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TAKING WING

A BA's value can be measured in dollars and sense

By Howard Bokser



BILLION DOLLAR BABY

A recent study reveals that Concordia adds nearly \$1.3 billion to the Quebec economy

By Scott McCulloch

DRAWING UP A PLAN FOR SUCCESS

The university presents its new, transformative five-year academic plan

By Julie Gedeon



HOW TO BRAND YOURSELF

Career advice from a diverse group of accomplished grads

By David Adelman



BEFORE THE LAW

We introduce you to seven alumni lawyers who've taken non-traditional paths

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

JMSB celebrates a new dean, two new research centres and a record year for case competitors

summer 2012 volume 36 number 2 magazine.concordia.ca

Cover: Social sciences and humanities education soars

Credit: Shutterstock

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Young matchmaker

"As a student at Concordia's John Molson School of Business and ever since, I've looked for ways to better the lives of fellow students and alumni. Yet my experiences enriched my life as well.

As an undergraduate, I was president of the Concordia Alumni Student Team (CAST), which acts as a bridge between alumni and students. CAST organizes events such as the popular Student Coffee Breaks, which provides coffee and snacks to students during their final exam period.

I also served on the executive committee of the Concordia International Students' Association (CISA). This association helps students from abroad integrate to university and Montreal. As our members would say, "CISA is our home away from home."

As a result, I made friends from all over the world – friends who ended up teaching me much more than I taught them. I've since discovered that several students who initially met at our events are now business partners or have married.

Recently, I was one of five Canadians who were selected by IBM Global Business Services

for Consulting by Degrees, a leadership and development program designed to successfully launch and accelerate IBM consulting careers. Additionally, I'm pursuing an MA in Human Systems Intervention at Concordia.

I'm also on the Concordia University Alumni Association board and chair the Young Alumni Committee, which plans events for those who've graduated within the past 10 years. Our turnout for networking activities, cooking classes, photography workshops and more are always great. I invite you to join us. (Visit concordia.ca/young-alumni.)

Thanks to my alumni association involvement, I've never left the university community. Concordia is a big part of me; it's the place where I grew up and learned most about myself – personally and professionally.

I look forward to keep volunteering and giving back to the university – and, occasionally, acting as a matchmaker!"

Ven Virahsammy, BComm 10

*Chair, Young Alumni Committee
Concordia University Alumni Association*



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY



How to make a difference

As a volunteer or donor to Concordia you, too, can make a difference. Every year, thousands of 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.

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Members of the family

Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy once said, “True life is lived when tiny changes occur.” I hope that’s true — because, as promised last issue, we’ve begun to make a number of subtle and less subtle refinements to this magazine.

The transformation, which includes tightening some sections and expanding others, is necessary in part because we’re the victim of our (i.e., Concordia’s) own success. The university is booming on all fronts and there’s just a lot to report on. That includes positive news like the arrival of the new president (see page 5), notable research breakthroughs (page 6), Concordia’s significant economic impact on the province (page 12) and its forward-looking academic plan (page 14), and an exciting upcoming Homecoming lineup (pages 36-37).

Advancement and Alumni Relations, the unit I call home, also produces a free, monthly email newsletter called *Accent* that helps cover all the news that doesn’t fit in print (apologies to the *New York Times*). If you’re not receiving *Accent*, you can sign up at concordia.ca/alumni/accent.

Furthermore, as Concordia alumni grow in numbers — we will soon have more than 170,000 worldwide — there’s an ever-evolving, diverse field of high-achieving graduates to write about. This issue looks at alumni lawyers (page 18) and career-helping advice from high-achieving grads (page 26). We also never have a shortage of updates for our Class Acts, Words & Music and (unfortunately) In memoriam sections.



MARC GERVAIS, 1929-2012
JESUIT, BELOVED TEACHER, FILM CONNOISSEUR, CANNES HABITUÉ

One important contingent of the Concordia family not included in these back pages is faculty members, unless they also are alumni (as sometimes is the case). Concordia’s professors obviously play a key role in advancing the institution’s quality. They most often spend many more years at the university than students do, and each professor strongly influences hundreds or more students throughout his or her career.

Still, as an alumni magazine, this publication’s mandate is to focus on graduates. Therefore the news posted in the Class Acts, Words & Music and In memoriam sections is reserved for those who attended Concordia, Loyola College and/or Sir George Williams University.

We draw attention to our professors in other ways by highlighting their standout research and involvement in new programs or courses. There isn’t an

issue that goes by, it seems — including this one (see “Before the law” on page 18, for instance) — without a grad crediting some of his or her success to a former teacher or two (or more). Yet we generally don’t report on past and current professors’ individual achievements, such as their published books, and we don’t mark their passing.

For this issue, however, I felt compelled to make an exception. The first months of 2012 witnessed an unusually and regrettably high number of deaths of former Concordia professors. While some of these late profs were

better known than others outside their departments (such as Fr. Marc Gervais — see page 44), each certainly left indelible impressions on their students, and many of our readers will be saddened to learn of these losses.

Here are their names (in alphabetical order) and former departments: **Geoffrey Adams**, history; **Fr. Stanley Drummond**, biology; **Fr. Marc Gervais**, communication studies; **David F. MacDonald**, accountancy; **Ross Perigoe**, journalism; **Ken Roy**, contemporary dance; **Richard Sommer**, English; **David George Taylor**, English; and **Eleonora Turovsky**, music.

Shortly before press time, we also learned of the sudden passing of Robert Barnes, BA 68, former president of the Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University. We’ll have more on Bob’s legacy next issue.

May they all rest in peace. ■

Georgians: Relive your memories

Join us at the President's Reunion Gala to celebrate the **75th Anniversary** of the **Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University** and the first graduating class.

Saturday, September 29, 2012, 6 p.m.

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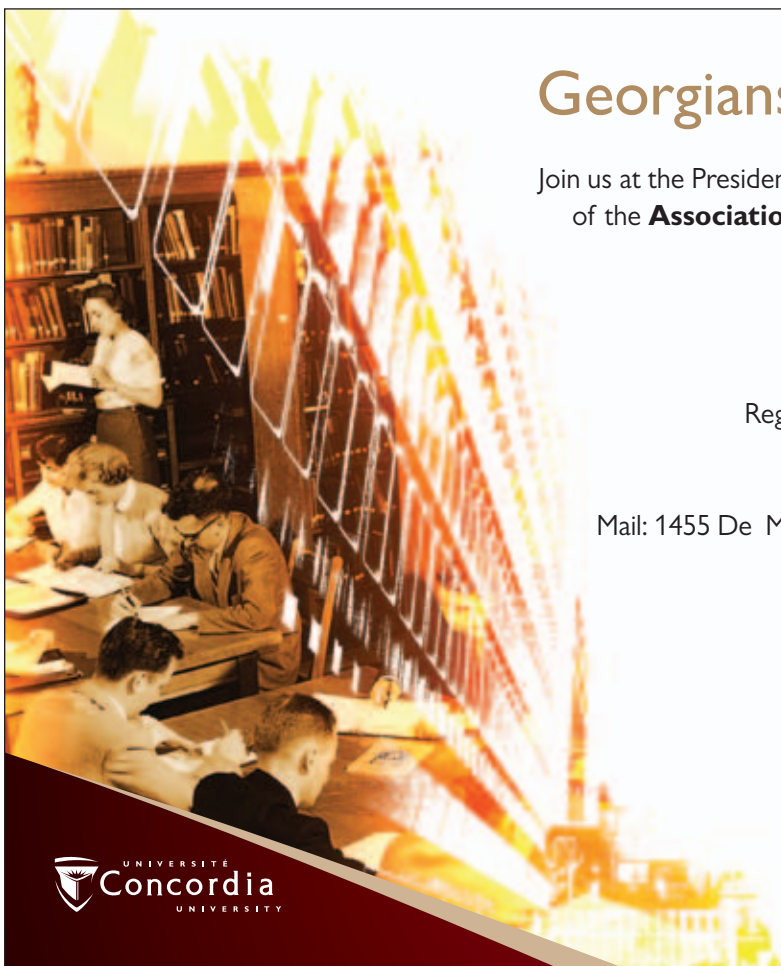
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Harvey Stoliar, BComm 62
Chair, 75th Anniversary Dinner-Dance
Planning Committee



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Alan Shepard named president and vice-chancellor

Concordia will welcome a new president and vice-chancellor this summer. In May, its Board of Governors approved the appointment of Alan Shepard as the university's next leader.

"Concordia is a strong institution now, and it has extraordinary opportunities to become a national and international leader in higher education, to refashion the intellectual and physical geography of learning," says Shepard, who will begin his five-year term on August 1. "Truly, I want us to make our own path, to work together to create the best experience we can for students and researchers, to build a great university for learning, teaching, research and creative activity while connecting with the larger community that supports us."

