

SPRING 2010

Concordia

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Aydin Matlabi, BFA 07,
on the streets of Tehran,
Iran, in June 2009

WITNESSING IRAN'S "GREEN REVOLUTION" > SENSITIZING ENGINEERS > CONTEMPLATING VAMPIRES

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Journeying through twilight

Twilight—the book and film series—is an international phenomenon. Vampire and Film scholar Stacey Abbott, BA 91, examines the history of our fascination with horror and vampire films.

by Anna di Giorgio



Cover: Aydin Matlabi, BFA 07



Capturing the face of rebellion

Aydin Matlabi, BFA 07, provides a first-hand account—through images and words—of Iran's June 2009 "green revolution."

by Lucas Wisenthal



Faculty Spotlight

John Molson School of Business

Concordia's business school teaches sustainable enterprise and its students excel in national and international competitions.

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Engineering better engineers

Thanks to the General Studies Unit, Concordia's Engineering and Computer Science students learn how to become more socially responsible as they enter the workforce.

by Patrick McDonagh



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

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Digital magazine: thumbs up, thumbs down

Some of you may have missed it. In December, we launched the *Concordia University Magazine's* winter 2009-10 issue as a digital-only version. We decided to forgo our print issue to be environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible.

The feedback on the content itself has been positive but on the digital version, mixed. Many people told me in person or by phone that they enjoyed the digital issue. For example, in February, I ran into Concordia University Alumni Association volunteer Kim Tien Huynh, BComm 01, who raved about the medium. Kim Tien recently returned from a stint in Shanghai and is headed back there soon. She said the digital magazine is ideal for alumni abroad.

Most letter writers, however, leaned the other way. The lack of a printed issue clearly struck a nerve. (You'll find a handful of the emails we received on page 6.) Still, I take that as constructive criticism. These correspondents took the time to write and tell us they enjoy the magazine but prefer receiving it in its tactile state. I'm pleased to report that, for the immediate future, the magazine will be printed and mailed.

Whatever your preferences, I highly recommend checking out the winter digital magazine at magazine.concordia.ca because it's a compelling issue that includes profiles of seven Concordia alumni Olympians, Psychology Professor William Bukowski's research on children's peer relationships, and the upcoming 2010 Congress of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences that Concordia will host.



In this issue, you'll find a touching Enough Said piece (see page 40) by Pascale Bijoux, BA 95. Pascale recounts her three-week stint as a volunteer with young, at-risk children at a shelter in Capetown, South Africa, that was organized through a non-profit organization called Cross-Cultural Solutions.

Unfortunately, Pascale returned to Montreal on January 14, just two days after Haiti's devastating earthquake. She has relatives there and, as of early March, had still not heard from two of them. That tragedy strengthened Pascale's resolve to continue to do volunteer work. As a result, she plans

to head back to Capetown soon to complete another mission.

Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science is striving to imbue its students with that same sense of social consciousness after they graduate. In "Engineering better engineers" (see page 22), you'll read how the faculty's General Studies Unit is promoting Concordia's strategic goal of "community engagement and social responsibility" by training students to be ethical and well-rounded professionals.

Another alumnus who has taken social responsibility to heart is Aydin Matlabi, who earned a BFA in Photography in 2007 and is now working on a master's in Photography at Concordia. Last summer, however, he headed to his native Iran to photograph what he thought would be an artistic project about the country's June 12 elections.

He couldn't have known that following the contested election, after which president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was ultimately returned to power, thousands of progressive-minded Iranians would take to the streets for an uprising that lasted weeks. Aydin bravely remained to capture history despite the danger to his own life. He was one of few journalists to leave the country relatively unscathed—and with many shots that weave a compelling tale of his fellow citizens who openly defied the government. A number of his photos are depicted, along with Aydin's story, in "Capturing the face of rebellion" on page 14.

For Pascale and Aydin's commendable initiatives, there are no mixed reviews. ■



Kevin Tierney

In September 2009, I won the Canadian Film and Television Production Association's Producer of the Year Award at the Toronto International Film Festival for producing the movie *The Trotsky*, written and directed by my son, Jacob.

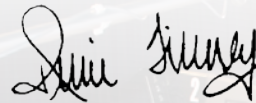
I told my wife I wanted to use the \$10,000 prize money to accomplish three goals: honour my parents' memory, especially their singular belief in higher education as a tool to improve the quality of their children's lives; give something back to my chosen milieu that would reflect my gratitude for all my good fortune; and, finally, strengthen my belief in the importance of education and, in doing so, honour my son, whose film was responsible for the prize in the first place, and my daughter, Brigid, who had graduated from the University of British Columbia in spring 2009.

My wife enthusiastically endorsed the idea. That's why I created the Pat and Bill Tierney Scholarship, named after my parents.

There was never any question as to where I would offer the scholarship: Concordia University. And I very much wanted it to be to Communication Studies, the department I attended in 1977-78 as a graduate student. At that time in my life, I wanted to leave teaching and get into the film business and the graduate diploma program seemed like an oasis of stimulation. It was one of the best 12 months of my life, thanks to the quality of the other students and faculty members who challenged and inspired me.

One other point: The year I was a Comm Studies student, my wife became pregnant with our first child, Jacob.

Full circle, indeed.



Kevin Tierney, S BA 71, GrDip 78
President, Park Ex Pictures
Montreal

How to make a difference

As a volunteer or donor to Concordia, you, too, can make a difference.

Every year, thousands of Concordia alumni, parents and friends provide support to Concordia students. Whichever area of Concordia you choose to support, your gift will help ensure our students enjoy the best possible university experience and graduate as leaders in their fields.

Contact Advancement and Alumni Relations at 1-888-777-3330 or 514-848-2424, ext. 4856, or visit giving.concordia.ca.

Here is the feedback we received on the decision to produce *Concordia University Magazine's* winter 2009-10 issue in a digital-only version (magazine.concordia.ca).



Rave reviews

Amazing initiative—and it works well too!

Patricia Lemoine,
BFGA (film studies) O3
Westmount, Que.

I really appreciate receiving an electronic version of the magazine.

Suzanne Maloney, BFA (art ed.) 82
Montreal, Que.

Excellent and a well done magazine to read and learn from. Thank you.

Narashima Murthy, MEng 83, PhD 88
Fullerton, Calif.

Not-so-rave reviews

Thumbs down on this liberal idea. I read magazines to get away from the infernal computer.

Fred Keller,
S BComm 67
Kitchener, Ont.

I really don't appreciate this digital only version. I am getting tired of this trend with printed material because it signals the death knell of print in general. If you print on recycled paper, you're already doing your share to be environmentally responsible and, as I like to keep my magazines, I feel that now some crucial information will not be available when I want it; printing out your magazine and stapling the pages together does not cut it. Please reconsider and don't do this again.

Shlomo Schwartzberg, BA (poli. sci.) 82
Toronto, Ont.

I'm not likely to read the online issue. The paper version I carried with me to read when it was convenient, such as in the lunch room or waiting for an appointment. But I do not carry my PC and I refuse to print out the electronic version as it is too costly. So the electronic version will just end up mostly unread.

Norman Dickinson,
BSc (stats.) 81
Ville Saint-Laurent, Que.

I hope you clinch enough readers for the winter online magazine. I spend my day in front of a screen and keyboard and enough is enough. That is why all my bills are sent by mail. Except for fun, I refuse to go online evenings and weekends. I enjoy the magazine but not when it spoils my lifestyle. I'm looking forward to r-e-a-d-i-n-g the next magazine.

André de Blois, BEng 80
Sherbrooke, Que. ■



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The Concordia community joins together for Haiti relief

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by a catastrophic earthquake affecting an estimated three million people and killing up to 230,000. The entire world reeled at the news of the disaster and many countries sprang into action to provide aid, funds and support personnel. Canada's response was especially generous: more than \$113 million was raised, matched dollar for dollar by the federal government.

At Concordia, we reacted on a smaller scale and in a more local manner. We were concerned for the needs of Haitian students and other members of the Concordia community touched by the tragic events in Haiti.

Within a week of the earthquake, a meeting was held with students and other members of the Haitian community. In my words to the roomful of mostly young people, I urged them to continue their studies despite the distress they were feeling and promised that the university would do all it could to help.

Concordia provided counselling services, as well as telephone and computer access for those trying to get in touch with loved ones. We were also able to make emergency funds available, through our annual fund stemming from the contributions of our generous benefactors.

The Concordia community made aid for Haiti a priority. A grassroots effort involving many constituencies, including our students, raised money through events and collection boxes.

This reflects Concordia's continued generosity and willingness to become involved thousands of kilometres away and right here in our own neighbourhood.

In any given year, our students, faculty, staff and alumni are involved in countless humanitarian projects. In 2008, the Concordia University Volunteer Abroad Program won an award for helping orphans in Uganda. This year, 23 of our students and staff

participated in an Alternative Spring Break: instead of going to the beach or the ski hills, they worked with community organizations in the Dominican Republic or right here in Montreal. Members of the 52nd Garnet Key Society have set up an after-school program at the Kateri Tekakwitha Primary School in Kahnawake, Que., to encourage discovery and inspire students to pursue a post-secondary education. For more than two decades, Concordia has worked closely with Centraide to support less-fortunate community members.

These initiatives, along with our response to the devastation in Haiti, are only a few examples of community engagement at Concordia. Reaching out has always been part of who we are and how we learn—it's one reason we're all so proud to be Concordians.

Judith Woodsworth, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

To find out more about support activities at Concordia, visit news.concordia.ca/haiti

Haitians walk in front of devastated buildings in Port-au-Prince on March 1, 2010.

Hàitiens marchant devant les bâtiments dévastés à Port-au-Prince le 1^{er} mars 2010.



EITAN ABRAMOVICH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

La communauté de Concordia se mobilise pour Haïti

Le 12 janvier dernier, un séisme dévastateur a frappé Haïti, laissant derrière lui environ trois millions de personnes dans le désarroi et 230 000 morts. La catastrophe a ébranlé la planète entière et de nombreux pays ont rapidement fourni de l'aide, des fonds et du personnel de soutien. Le Canada s'est montré particulièrement généreux : plus de 113 millions de dollars ont été amassés et le gouvernement fédéral a doublé ce montant.

À Concordia, nous avons réagi à plus petite échelle et plus localement. Nous nous sommes préoccupés des besoins des étudiants haïtiens et des autres membres de notre communauté touchés par cette tragédie.

Dans la semaine qui a suivi le tremblement de terre, nous avons tenu

une réunion avec les étudiants et les autres membres de la communauté haïtienne. À cette occasion, je me suis adressée à un auditoire composé surtout de jeunes. Je les ai vivement encouragés à continuer d'étudier malgré leur détresse en leur promettant que nous ferions tout pour les aider.

L'Université a également fourni des services de consultation psychologique de même qu'un accès téléphonique et Internet à ceux qui tentaient de joindre leurs proches. De plus, nous avons pu débloquer des fonds d'urgence grâce à nos généreux donateurs.

La communauté universitaire a ainsi fait de l'aide à Haïti une priorité. Un peu partout dans le campus, les membres se sont mobilisés : par exemple, nos étudiants ont organisé des collectes de fonds et distribué des boîtes de dons.

Tous ces efforts reflètent bien la grande générosité et la volonté indéfectible de l'Université de s'engager aussi bien à des milliers de kilomètres que dans notre voisinage.

En effet, nos étudiants et diplômés ainsi que notre personnel et nos professeurs se dévouent constamment au profit d'innombrables causes humanitaires. En 2008, le Programme de bénévoles de Concordia à l'étranger a été récompensé pour l'aide qu'il a apportée à des orphelins en Ouganda. Cette année, 23 de nos étudiants et employés ont participé à une semaine de relâche originale : plutôt que d'aller à la plage ou de faire du ski, ils ont travaillé pour des organismes communautaires en République dominicaine ou à Montréal. Par ailleurs, les membres de la 52^e promotion de la Société Garnet Key ont créé un programme parascolaire à l'école primaire Kateri Tekakwitha, à Kahnawake, pour stimuler la curiosité et la découverte et inciter les élèves à poursuivre des études postsecondaires. Sans oublier que, depuis plus de 20 ans, l'Université travaille en étroite collaboration avec Centraide pour soutenir les membres moins fortunés de la collectivité.

Ces initiatives et notre réaction face au désastre en Haïti ne sont que quelques exemples de notre engagement communautaire. Car notre ouverture sur le monde a toujours été au cœur de notre identité et de notre apprentissage. C'est d'ailleurs l'une des raisons pour lesquelles nous sommes si fiers d'être concordiens! ■

La rectrice et vice-chancière,
Judith Woodsworth, PhD

Traduction : Service de traduction,
Université Concordia

Pour en apprendre davantage sur les activités de soutien à Concordia :
news.concordia.ca/haïti





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August 7-19, 2010 From \$4,095*

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August 29-September 6, 2010 From \$3,840*

Our 2011 schedule will appear in the fall 2010 issue! For more information or to be added to the travel program mailing list, visit alumni.concordia.ca/travel or contact the Alumni Services and Marketing coordinator at alumnitravel@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 3819.

* Prices are per person based on double occupancy and do not include airfare.

Photos, from top to bottom:

Ireland, Tuscany, Italy, Iceland, Russia and Greece.

The Stinger Dome opens for business

The Stinger Dome at Concordia hosted its first guests December 17, 2009: Club Montreal Soccer League and Outremont Soccer. The Dome opened for operations in January 2010.

The Stinger Dome is an air-support-structure that measures 145 yards by 65 yards (132 metres by 59 metres)

and is seven stories high. It covers the Department of Recreation and Athletics' south field, behind the Concordia Stadium on the Loyola Campus. The facility, which allows for a configuration of four mini-fields, is open to community groups and will feature sports such as soccer, rugby, football and more. ■



Support flows in for university

Donors continue to throw their support behind the university with several important gifts announced in recent months.

