-Okun**, S BA 74, January 27, 2024, Beaconsfield, Que. She was 99.

**Wilfried Jonasch**, S BSc 74, July 8, 2024, Kirkland, Que. He was 92.

**Eileen MacDonald**, S BA 74, February 25, 2024, Montreal. She was 80.

**Sonia (Weintraub) Oberman**, S BA 74, August 18, 2024, Montreal. She was 91.

**John R. Dalrymple**, BA 75, June 22, 2024, Saint-Lambert, Que. He was 73.

**Andreas Kragaris**, BA 75, May 9, 2024, Montreal. He was 73.

**Albert Sevigny**, BA 75, BA 02, September 7, 2024, Montreal. He was 73.

**Judith Toth**, BA 75, June 28, 2024, Montreal. She was 72.

**Patricia Cahill**, BA 76, March 7, 2024, Los Angeles, Calif. She was 69.

**Alda McCaffrey**, BSc 76, May 6, 2024, Vaudreuil, Que. She was 80.

**Debbie Sonberg Ajzenkopf**, BA 77, April 20, 2023.

**Earl J. T. King**, BComm 77, February 12, 2024, Parksville, B.C. He was 88.

**Andre Lanza**, BComm 77, June 19, 2024, Montreal. He was 70.

**Ronald Lepore**, BA 77, September 8, 2024, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 70.

**Fernando D'Arcangelo**, BSc 78, May 2024.

**Patricia Mantin Gravel**, BA 78, July 10, 2024, Longueuil, Que.

**Brenda (Smith) Javory**, BSc 78, May 21, 2024, Westmount, Que. She was 97.

**Daniel Philip**, BA 78, April 1, 2024, Montreal. He was 87.

**Rhona (Golfman) Shapiro**, BFA 78, MFA 88, May 5, 2024, Montreal.

**Lillian (Bernstein) Shoub**, Cert 78, BA 80, July 15, 2024, Montreal. She was 87.

**Louis Ajzenkopf**, MBA 79, June 18, 2024.

**Shirley A. Bradley**, Cert 79, BA 82, March 9, 2024, Ottawa, Ont. She was 88.

**Christopher Atherley**, BFA 80, July 2024, St. Michael, Barbados. He was 77.

## Julie Des Lauriers (1974 - 2024)

Advocate who chronicled her battle with cancer

**J**ulie Des Lauriers, BA 97, passed away on May 28 at the age of 50 after a valiant fight against brain cancer.

Diagnosed in 2014 while a new mother, Des Lauriers faced her illness with remarkable courage and resilience. She was supported throughout by her husband, Tony, and their young son, William.

Des Lauriers's professional journey, marked by her dedication to community work and social change, was shaped by her degree in women's studies from Concordia



and a master's degree from Queensland University of Technology. Her career

included impactful roles in community organizations in Montreal and Brisbane.

In a heartfelt effort to leave a legacy, Des Lauriers collaborated with friends and filmmakers Karina Mariano, BFA 06, and Alexandra Grimanis, BFA 97, MA 17, to create a documentary capturing her life and messages for William. This project also aimed to support other families navigating similar struggles.

Des Lauriers's bravery, commitment to social change and the legacy of her film will continue to inspire and provide solace to many. ■