Shepard will come to Concordia from Ryerson University, where he has served as provost and vice-president academic and chief operating officer since 2007. During his tenure there, Ryerson built new strengths in experiential learning and innovation and has undertaken a host of reforms, including changes to its academic structure, undergraduate



curriculum and research environment.

"Alan Shepard has left his mark on the academic and administrative leadership at Ryerson, where I know he will be missed," says Peter Kruyt, BComm 78, outgoing chair of Concordia's Board of Governors. "We were impressed by his strong commitment to building and sustaining academic excellence."

Shepard says he is looking forward to connecting with the Concordia community and immersing himself and his family in Quebec's thriving culture. "Concordia has many opportunities to lead — in urban renewal, in research innovation, in diversity and accessibility,

in student engagement with society, and in providing opportunities for entrepreneurial graduates who may want to join the economy on their own terms. Students are central to all our initiatives," he says.

Shepard will succeed Frederick Lowy, Concordia's president and vice-chancellor from 1995 to 2005 who returned in those roles in February 2011. "We are grateful to Dr. Lowy, who has guided our university so effectively through this transition to Alan Shepard," says Kruyt. "I also thank the members of our advisory search committee, which was chaired by Chancellor L. Jacques Ménard [BA 67, LLD 06] and had representation from across our university community, for their diligence throughout the process that led to the selection of our new president."

Shepard earned a PhD in English from the University of Virginia in 1990. He's held fellowships at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C., and the University of Toronto. He is currently chair of the Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents and a public member of the strategic planning group of Public Health Ontario. ■

New chair for Concordia's Board of Governors



Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 78, will step in as chair of Concordia's Board of Governors on July 1 for a three-year term.

"Norman Hébert Jr. has been committed to Concordia for many years. He is well known in Quebec as a successful business leader as well as a highly engaged philanthropist," says outgoing Board Chair Peter Kruyt, BComm 78.

"I am very much looking forward to serving my alma mater in this new capacity," says Hébert. "Our renewed board is eager to meet its oversight

responsibilities in keeping with Concordia's mission, vision and values and strategic direction."

Hébert has been president and chief executive officer of Groupe Park Avenue Inc., one of Canada's first multi-franchise automobile dealership operations, for more than 25 years. Now in his second term as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Société des Alcools du Québec, a position he has held since 2006, he was previously a board director at Hydro-Québec. ■

POND HOCKEY HEATS UP

Would Wayne Gretzky have blossomed into the Great One had he not honed his skills on a backyard rink as a kid?

The days of shinny hockey on frozen ponds are numbered, according to findings just published in *Environmental Research Letters* by Damon Matthews, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. The research was co-authored by two McGill colleagues, professor Lawrence Mysak and former graduate student Nikolay Damyanov.

The evidence is already making headlines. Earlier this year, Ottawa's Rideau Canal Skateway, the world's longest skating rink, had to shut down due to unseasonal temperatures. Since 1950, Canada's average winter temperatures have increased by more than 2.5°C, three times the global figure.

In order to quantify how this



DAMON MATTHEWS

temperature rise affects outside rinks, the researchers gathered information from outdoor public skating spaces in various Canadian cities. Assuming the outdoor skating season begins after three days where the maximum temperature does not rise above -5°C, they created a set of weather criteria to determine the specific start date of the outdoor skating season at each of the stations. Subsequently, the researchers counted the number of viable days the ice could be maintained to estimate the season's length.

By comparing their findings with data gathered from 1951 to 2005 by 142 meteorological stations across the country, the researchers discovered that only a few of the weather stations showed a trend towards later start dates of the outdoor skating season. A much larger proportion of stations, however, showed a statistically significant decrease in the

length of the skating season over the past half century.

The results paint a grim picture for the future of outdoor skating. The largest decreases in the skating season length were observed in the Prairies and southwest regions of Canada. By extrapolating their data to predict future patterns, the researchers came up with some ominous news: within 30 years, we could see a complete end to outdoor skating in British Columbia and southern Alberta.

No Canadian region is safe from that fate. Matthews says it's clear that we're all vulnerable to continued winter warming: "It's hard to imagine a Canada without outdoor hockey, but I really worry that this will be a casualty of our continuing to ignore the climate problem and to obstruct international efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions." ■

—Cléa Desjardins

RENAMED LOYOLA COLLEGE FOR DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY FITS CONCORDIA ETHOS

Concordia has again demonstrated its longstanding commitment to sustainability through the renaming of one of its respected colleges. In March, the university's Senate and Board of Governors approved the rechristening of Loyola International College to the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability.

Last fall, the college, located on Concordia's Loyola Campus, opened a new academic program, a minor in Sustainability. More than 30 students enrolled in the interdisciplinary program last semester, and

they joined close to 90 others already pursuing a minor in Diversity and the Contemporary World at the college.

Loyola International College opened in 2002 with the aim of providing an environment where societal issues could be examined from multiple perspectives in a small group setting. Over the past decade, students from all of Concordia's four faculties have enjoyed fruitful exchanges in classes tackling subjects such as Culture and Communication, Science and the Contemporary World, and Globalization and Diversity. ■

Concordia

Concordia University Magazine welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

Concordia University Magazine is published four times a year for alumni and friends of Concordia University. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the alumni associations or of the University.

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514-848-2424, ext. 3819.

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Design: University Communications Services
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CONCORDIA AND FANTASIA INK DEAL

Leading into the tenth year of its presentation at Concordia, the university has signed a partnership agreement with Montreal-based Fantasia International Film Festival, one of the largest, most influential and popular genre film festivals in North America. The accord lays the groundwork for several opportunities for Concordia and its students, including internships and scholarships and the potential of adding a festival component to the university curriculum.

Since its inception in 1996, Fantasia has presented varied programming and an emphasis on the imaginative cinema of Asia, Europe and the Americas, from the obscure to international hits rarely seen in North America.

The long list of recognized movie artists who've visited past editions of Fantasia include Montrealer Jay Baruchel, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, John Carpenter, Shunji Iwai, Ken Russell, Eli Roth, Nicolas Winding Refn and Ray Harryhausen. "This is what I look



forward to in the summer. Fantasia is it for me. It's the only festival I ever went to as a fan," Baruchel says.

Fantasia has also launched many new talents. Its 1997 world premiere screening of Satoshi Kon's feature debut, *Perfect Blue*, introduced the master

animator to an international public and led to the film getting North American distribution. The 1998 showing of *Pi* was the Canadian debut for director Darren Aronofsky (*Black Swan*).

The festival is also recognized for introducing the J-horror craze and Japanese filmmaker Takashi Miike to the West. The 1999 premiere of Hideo Nakata's *Ringu* led directly to the film being acquired by Dreamworks, both for North American distribution and their 2002 remake *The Ring*. World premieres at the festival have included *Repo: The Genetic Opera*, *Millenium Actress*, *Midnight Meat Train*, *Dread*, *Jeepers Creepers 2* and *Bon Cop Bad Cop*.

The *Fantasia International Film Festival's* 16th edition will be held July 19 to August 7. Tickets go on sale July 17 at the H-110 Alumni Auditorium box office in Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W. For an updated listing of the lineup and schedule, visit fantasiafestival.com. ■

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Taking wing

CONCORDIA HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN FINANCIAL RETURNS ON INVESTMENT

BY HOWARD BOKSER

Patricia Boushel, BA (Eng. lit.) 03, arrived at Concordia in 1999 with a plan: to study science. That's what she was advised would be the best route to a career. But after starting her program, Boushel soon became frustrated that she couldn't join discussions on philosophical issues or how the world works. "So I switched to English literature and decided my vocational preparation would come after," she recalls. "English lit touches all aspects of humanities, with a focus on language. It had history, philosophy, sociology, gender studies."

Boushel's BA didn't hamper her vocational prospects — indeed, she feels it's only helped. "At Concordia, I learned to problem solve, discuss, work on a team, compromise and analyze risks and benefits," Boushel relates. "I also learned how to express ideas and words." She parlayed that skill set to positions at the National Film Board of Canada in Montreal and then for five years as a producer of special events and content for the Pop Montreal International Music Festival. She's now an independent film and video producer.

Boushel is one of countless Concordia alumni who've used a BA as a springboard to interesting and fulfilling careers, contrary to popular perceptions about the low "return on investment" of an undergraduate arts degree.

Last fall, a survey by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada revealed that, over their lifetimes, those with university degrees earn on average \$1.3 million — or 10 per cent — more than those without. However, the numbers don't hold up across the board. According to the Canadian Department of Finance, graduates from humanities and social sciences programs — also called liberal arts (see the sidebar on page 10, "What are humanities and social sciences?") — can anticipate significantly lower lifetime windfalls. While engineering, mathematics and business degree recipients should expect to do comparatively well financially, those who earn a BA in classics or sociology, for example, may not.

How true is that? And, more importantly, can we or should we place a dollar figure on these degrees or university education in general?