About 40 guests attended a December 3 ceremony at the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Foundation, where Stephen and Claudine Bronfman announced a gift of \$550,000 to create graduate fellowships in Contemporary Art. The gift will support recent graduates holding an MFA, PhD or graduate certificate from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Concordia and the Faculté des arts at the Université du Québec à Montréal. The Bronfman family has long supported the arts in Canada. As Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth pointed out, their "generous gift reaffirms the extent to which Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, along with UQAM, anchor and enrich the Quebec and Canadian contemporary art scene."

In four years, Montreal-based financial technology firm Vigilant Futures has grown to about 50 employees from a mere three—and many of these employees are Concordia graduates. At a December 1 reception that included Dean of Engineering and Computer Science Robin Drew, Chair of Computer Science and Software Engineering Sudshir Mudur, and other faculty members and

students, Vigilant Futures co-founder Arvind Ramanathan, BComm 01, emphasized the importance of Concordia's Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSE) programs to local enterprises in announcing his company's \$20,000 donation to create scholarships that will support CSE's international graduate students.

And Mechtronix World Corporation announced March 3 a contribution of \$150,000 to Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. The funds will go toward refurbishing the basement-level, Henry F. Hall Building engineering laboratory affectionately known as "the cage," where

about 60 guests gathered for the gift-announcement ceremony. In recognition of the gift, Concordia has renamed the facility "Intelligent Machines World." It will be used by the Concordia Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and Engineering and Computer Science students who work on their final-year Capstone projects.

Mechtronix, which was founded in the late 1980s by a team of Concordia engineering graduates, has since become the world's third-leading provider of flight training solutions. Xavier Hervé, BEng 87, president of Mechtronix World Corporation, and Jo Frazao, BEng 82, MAsc 94, Mechtronix Systems Vice President, were on hand to announce the gift. ■



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictured from left to right are Jo Frazao, Vice President of Mechtronix Systems; Xavier Hervé, President of Mechtronix World Corporation; Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth; Robin Drew, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science; and Kathy Assayaq, Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Concordia university magazine

Concordia University Magazine

welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s),

degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

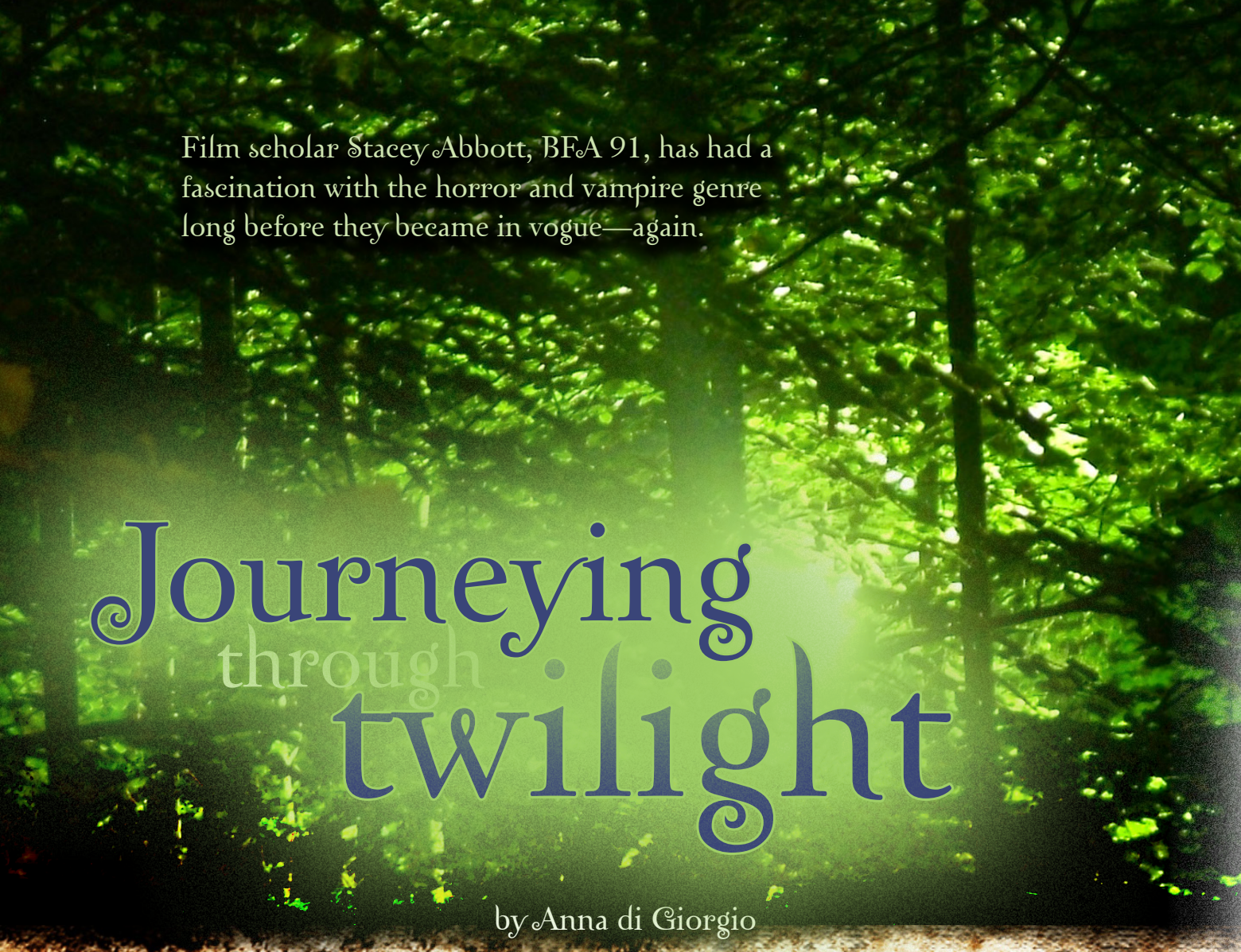
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Film scholar Stacey Abbott, BFA 91, has had a fascination with the horror and vampire genre long before they became in vogue—again.

Journeying through twilight

by Anna di Giorgio

She broodingly stomps about, complains that you don't understand her, can't seem to fit in anywhere, struggles with her body and body image, warms up to some but is cruel to others . . . Sounds like most teenagers. But Stacey Abbott, BFA (film studies) 91, has another take on this characterization. "Actually, it's a good description of a vampire," Abbott says.

She should know. While Abbott says she has little in common with vampires—except when she spends time in the dark watching movies and "wearing sunglasses when it's sunny"—her understanding of vampire culture runs deep: she's been studying, teaching and writing about it for the better part of the last two decades. The graduate of

Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema is a reader (or senior academic) in Film Studies at Roehampton University in London, United Kingdom. Her research focuses on the horror film genre, especially vampire films. She reveals that her favourite vampires include Count Orlok in F.W. Murnau's film *Nosferatu* (1922), Martin from George Romero's *Martin* (1977) and Darla from the television series *Angel* (1999-2004), although she professes a fondness for all the vampires in Kathryn Bigelow's *Near Dark* (1987).

Abbott's interest in horror cinema took root during her childhood, when she says her first encounter with a vampire was with *Sesame Street*'s Count von Count, a Muppet character loosely based on Bela Lugosi's Dracula. She reveals that her academic curiosity in horror

grew out of the thrill and promise of being scared while watching slasher films as a teenager. While at Concordia in 1990, she read Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire* (1976) and became excited about the strikingly complex figure that is the vampire. "I began to realize that horror was one of the most cinematic genres, drawing upon carefully constructed shot composition, sound and cinematography to create a frightening atmosphere and effect," Abbott says.

She found a supportive group of teachers who steered her toward academia. "In many ways, all of the professors who taught me inspired me: Peter Rist, John Locke, Carole Zucker, Mario Falsetto, Catherine Russell, Tom Waugh and Joanne Larue," Abbott says. "They saw potential in me as a film



Images from modern-day vampire films: at left, *Martin* (1977), directed George Romero; above, *Van Helsing* (2004), directed by Stephen Sommers.

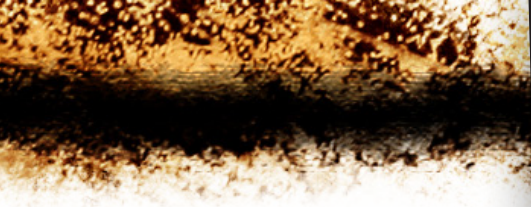
student and encouraged me to be more confident in myself and excel in my research and writing. They really fostered my abilities and set me on my path.”

Cinema Professor Peter Rist recalls Abbott’s class presentation on horror films. “For such a young person, she showed so much poise,” Rist says. “She balances an intellectual rigour with a keen interest in genre films. When she was a student at Concordia, she was also one of the first people to be aware—and interested in—Hong Kong action cinema.”

After she graduated, Abbott held various jobs, including one in the university’s audio-visual department, which was then called Visual Media Resources. She decided to pursue a master’s degree in film studies abroad because programs in Canada were in short supply. Rist recommended the Film Studies and Film Archiving program at the University of East Anglia in the U.K. “At the time, we didn’t have a graduate film studies program at Concordia, so Stacey had to go elsewhere,” Rist says. “Grants weren’t easy

to come by but she persevered and made a very smart choice to go to the University of East Anglia to do the Film Archive MA. No doubt, one of the reasons she initially chose to go into film archiving was her experience at Visual Media Resources.”

Abbott’s master’s dissertation on the post-modern vampire was titled “Sex, blood and rock’n’roll: The contemporary vampire genre, 1970-1989.” Upon completing her MA, she chose to stay in England and, in 1996, landed a job at the British Film Institute, where she spent six years, first as administrator for its MA program and later as education officer at the National Film Theatre in London. She also worked with Laura Mulvey, a leading film theorist, and soon began a research PhD part-time at the University of London’s Birkbeck



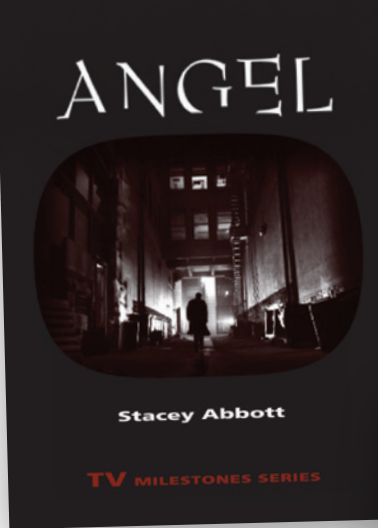
College. In August 2002, she completed her doctoral thesis called "Up to date with a vengeance: The modern vampire from Dracula to Blade," at Birkbeck at the University of London and, the following month, began teaching film studies full time at Roehampton University.

Teen vampires

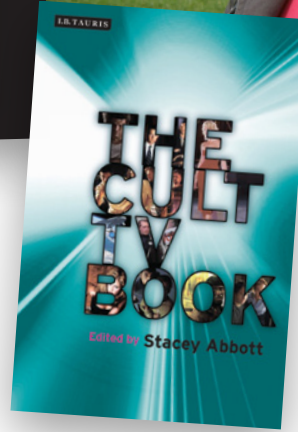
Abbott explains that adolescence mimics vampire culture because it breeds all forms of rebellion. Vampire films and books often depict characters undergoing transformations they don't understand. "Vampires' needs are changing; they are suddenly being overwhelmed by new, strange desires and physical hungers," she says. "They don't have anyone to talk to about what's going on and feel that no one would understand. They feel alone and suddenly different from everyone around them."

Abbott cites the movie *Near Dark* to illustrate her point. "The film is a coming-of-age story in which the boy, Caleb, must choose between the violent but exciting world of the vampires and the rather mundane human world. Although Caleb makes the 'right choice' and rejoins his human family, we can't forget how easily he slipped into the vampire world," she says.

Abbott's work also examines how the modern vampire is redefining gender roles to reflect cultural and social concerns. "In 19th century literature and painting, the female vampire represented women who defied the traditional image of woman as wife and mother," she says. "The female vampire is not nurturing but sexually aggressive. From today's perspective, this is a form of rebellion, although in the 19th century and early 20th century, she was usually



Stacey Abbott (above right, photographed in Wales) is a reader in Film Studies at Roehampton University in London, U.K. Abbott has been published in many academic journals and written several books, including *Angel* (2009) and *The Cult TV Book* (2010).



Independence is a part of the reluctant vampire tradition. But at the same time, the vampire is also tied to the past and restricted by its physical needs, whether it gives in to them or not.

punished for her sexuality."

But vampires aren't redefining femininity alone. Abbott contends that series such as *Angel* (a spinoff of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, 1997-2003) present "a clever deconstruction of contemporary masculinity and masculine friendships. Vampires continue to serve as a means to challenge and explore not just gender stereotypes but race, ethnicity, sexuality and age," she says.

Sign of the times

The vampire also challenges the social mores of its time, Abbott points out. As such, it is easy to perceive the vampire as an eminently modern persona that struggles with male and female stereotypes and is rebellious and independent. "Independence is particularly a part of the reluctant vampire tradition. But at the same time, the vampire is also tied to the past and restricted by its physical needs, which are defined by a thirst for blood, whether it gives in to them or

not. This means that vampires are always struggling against the past and the vampire legacy," she explains.

The link between modernity and vampire culture is one that Abbott explores

in her book, *Celluloid Vampires* (2007), which puts forth that "the medium of film has

completely reinvented the vampire archetype" and that vampires "reflect the cultural and social climate of the societies that produce them, especially during times of intense change and modernization." As societies undergo social and industrial transformations, so do vampires, who move into new locations and slip into new identities. "The vampire is born out of the processes of change within the modern world," Abbott writes.

She says the study of vampires is relevant even today because their feelings of alienation mirror our own. "This is something we see from *Interview with the Vampire* to *Twilight*," she says, adding the vampire itself is something that defies the laws of nature or, as in 19th century literature and folklore, the laws of God. It is such a pervasive myth that it refuses to die. "The vampire is dead but it walks around. It is nocturnal, while the civilized world is generally a diurnal world. The body rules it, while society tells us we should be ruled by the mind.

It continues to regenerate and renew itself to express the anxieties and fears for each generation. Our continued fascination with them tells us so much about ourselves,” she says.