**Boris Klco**, BComm 80, July 27, 2024. He was 81.

**Patricia M. O'Brien**, BA 80, February 1, 2024. She was 83.

**Howard Smith**, BA 80, July 3, 2024, Montreal. He was 67.

**Krystyna M. Cienska**, GrDip 81, March 10, 2024, Montreal. She was 97.

**Monique (Bachand) Rousseau**, BA 81, July 25, 2024, Montreal. She was 92.

**Patricia (Martin) Toffi**, BA 81, June 2, 2024, Montreal. She was 91.

**Sandra Warren Valdmanis**, BA 81, May 10, 2024, Scarborough, Maine. She was 83.

**Hendrika (Klijn) Neuburger**, BA 82, MA 93, September 3, 2024, Saint-Hyacinthe, Que. She was 94.

**Louis Weider**, BA 82, February 1, 2024, Miami Beach, Fla. He was 63.

**Marilyn Ashby**, BA 84, February 22, 2024, Brockville, Ont. She was 79.

**Francine (Zuckerman) Beer**, BComm 84, September 24, 2024, Montreal.

**David A. O'Reilly**, BA 84, July 29, 2024, Colombia. He was 65.

**Joseph Hymovitch**, BA 85, September 11, 2024, Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 64.

**Anita Muzard**, MBA 85, November 7, 2023. She was 80.

**Marilyn (Gallagher) Turpin**, BA 86, October 2024, Dorval, Que. She was 86.

**Ralph Gordon Pollard**, BEng 87, May 24, 2024. He was 64.

**Howard Balter**, BSc 89, August 26, 2024, Thornhill, Ont. He was 58.

**John Joseph Mulvaney**, BA 89, BEd 92, June 9, 2024, Montreal. He was 73.

**Daphne Zeitz**, BA 90, March 30, 2024, Montreal. She was 86.

**Christine (Impellezzeri) Ciampini**, BComm 92, July 10, 2024. She was 76.

**Barbara E. Mulligan**, BA 93, May 3, 2024. She was 82.

**Lorne Gorber**, BA 97, July 2, 2024, Montreal. He was 50.

**Tamara H. Kuzmicki**, BA 97, August 17, 2024, Longueuil, Que. She was 97.

**Mark S. Shapiro**, BA 98, August 2024, Montreal. He was 49.

**David Gordon Mackay**, BA 99, January 27, 2024. He was 54.

**Marsha Akman**, BA 05, August 16, 2024, Montreal.

**Dana Landry**, MA 09, June 28, 2021, Kenora, Ont. She was 42.



## Clarence Bayne (1932 - 2024)

Trailblazing community activist and professor emeritus

Clarence Bayne, a leader who fought for equality for Montreal's Black community, passed away on September 1. He was 91.

Bayne arrived at Sir George Williams University in 1966 and taught until his retirement in 2016. From 1991 to 2006, he served as director of the Diploma in Administration/Diploma in Sport Administration program. Bayne's research focused on the social, political, economic and institutional life and development of marginalized communities in Quebec.

"Clarence was not only an academic; he was an artist, a Black community stalwart, an innovator, and above all, a loving and caring family man," said Roland Wills, former associate dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration (now John Molson School of Business).



John Molson Dean Anne-Marie Croteau recalls Bayne's warmth and encouragement when she first joined Concordia in 1997.

"I saw him standing up for others, including me," Croteau said. "His thoughtfulness and consideration for others will always be remembered."

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Bayne came to Canada in 1955 and

settled in Montreal in 1964. Caribbean people in Canada at the time faced significant discrimination and racism. Bayne's own experiences of anti-Black racism motivated him to mobilize for change.

In October 1968, the Canadian Conference Committee, of which Bayne was president, organized the conference "Problems of Involvement in the Canadian Society with Reference to

Black People." This would be a pivotal moment for the Black community in Canada.

Bayne was active in the Black Community Council of Quebec, the Quebec Board of Black Educators, the Quebec Community Group Network, the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex, and the Black Studies Centre. He was co-founder and former executive director of the Black Theatre Workshop, and president of the Black Community Resource Centre.

Among his honours are a Governor General's Award for the Arts, and the Black Theatre Workshop's Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

"Clarence may be gone," said Wills, "but his legacy lives on through the positive changes he contributed to Quebec and Canadian society." ■

## John Limeburner (1947 - 2024)

Dedicated alumnus, donor and volunteer

John Limeburner, BComm 68, a dedicated Concordia advisor, donor and volunteer, passed away on September 6. He was 77.

Limeburner earned his undergraduate degree from Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, in 1968.

He was an accomplished varsity golfer, a passion he would carry throughout his life.