"The purpose of undergraduate education is not just a job

ticket but a life ticket," says Graham Carr, Concordia's interim vice-president, Research and Graduate Studies, and a history professor. Carr, who's also president of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, says all university education teaches students to think critically, communicate, contextualize, and work in groups and with people from diverse cultures — valuable for any field as well as in life. "Humanities and social sciences training provides skills in communications and critical thinking. It develops core skills desirable in the job market but also in social and civil terms."

Carr points out that BA graduates also develop skills with sometimes unexpected applications, such as for the gaming and high tech industries. "One of Google's VPs recently said they plan to hire 6,000 people, about 80 per cent with PhDs in humanities," he conveys. "Organizations are looking for talent, for people they can train, people they can work with."

GROWING POPULARITY

At Concordia, students in the undergraduate arts side of the Faculty of Arts and Science account for about 33 per cent of the university's total undergraduate enrolment of around 35,000. Some Concordia arts departments, such as journalism, translation (under Études françaises), applied human sciences and education, offer clear occupation paths; others, including English, history, philosophy, political science and religion, aren't linked to booming industries. Many graduates from these programs pursue advanced degrees that lead to teaching or research or take a professional direction through an MBA or law degree. (For examples of Concordia alumni who became lawyers, see "Before the law" on page 18.) But these remain a minority.

Why, then, are thousands lining up for Concordia humanities and social sciences offerings? Between 2000 and 2010, the university's undergraduate arts enrolment jumped from about 8,160 to 11,560, a 40 per cent hike, compared with Concordia's total undergraduate increase of 42 per cent.

Students clearly recognize that this type of education prepares them to take flight on their life's journey.

Catherine Bolton is associate dean of Student Academic



JOE DRESDNER

CATHERINE BOLTON, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES IN CONCORDIA'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AND AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS, IN HER LOYOLA CAMPUS OFFICE. BOLTON SAYS A BA CAN PROVIDE IMMEASURABLE REWARDS TO STUDENTS, WHO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY IN MANY WAYS. "WE NEED THINKERS, WE NEED CREATIVE PEOPLE."

Services in Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science. She's also an associate professor of classics in the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, a program that — perhaps surprisingly — has seen its numbers leap by more than 20 per cent in the past five years. "Linguistics enrolment is up, but classics is doing well, too," Bolton reports. "Part of it is interest in the ancient world. There are great stories there. It's like science fiction because, like the future, the past is so far away and unknown, with many unanswered questions."

Bolton believes students in liberal arts and many in sciences are looking for a wide-ranging education. "We are really studying ourselves: who we are, who we've been, who we may be, why we think the way we do, what's the difference between you and me," she says.

Nonetheless, students usually enter BA programs with their eyes open about job possibilities. "They always get asked, 'What are you going to do with that? Are you going to teach?' And not everybody wants to teach," Bolton conveys. "Some students do say they're concerned about the initial investment, but they see it as investing in themselves."

She reports that her students have headed into diverse careers: "Some work in computers; I've got one student in engineering and, as you might expect, some in publishing houses, government, teaching English as a second language, bookstores, retail, libraries — everywhere and everything."

Jason Camlot, BA (Eng. lit. & western soc. & cult.) 90, associate professor and chair of English, says of his department, "We teach aesthetic concepts: what art is, what literary

art is and what do we do with it." While he admits an English literature BA might not distinctly lead to a profession, "It provides you with a variety of skills — including reading and interpretation — that allow you to capitalize on any number of non-professional, wage-earning positions. Graduates are equipped with a broad set of skills in their toolbox."

And English education is not simply about getting a job. "There's a more humanistic element to literature studies that is separate from utilitarian issues, whether you become a dentist or zookeeper," Camlot says. "There are certain skills in engaging works of literary art in particular that affects who you are and how you interact with the world."

SOCIETAL BENEFITS

Social science fields such as economics and political science may hew a bit closer to career roads than those in humanities, but few students entering these programs have illusions of winding up as, say, professional political scientists or economists. Still, they do leave well prepared. "There are certain career paths that our graduates follow, including law, journalism and business," reports Csaba Nikolenyi, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science. "The program also leads them to be more informed of the political world and government. Students take poli sci because they want to become and/or remain informed citizens of the country but also of the world. A poli sci education is an excellent training ground for becoming active in NGOs, international organizations or the UN, either as volunteers, paid interns or employees."

Nikolenyi points out that society benefits from the presence of political science graduates: "In many countries, democracies are being born and created and people die to have the right to vote, but we take it for granted. We are indirectly at the front lines of public education because the more students we train who understand what good governance is, how to build a just and right society, how important it is to have, keep and use the right to vote, then voter apathy will turn around."

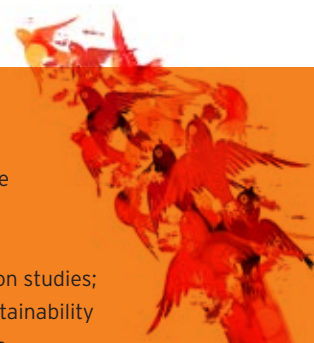
Undoubtedly, a humanities or social sciences undergraduate degree can prepare students for the work world and provide a sound monetary return on investment — but that's only a portion of its greater educational worth. As Catherine Bolton says: "The dollar value return may not be immediate, but the creative value and the life value of these degrees are absolutely amazing." ■

WHAT ARE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES?

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences explains on its website (fedcan.ca) that "humanities are those disciplines that investigate the human condition," while social sciences "may involve more empirical methods to consider society and human behaviour."

Concordia's humanities departments and colleges are: classics, modern languages and linguistics; communication studies; English; études françaises; history; journalism; the Liberal Arts College; the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability (formerly Loyola International College); philosophy; the School of Canadian Irish Studies; and theological studies.

The social studies departments and colleges are: applied human sciences; economics; education; geography, planning and environment; political science; religion; sociology and anthropology; the School of Community and Public Affairs; and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute.



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BILLION DOLLAR BABY

With innovation and human capital helping to fire its cylinders, Concordia makes up a significant component of Quebec's economic engine according to a recent economic-impact study.

BY SCOTT McCULLOCH, BA 90

In economic terms, Concordia matters. The university can demonstrate that for every dollar it spends, nearly three go back into Quebec's economy, a timely impact study suggests.

With a budget of \$461 million, the university generates nearly \$1.3 billion annually in economic benefits, according to SECOR, the consultancy given the task of measuring the institution's financial dividend for the province. SECOR's report revealed that Concordia's 90,000 Quebec-based graduates pump \$623 million into the local economy, and spending by the university and its students and visitors adds another \$464 million. Concordia sustains 7,000 jobs, too. "Few institutions, whether public or private can boast such a leverage effect," the report notes.

Concordia's research injects \$177.2 million into the Quebec economy. (See "Impactful," inset.) When \$204 million of funds were set aside in 2011 for Canada Research Chairs, Concordia landed seven new chairs and two renewals towards \$7.2 million in awards.

The university enhances the province in many ways, the report states.

Diversity: Over the past decade, Concordia's enrolment has grown twice as fast as the average Quebec university; it's committed to accessible university

education, brings together students of widely diverse origins and socioeconomic backgrounds and attracts more than 8,700 students from other provinces and outside Canada.

Closely integrated into Quebec's cultural and economy: Concordia adapts to the needs of local businesses and organizations, produces high-calibre research that reflects Quebec's priorities, receives funding for more than 80 per cent of its research (\$27.7 million in 2010) from outside Quebec, helps position Montreal as an international culture and creativity centre, and boosts Quebec's international reputation.

Reciprocal engagement with its community: Concordia invested close to \$600 million in infrastructure over the past 10 years, facilitates access to its knowledge and creation, encourages citizen participation, is a leader in sustainable development and offers public access to its facilities.

Concordia attracts many non-traditional post-secondary students, including those who become first-generation university graduates or are from modest socioeconomic backgrounds.

NOT ALONE

Concordia is not the first university to conduct an economic impact study, nor the first to recognize its reach. When the University of British Columbia undertook its own analysis in 2003, eliminating the institution from the economy, as one scenario envisioned, would have created a 2.2 point increase in regional unemployment and a seven per cent drop in retail spending in greater Vancouver.

Jeffery Humphreys, director of economic forecasting at the Selig Center of University of Georgia in Athens, showed that universities drive economic development because they educate the workforce and innovate through research. "[They] collaborate with employers to help them become more competitive," Humphreys says.

While a university's *raison d'être* is knowledge creation, economic development is a vital offshoot. A strong relationship with industry makes sense, says Bill Barker, an associate dean in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Letters and Science: "When corporations sponsor research, ideally these relationships broaden and we see students going out for internships and ultimately employment, faculty consulting and perhaps donations of equipment or money for a building campaign or scholarships."