So what does the current *Twilight* (the popular book and movie series) craze reflect about our society? Abbott suggests the depiction of young-female angst may have much to do with it. “The author, Stephenie Meyer, has tapped into the teen girl’s psyche, which is dominated by insecurities and the desire to be special in some way. Bella [the protagonist] is so nondescript that anyone reading the book can immediately project oneself onto her. She is an avatar,” Abbott says. “What’s more, *Twilight* offers a narrative in which traditional notions of good and evil are overturned and authority is questioned. These all tie in to the issues that we see around us on a daily basis.”

Deborah Jermyn, a reader in the School of Arts at Roehampton and Abbott’s colleague, says Abbott’s research has raised awareness about the topic, even before its current vogue. “Stacey’s work has tremendously enriched contemporary Film and Cultural Studies by placing the vampire genre in its full social and historical context, giving critical weight to an area too easily dismissed as merely populist.”

Jermyn says. “At the same time, it has been incredibly prescient; as she was completing her PhD and publishing it as a monograph, no one—except perhaps Stacey!—could have anticipated just how timely it would prove to be and how big the cultural revival of the vampire myth was about to become. She has, therefore, been at the forefront of the critical debate about new texts like the *Twilight* series and *True Blood*, which have been phenomenally successful worldwide.”

From horror to comedy in a heartbeat

As a film scholar, Abbott has yet to exhaust her intellectual analyses of the horror genre. Yet, there is another variety—far removed from horror—that has captured her attention: romantic comedy. She recently co-edited a book entitled *Falling in Love Again: The Romantic Comedy in Contemporary Cinema* (2009). “Popular cinema reflects changes in the world around us,” Abbott maintains. “Romantic comedies are sometimes dismissed as being frivolous but when looked at closely,

they really provide a commentary on developing attitudes towards sex, love and gender roles.” Movies such as *Pillow Talk* (1959), *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* (1961) and *When Harry Met Sally* (1989) speak to society’s evolving morality.

Abbott is excited about another field of study: contemporary “quality” television, which she considers as an emerging art form. Abbott attributes the popularity of shows that include *Dexter*, *Angel* and *The Shield* to the narrowing distinction between dramatic television and cinema in the United Kingdom and the United States.

As these lines blur, so do the parameters that define what will next grab Abbott’s attention. One thing is certain: whether the subject is a vampire, Holly Golightly or Norman Bates, she will study the persona in situ and in historical context until her intellectual curiosity directs her anew. ■

Anna di Giorgio, BFA 81, is a Montreal-based freelance writer.



At left, a clip from German director F.W. Murnau’s horror-film classic *Nosferatu* (1922); above, a shot from Michael Almereyda’s *Nadja* (1994).

CAPTURING THE FACE OF REBELLION

CONCORDIA MFA STUDENT AYDIN MATLABI, BFA 07, WAS ONE OF FEW WESTERN PHOTOGRAPHERS TO EMERGE WITH PHOTOS FROM IRAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE JUNE 2009 ELECTIONS.

BY LUCAS WISENTHAL

Last June, Aydin Matlabi, BFA (photography) 07, travelled to Iran to shoot photos for his Concordia MFA graduate thesis project. Matlabi sought to capture the cultural rebellion of young Iranians and figured the days surrounding the country's June 12 election would be a good time to do it.

Matlabi arrived in Mashhad, a city in northeastern Iran, one week before Iranians were set to vote. The mood was already tense. He then headed west to Tehran, the country's capital. Politically progressive Persians, Matlabi included, hoped Mir Hussein Moussavi would defeat the conservative incumbent, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whom they reviled. But on election day, despite popular support and a high voter turnout, Moussavi lost the election. And in the days that followed, reeling from the upset, throngs of Iranians took to the streets in protest.

Tehran quickly turned into "a war zone," Matlabi says. And he, with his camera, became one of only a handful of western reporters and photographers to shirk the country's media ban and document the widespread unrest.

He clearly hadn't come prepared for the task. "Of all the stupid things, I had no digital camera. I brought my mini-format Hasselblad because I was going to do an artistic project. I was going to print big," Matlabi recounts.

In spite of that technical setback, his photos, shot on a borrowed digital camera, almost immediately found their way to Reuters and other, large news agencies. "I got published everywhere," he reports.

UNLIKELY START

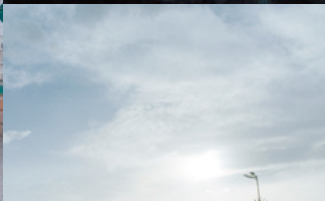
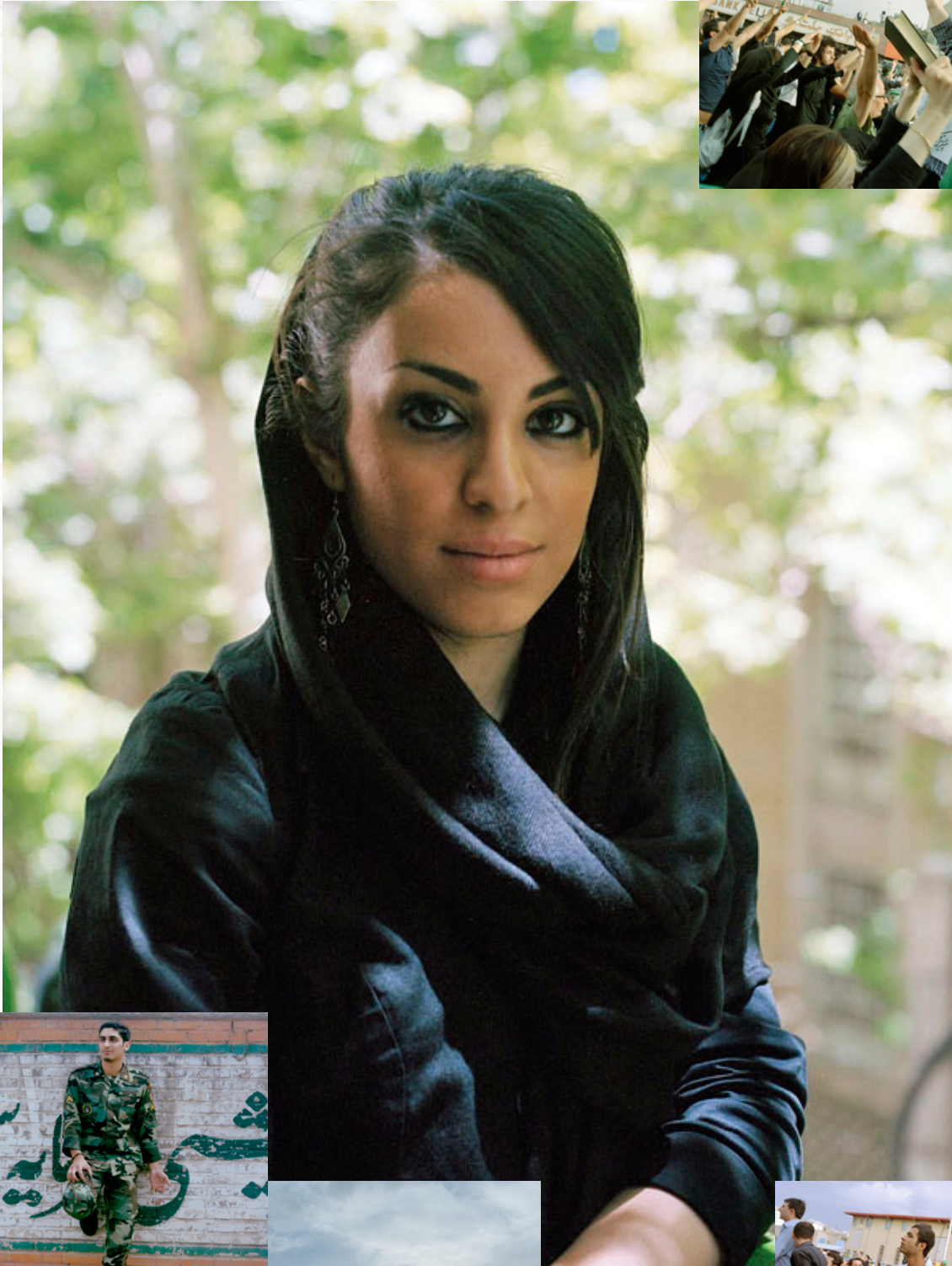
Matlabi reveals that he didn't always aspire to shoot photos. Now 27, he was born in Iran and immigrated to Montreal with his mother and brother when he was five. (His father joined them five years later.) Surrounded by friends "who grew up in bad places," he says, and who, like him, struggled to adapt to life in Canada, Matlabi coasted through school and thought he had limited potential. "I was just a little thug," he admits.

Still, he eventually enrolled at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., where he fell under the tutelage of creative arts teacher Suzanne Girard, BA 81. "She saw something in me," he says. Girard gave Matlabi a camera and film and urged him to take pictures. "I just took photograph after photograph after photograph," he says. The bulk of these pictures were portraits of his friends and people he'd see on the street. Impressed by his ethic and output, Girard helped Matlabi land his first gig in 2002 as the official photographer for Divers/Cité, Montreal's annual, gay pride celebration.

The day he was hired to chronicle the long-running festival was a turning point for another reason, too: he was accepted into Concordia's BFA in Photography program. He's been at the university ever since and is now pursuing an MFA in photography. "It's like family now—everybody here knows me," he says.

Initially, Matlabi's inclinations ran contrary to some of his professors' expectations. "When I came here, I had this extremely stubborn concept of what art was and what it shouldn't have been," he reveals. He says he aimed to mimic the artistic

Aydin Matlabi took the photographs on this and the following pages in and around Tehran, Iran, in the days following the hotly contested June 12, 2009, elections. The photos reveal the defiance and growing empowerment of the country's youth, especially young women.



sensibilities of Hungarian photojournalist Robert Capa by creating shocking, albeit aesthetically pleasing, work.

His vision changed over time. The subject matter he addressed in his work also narrowed: Matlabi became increasingly focused on capturing Iran's flourishing youth culture. Marisa Portolese, BFA 94, MFA 01, a Concordia assistant professor of Studio Arts and Matlabi's thesis advisor, says his work has grown more sophisticated. "He understands his subject. He found his subject as an artist. He found his genre and he's very good at it," Portolese says. "He really understands the human condition and he really understands how to portray people of Iranian descent, or Iranians, in his work, and talk about different ideas pertaining to their culture and to their identity."

Instead of imposing a narrative on the viewer, Matlabi leaves his photos open to interpretation. "As you go along, you realize you can create pieces that do more than shock; that create a language," he says. "When you look at them, they compel you, and you can find different narratives behind them."

HELLISH EXPERIENCE

Certain narratives, continue to fascinate Matlabi, including war. "Nobody wants war," he says. "But whenever wars are waged and the outcome is successful, our perception of them changes." In 2005 and 2007, he travelled to Afghanistan with Canadian Forces troops. Other trips have taken him to Iraq and Kordestan, a Kurdish province in northern Iran. But he says at no point did he feel as vulnerable as he did last summer in Tehran.

Matlabi describes a series of nightmarish scenarios. As Iranians marched, henchmen on motorcycles ploughed through the crowds, hitting bystanders with batons. He sustained a blow to the head—although he wasn't sure who hit him—before his cousin dragged him away. His right arm also bears a scar from when he was slashed with a knife.

While his camera made him a target, Matlabi remained undeterred. "The people there, they wanted to be seen," he insists. A soldier even agreed to pose for pictures. "My goal was to





The man wearing the mask (above), one of the demonstrations' organizers, flashes "V" signs for "victory." The organizers wore masks to protect their identities from the authorities.



mix shots of portraits and demonstrations,” he says. “So you can see this huge mass of people. But then, they’re not just a mass—they’re individuals.”

Staying out of the fray was a challenge for Matlabi. “There’s a line you never cross,” he says. “You don’t pick up a gun. You don’t get aggressive. You don’t ever cross that line because if you do, good or bad, you become

what you were there to document.” But he stood in solidarity with other Iranians and sports a green cloth on his right wrist in support of the defeated Moussavi.

After a well-connected acquaintance warned him that he was being monitored by authorities and could be jailed, Matlabi called the Canadian embassy and arranged to leave Iran.

“I was afraid to die,” he says. He later found out that one friend with whom he marched was killed and another committed suicide. He has had to get used to the idea that he’ll likely never return to Iran.

Matlabi bears the title of photojournalist reluctantly. “For journalism, you just go for the shock,” Matlabi says. Instead, he says he aims for a more subtle effect by focusing on the subject rather than the situation.

Now, Matlabi is preparing to exhibit his photographs in galleries. He waited four months before he began displaying them for fear of reprisal against his subjects. Still, Matlabi is adamant that the pictures be seen, if only to prove there was a movement afoot to change Iran. “Because if the protesters don’t win, it will be as if it never happened,” Matlabi says. “If the revolution fails, this is proof that it did happen.” ■

Lucas Wisenthal, BA (journ.) 08, is a Montreal-based freelance writer. To view more of Aydin Matlabi’s photos, visit aydinmatlabi.com.

Matlabi captured a June 18 demonstration (below). “This is the most powerful photograph in my series, I believe,” Matlabi says. “We can witness the different groups and their equality, united for one cause. Traditionally, people wear black headbands to remember martyrs. The green headbands are to signify hope.”



CONCORDIA'S CONGRESS 2010

Branché: The Concordia connection

From May 28 to June 4, Concordia will host the 2010 Congress of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The theme is "Connected Understanding/Le savoir branché." Concordia History Professor Ronald Rudin, who is the Congress's academic convenor, says that organizers have poured much effort in linking the university to the expected 10,000 delegates and the public.

Keynote speakers include Radio-Canada news anchor Céline Galipeau, writer-activist Lawrence Hill, award-winning writer Nancy Huston and lawyer and political strategist Donna Brazile. These events are open to the public as space permits. For a full listing of the Congress program, visit congress2010.ca.