Limeburner maintained a strong connection to Concordia over the decades. He held several leadership

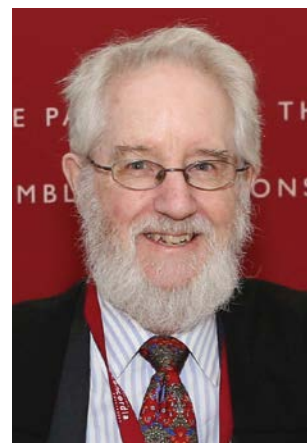
roles within the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA), including serving as president of the Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter and chairing the Loyola Campus Centennial Advisory Committee.

He also chaired the Loyola Medal committees, overseeing the awarding of medals to distinguished individuals including James Orbinski, Samantha Nutt and the late Honourable Murray Sinclair.

Limeburner's efforts were instrumental in preserving Loyola's legacy and

celebrating its rich history as part of Concordia's identity. He also regularly advised Concordia's administration, working closely with the vice-principals of Administration and Finance, as well as University Advancement.

"His deep involvement in Concordia's alumni activities shows how much he cared about this university," said Leisha Le Couvie, senior director of Alumni Engagement. "His leadership and mentorship are irreplaceable."



Limeburner is survived by his wife of 33 years, Cynthia, and his children Chip, BFA 23, and Peter. ■

# Cherished advice that launched a career

50 years after graduating with Concordia's first class, alumna Corinne Charette reflects on the university's – and her own – success



CORINNE CHARETTE,  
BSC 75, LLD 11

**T**ake a look at the person to your left, and now to your right. Only one out of the three of you will graduate with this class.”

I can still hear these words, spoken during my first year as an engineering student at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, in the early 1970s. They especially stood out for a specific reason: I was one of only three women in that room.

By the time I graduated in 1975 — as part of Concordia University's inaugural class — I was the only woman of those original three to graduate from the Electrical Engineering program that year.

Now, 50 years later, I look back on my career with a sense of gratitude — mainly to the professors who not only brought expertise to the classroom, but also encouraged women like me to thrive in the male-dominated program.

I am indebted, in particular, to the late Stanley Kubina, who headed the faculty on Loyola Campus when I was a student.

Dr. Kubina wasn't just a kind person, a brilliant thinker and a respected leader in his field — both at Concordia and across Canada — he was also a guiding force in my career, providing me with a key piece of advice that would help shape my future.

In my final year of my undergraduate degree, I found myself at a crossroads. Actively interviewing on campus — and with three job offers from major companies, including IBM — I was also contemplating pursuing a master's in electrical engineering with a focus on electromagnetic theory.

Dr. Kubina, aware of my dilemma, pulled me aside one day. “I have no doubt that you can do a master's,” he said. “But I just don't see you in a lab, I don't see you doing research. I see you thriving in the corporate world.”

Because I valued Dr. Kubina's perspective and respected him as a

mentor, I followed his advice and took the job at IBM. That decision, guided by his foresight, helped launch my career in information technology and cybersecurity, which later led to a role with the federal government.

When I look at the progress my alma mater has made today, I'm filled with pride. Yes, there is still work to be done in achieving gender parity in my field, but we've come a long way from the days when I was the only woman graduating from my program 50 years ago.

I'm particularly inspired by the fact that my former faculty is now called the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, named after Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, a trailblazing entrepreneur and a mentor to engineers of all genders.

Under the leadership of current dean Mourad Debbabi, Concordia's engineering school has become one of the best in Canada. For a university that is just 50 years old, it is incredible to see such outstanding innovation and talent across departments — and it leaves me hopeful for what's ahead. ■

*Corinne Charette is a member of the Gina Cody School Advisory Board, former senior fellow at Concordia and former managing director of District 3 Innovation Hub. Charette served as the Government of Canada's chief information officer from 2009 to 2015. For her contributions to her industry and community, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Concordia in 2011.*



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to give back to the university  
that gave us so much.”

– Dimitris Ilias, BFA 92, GrDip 99,  
and Maria Diamantis



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