In Canada, since 1999 more than 1,200 companies have emerged from discoveries made at universities, which conduct more than \$1 billion a year in research with the private sector. "Our country's future growth and prosperity depend on our ability to be more innovative and globally competitive," says Paul Davidson, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

In the early 1990s, with the manufacturing sector in recession, Montreal began reinventing itself as a knowledge-based economy. It focused on three sectors: aerospace, information technology and life sciences — a lofty goal that required investment in the form of corporate incentives and a steady stream of highly skilled workers, many of whom

emerged from Quebec universities.

Those same institutions, says Russell Copeman, Concordia's associate vice-president of external relations, are a rich source of human capital that pays back into the economy and don't draw on taxes. "A university is an investment that yields returns," he points out. As more than 80 per cent of Concordia's \$35 million in research funding — a figure that has doubled over the past decade — comes from sources outside of Quebec, Copeman's dividend metaphor rings true.

"Concordia has chosen to closely integrate itself with the economic fabric of Montreal and Quebec," the SECOR report states. The consultancy cites the university's "high-calibre" research in genomics, which has attracted significant funding, as a factor in positioning Montreal as "city of research." It also lauds Concordia's applied research in media arts, among other areas, for helping position Montreal as a "leader in digital creativity" and "one of the priorities of the city's *Montreal Cultural Metropolis* action plan." The report cited several recent examples of Concordia alumni who have made their mark on the arts and culture landscape, including Barbara Davidson, BFA 90, who's won two Pulitzer Prizes for photography, and award-winning authors, Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05, and Nino Ricci, MA 87.

The SECOR report is highly relevant since Quebec's 2011-12 budget has thrown into sharp relief the extent of the funding crisis in the province's universities. Post-secondary

education in Quebec was underfunded by \$650 million in 2010, compared with \$373 million in 2002. To boot, Quebec's universities are struggling with deficits. "At a time when there are scarce government resources and, in fact, private sector resources as well, we wanted to commission a rigorous third-party study to evaluate the economic benefits of the university and try to change the paradigm a little bit," Copeman says.

The SECOR report conveys that a majority of Concordia's 170,000 alumni

work in Quebec. Were the province a website, 56 per cent of Concordia graduates would consider it sticky. What makes Concordia an "exceptional contributor" to the Quebec economy, the SECOR report adds, is "its integration into the social, economic, cultural and community fabric." Perhaps the new paradigm is to follow Concordia's lead. ■

To read the full report, in English and French, along with a summary, visit concordia.ca/vpirsq/external-relations.

IMPACTFUL

HOW CONCORDIA'S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE QUEBEC ECONOMY BREAKS DOWN.

KNOWLEDGE CREATION
AND DISSEMINATION
\$177.2 MILLION

ADDED VALUE CREATED BY SPENDING
BY CONCORDIA, ITS STUDENTS AND
ITS OUT-OF-PROVINCE VISITORS
\$463.5 MILLION

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
\$623.1 MILLION

TOTAL IMPACT
**\$1,236.9
MILLION**

DRAWING UP A PLAN FOR SUCCESS

CONCORDIA'S NEW FIVE-YEAR ACADEMIC PLAN AIMS
TO TRANSFORM STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

BY JULIE GEDEON

After a lengthy and thorough research and consultation process, Concordia is embarking on an ambitious five-year academic action plan. Recently approved by the university's governing bodies, the 2011-2016 plan identifies the institution's academic priorities and specifies the route to reach its objectives.

David Graham, Concordia's provost and vice-president, Academic Affairs, oversaw the Academic Plan Working Group that prepared the document. "This is a real plan with specific goals, targets, implementation strategies and timelines — a true framework for action," Graham says. "It reflects Concordia's increasing maturity as an educational institution that has defined its strengths and is ready to build on them."

One of those strengths is the university's alumni, who Graham hopes will

help achieve the clearly defined goals to improve the knowledge and experience of students. "We have more than 170,000 graduates who can share their success by mentoring students, arranging for relevant on-the-job experiences or helping to establish scholarships," Graham says. "The new plan offers so much opportunity for alumni to get involved through existing programs or by approaching us with new ideas."

The plan spells out five objectives: expand research strength; promote program quality and innovation; build support for student success; increase experiential learning and community engagement; and improve academic leadership and administrative support. Each of these objectives is backed by a number of specific actions and rationale.

Under building support for student success, for example, one action

point is to "identify, reward and promote Concordia's outstanding student achievers with the aim of inspiring more students to excel." To help do so, the university should "encourage donors to fund more merit-based awards and in-program awards for new and continuing undergraduate and graduate students of high academic promise and achievement." The rationale explains that "Concordia's outstanding student applicants ... increasingly look to the university to recognize their achievements through strengthened financial support."

A major focus is a commitment to improving undergraduates' learning experience. "The goal is to make sure that our large undergraduate population leaves with the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to be successful in life no matter what they end up doing,"



says Bradley Tucker, the university's associate vice-president, Student and Enrolment Services.

GREATER SPECIFICITY

The plan details specific objectives, actions and intentions for measuring progress. Lisa Ostiguy, Concordia's interim vice-provost, Teaching and Learning, and an associate professor of Applied Human Sciences, says it's the first time in her 20 years at Concordia that an academic plan so comprehensively outlines the university's mission. "What excites me the most is its acknowledgement of the importance of teaching and its major focus on the learning experience of students," she says. "After all, students come to Concordia because of the excellent professors, and it's those

professors they'll remember as alumni."

Ostiguy welcomes the formal commitments to providing more training for teaching assistants, and to developing opportunities for faculty members to share knowledge and experience regarding teaching methods. "By establishing this as a university-wide commitment, we're making an unprecedented investment in our teaching and learning services," she says.

The plan responds to what students are increasingly seeking, Graham points out: "The National Survey on Student Engagement indicates students want experiential learning. The current discourse is guiding a shift from an emphasis on lecturing to students at the undergraduate level to facilitating active learning."

Undergraduates will also benefit from

a new accent on improving their oral and written communication skills. The goal is to make the nature and vocabulary of this instruction more specific to the needs of students in different programs. "For example, an engineering student might not need to know how to write literary essays but would benefit from learning how to make oral presentations using slides," Graham says. "A Fine Arts student might be best off learning how to prepare grant proposals, while a scientific researcher needs to be able to write and present academic papers."

The plan sets out to involve as many first-year students as possible in research projects, whether it's working with graduate students or directly participating in a professor's initiative. "Ideally, we want our researchers in classrooms



to involve first-year students in projects so they can learn early in their university studies about research possibilities at Concordia and acquire the problem-solving skills necessary for conducting good research,” Ostiguy explains.

New technology will be embraced to streamline administrative processes so that faculty members and administrators can spend more time helping students, and students themselves have more answers at their fingertips. The online degree audit system, for example, will enable students and their advisors to find out exactly what they need to do to obtain their chosen degree and what switching programs would entail.

Graham is optimistic that opportunities will flourish as the university strengthens its multidisciplinary approach to research. “We’ve already claimed new ground with institutions such as Hexagram [Concordia’s arts- and design-based media lab] and

projects that team up a mechanical engineering student with one studying Fine Arts, for example, to do extraordinarily innovative things,” he says. “This is only the beginning of what we could do by leveraging the research potential of our reputable faculty, new multidisciplinary research facilities, strong graduate candidates and keen undergraduates.”

FEEDBACK WELCOMED

A draft version of the academic plan was posted in 2011 on the website of the Office of the Provost, and the entire Concordia community was invited to comment at the site, during public meetings or in writing. “We received 400 pages of input and every suggestion was carefully considered by the Academic Plan Working Group, which then modified the plan quite significantly based on that feedback,” Tucker says.

A number of people suggested, for example, that some of the university’s structures presented hurdles to new program development and experimentation. “Based on that feedback, we’re striving to remove obstacles to people doing things differently,” Tucker says.

Progress indicators were updated from the previous academic plan. “We have some history of keeping track of our progress, but our discussions have also made us aware of some of the difficulties of applying the same metrics to everything,” Tucker explains. “For instance, the standard measure of bibliometrics — the research produced by our scholars in articles and books — is not as appropriate when applied to certain disciplines in isolation. We’ve been honest in saying that we don’t have all

the answers and are certainly open to suggestions, but still need to contextualize our measurements to assess what and how Concordia is doing compared to other universities.”

Some from other universities have already praised Concordia’s plan for its ambitiousness and specific yet open-frame approach. “I think it’s a side-by-side rather than top-down or bottom-up plan because it aims to focus a large community of faculty, staff, students and alumni on key objectives,” Tucker says. The plan’s website will include progress updates, along with mechanisms to provide continual feedback. “We’re inviting people to come back to us with how they would like to go about achieving these objectives and then work with us to define commonalities.”