THE CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Concordia will also organize several events and activities that highlight the university's creativity. Here is a short preview of events that are open to delegates and the public.

IGNITION

ellengallery.concordia.ca

May 5 to June 12

Leonard and Ellen Bina Gallery

J.W. McConnell Building, 1400

De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., ground floor

Ignition is the Ellen Gallery's annual curated exhibition of interdisciplinary work by graduating Concordia MFA Studio Arts students.

ePEARL

May 27 to June 4

John Molson School of Business

Building, 1450 Guy St., 3rd floor

Concordia's Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, along with Montreal high school students, will use the Centre's ePEARL portfolio software technology to provide a different perspective on human rights issues.

ESPACE RECHERCHE

May 27 to June 4

John Molson School of Business

Building atrium, 1450 Guy St., 3rd floor

Espace recherche will offer a cluster of non-stop exhibitions, featuring:

- Cloud Deck, a prototype of Concordia's new research web portal
- The Think Box, which will provide free, continuous programming of research-driven multimedia work by Concordia students and faculty members
- The Ticker Text Project, which will convert the stock market LED board in the building foyer into a changing collage of short ticker texts contributed by Congress participants
- Concordia design students' Research Traces, which will be displayed on the floors, walls and glass of the atrium's three levels

THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS (FOFA) GALLERY

fofagallery.concordia.ca

May 28 to June 4

Engineering, Computer Science and

Visual Arts Integrated Complex,

1515 Ste. Catherine St. W., ground floor

The FOFA Gallery will host various presentations and performances aimed at crossing the boundaries between academic research and creative practice.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

May 28

The Congress's opening day will feature a series of discussions, lectures and exchanges with experts who will tackle the mounting challenges of alleviating human rights abuses. Confirmed speakers include Céline Galipeau, journalists Agnès Gruda from *La Presse* and Jessica Leeder from *The Globe and Mail* and Iranian-French photojournalist Reza Deghati.

MONTREAL ONSCREEN/ MONTRÉAL À L'ÉCRAN

May 29 to June 3, 7:30 p.m.

J.A. De Sève Cinema

J.W. McConnell Building, LB-125,

1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.,
ground floor

The festival will screen 12, Montreal-themed films that span from 1934 to 2008.

NEXUS

Nexus will use a dedicated wireless network to allow several New Music performers—each with a belt-mounted speaker system—to play at various Congress venues, improvise and jam with the others through the network, then gather delegates and eventually band together for a performance.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STREETS

univcafe.concordia.ca

The University of the Streets Café will host several public conversations on the Connected Understanding theme across several Montreal neighbourhoods.

LIFE STORIES

Participants of this guided bus tour will travel through Montreal neighbourhoods and discover the personal stories of five, young Montreal women whose families have faced mass violence and displacement.

For more information, visit concordia.ca/congress2010.



SHINING A LIGHT ON RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS AND STUDENT SUCCESSES

Concordia's **John Molson School of Business** shows the way with sustainable business research and student competitions that advance real-world and practical experiences.

BY MAI-GEE HUM

Teaching socially responsible business

John Molson School of Business (JMSB) supporters gathered for the highly anticipated grand opening November 16, 2009, of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise at the JMSB Building. Named after Concordia Chancellor David O'Brien, L BA 62, the centre will help organizations devise holistic and sustainable strategies that focus on innovation, enterprise development and community outreach. The centre's director, Paul Shrivastava, is a world-leading expert on sustainability. Shrivastava told the inauguration attendees that humans are surrounded by three distinct but interconnected global challenges: climate change, the financial crisis and world poverty. He added that to overcome these challenges, organizations of all sizes and from all sectors will have to unite to create eco-friendly products and services and develop efficient, resource-conserving operations and logistics systems. The centre's activities will boost the JMSB's profile as an international hub for knowledge creation and the development of business practices aimed at achieving ecological, social and economic prosperity.

1 At the November 16 inauguration of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise at the JMSB Building, from left: Paul Shrivastava, director of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainability Enterprise; Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodworth; Concordia Chancellor David O'Brien; and JMSB Dean Sanjay Sharma.

Students maintain winning streak at local and national competitions

JMSB students continue to make their school proud with their outstanding performances at case competitions held across the country. At the graduate level, MBA students were crowned winners November 21, 2009, at the fifth annual TATA Cup Sustainability Case Competition hosted by the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management. Participants worked on an automotive-industry business case that made recent headlines: the severed relationship that resulted after General Motors withdrew from Magna's bid to



purchase Opel. The victory reflects the JMSB team members' extensive knowledge of sustainability issues. In fact, Opel and GM plan to review their recommendations, which are entitled "Become the Resource in Environmentally Sound Technologies."

2 The JMSB's TATA Cup Sustainability Case Competition team, from left: Michelle Nero, Shawna Rose, Ivonne Medina, Annaleigh Greene and Dan Silverman.

Undergraduate students who participated in the 2009 HR Symposium from November 20 to 21 at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières took home awards in Negotiation and Kin-Ball. The JMSB was also one of 28 undergraduate business programs from across Canada to submit a written case for the 2010 Inter-Collegiate Business Competition. Our delegation was one of six teams selected to compete in the finals from January 7 to 9 at Queen's School of Business in Kingston, Ont. The team finished with a silver in Human Resources, bronze in Business Policy and the Chairperson's Award that recognizes JMSB's outstanding team spirit.

3 At the 2009 HR Symposium November 21 at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, from left, standing: Matthew Fishman, Scott Fisher, Laurent Pham-Dang and Mitchell Robitaille with coach Aaron Dresner; in front, coach Mark Haber.



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

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for the competition, “A New Look at the Global Economy,” was a reflection of the times and competitors to consider current global financial implications as they analyzed their cases and presented their proposals.

Competition organizers: builders and leaders

The 29th John Molson MBA International Case Competition gathered 144 students from 36 universities across North America, Europe and Asia from January 4 to 9 at Montreal’s Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel. This

year’s participants were given a business case that was truly representative of the host city: on the competition’s fourth day, students were asked to develop a marketing strategy for the Montreal Canadiens hockey team. New Canadiens owner Geoff Molson and marketing director Ray Lalonde were on hand to present the case and assess students’ recommendations and proposals. After a gruelling week of analyses and presentations, the University of Calgary’s Haskayne School of Business was awarded the Concordia Cup grand prize. Defending champion University of South Carolina finished second and the Nanyang School of Business from Singapore, a first-time competitor, placed third.

This year’s event organizers, Sherin Al Safadi, Klemen Ferjan, Mirealla Mokbel and Michael Shatsky, and their team of executive assistants and volunteers, dealt with unprecedented market conditions and economic uncertainty by framing the competition with the idea that “every cloud has a silver lining.” They focused on positive opportunities, such as increases in student enrolment, the emergence of new markets and technologies and creation of novel revenue streams. Their emphasis on innovative practices paid off because the event was picked up by *La Presse*, *The Gazette*, CBC Radio, CTV and Global TV.

4 Members of the organizing team gather at the 29th annual John Molson MBA International Case Competition closing banquet January 9 at Montreal’s Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

JMSB hosts and performs at Jeux du Commerce 2010

Concordia hosted 13 teams from across eastern Canada January 8 to 10 for the 22nd edition of the Jeux du Commerce 2010 in the JMSB Building. More than 1,400 students went head to head in academic, athletic and social disciplines. The JMSB, which delivered a solid performance, returned to the podium after a two-year absence: the school tied for third place with the University of Ottawa, while the Université Laval placed first and HEC-Montréal finished second. ■

And JMSB students proved their financial and accounting savvy by bringing home the Gold at the 2010 Omnium Financier Financial Open, held from February 5 to 7 at McGill University’s Desautels Faculty of Management. Five of the seven JMSB-student teams swept to the podium for the seven academic disciplines. This was the JMSB’s third, top prize since the inter-university Financial Open began in 2006 with the goal of creating a competition for the “brightest and most sophisticated students in Finance and Accounting.” The Université Laval and HEC Montréal finished in second and third place, respectively. The theme

Engineering *better*

The General Studies Unit in Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science teaches students to become responsible, articulate and ethical professionals.

By Patrick McDonagh

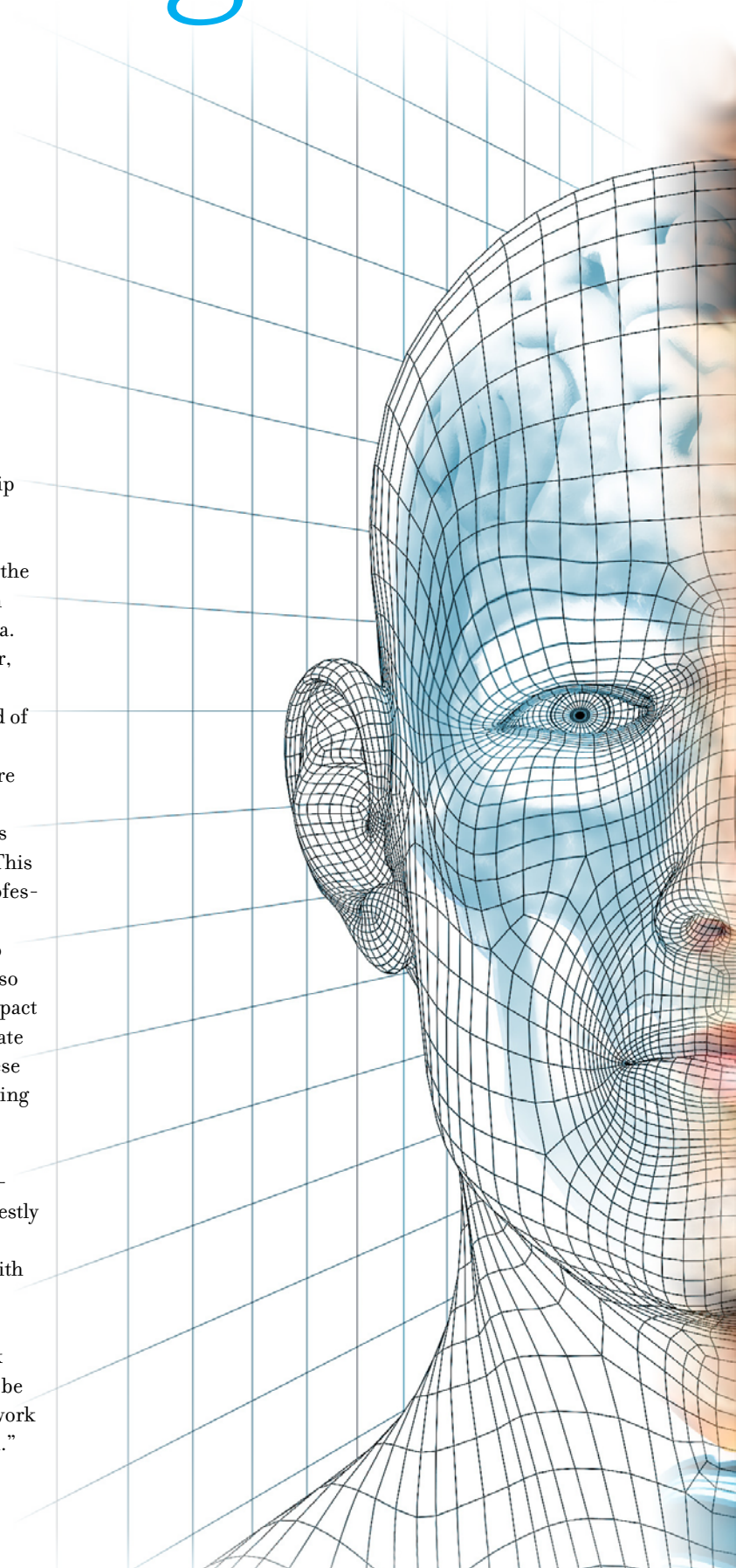
Illustration by Sébastien Gagnon

“**T**he enabler of dreams”: that’s the new image of engineers the Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum promotes. So when professionals, researchers, educators and students gathered last May in Montreal for the forum’s National Engineering Summit on the theme of “the new engineer in society,” they were intent on hammering out a fresh identity for the profession in Canada. Engineers bear a responsibility to contribute to “a healthier, cleaner, safer, more competitive and sustainable Canada,” according to the Montreal Declaration completed at the end of the summit.

To achieve this ambition, engineers must be socially aware and committed professionals who bring their expertise not only to healthcare technologies, environmental innovations and global competitiveness but also to social engagement. This includes influencing policy and supporting socially and professionally marginalized groups, such as Aboriginal peoples.

As a result, the new engineer’s professional toolkit has to contain compartments for technical skills, of course, but also for the capacity to think critically, understand the social impact of engineering and information technology and communicate ideas effectively. As the declaration points out, meeting these responsibilities will call for the transformation of engineering education and practice.

For students in Concordia’s Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, the metamorphosis is already well underway, thanks, in large part, to the work being done in the modestly named General Studies Unit (GSU). “We cannot give people technical skills without a moral compass about where to go with their knowledge,” says Deborah Dysart-Gale, the GSU’s associate chair. “We want students to be concerned with what constitutes good and bad engineering; we want them to think about what they are doing and why. So this means we need to be interested in ethics, questions of social impact and how the work of an engineer or computer scientist can make a better world.”



engineers

A stylized illustration of a man's face, likely an engineer, with a wireframe overlay on the left side. The background features a globe and a blue sky with white clouds. The word "engineers" is written in a blue, cursive font at the top left.

We cannot give people technical skills without a moral compass about where to go with their knowledge. We want students to think about what they are doing and why.

Dysart-Gale takes Aristotle's notion of "the good citizen speaking well," or the skilled rhetorician who uses his or her powers of persuasion to benefit his community, and applies it to a contemporary professional environment. "The good engineer or computer scientist is someone who understands what's at stake in his or her work and has the communication tools to achieve these objectives," she points out. "It's someone who cares to ask how the new technologies he or she is developing can be used."