The possibilities for alumni to become involved abound in Graham’s view. “Whether it’s through Concordia’s LIVE Centre that matches students with community volunteer possibilities that can expand their leadership skills and co-curricular record to impress potential employers, or the Institute of Co-operative Education by arranging for workplace internships, our alumni can significantly contribute to the success of this academic plan,” he says. “Who better, after all, than our successful alumni to show our students the real-world possibilities?” ■

—Julie Gedeon, BA 89, MA 09, is a Montreal-area writer and editor.

To view Concordia’s 2011-2016 academic plan, visit provost.concordia.ca/documents/AP_approved.pdf.

After all, students come to Concordia because of the excellent professors, and it’s those professors they’ll remember as alumni.

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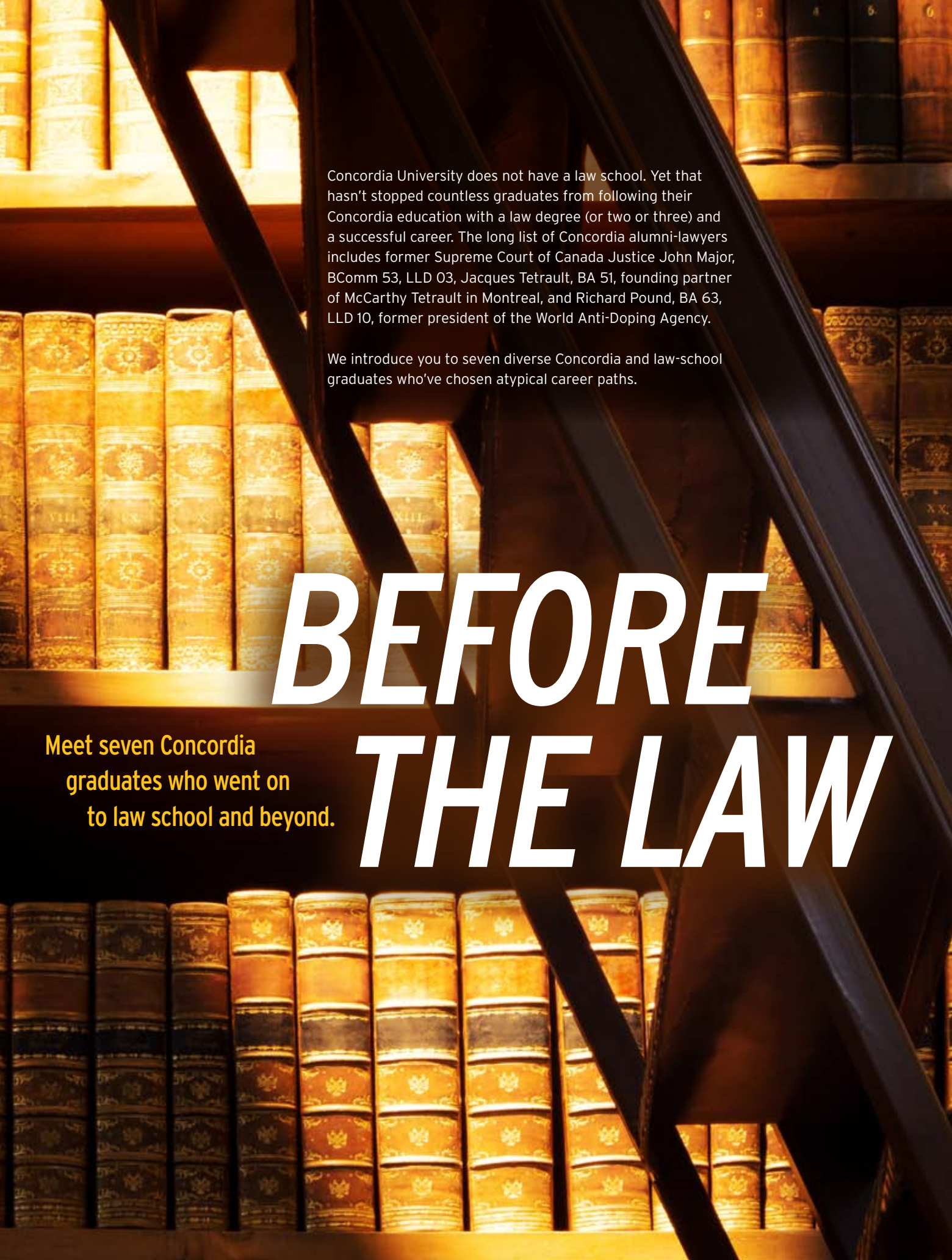


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– Andrew Elvish, MFA 97, Concordia University

Make planned giving an integral part of your financial planning. To learn more about Andrew’s experience, please visit concordia.ca/plannedgiving.



Concordia University does not have a law school. Yet that hasn't stopped countless graduates from following their Concordia education with a law degree (or two or three) and a successful career. The long list of Concordia alumni-lawyers includes former Supreme Court of Canada Justice John Major, BComm 53, LLD 03, Jacques Tetrault, BA 51, founding partner of McCarthy Tetrault in Montreal, and Richard Pound, BA 63, LLD 10, former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

We introduce you to seven diverse Concordia and law-school graduates who've chosen atypical career paths.

BEFORE THE LAW

Meet seven Concordia graduates who went on to law school and beyond.



RICHARD MCCONOMY AND PIERRETTE SÉVIGNY IN THEIR MONTREAL HOME. SÉVIGNY, A FORMER QUEBEC SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, IS SEATED ON THE CHAIR OF HER GRANDFATHER, ALBERT SÉVIGNY (IN THE PORTRAIT), FROM WHEN HE WAS SPEAKER OF THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

POWER COUPLE

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH, PHD 98

One morning about 20 years ago, **Pierrette Sévigny**, BA 67, was meeting clients in the offices of McConomy Sévigny, the firm she had shared for a decade with husband **Richard McConomy**, BA 66. A call arrived. “I was busy,” Sévigny recounts. “So I said, ‘She’s not here — call back at two. Who shall I say is calling?’ Well, it was the minister of justice’s office, because my name had been put forward to be a judge.”

McConomy picks up the narrative: “I told her, ‘Don’t ask questions! Just

say yes!’” When the afternoon call arrived, Sévigny was still preparing clients. McConomy continues: “Our new receptionist rushes in saying, ‘The premier of Quebec wants to speak to you.’ So Pierrette looks at her and says, ‘What the hell does he want? I’m expecting an important phone call!’ The receptionist rushes out again, but returns saying it wasn’t the premier after all. It was the prime minister of Canada, Brian Mulroney.”

Sévigny took the call, accepted the position and became the Honorable Pierrette Sévigny, judge of the Quebec Superior Court, a position she held from 1992 until her retirement in 2009. “I loved being a judge,” she says. “Every case was different, and you never knew what was going to happen next.”

There was also the creative challenge of rendering judgments. “You have to be very careful how you describe witnesses. For instance, you cannot say someone lied. You have to find a way to say his version of the facts was somewhat different from others.”

Becoming a judge was one highlight in a pair of very full legal careers, which began their intersecting paths at Loyola College, one of Concordia’s founding institutions. McConomy was studying political science there in 1964 when he met Sévigny, who was among the initial cohort of 100 women to be admitted to Loyola. She was the girlfriend of McConomy’s Radio Loyola co-president, Peter Murphy. “One day I asked Peter, ‘Are you taking your girlfriend to lunch?’” and he said no — so I did.”

That first tête-à-tête wasn't promising. "We were black-versus-white, liberal-versus-conservative on so many issues. We decided we could probably not even be friends — maybe just acquaintances waving politely at one another across the room," he admits. However, as in many a romantic comedy, the early conflict was misleading. The next day the two met again. "We sat in the old caf and drew up a 10-year plan to get law degrees after our BAs." McConomy was 20, Sévigny 17.

Four years after that fateful lunch, they married. McConomy was in law school at McGill University and Sévigny had earned a teaching certificate. ("We had to eat, and he was still a student," she says.) To supplement her meagre teaching salary, during the summer

same year, McConomy launched one of Quebec's first class-action suits, representing 50 citizens suing the municipality of Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon for having suffered typhoid fever due to a poisoned water supply. Despite impressive expert witnesses on the opposing side, McConomy won the case, garnering a lofty \$250,000 judgement for the plaintiffs. In the following years the firm became McConomy Sévigny, the two working as a team until Sévigny answered Mulroney's phone call.

In 2008, McConomy founded the Richard McConomy Conflicts Resolution Centre (rmcconomy-mediator.com), which focuses on solving disputes through mediation. After retiring from the bench three years ago, Sévigny joined the team — a new version

was very new at the time," he says. McConomy decided to investigate further, taking courses in mediation and soon instructing others. Since 1988 he has helped train more than 1,000 mediators in Canada, the United States, Belgium and France and currently runs courses in family as well as civil and commercial mediation.

"You have to understand, we like what we do. We have fun," says Sévigny, whose enthusiasm for the law illuminates her conversation. Indeed, she comes from a family steeped in politics and the law: her father, Pierre Sévigny, served in Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's 1950s and '60s government and also taught at Concordia in what would become the John Molson School of Business; her grandfather,

You cannot say someone lied. You have to find a way to say his version of the facts was somewhat different from others'.

McConomy worked as an advance agent for the Shrine Circus's tour of northern Quebec and Ontario while Sévigny performed research for a McGill law professor and worked for the opera. When McConomy graduated in 1970, Sévigny launched into her law studies at McGill; she graduated in 1973. "So it's 10 years after we made our plan, and we're thinking, 'We did it! But what are we going to do now?'" Sévigny recalls.

What indeed? McConomy, who had begun as a securities lawyer, had moved into litigation, and Sévigny worked for the Canadian National Railway, primarily in civil litigation. In 1980 she joined her husband's fledgling Montreal law firm, McConomy Burke & Boissé. That



SÉVIGNY AND MCCONOMY AT HER DEBUTANT BALL IN 1964. AS A LIBERAL PARTY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE MID 1960S, MCCONOMY RECALLS: "I FOUND MYSELF SITTING BETWEEN RENÉ LÉVESQUE AND JEAN LESAGE, WHO KIDDED ME BY SAYING, 'YOU THINK YOU KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS — BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE QUESTIONS YET!'"

of McConomy Sévigny. They also share a commitment to their health, training with a professional four or five early mornings each week.

McConomy recalls meeting a group of lawyers back in 1986, when little was known about legal mediation. "Everyone was in a kerfuffle over mediation, which

Albert Sévigny, served in Prime Minister Robert Borden's government a century ago.

Both are effusive in their praise of their alma mater. "All of this started at Loyola," says Sévigny. She points to the significance of being a trailblazer as part of the college's first female cohort and adds that many of her college peers remain among her closest friends.

McConomy further states: "What we learned there was that when the door is open, you should walk in." After 40-plus years in law and marriage, there's ample evidence that McConomy and Sévigny have walked through many doorways and left their impressive marks on Canadian law.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

BY SHELDON GORDON

Seven years ago, **Erica Bach**, BA 99, developed a passion for international law and human rights while working as a legal intern for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in southern Africa. Today, she's serving those same ideals working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

If international law seems a stretch from Bach's Concordia BA in creative writing, she confides that it "had always been at the back of my mind. Developing the ability to express myself and be creative in arguments was a good fit." So was her part-time job with the university's students with disabilities service. "I had the opportunity to advocate on behalf of students who are marginalized from the mainstream," she says.

Her current role channels that experience. The Halifax native has been a senior advisor in the Office of the

ERICA BACH HAS BEEN A SENIOR ADVISOR IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COUNSELLOR IN TORONTO SINCE 2010. PRIOR TO THAT, SHE WAS A LEGAL OFFICER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN OTTAWA AND REPRESENTED CANADA AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S SESSIONS IN GENEVA.

VINCENZO PIETROPAOLO



"In promoting human development, you have to engage with business. It's through that lens that you can make a significant improvement in reaching development objectives," Bach says.

It's not only business that she engages. In December, Bach went to Tanzania to chair a roundtable of local NGOs,

for six months in Mozambique for a UN Development Program project to reform the judicial and prison systems.

Imbued with internationalism, Bach enrolled in a New York University program in Singapore, where she earned a master's in global law to add to the bachelor of law she earlier acquired at

You have to engage with business. It's through that lens that you can make a significant improvement in reaching development objectives.

Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Counsellor in Toronto since 2010. The office was created the previous year as part of a government strategy aimed at improving the competitive advantage of Canadian international mining, oil and gas companies by enhancing their ability to manage social and environmental risks.

The office's mandate is to be an "honest broker" that mediates disputes between companies and local communities. The process is voluntary and non-binding.

part of a Canada-East African community forum on CSR practices. She knows the African NGO scene well. In 2005, she spent six months in Pretoria, South Africa, as an intern at Lawyers for Human Rights, a local NGO, monitoring the post-apartheid government's treatment of refugees primarily from Central Africa.

Next came three months in Harare, Zimbabwe, working on a rule of law initiative in the face of President Robert Mugabe's repression, then volunteered

Dalhousie University. She subsequently joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa as a legal officer and specialized in human rights. She represented Ottawa at sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

After 18 months, she was seconded to the CSR office. In terms of her career objectives, "I definitely feel that the field where business and human rights intersect is where I want to be," says Bach. "It's that place that combines all my experiences."

LITERARY LAWYER

BY SHELDON GORDON


Four decades ago, **Jim Smith, MA** 81, made his publishing debut when the *West Coast Review* paid him \$5 for a short story that he now

writing provided him with “a wider perspective on the world.” His thesis supervisor, former professor Gary Geddes, became a lifelong friend, and his thesis, a volume of poetry, was later published as *Translating Sleep* (1989).

In the early 1980s Smith moved to Toronto. He worked at various jobs

delegations of writers and artists to book festivals there. “I was an avowed left-winger, though I’m not as rabid now,” he adds. Indeed, the bourgeois imperative of earning a comfortable living prompted him at age 43 to enroll in York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School.

As a mature student, he worked hard but loved the experience. He then articulated at Ontario’s Police Complaints Commission — only to see the commission abolished in provincial cutbacks midway through the year. Smith seamlessly moved to the Crown Law Office (Civil), completed his articles in 1998 and has practised law there ever since. He specializes in trial work, defending the Crown and the Ontario Provincial Police against civil suits, often brought by plaintiffs who claim they have been the victims of malicious



JIM SMITH IS A CIVIL LITIGATOR FOR ONTARIO'S MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN TORONTO AND ALSO A MUCH-PUBLISHED POET. HIS MOST RECENT BOOK IS *BACK OFF, ASSASSIN! NEW AND SELECTED POEMS* (MANSFIELD PRESS, 2009), A SELECTION OF HIS POETRY FROM 1979-98 AS WELL AS MORE RECENT VERSE, WHICH WAS ONE OF 22 BOOKS LONGLISTED FOR THE 2010 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD FOR POETRY. HIS NEXT POETRY COLLECTION, *HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NICANOR PARRA*, HAS JUST BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION BY TORONTO'S MANSFIELD PRESS FOR FALL 2012.

VINCENZO PIETROPAOLO

considers “terribly derivative of Samuel Beckett. I would cringe if I were to re-read it.” At the time, however, “I was thrilled, despite the small payment,” Smith confesses. “It was nice to finally have a token of acceptance.”

The Concordia alumnus, 61, has led a literary life ever since: he’s written 14 books and chapbooks of poetry. Yet there’s a twist: along the way, in the spirit of F.R. Scott and A.M. Klein, Smith earned a law degree and became a successful civil litigator for Ontario’s Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto. “I’m the only Canadian lawyer to have published a *New and Selected Poems*,” he says.

Born in Niagara Falls, Ont., Smith reveals that his Concordia MA in creative

It’s a hangover from my leftist sentiments. I sell my services, but not my soul.

while he continued writing poetry and also managed his own small publishing house, Front Press.

Smith cheerfully admits that much of his poetry has been agitprop — the use of art as political propaganda. He identified strongly with the revolutionary fervour of Central America’s leftists and in 1984 toured Nicaragua at the invitation of the Sandinista Cultural Association. “Once back home, I began promoting awareness of what was going on in Nicaragua,” Smith recalls. In the late ’80s he led two small

criminal prosecution. “I’ve only lost one trial, which we later won on appeal,” he says proudly.

Smith, however, tries to avoid highly politicized files. “It’s a hangover from my leftist sentiments,” he relates. “I sell my services, but not my soul.”

And his other self? It’s in the early morning hours or evenings — “around the edges of earning a living,” he says — that Smith, the poet, re-emerges.

POETIC LEGACY

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH, PHD 98

You are part of me, O all your quarters." So wrote A. M. Klein in 1948 in "Montreal," a poetic ode to his home city. Two generations later, **Alana Klein**, BA 97, a McGill University law professor and granddaughter of the poet (and lawyer), is committed to the same ideal.

"I was drawn to Concordia because it felt very embedded in the community, which was important to me," reveals Klein, who earned her BA in psychol-

ogy. "It has an interesting, diverse set of people and I felt it reflected Montreal and the world."

exclusion. "I found myself taking on all sorts of HIV/AIDS-related issues, from injection drug use to problems facing women in sub-Saharan Africa," she says. "I loved it."

Still, her roots pulled her back to Montreal to pursue a fellowship at McGill in 2008. A year later Klein started as full-time professor in the Faculty of Law, where she has researched such thorny issues as the criminalization of HIV transmission exposure. "In Canada it is a criminal offence to not disclose if you are HIV-positive and have risky sex, but the idea of criminalizing sexual behaviour is controversial, especially in the public health community. My

research can mediate among the public health community, people affected by HIV/AIDS, and the criminal law community on such issues," she says. Her courses also include explorations of criminal procedure, evidence and the relationship between law and poverty.