Thinking ahead

Since its creation in 2004 by former Engineering and Computer Science dean Nabil Esmail, the GSU has sought new ways to have students embrace its goals. "The notions of professionalism and ethics, the social impact of technology, engineering economics, sustainability—all of these things are becoming more important," says Thiruvengadam Radhakrishnan, professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering and the GSU's

chair since 2006. Indeed, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board is also stressing the importance of non-technical skills for an engineering education. While writing courses have long been a mandatory part of the national engineering curriculum and generations of engineering and computer science undergraduates have had to take the faculty's Professional Communication course, there is an increasing focus on these classes and subjects are being added to the mix. The GSU offers courses in professional communication and computer programming fundamentals, as well as those addressing the list of concerns identified by Radhakrishnan, including economics, sustainability, social impact of engineering and information technologies, and ethics.

While these areas are often designated "soft skills," they're also resilient. "I take my students back to the Greek words *episteme*, or knowledge, and *techne*, an embodied way of doing and knowing," says Jessica Mudry, a specialist in rhetoric and the social impact of

of their field but cannot communicate them. The ability to do both seems extremely rare," Mourez laments. "But if you look at any position being advertised today, you'll see that strong communication skills are critical." Like all students, Mourez completed the mandatory professional communication course, which he says, prompted him to take the subsequent elective course on Innovation and Critical Thinking by the same professor, Rob Danisch. "He's a fantastic teacher!" Mourez enthuses.

While professors are getting good reviews from students, the praise is reciprocated. "The great thing about engineering students, which people don't always realize, is that they're really smart and will do the work. You can keep setting the bar higher and they will keep reaching it," says Mudry, who includes philosophers from Aristotle to Karl Marx on her reading lists. Meanwhile, Danisch's Innovation and Critical Thinking course draws on interdisciplinary research from history, psychology and sociology, as well as science and technology. "We're not reticent about presenting our students with the big names and the big ideas. They rise to the challenge," Mudry says. "Consequently we've developed a truly robust program; these courses have teeth."

Actionable theories

GSU courses present challenges that simulate those found in their professions. Issues of social impact, sustainability and effective communication come into play whenever engineers and computer scientists develop new technologies or introduce existing ones to new environments.

For example, last summer, Dysart-Gale travelled to the Caribbean island of St. Kitts with one of Radhakrishnan's graduate students, who was there to design a database for a local, social-service agency that kept paper-based records only. However, social-service staff refused to collaborate with the student for fear that automating these records would undermine their relationships with clients.

In an unrelated project, Dysart-Gale held a writing seminar for the

In 10 years, software engineering books will be obsolete. But the ability to craft a good argument or think critically will always be useful.

technology who was also the first GSU faculty member hired in 2004. "For many students, their GSU classes will be the only ones that do not become obsolete over their careers. In 10 years, software engineering books will be obsolete; knowledge in this field will keep moving along. But the ability to craft a good argument or think critically about an issue—that skill will always be useful," Mudry points out.

Mathieu Mourez agrees. Returning to school to complete a degree in computer science after a dozen years in the workforce has given Mourez a clear sense of the value of effective communications and critical thinking skills. "I've found that many people may have a good technical understanding of the principles



social-service workers about how to create a proposal to improve food services for the elderly.

"After some discussion, the social-service workers lit upon the notion that because some people with diabetes have a poor diet, they end up in hospital, which then costs money," Dysart-Gale recounts. "But to prove this, they would need to assess the cost of patients hospitalized for diabetes and they were discouraged by the immensity of the task of going through paper files to collect the necessary information," she reveals. "Of course, you don't have to do this if you have a database! So one of them jumped up, ran down the hall, grabbed the graduate student and demanded, 'Why didn't you tell us your database could do these things?' They needed a clear sense of how the technology would be useful to them—not simply imposed upon them."

This example brings home a common yet oft-overlooked point: without relevant frameworks and contexts, people cannot use technology. These concerns are influencing new research carried out by GSU faculty members. For instance, one of Radhakrishnan's projects deals with working with farmers and fishermen in India to determine how they can take advantage of inexpensive, accessible cell-phone technology to help improve their livelihoods. While this versatile technology can provide information on everything from weather patterns to market prices for crops, it also assumes the end user is technically savvy. "We have always considered our audience to



General Studies Unit professor Deborah Dysart-Gale (above left) explains the Engineering and Computer Science's database and its practices to a social worker in the St. Kitts capital city of Basseterre in September 2009.

be literate, highly skilled, technically sound people but what happens if we relax these criteria?" asks Radhakrishnan. "Adapting this technology for semi-literate societies poses fascinating new challenges. And these questions of development and communication, including sensitivity to culture, are attractive to graduate students. So we're developing graduate courses that focus on engineering and technology for global development. That's our next plan."

It's an ambitious plan to be sure. But if engineers and computer scientists are ever to become the enablers of dreams

envisioned by the Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum, they will have to pay more attention to the issues taught by the GSU so they can become intrigued by the social and intellectual challenges—as well as the technical ones—that confront them. And the "new engineer" described in the Montreal Declaration will come into being. ■

For more information, visit encs.concordia.ca/gsu.php.

—Patrick McDonagh, PhD '98, is a Montreal-based freelance writer.

Teaching by tablet

Communication starts in the classroom, as Nancy Acemian, MSc 92, knows firsthand. Acemian, who has taught introductory computer courses for both the GSU and Computer Science, has transformed her job—conveying complex ideas to fresh young undergraduates—into her doctoral research in Educational Technology at Concordia. This research-in-action approach has proven to be such a hit with students that Acemian won the 2008-09 Engineering and Computer Science Teaching Excellence Award. "I believe in blended learning, where you have classroom contact with students but you also create a site for them to access on their own," explains Acemian, who teaches while using a PowerPoint run on a tablet PC (a mobile computer equipped with a stylus pen).

She gives students advanced access to her PowerPoint slides, which include questions but no answers. In the classroom, she writes directly on the projected slides. Meanwhile, students can add their own notes and answers to their versions of the slides. She also videotapes her lectures, synchs the video with the material recorded on the tablet (including text, animation and audio) and packages it so students can revisit lectures in their entirety and at their convenience. "The biggest pleasure for me is seeing the light going on when someone grasps a concept," she says. "But you have to be mindful and care about whether they 'get it.' That's why I use the tablet because I never have my back to the students and I keep eye contact. I can gauge if they are understanding."



1 President's Circle

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE COCKTAIL RECEPTION TIES GENEROSITY WITH MODEL CITIZENS

Concordia paid tribute to its major benefactors December 2 during the President's Circle cocktail reception at Concordia's Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. The evening's theme was on the role of the volunteer, from students who volunteer their time and skills to alumni and friends who support Concordia through numerous philanthropic initiatives. President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth thanked the 100-plus patrons for their encouragement and financial support while emphasizing Concordia's commitment to teaching students to become responsible citizens. MBA student **Kate Low** (pictured with **Dave McKenzie**, GrDip 93, MA 03, coordinator of the MBA Community Service Initiative at the John Molson School of Business **1**) was among the guest speakers. Low said her semester-long internship last fall at the Black Community Resource Centre in Montreal's Côte-des-Neiges district taught her a great deal about human nature. Low helped improve relations

between Montreal police and young people by implementing a "positive tickets" pilot program in which the officers rewarded youths for their law-abiding behaviours. "I have been immersed in a community that I otherwise would never have come into contact with," Low said. "My textbook learning is great but this was more fulfilling."



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

2 International Students

10TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOLIDAY PARTY

More than 250 students from about 50 countries gathered December 23 at the Nouvel Hôtel and Spa in downtown Montreal for Concordia's annual International Students Holiday Party. The dinner, co-hosted by the Concordia University Alumni Association and Advancement and Alumni Relations Office, included a hot buffet of international cuisines followed by two, crowd-pleasing decennial celebration cakes. As Concordia's Provost and Vice-President David Graham pointed out at the event, the university's 4,400 international students make up 11 percent of the student body. Pictured at the event are (seated, from left): **Peter Kruyt**, Chair of Concordia's Board of Governors, **Arndell Leblanc**, **Kathy Assayag**, Concordia Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Relations, and **Emélie Elkrief**; and (standing, from left) **Heather Lucas**, **Ven Virahsammy**, **Nicole Saltiel**, director of operations, Advancement and Alumni Relations, **Rafael Insignares** and **Michelle Su**. **2**

STINGERS HOLIDAY SKATING PARTY

On December 12 at Loyola Campus's Ed Meagher Arena, more than 200 Concordia alumni, friends and family



3 TESL Reunion



4 Engineering & Computer Science

members laced on the blades for an afternoon on the ice with Stingers mascot Buzz, the Stingers women's and men's hockey teams and special guest skater Santa Claus. Participants were treated to hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of the Concordia University Alumni Association and the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office.

TESL CENTRE 35TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

More than 150 alumni, students and faculty members celebrated the 35th anniversary of Concordia's Teaching English as Second Language (TESL) Centre on November 22 at Montreal's Montefiore Club. In addition to participating in panel discussions, attendees were also guided through the early years of TESL in Quebec and Canada by Professor Emerita Gwen Newsham, learned how the Centre's teaching methods and research programs have evolved from Distinguished Professor Emerita Patsy Lightbown and about the latest developments in TESL from current faculty members. Four teachers and students were invited to speak, with Caroline Deveau recounting her hectic but rewarding time in Taiwan and Anna Marcewska describing her life-changing experiences in war-torn Uganda. Pictured are (from left) **Marlene Gross**, MA 87 (app. ling.), coordinator of New Student Programs for Concordia Counselling and Development, **Patsy Lightbown** and **Mary Jo Martens**, MA 88 (app. ling.). **3**



5 Geography Reunion

ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

Alumni and book enthusiasts gathered December 3 at Concordia's Hall Building for the Alumni Book Club to discuss Lloyd Jones's *Mister Pip*, winner of the 2007 Commonwealth Writer's Prize. Led by Professor Stephanie King, MA (Eng.) 01, participants discussed how the novel (set in Bougainville in the South Pacific during the civil war in the early 1990s) recreated the beauty and magic of a child's imagination, even in the wake of terrible violence.

CONCORDIA GOES WEST

On November 15, more than 50 Concordia alumni, friends and families enjoyed a Sunday morning of fun at Concordia Goes West: Family Outing at ZigZagZoo in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Que. The children (and some adults) climbed walls, slipped down slides, traversed mazes and played

games—and some got in on the fun with Zipper and Sharp, the energetic ZigZagZoo animators!

ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE CHAPTER

Guest speaker Murray Kronick, BCS 78, MSc 83, shared his "10 Commandments of Networking" with more than 60 enthusiastic Engineering and Computer Science alumni and students at a Networking Skills Workshop on January 27. The workshop, aimed at refining business, academic and personal interactions, involved practical role-playing that introduced networking debutants to the fundamentals and helped seasoned veterans hone their skills. Pictured are (from left) **Veronique Tokatelloff**, MEng 05, **Ali Boroumandian**, BCS 08, **Khaled Murywed**, MEng 08, **Murray Kronick**, **Imran Khan**, BEng 05, and **Meera Patel**, BEng 05. **4**



CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION 30TH REUNION

On February 6, about 30 Concordia Student Union (CSU) executives joined the current CSU team to celebrate 30 years of service to Concordia students at the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. Guests also contributed memories and stories to create a commemorative booklet that recounts not only tales of their student-leader days but also how those CSU experiences shaped their lives.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY REUNION

Chris Klink, BA 80, helped organize of the Department of Geography reunion November 14 in Montreal. Klink reports on the event: "There were 18 graduates from the classes of 1978 to 1982—plus eight spouses and partners—who gathered at Il Fornarina Restaurant in Little Italy. We had alumni from Montreal, Ottawa, Whitby and Oshawa, Ont., Vancouver, B.C., and Boston, Mass. We organized the reunion in only a month and, before we knew it, we were hugging and kissing and reminiscing and laughing. We were quite the bunch back then. We're already thinking about our next reunion and we're looking to gather others for an even larger event. For those interested, please send me an email at Christopher.Klink@DGNA.com."



Pictured at the event are (standing, from left to right): **Gerry Deschenes**, BA 82, **Roberta Deschenes**, BA 82, **Wendy Pingree**, BA 82, **Karen Wylie**, BA 82, **Donna Cornax**, BA 79, **Deborah Lalumiere**, BA 87, **Ross Bayus**, BA 79, **Ken Santlal**, BA 79, **Blair Moffat**, BA 78, **Lou Chapman**, BA 79, **Chris Adam**, BA 78, **Karen Sciortino**, BA 79, BFA 93, and **Tony Napoli**, BA 78; and (seated, from bottom to top) **Ed Alionis**, BA 79, **Chris Klink**, BA 80, and **Yvonne Gregory**, BA 82. **Carolina Caruso**, BA 81, GrDip (DIA) 85, **Paula Kestleman**, BA 79, are not in the photo and **Enrico Rajah**, BA 79, called from Trinidad and Tobago.

CHAPTERS Vancouver

On Grey Cup Sunday, November 29, 2009, 12 Vancouver alumni celebrated the start of the holiday season at Original Joe's Restaurant and Bar in classic Canadian fashion: with an afternoon of football and networking. They were rewarded with an exciting, last-second victory for the Montreal Alouettes over the Saskatchewan Roughriders, in addition to fine comestibles and conversation.

Rugby-loving Vancouver alumni gathered November 6-8, 2009, at Thunderbird Stadium to cheer the Concordia Stingers women's rugby team

to their fourth-place finish over three, rain-soaked, muddy days of competition at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Women's Rugby Championship.

Calgary

On January 13, 26 Calgary Chapter members attended "Star Trek: The Music," a highly entertaining performance by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO). The event involved much more than the CPO performing the themes from the *Star Trek* television shows and movies. It was led by actors Robert Picardo (the Doctor) and John de Lancie (Q), who offered tongue-in-cheek commentaries of Star Trek throughout the ages. The CPO performance was preceded by a cocktail reception during which alumni were fed and quenched. This was the Chapter's second CPO event and displays the range of Calgary alumni's tastes (based on previous successful events): savouring wine, quaffing beer and attending football games.

Toronto

On January 20, 42 alumni and their guests were treated to an evening of compelling drama at the Tarragon Theatre's remount of Hannah Moscovitch's critically acclaimed play, *East of Berlin*. The spellbinding, thought-provoking performance received an enthusiastic response. Before the event, attendees enjoyed wine and cheese as Tarragon's artistic director, Richard Rose, described the artistic evolution of the play and Tarragon's role as a major creative force in Canadian theatre. This was the fourth theatre event organized by the Toronto Chapter and more are in the works. Pictured at the event are (from left to right): **Monique Hutchins**, BComm 00, Toronto Chapter executive member; **Ingrid Van Weert**, BA 83, Toronto Chapter executive member; **Nicole Saltiel**, director of operations, Advancement and Alumni Relations; **Florence Yaffe**, S BA 61, **Andrew Lamb**, director of Education and Outreach, Tarragon Theatre; **Richard Rose**, **Anil Chitnis**, BA 91, Toronto Chapter executive member; **Lina Uberti**, alumni officer, Geographic Chapters, Alumni

Relations, **Wendy Furtenbacher**, BFA 97, Toronto Chapter executive member; **James Goodman**, BA 03, Toronto Chapter executive member; and **Andreea Floricel**, BA 05, Toronto Chapter executive member. **6**

Ottawa

The Ottawa Senators were spurred forth by 15 Ottawa Chapter members on January 26, to help them post a 3-0 victory over the New Jersey Devils. The alumni cheered on their team from the Ledge Carvery and Bar, where they enjoyed a light meal and took advantage of one of ScotiaBank Place's best views of the ice. Pictured are **Brenna Dubé**, BComm 93, wife of Ottawa Chapter Second VP **Martin Dubé**, BComm 96, MBA 05, and their sons **James** (at left, in the Senators' sweater) and **Ryan** (who, his dad admits, "is unfortunately a Habs fan"). **7**

Upcoming events

Watch for your invitation to these upcoming events or visit alumni.concordia.ca

Register online at alumni.concordia.ca/register, or call 514-848-2424, ext. 4397, toll free: 1-888-777-3330

Montreal

CASA's 25th Anniversary

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

6 p.m.-8 p.m.

John Molson School of Business building, MB-6.101

1450 Guy St., 6th floor

Celebrate the Commerce Administration Students' Association (CASA) 25th anniversary at a reunion cocktail reception.

Cost: \$25 | Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served

RSVP by March 30, 2010

Information: Michelle.Groster@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 4978

Garnet Key Society Annual Save the Date

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Reconnect with former members of the Garnet Key Society and induct the 53rd Key.

By invitation only

Information: Valerie.Roseman@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 5647

School of Community and Public Affairs 30th anniversary reunion dinner

Saturday, June 12, 2010

Le Lion d'Or

1676 Ontario St. E.

Celebrate the School of Community and Public Affairs' 30th anniversary with master of ceremonies

John Moore, BA 88

Information: Derek.Linetsky@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 5629

Rock to the oldies with Concordia Alumni

Saturday, April 17, 2010

7 p.m.

Karina's Club Lounge

1455 Crescent St.

(upstairs from

Winnie's)

Cost: \$20

RSVP by

April 14, 2010

Phone: 514-848-2424,

ext. 4397

Online: alumni.concordia.ca/register

Information: Jennifer.Cottin@concordia.ca



Toronto

Meet Concordia University's President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Manulife Headquarters,

200 Bloor St. E.

Complimentary for you and one guest

Information: Lina.Uberti@concordia.ca

Please note: Registration is mandatory.

We cannot accommodate walk-in guests due to security reasons.

Ottawa

Meet Concordia University's President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Minto Place, 185 Lyon St. N.

Information: Lina.Uberti@concordia.ca

JOB SHADOWING

The Concordia University Alumni Association and the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office announce the launch of **Job Shadowing**, a career-exploration pilot project that aims to engage students, alumni, parents and friends of Concordia. The Job Shadowing program, an extension of the Concordia Mentor Program, creates opportunities for students to shadow a professional in their chosen career field.

If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Rose.Wangechi@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 7377.



NOTICE

is hereby given that the Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University will hold its

73rd Annual General Meeting Monday, May 10, 2010

Alumni and the general public are welcome to attend the meeting, held for the purpose of receiving reports and the election of the 2010-11 board of directors and executive. The meeting will be followed by a cocktail reception.

Le Nouvel Hotel
1740 René-Lévesque Blvd. W., Montreal

RSVP by May 5, 2009

Online: alumni.concordia.ca/register
Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397

Information: Jennifer.Cottin@concordia.ca or
514-848-2424, ext. 3882

Concordia University Alumni Association Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet

Recipients of the 2010 Awards:

Alumnus/a of the Year

Denis Kefallinos, BEng 91

Humberto Santos Award of Merit

Brian Gallery, L BA 57

Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award

Rod Rousseau, L BComm 53

Honorary Life Membership

Aaron Fish

Outstanding Student Award

Amine Dabchy

Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

Donald Boisvert, BA 75, MA 79

MBA Alumnus/a of the Year Award

Christena Keon Sirsly, S MBA 73

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award

Lina Uberti

With a special tribute to Leonard and Bina Ellen for their contributions to Concordia University

Monday, May 17, 2010

Hyatt Regency Montreal,
1255 Jeanne-Mance St., Montreal

Tickets: \$70 per person

RSVP by May 10, 2010

Online: alumni.concordia.ca/register

Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397

Information: alumnievents@concordia.ca

Call for Class Reunion Champions: President's Reunion Brunch 2010!

Graduates from the classes of pre-1960, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 are invited to celebrate their graduation anniversaries at the President's Reunion Brunch this year.

If you would like to volunteer as a Class Champion for your reunion class, please contact Erin Mullins, Associate Alumni Officer, Homecoming & Reunions, at Erin.Mullins@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 3881. Help us bring your former classmates together in order to celebrate this momentous event.



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HOMECOMING

SAVE THE DATE! September 23 to October 3

Take part in these fun and exciting events and activities:

- ▶ Homecoming Football Game
 - ▶ Family Fair Day
 - ▶ President's Reunion Brunch and Campus Tours
 - ▶ AbitibiBowater Lecture
 - ▶ Shuffle 21
 - ▶ Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Banquet
 - ▶ Mentor Program Speed-Networking & Cocktail Reception
 - ▶ Communication Studies 45th Anniversary Reunion
 - ▶ Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Reunion
 - ▶ Boston-New England Chapter Smoked Meat Night
 - ▶ Tri-State Chapter Canadian Universities Alumni Reception
- ... and much more!

For more information, contact Valerie Roseman, Alumni Officer, Affinity Chapters, at valerie.roseman@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 5647.

homecoming.concordia.ca



Some graduates in this listing have received more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George Williams and/or Loyola. These people are listed under their earliest year of graduation.

54 Hugh McQueen, L BEng, is a Concordia Professor Emeritus of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. Hugh has been lecturing on the fascinating history of the Victoria Bridge, which links Montreal to the south shore, in honour of its 150th anniversary.

He delivered well-attended lectures at the West Island Historical Society in Baie d'Urfé, Que., McGill University and the CanMet lab at the National Resources Canada offices in Ottawa, Ont., and was interviewed on CBC Radio. mcqueen@encs.concordia.ca

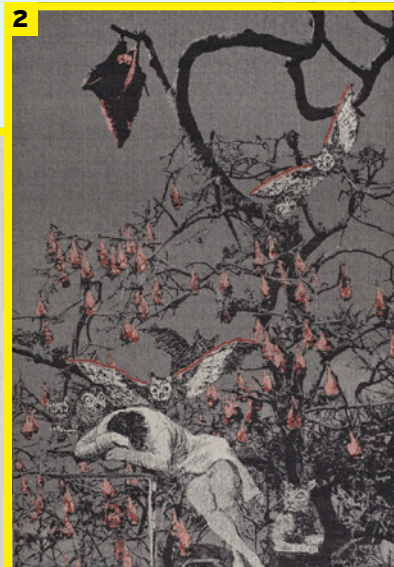
71 Karl Shelderup, L BComm, writes, "I'm married and living in Brampton, Ont., with our four daughters. I work in the food manufacturing business

as VP Sales for Whyte's Food Corporation. If you knew me at Loyola, please write to kshelderup@whytes.ca."

76 Linda Heslegrave, BA (hist.), and Dan McCaughey, BA (hist.), are the founders of STAGE Toronto Theatre, a new theatre company in Toronto, Ont. After graduating from Concordia,

Linda and Dan moved to Hamilton, Ont., where they earned MAs in History from McMaster University, and then to Toronto, where they entered the work force. Their recent retirement from full-time employment (Linda in non-profit and government sectors and Dan in the corporate world) has afforded them more time to become involved in this new venture. STAGE will present challenging plays from the world repertoire. Its first, 2010-season production will be *Duet for One* in May by Tom Kempinski at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre. Visit the STAGE Toronto Theatre Facebook page.

77 Dan Rochon, BComm, was recently named senior manager, Technical Accounting, in the Finance Department of ATCO Power in Calgary, Alta. Dan is a chartered



1 > Marion Wagschal, S BA 65, held an exhibition of her drawings called "Private Views" from January 5 to February 5 at Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts (FOFA) Gallery. Marion is a Montreal-based artist and former professor of Painting and Drawing in the Faculty of Fine Arts. 1) *Flintstones Fred*

2 > Julianna Joos, BA (art hist.) 75, held an exhibition of her multimedia work titled "Approivoiser sa frayer" from December 5, 2009, to January 24, 2010, at the Maison de la culture de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in Montreal. Julianna teaches printmaking, drawing and computer arts in the Fine Arts Department at Montreal's Dawson College. 2) *Les rêves de la raison*

3 > Jackie Rae Wloski (Solomon), S BA (graphics) 71, participated in a group exhibition presented by the Women's Art Society of Montreal from March 20 to 24 at Ogilvy's in Montreal. Jackie is a Montreal-based artist. 3) *Mailbox Numbers #4*

4 > Rochelle Mayer, BComm 83, is holding a solo exhibition of her mixed media work called "Dans le métro" from February 18 to April 9 at Centre Communautaire Elgar on Nun's Island, Que. Rochelle is pursuing a BFA in Studio Arts at Concordia. She posts a blog about her art-related activities at rochellemayer.blogspot.com. 4) *Terminus Angrignon, tout le monde débarque*

accountant and is the immediate past president of the Concordia University Alumni Association's Calgary Chapter.

83 Preet Kang, BComm (acct.), lives in Caledon, Ont. Preet has been the community representative for the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board of the Regional Council of Peel, Ont., for the past six years. She also serves as chair of the Caledon Public Library Board, is a member of the William Osler Health System Community Advisory Council and the Wellspring Chinguacousy Program Advisory Committee, and an appointed member by the Town of Caledon of the Mayfield West Stakeholder Advisory Group. Preet is actively involved with the Sikh community, volunteers at a local elementary and high schools and fundraises for and speaks at events involving youth and women's issues.

89 Dickson Jay, BEng, also holds an MBA from McGill University. Dickson is president and general manager of Global Interactive Inc. in Montreal and a part-time management professor at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). He coached the JMSB team at the 2010 John Molson International Case Competition, which was held January 4 to 9 at Concordia and brought together 36 teams

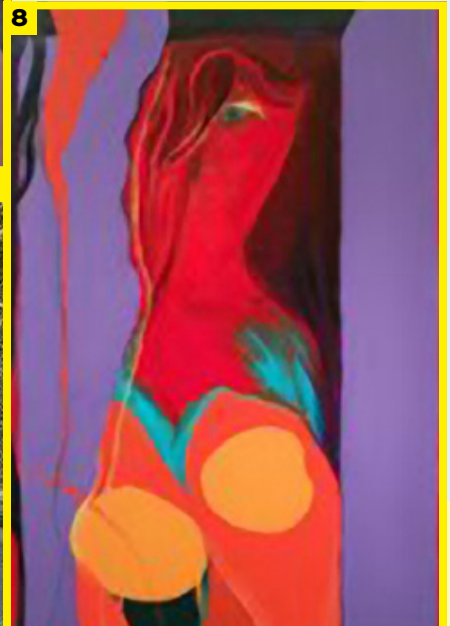
from the world's finest MBA programs. The Haskayne School of Business from the University of Calgary won the competition.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, BSc (chem.), is a Montreal-based artist. Rafael designed the large-scale, public art installation that transformed the sky over Vancouver for the Winter Olympics. "Vectorial Elevation" was an interactive artwork that allowed

participants to design huge light sculptures by directing 20 robotic searchlights located around English Bay.

20TH REUNION

90 Tiyani Behanzin (formerly Robert Douglas), BA (poli. sci.), is a magistrate on the Caribbean island nation of Dominica. In December 2009, Tiyani was chosen as Dominica News Online's Personality of the Year. He is the son of Dominica's former prime minister, the late Roosevelt Douglas. Tiyani holds a master's degree in International Law from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom and was called to the bar in England and Wales in 2006.



5 > Erik Slutsky, BFA 86, is participating in a group exhibition from March 16 to April 12 at the Galerie Dentaire in Montreal. The show will be followed by an auction to raise funds for Project Hope, a Montreal-based, volunteer organization that provides services to people living with HIV/AIDS. *5) Love, Not Love?*

6 > Charmian Gibson Silver, BFA (studio arts) 98, took part in a special fundraising exhibition called "Art to the Rescue" from November 5 to 10, 2009, at Galerie Ouest in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que. Half the funds from the exhibition's sales were donated to two local, animal adoption agencies, Rosie Animal Adoption and Animatch. *6) Can I have a cookie please?*

7 > Victoria Stanton, BFA (inter-related arts) 95, CERT (TESL) 06, held a solo exhibition of her photos from performances called "(Being) One Thing at a Time/(Être) une chose à la fois" from January 21 to March 1 at the Galerie de Compagnie F (Corrid'Art Sylviane Poirier) in Montreal. Victoria is a Montreal-based artist, performer, videographer and writer. Victoria took her photos in collaboration with SB Edwards. *7) We insist a place on a public time and territory. We invite you to join us.*

8 > Laurie Kader, BFA (studio art) 03, MFA (art ed.) 07, held a solo exhibition of her paintings titled "Laurie Kader" from February 9 to 26 at the Galerie Goya in Montreal. Laurie's work deals with the human body and effects of physical pain on the spirit and soul. She is a Montreal-based artist. lauriekader.com *8) Re-birth*

Peter Crossgrove, S BComm 61, received the Order of Ontario, the province's highest honour, on January 25. Peter was chairman of Masonite International Corporation, a door manufacturing company. He is also chairman of the Board of Excellon Resources Inc., a mineral resource company, and a director of several other companies.