Klein also stays engaged with local groups such as the Mile End Legal Clinic. "My grandfather's concern with connecting to other communities is something I have taken on," she says. "That idea influenced my desire to study at Concordia and, more recently, to stay in Montreal and do work that is meaningful to the larger community." ■

Justice Arbour had three clerks that summer and she'd have us over for pizza-making nights that would end with us dancing in her living room.

ogy. "It has an interesting, diverse set of people and I felt it reflected Montreal and the world."

Law won out over psychology, however. "The law is so analytical that there is a lot of room to investigate the relationship between the world and different kinds of norms," she explains. "I felt it enabled me to engage more directly with social and political issues."

This engagement was enhanced when, one summer during her law studies at McGill, Klein was selected to serve as a clerk for Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour. "It was reminiscent of my Concordia education in that Justice Arbour's chambers were also a kind of research lab. Judges are not permitted to talk about cases outside of the courthouse, so she bounced ideas off her clerks, which was incredibly stimulating," Klein recalls. "She had three clerks that summer and she'd have us over for pizza-making nights that would end with us dancing in her living room."

As Klein was nearing completion of her graduate studies at Columbia University in New York City, she based herself in Toronto and worked for the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. She immersed herself in questions of social marginalization, inclusion and



MCGILL UNIVERSITY LAW PROFESSOR ALANA KLEIN AT THE FACULTY'S CHANCELLOR DAY HALL. KLEIN WAS DRAWN TO CONCORDIA BY ITS SMALL CLASSES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH PROFESSORS: "THE ENVIRONMENT WAS VERY COLLEGIAL AND THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE HELPED ME DEVELOP A SENSE OF BEING IN CONTROL OF MY OWN EDUCATION."

LINDA RUTENBERG

REVITALIZING ABORIGINAL LAW

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH, PHD 98

“My original plan was to go to the States to make lots of money after I finished law school,” laughs **Martha Montour**, BA 83. That’s not quite how her career turned out.

Disputes can create a real fissure between families. With mediation, separations and divorces can be resolved peacefully.

Montour is a Mohawk from Kahnawake, the First Nations reserve near Montreal. While pursuing her law degree at McGill University in the '80s, she was offered a summer job working with the justice coordinator for the Mohawk Council, and her community began to exert its pull. Then came 1990 — and the Oka Crisis: Kahnawake Mohawks shut down the road running through the community to protest the plan by the town of Oka, Que., to build a golf course on Mohawk land, sparking a two-and-a-half month standoff with the Sûreté du Québec. “I had almost been sucked into the normal lawyer rat race, but I refused to leave the community during the crisis and that slowed my pace down,” she says. “It forced me to really examine what I wanted to do: make a lot of money or help people?”

Law seems a long way from Montour’s Concordia BA in community nursing

specialization. But there are links. While in the nursing program, she was influenced by classmates from Bahrain who were eager to continue to graduate school and then bring their knowledge home. “I guess they infected me,” Montour says.

After McGill, she articulated with Montreal-based, aboriginal law specialists O’Reilly & Associates and was admitted to the Bar in both Quebec and New York State. Since 1990 Montour has run her own practice in Kahnawake and remains associated

communities. “Traditional Aboriginal justice systems were based on mediation,” she points out. An elder, or somebody respected by both sides, would help disputing parties come to a solution. Today, Montour fulfills that role. “I know most community members,” she says. “And most of them trust me.”

In closely knit aboriginal communities, mediators perform a critical role. “If one person gets thrown out of the house, does it divide the whole municipality? Such disputes can create a real fissure between families, and this wound never really heals,” she says. “With mediation, separations and divorces can be resolved peacefully, so families do not end up like the Hatfields and McCoys and their children can



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

MARTHA MONTOUR NEAR HER LAW OFFICES IN KAHNAWAKE, QUE. MONTOUR WAS PART OF THE O'REILLY & ASSOCIATES' LEGAL TEAM THAT WON GEORGE WELDON ADAMS'S LANDMARK 1996 CASE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA. ADAMS, A MOHAWK FROM THE AKWESASNE RESERVE, HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF CONTRAVENING A QUEBEC FISHERIES ACT REGULATION WHEN HE WAS CAUGHT FISHING WITHOUT A PERMIT. THE SUPREME COURT PUT ASIDE THE CONVICTION BECAUSE THE REGULATION INTERFERED WITH ADAMS'S ABORIGINAL RIGHTS.

with O’Reilly & Associates. The federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the Assembly of First Nations have sought her insights on matrimonial property on Native reserves.

Montour now focuses on family, civil and commercial mediation, something especially significant for aboriginal

continue their relationships with both parents and their extended families.”

Still, it can be challenging to convince community members. “I sometimes have to remind people that mediation is our traditional approach,” says Montour. “And I’m trying to revitalize it.”

THINKING CREATIVELY ABOUT LAW

BY JILL C. MOFFETT, BA 98

After establishing herself as a conceptual artist, fashion designer and academic legal researcher, **Mara Verna**, BFA (art ed.) 98, knows how to change careers with style. In her latest incarnation, the newly minted law school graduate coordinates a research team at McGill University's Faculty of Law in partnership with the Center for Legal and Economic Studies based in Moscow.

Trained as an artist, the Toronto-born Verna arrived at Concordia with a passion for learning. "Fine Arts was an incredible community, but the best part was that it allowed me to learn about learning," she recalls. "People like professor Lorrie Blair [now Fine Arts' associate dean of Academic and Student Affairs] had many progressive ideas and helped me to grow as a creative thinker."

When she graduated, Verna was awarded the Art Education Prize and lined up an art exhibit at the Eastern Edge Gallery in St. John's, Nfld. So she did what anyone would: enrol in a post-graduate math course at Concordia. "It sounds silly, but I wanted to make sure that I had learned something," Verna says. "It wasn't until I got an A plus in the course that I was convinced. If I can come out of a Fine Arts degree and learn math, then that proves I received an excellent education."

If I can come out of a Fine Arts degree and learn math, then that proves I received an excellent education.

Thus satisfied, she packed her bags and dedicated herself to the practice of conceptual art. She exhibited extensively, participated in artists' residencies, mostly in Europe and South Africa, and even presented her work at the well-known Tate Modern in London.

ARTIST AND FORMER ENTREPRENEUR MARA VARNA IN FRONT OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF LAW BUILDING, CHANCELLOR DAY HALL, WHERE SHE RECENTLY EARNED A LAW DEGREE AND NOW COORDINATES A STUDY CALLED "THE RULE OF LAW AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RUSSIA." SHE WILL SOON HEAD TO TORONTO TO ARTICLE WITH THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

LINDA RUTENBERG

However, after several years of living out of a suitcase, Verna was ready to anchor herself. She returned to Montreal and opened a retail boutique featuring her own fashion designs. "After several years, I decided I wanted a career that would engage me in a different way," she recalls.

Verna chose law: "It was a natural evolution. A lot of my projects as an artist engaged with socio-economic and indigenous issues, insights which have enriched my legal education. My strength as a conceptual thinker and my business experience have also proven valuable."

Verna graduated from McGill Law in December 2011. Since then, she's been project coordinator and principal researcher at the faculty under Nandini Ramanujam, whose team is conducting a comparative analysis across Brazil, Russia, India and China. "Our project looks at the system and structure in which law operates within the context of transition economies, examining the challenges that lie ahead which may hinder growth potential," Verna explains. "It has been an incredible opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge on issues that have global reach."

She'll tap into that experience when she starts articling at the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto in August, ready to embark on yet another career — as a practising lawyer.



HOW TO BRAND YOURSELF

**SEVEN SUCCESSFUL CONCORDIA ALUMNI
OFFER TIPS TO GRADUATES – OF ALL LEVELS
OF EXPERIENCE – TO STAND OUT IN A
CROWDED FIELD OF JOB HUNTERS OR THOSE
LOOKING FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT.**

BY DAVID ADELMAN

On my path to graduating from Concordia this spring, I became a pro at dancing between class assignments, midterms and finals. However, I quickly realized I was an amateur in terms of deciding what my next steps would be once I took my final bow on stage and walked away with my undergraduate degree. Where would I work? How could I succeed in today's job market? Should I learn the fundamentals of business networking or continue my education?

For inspiration and direction, I spoke to a number of Concordia alumni who've done well in their fields and are willing to pass along some of the secrets of their success. (They all also volunteer for the Concordia Mentor Program – see "Tonight's main course: expert career advice" on page 33.)

After speaking with these professionals, I learned that today's job market is constantly changing and that advancing in the "real world" isn't as simple as studying hard for an exam. It's important to learn how to balance business smarts with creativity. Most of all: follow your passion for what you want to do in life with determination and courage.

– David Adelman is a student in Concordia's Department of Journalism.