He holds an MBA from the University of Western Ontario in London. Peter is a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal and a Member of the Order of Canada.



Lawrence Bloomberg, S BComm (econ.) 63, received the Order of Ontario, the province's highest honour, on January 25. Lawrence is a director of and advisor to the National Bank of Canada. He was formerly co-chairman and co-CEO of its subsidiary, National Bank Financial. He is also president of the Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg Foundation.



Richard Pound, S BA 63, was awarded a docteur honoris causa by the Université du Québec at a ceremony January 27 at the Museum of Civilization in Quebec. Richard was a member of the Organizing Committee for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. He is a long-time member of the International Olympic Committee and has been chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency since 1999. Richard is a senior partner with the Montreal law firm, Stikeman Elliott LLP.



CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Adrian Wills, BFA (film prod.) 00, a Montreal-based film director, won a Grammy Award at the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards on January 31 in Los Angeles, Calif. Adrian won for Best Long-Form Music Video, for "The Beatles LOVE – All Together Now." He shared the honour with Montreal producer Martin Bolduc and Jonathan Clyde of Apple Corps Ltd. Adrian's video was a making-of documentary of the Cirque du Soleil's Beatles tribute show, LOVE, which opened in 2006 at the Mirage Resort in Las Vegas, Nev. He is now working on a film documenting Cirque du Soleil owner Guy Laliberté's recent voyage into space. ■



Tony Ciorra, BComm 86, carried the Olympic Torch on November 30, 2009 in Mont Joli, Que., in the relay leading up to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. Tony also participated in the torch relay for the Calgary 1988 Winter Olympics. "Carrying the torch is very special for me and my family. As the Olympics bring together people from all over the globe, I remember that same feeling going to Concordia as students from all over the world came together."

10TH REUNION

00 Michael Armitage, BA (creative writing), lives in Toronto. "I am the producer of CBC's number one show, *Dragons' Den*. I helped develop and build the show since its inception four years ago."

Ken MacKenzie, BFA (theatre perf.), is a member of Soulpepper Academy, an artist-training program run by the Soulpepper Theatre Company in Toronto, Ont. Ken is the set designer for Soulpepper's production of *Oh What a Lovely War*, which runs from March 11 to April 10 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto. The show marks Ken's design debut with Soulpepper.

02 Michele Brunt Martel, BA (app. hum. sci. & theol.), lives in Knowlton, Que. "After graduating from Concordia, I sold my home in St. Bruno, Que., to pursue a lifelong dream of living in Quebec's Eastern Townships.

I built a home in Knowlton and am enjoying the country life immensely. My degree in Applied Human Sciences has served me well in my new profession as a life coach." michele.martel@axion.ca

04 Nina Dubois, BFA (studio art), lives in Montreal. "Before graduating, I participated in the exchange program available between Concordia University and the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, attending the Art Studio program for a year. I returned to UNM in 2004 to participate in the Land Arts program. The experience propelled my work toward a more direct relationship to the environmental forces I encountered. In 2009, I collaborated with Jeanette Hart-Mann on a project, 'Culture Digest(e)', that integrated our respective experiences in farming and building. 'Culture Digest(e)' was installed last summer on the main plaza of the UNM campus and represents my first attempt to engage

and embody in a sculptural installation the systemic understanding of a complex natural dynamic, in this case the composting cycle that powers the transformation of organic waste into soil for supporting comestible plant growth.”

5TH REUNION

05 Nevila Vejuka Koxhaxhiku, BComm (acct.), received the Excellence Award in November 2009 from the Ordre des comptables généraux accrédités (CGA) du Québec for her exceptional performance on the 2009 CGA exams.

06 Samuel (Sach) Baylin-Stern, BA (psych.) 06, is a Montreal-based video producer at Antler/Jet Films. Sach was nominated for a 2009 Grammy Award in the category of Best Short Form Music Video for the “Mr. Hurricane” video by the Montreal-based band, Beast.

08 Diane Leblanc, Cert (arts & sci.), lives in Montreal. “I recently published my first book, *Parler pour agir* (Les Éditions Quebecor), which is about commitment and effective communication. I am now working on my next book, *Le Capitaliste à son meilleur*, to be published next fall.”



On December 6, 2009, a Canadian commemorative service was held at the Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery (site of a battle in which Canadians lost their lives during the Second World War) in Hong Kong. More than 500 people attended the service, including Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and many Canadian and Hong Kong senior officials. Concordia, the only Canadian university to be invited, was represented by **William Yip**, S BA 67, LLD 98 (pictured, centre), president of the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation, who laid the wreath for the young Canadian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the war. The Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation provides scholarships to Concordia students from Hong Kong and mainland China.

09 Megan Putnam, BEng (optional civil infrastr.), set off to Ghana last November on a year-long term with Engineers Without Borders. Megan is working with the Ghanaian Ministry

of Food and Agriculture in the Bawku West district. “Through the work terms I did as part of the co-op program at Concordia, I realized I wanted to be making more of a difference in the world.” ■



Murray Kronick, BCSc 78, MCSc 83, and his wife, **Judy**, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania in January in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Murray is president of the Concordia University Alumni Association’s Ottawa Chapter and is a principal in Business Transformation for Ottawa-based Interis Consulting Inc.

Keep in Touch

New job? Just moved? Just married? Or just want to let your former classmates know what you’ve been up to? Visit

alumni.concordia.ca/keepintouch

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

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

By email: alumni@alcor.concordia.ca Subject: Class Acts

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

Join the the Concordia University Alumni association LinkedIn group at alumni.concordia.ca/benefits/olc.



Pierre Bellemare, BA 89 (psych.), is director of Gynad.com: Human Advertising, a Montreal-based, media agency. "Established in 2009, our avant-garde advertising approach uses a walking, talking, smiling, interactive billboard. [See photo above.] Unlike car advertising, a human ad is environmentally friendly as well as humanly friendly! The Psychology program at Concordia served me well in understanding human behaviour, individually and collectively."



The Concordia Alumni Association presented a special Concordia t-shirt to Laura Ziton, BComm 03, for her newborn son, Dax (born December 16, 2009). Laura is an executive member of the association's Boston Chapter. She sent a note and photo of **Dax Ziton** sporting the t-shirt (pictured above). "Thank you so much for the thoughtful baby gift! We have already started Dax's college fund for Concordia. We look forward to introducing you our Class of 2032 grad."

Theodore Lande, S BComm 39, LLD 85, died on January 5 in Montreal. Theodore is survived by his wife, Irene, and his children, Richard and Robert. He was 94.

Maj. Paul Joseph Carten, L BA 42, died on November 10, 2009, in Vancouver, B.C. Paul is survived by his wife, Janet, and his children, Michael, John, Angus, Thomas, Ronald and Peter. He was 88.

François Mercier, L BA 42, died on February 4 in Montreal. François is survived by his wife, Lucile Rouleau, and his children, Geneviève, Jean-François and Hélène.

Archie Crystal, S BSc 43, died on February 4 in Montreal. Archie is survived by his sister, Helen Kossy.

Glenn Lorne Wood, S BA 45, died on January 8 in Peterborough, Ont. Glenn is survived by his wife, Wendy (Cleugh), and his sons, Scott, Dean and Kent.

Edward Michael Marszalek, S BSc 48, died on January 2 in Burlington, Ont. Edward is survived by his daughters, Halina, Linda and Sandra. He was 85.

Paul Joseph O'Neill, L BA 50, died on December 24, 2009, in Montreal. Paul is survived by his son, Timothy. He was 82.

Bruce Dephoure, S BSc 52, died on November 23, 2009, in Burlington, Ont. Bruce is survived by his wife, Eleonore, and his sons, Gary and Wayne. He was 79.

Aubrey James (Jim) Goodwin, S BSc 52, S BA 59, died on January 30 in Montreal. Jim is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and his sons, Jim and Bill.

William Harold Reynolds, L BA 52, died on November 25, 2009, in Dorval, Que. William is survived by his wife, June Ibberson, and his son, Andy. He was 79.

Robert Keyserlingk, L BA 53, died on December 8, 2009, in Ottawa, Ont. Robert is survived by his wife, Michaela, and his children, Andrea, Tom, Alex and Martin.

Joseph Rodolphe Rousseau, L BComm (acct.) 53, died on January 7 in Montreal. Rod is survived by his wife, Monique Bachand, and his children, Joanne, Jacques, Lisanne and Pierre. He was 78.

Seymour Machlovitch, S BA 54, died on January 21 in Hampstead, Que. Seymour is survived by his wife, Marion, and his children, Beth and Bernard. He was 78.

Gundega Janfelds-Cenne, S BA 56, died on December 16, 2009, in Ottawa, Ont. Gundega is survived by her children, Peter and Lauma. She was 76.

David Vickers, S BA 56, died on November 14, 2009, in Victoria, B.C. David is survived by his wife, Pat, and his children, Cheryl, Janice and Clifford. He was 75.

Michael Semenak, S BComm 58, died on November 17, 2009, in Pointe St. Charles, Que. Michael is survived by his children, Michael, Joanne and Stephen. He was 73.

Frank Kunz, S BA 59, died on January 11 in Montreal. He was 76.

Hymie Poch-Goldin, L BSc 60, died on November 21, 2009, in Toronto, Ont. Hymie is survived by his wife, Velma Migicovsky, and his children, Steph, Kathryn and Alex. He was 73.

Andrew (Andras) Lejtenyi, S BA 63, died on February 10 in Montreal. Andrew is survived by his wife, Christine, and his children, Duncan, Kenneth, Patrick and Catherine.

Rosemarie Schulteis, S BA 65, died on January 1 in West Vancouver, B.C. She was 86.

June Barrett Bolger, S BA 66, died on November 20, 2009, in Beaconsfield, Que. June is survived by her children, Leigh, Graeme and Andrea. She was 86.

Joel (Joseph) Dickerman, S BComm 69, died on February 5 in Montreal. Joel is survived by his sons, J.L. Nathaniel and Mark Andrew Howard.

Laura Louise (Luffer) Rushakoff, S BA 69, died on December 27, 2009, in Chicago, Ill. Laura is survived by her siblings, Charles and Natalie. She was 63.

Benjamin David Temper, S BA (soc.) 69, died on December 27, 2009, in Montreal. Benjamin is survived by his partner, Renee Berlin, and his children, Jacob, Leah and Rachel. He was 62.

Robert Harold (Bob) Duffill, S BA (history) 70, died on December 7, 2009, in Delta, B.C. Bob is survived by his father, Jack, and his sons, David and Darren. He was 65.

Dr. Morris Kokin, S BA (psych.) 70, died in December 2009 in Montreal. He is survived by his wife, Eileen Cohen.

Murray Ellerton Tildesley, S BComm 70, died January 24 in Victoria, BC. Murray is survived by his brothers, David and Hugh. He was 61.

Josephine (Zizi Jo) Coirazza, L BA 71, died on

December 13, 2009, in St. Leonard, Que. Jo is survived by her brothers, Frank and Pat. She was 64.

Janet Mae Sampson, S BA (hist.) 72, died on January 1 in Maple Ridge, B.C. Janet is survived by her mother, Patricia, and her brother, Brad. She was 61.

Kenneth Saviskas, S BComm 72, died on February 16 in Montreal. Kenneth is survived by his mother, Angela Teresevicius. He was 59.

Kenneth Anthony (Tony) Oxley, L BComm (bus. admin.) 74, of Mississauga, Ont., died on January 20 in Houston, Tex. Tony is survived by his mother, Sheila McHugh, and his brothers, Daniel and Andrew. He was 58.

Meir Ifergan, BA (Fr.) 75, died on December 5, 2009, in Montreal. Meir is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, and his children, Ariel and Shalva.

Kenneth B. Deadman, BComm 76, died on November 8, 2009, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Ken is survived by his parents, Bernard and Berit, and his wife, Jeannine Leblanc. He was 57.

Henry Lehmann, MA 76, died on November 26, 2009, in St. Laurent, Que. Henry is survived by his wife, Wendy Thatcher, and his children, Christopher and Larissa. He was 64.

Marilena Paolucci, BA 76, died on December 11, 2009, in Montreal. Marilena is survived by her parents, Vincenzo Paolucci and Annuziata De Rosa, and her sister, Carla. She was 55.

Gail Flicker, GrDip (art ed.) 77, died in January in Montreal. Gail is survived by her siblings, David and Ruth. She was 55.

Stuart Vallentgoed, BComm 77, died on November 24, 2009, in Athens, Ont. Stuart is survived by his wife, Sherry Rogers, and his daughters, Susan and Lynn. He was 75.

Greg Wilkins, BComm 77, died on December 16, 2009 in Toronto, Ont. Greg is survived by his wife, Vera, and his children, Mark and Lauren. He was 53.

Eric Blitstein, BComm 79, died on November 12, 2009, in Montreal. Eric is survived by his daughters, Chana and Nina. He was 57.

Mark George Bibeau, BFA 81, died on December 29, 2009, in Westmount, Que. He was 50.

Patricia Rose (Pat) Christmas, BA (psych.) 82, died on November 28, 2009, in Markham, Ont. Pat is survived by her husband, Philip Geoffrey Butcher. She was 53.

The Rev. Canon Jenö G. Kohner, MA (hist. & phil. of rel.) 84, died on November 26, 2009, in Dorval, Que. Jenö is survived by his wife, Joan, and children, Helen, Stephen and Nicholas. He was 78.

Valeria Maynard, BA (app. soc. sci. & psych.) 85, died on February 9 in Montreal.

Francine Dubois, BFA 82, GrDip (DIA) 87, died in December 2009 in Frelighsburg, Que. Francine is survived by her sons, Laurent-Xavier and Mathieu. She was 65.

Carmelita McNeil, BA (app. soc. sc.) 86, MA (soc.) 94, died on January 17 in Montreal. Carmelita is survived by her daughters, Robin, Lynn and Krista. She was 74.

Mark Nugent, BFA (cinema) 87, died on December 16, 2009,

in Montreal. Mark is survived by his mother, Margaret, and his brothers, Paul and David. He was 48.

Mark Rathwell, BA (econ.) 89, died on November 4, 2009, in Arundel, Que. Mark is survived by his father, Keith, his wife, Isabelle Turgeon, and his daughters, Emilie and Sophie.

Cheryl (Sherry) Ann Mahoney, BA (Eng. lit. & human-env. rels.) 94, died on November 5, 2009, in Kirkland, Que. Sherry is survived by her mother, Ann Mahoney, her step-father, Karl de Zeeuwand, and her children, Robert and Jeremy. She was 50.

Eric Charles Bell, BFA (art hist.) 96, died on December 19, 2009, in Kirkland, Que. Eric is survived by his son, Ian. He was 85.

Cheryl Donna Irving, EMBA (bus. admin.) 96, died on November 11, 2009, in Montreal. Cheryl was 48.

Giovanna Masella, BEEd (TESL) 97, GrDip (trans.) 00, MA (trad.) 04, died on November 30, 2009, in Dorval, Que. Giovanna is survived by her mother, Edith, and her son, Antonin. She was 57.

Jeremy Guerin, BA (west. soc. & cult.) 98, died on December 10, 2009, in Longueuil, Que. Jeremy is survived by his parents, Mario Guerin and Mary Doyle, and his siblings, Nathalie and Daniel. He was 35.

Teresa Wilson, BA (hist.) 01, died on January 18 in Montreal. Teresa is survived by her parents, Elvira and Jack, her husband, Rick Webb, and her children, Rebecca and Gregory. She was 45. ■

Exploring Italy, Prague and English gardens

Italy Revisited:

Conversations with My Mother

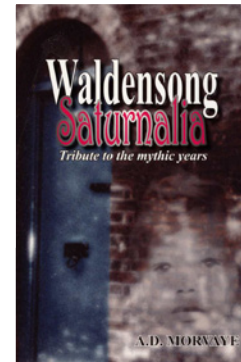
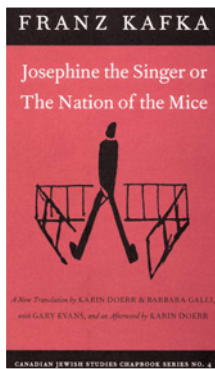
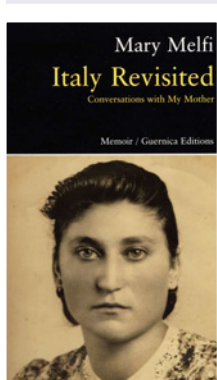
(Guernica Editions, \$25), by **Mary Melfi**, L BA (Eng.) 73, explores a mother-daughter dialogue that gives life to the mother's memories of mid-century southern Italy while also revealing truths about relationships that sometimes exist between immigrant

Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics.

In *The English Garden at Night: Intimate Visions of Public Places* (Verve Editions, \$46), Montreal photographer **Linda Rutenberg**, S BA (music) 74, BFA (photog.) 86, points her lens at the flora of some of England's most beauti-

(2006). Now Smith returns to the city with *Memories and Profiles of McGill University* (InfiniteBooks, \$46.95). He chronicles McGill's downtown-campus expansion, from its first building in the 1840s until today, with archival photographs and interviews with alumni and university faculty and staff members. (Visit infinitebooks.ca.)

It may be hard for younger alumni to believe but there was a time when sporting events were broadcast only a few times per week, mainly on weekends. But that changed for Canadians in 1984 with the launch of TSN, the country's first, all-sport cable TV network. In *TSN 25 Years: 25 Years of Hits and Highlights, Top Tens and Turning Points, Through*



mothers and their children. Montreal-based Melfi has published more than a dozen works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies has published a new translation of Franz Kafka's *Josephine the Singer or The Nation of the Mice* (Hungry I Books, \$15.95), by **Karin Doerr**, L BA (Germ.) 74, Barbara Galli and Gary Evans. Doerr penned the volume's afterword, which focuses on the story's relevance to Kafka's Jewish identity and the city of Prague. She is a part-time instructor for Concordia's

ful and well-known gardens. Rutenberg's stunning pictures, all taken after dark, reveal a hidden world illuminated by shadow and light. She incorporated the same technique in her previous, acclaimed photography book titled *The Garden at Night: Private Views of Public Edens* (2007). (Visit lindarutenberg.com.)

Montreal writer **MacKay L. Smith**, BA (poli. sci.) 76, previously walked readers through the mid east in *A Christian in Israel* (2002) and his hometown in *Montreal's Sherbrooke Street: The Spine of the City*

Christina Manolescu, BA (Eng. lit.) 80, Cert (TESL) 91, writing under the pen name A.D. Morvaye, has just published *Waldensong Saturnalia: Tribute to the mythic years* (Prince Chameleon Press, \$25), a novel that spans a century and three continents to delve into the shadows of memory and imagination. In 1995, an excerpt of the novel—then in progress—made the short list of the Eastside Stories Competition in the United Kingdom, where Manolescu lived at the time. (Visit princechameleon.com.)

the Lens of Canada's Sports Network (Wiley, \$39.95), **Jim Hynes**, BA (jour.) 95, and Rob Lutes recount the significant impact the network has had on the country's television sports coverage. Full-colour photos and insightful commentary from TSN personalities enliven the volume. Hynes is assistant editor for the *McGill Reporter* newspaper.

John Willcocks, BA 94, and **Julia Tinnion**, BA 95, recently published *Petit lexiques de la santé et des services sociaux, français-anglais* (\$29.95, available at the Concordia bookstores),

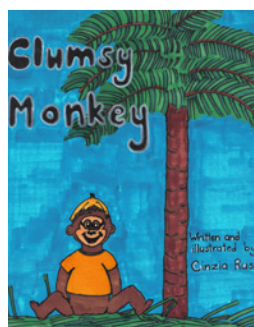
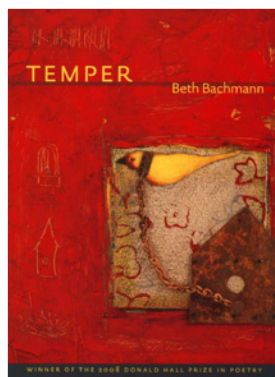
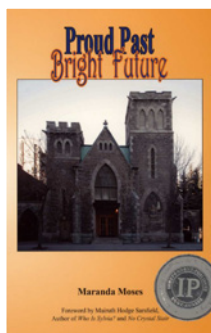
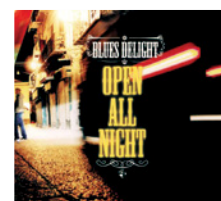
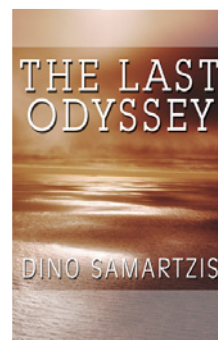
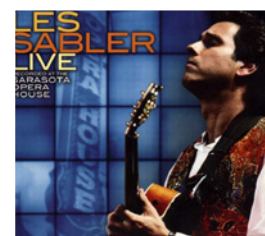
a practical guide to facilitate communication between healthcare practitioners and social workers and their patients and clients by presenting a host of common medical and lay terms and colloquial expressions in English and French. Willcocks and Tinnion also operate two language schools in the Lanaudière, Que., region called Académie

Desmond Tutu. The book includes a forward by author and broadcaster Mairuth Hodge Sarsfield. Moses is a Montreal-based writer.

Temper (University of Pittsburgh Press, \$17.50), a poetry collection by **Beth (Barnyock) Bachmann, MA** (Eng.) 03, captured the 2008 Donald Hall Prize in Poetry from the United

readers on a wild jungle adventure in which a lovable and clumsy monkey, Pablo, and his friends have to escape an evil madman and save their home. This humorous tale teaches children about friendship, overcoming obstacles, romance and—clumsiness. Russo is a Montreal-based writer and translator. (Visit cinziarusso.com.)

Group, \$18.99), from veteran guitarist **Les Sabler, BFA 78**, brings listeners back to a 1995 performance at the Sarasota Opera House in Sarasota, Fla. The CD features contemporary jazz, rock fusion, adult pop,



linguistique les Mots-Dits Anglais and École de langues de Lanaudière. (Visit motsditsanglais.com.)

Proud Past, Bright Future (Union United Church, \$25), by **Maranda Moses, BA** (Eng. Lit.) 00, celebrates the centennial anniversary of the Union United Church of Montreal with a comprehensive history of the city's oldest Black congregation. The Union United Church, a long-time centre of community and spirituality, has welcomed many renowned figures, including activist Stokely Carmichael, actor Sidney Poitier and Bishop

States' Association of Writers & Writing Programs. Bachmann's poems have appeared in journals that include *American Poetry Review*, *Black Warrior Review* and *Kenyon Review* and have been anthologized in *Best New Poets 2005* and *2007*. **Temper**, her first book, is a compellingly beautiful and sorrowful exploration of a murder. Bachmann teaches creative writing at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Clumsy Monkey (Trafford Publishing, US\$14.68), written and illustrated by **Cinzia Russo, BA** (creative writing) 05, takes young

As in previous novels, *Tempus Fugit* (2008) and *Blue Infinity* (2009), the narrative of the latest novel by **Costa Kombokozos, BA 06** (Eng. lit.), transcends time and space. **The Last Odyssey** (PublishAmerica, \$16.95), written under the pen name Dino Samartzis, examines the power and spirituality of love as a husband searches for his wife and returns to the place in which love and storytelling become one. Kombokozos is a Montreal-based writer.

Two talented alumni have just released CDs. **Les Sabler Live** (The Music Force Media

blues and Latin rhythms and a memorable, instrumental rendition of Sting's "Fragile." Sabler is a four-time, Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards nominee who lives in Tampa, Fla. (Visit lessabler.com.) Blues enthusiasts will welcome the arrival of Montreal band Blues Delight's second CD, **Open All Night** (Blues Del Records, \$18.99). Blues Delight is led by guitarist and vocalist **Vincent Beaulne, BFA 86**, who also composed and produced the CD's 13 tracks. (Visit Blues.Delight.com.) ■

A home base away from home

BY PASCALE BIJOUX, BA 95

For as far back as I can remember, I have envisioned myself helping children, not just one or two—but hundreds. So last year, after months of research, a few sleepless nights and brutal self-assessment, I decided to volunteer at a child-care centre in Cape Town, South Africa, through a program called Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS).

In early December, I boarded a plane and headed across the ocean with a heart filled with excitement and a bit of fear.

CCS assigned me to the Nomzamo (a Xhosa word meaning “the one who tries”) Place of Safety, a centre that provides shelter and various services to about 20 children, aged 6 and younger, who have been abused, abandoned or neglected or are afflicted by HIV/AIDS.

During my three-week stint there, I lived at a home base with other CCS volunteers. I was the only one assigned to Nomzamo. My role there was to help feed the babies and play with the older children. I found the first few days quite challenging because I didn’t speak a word of Xhosa. Thankfully, the volunteer program included language lessons. By the middle of the first week, I was able to utter my first Xhosa words. I saw the surprise in the eyes of the children, who came closer and wanted to touch my face and make sure that I was, indeed, uttering words in their native language.

I eventually learned two Xhosa children’s songs and was able to share an English song, which my kids learned in just two days! I was so proud of them and relieved to see that, despite their hardships, these kids could still be kids.

From the start, I was aware that my time with the children would be short



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

Pascale Bijoux, BA 95 (above), is a project manager for Laval, Quebec-based engineering firm Cima+. At right, children at the Nomzamo Place of Safety in Capetown, South Africa, enjoy a Christmas party in December 2009.



lived. I thought I was prepared for the separation. I wasn’t.

A few days before the end of my placement, one of the little boys, whom I’ll call N., decided to become my shadow. Everywhere I went, N. followed. He became possessive and didn’t take too well to the other children being anywhere near me. I suspected it was a combination of N.’s precarious situation and that he sensed, as he had experienced before, that someone would leave him behind.

On my last day, I was a wreck. I couldn’t bear the thought of looking into the children’s eyes for the last time. The bus ride to the centre from home base was quiet because most volunteers were also leaving.

The morning unfolded with a party-like atmosphere. I brought cookies for the children and staff to thank them for my time at Nomzamo and celebrate Christmas and New Year’s. At the end of the day, as I did every other day, I gave each child a hug and said goodbye. I wanted to cry but I held back. Once I had said my farewells to the staff, I walked down the long hallway and headed for

the exit. When I got to the front door, the security guard told me there was someone behind me. As I turned around, I saw N., my tiny shadow, running towards me with tears in his eyes. This time I couldn’t hold the tears in check. I picked

N. up and returned him to the children’s area. I saw their little faces again and was engulfed by sadness.

As I left the centre for the last time, I said a silent prayer for the children and staff. Despite my heavy heart, I was encouraged. I marvel at the simplicity with which these children see the world. While they sometimes face insurmountable challenges, thanks to their spirit and resiliency and with the help of centres like Nomzamo, I’m convinced that better days are ahead for them and all the children of South Africa.

My Nomzamo journey changed my outlook on life. I will measure all my future experiences against it. ■

For more information on Cross-Cultural Solutions, visit crossculturalsolutions.org.

\$250,000 to pay off the mortgage

\$45,000 to settle the loan and credit cards

\$55,000 to put the kids through university

\$350,000

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