CHRISTIAN FLEURY

NAME: MUTSUMI TAKAHASHI, BA (PSYCH.) 79, MBA 95
FIELD: TELEVISION BROADCASTING
POSITION: NEWS ANCHOR, CTV MONTREAL
BEST ADVICE: "FIND OUT WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT AND DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER."

Mutsumi Takahashi's self-branding tips:

- Always treat people with respect.
- Use a moral compass to guide your judgment calls; it is not necessary to win at all costs.
- Know what makes you unique and use that to your advantage.

“They say that a little bit of celebrity is a very good test of character,” Mutsumi Takahashi relates. That means Takahashi’s moral fibre has been well tested since she’s held a high profile for more than 25 years as news anchor at CTV’s Montreal affiliate.

Takahashi has kept her feet on the ground by offering career advice to others and remembering her roots. Looking back to the days before sitting on the anchor chair, she feels her life has been filled with a series of fortunate opportunities. “I came into the media at a time when it was expanding as opposed to contracting,” she recalls. “For graduating students who want to get in the field today, I always say: ‘There is no direct route; it’s a matter of how badly you want it.’”

This applies to any path, Takahashi adds: “You have to figure out what you’re good at, what you can offer that other candidates don’t have.”

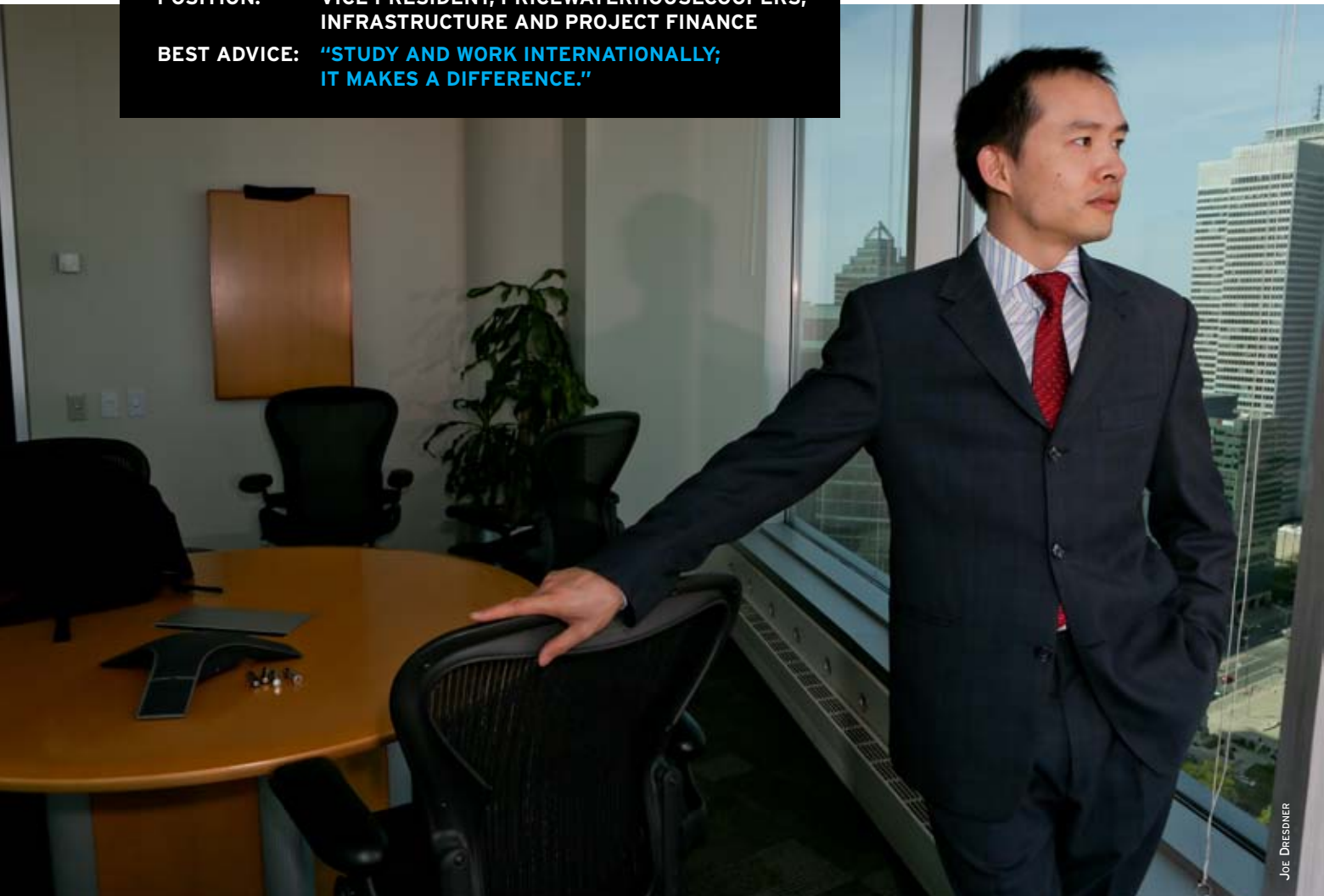
The spectacular, downtown Montreal view that Paul Mai enjoys from his office window didn't come easily. "I wasn't in a program that just brings you directly to your field," he explains. "I worked part time during school, and after graduation I wanted an international experience." So Mai decided to plunge into the unknown and study abroad at the London Business School in the United Kingdom for his Master's of Science in finance.

After his degree in 2006, Mai continued to live in London while working at Japanese-owned Shinsei Bank. "The exposure to a different culture and work ethic helped shape me very much." He says about working abroad: "It's not a prerequisite, but it gives you an edge."

Paul Tri Dung Mai's self-branding tips:

- Accept that no two people have the identical career path.
- Develop relations with your classmates and build your resources.
- Find a mentor in your field.

NAME: PAUL TRI DUNG MAI, BCOMM (FIN.) O2
FIELD: FINANCE
POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT, PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECT FINANCE
BEST ADVICE: "STUDY AND WORK INTERNATIONALLY; IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE."



JOE DRESNER



JOE DRESNER

NAME: DEIRDRE POTASH, BFA 82
FIELD: ART EDUCATION/ENTREPRENEURSHIP
POSITION: OWNER, ART COMES TO SCHOOL, MONTREAL ART EDUCATOR, MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
BEST ADVICE: "FIND YOUR PASSION AND THEN GET YOUR NAME OUT THERE."

For as long as she can remember, Deirdre Potash wanted to teach art. So it shouldn't have surprised her too much when a few days after her Concordia convocation in 1982 she received an unexpected phone call: "Hello, I'm from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Your professor recommended you for an art education position here." She jumped at the opportunity. Thirty years later, Potash reveals that she's still living her dream, inspiring creativity in others. "You're going to be spending most of your life working; find your passion. For me, that's teaching," she says.

She turned that love for art education into a Montreal-based business called Art Comes to School. As its website (artwill.ca) states: "let the field trip come to you." "There is a niche market for public schools that have cut down their art programs," Potash explains. "I go to schools all over Quebec and Ontario and bring art back into the classroom."

Potash accepted long ago that she would never strike it rich from her profession. Yet making a difference in someone's life can't be measured by monetary value — and it can serve as a guide for following your heart into a career.

Deirdre Potash's self-branding tips:

- Take risks, ask questions, educate yourself and listen to your gut.
- Network and get your name and what you want to do "out there."
- Always carry business cards with your name and contact details.

What would Robert Nag do differently if he could go back to his days as an undergraduate at Concordia? "Focus more on projects than exams," he says. "My last two years were so enjoyable because of group projects."

The same enthusiasm displayed midway through his studies led Nag to a summer internship with CAE, the Montreal-based world leader in flight simulation for civil aviation and defence. Shortly after graduation, he landed a full-time job there and has remained with CAE ever since. Today Nag oversees the training of pilots and instructors for the Montreal Training Centre.

As a manager, Nag has found that employees often underestimate their capabilities: "We have the skills within ourselves. We just have to expose them, and then everything else will follow. The first step is to find challenging and stimulating work."

Robert Nag's self-branding tips:

- Apply for jobs where you can demonstrate a high level of interest and engagement to the interviewer.
- Be motivated and flexible to go beyond the job description.
- Don't hesitate to push your ideas forward in the workplace.

NAME: ROBERT NAG, BENG (ELEC. ENG.) 93
FIELD: AVIATION
POSITION: CENTRE LEADER, MONTREAL TRAINING CENTRE, CAE INC., MONTREAL
BEST ADVICE: "A GOOD CHALLENGE INSPIRES EVERYTHING ELSE."



NAME: SARAH SAJEDI, BSC (CHEM.) 91
FIELD: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING
POSITION: DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,
 ERA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING INC., MONTREAL

NAME: GARY VEGH, BSC (CHEM.) 88, GRDIP (ECOTOXICOLOGY) 92
POSITION: SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGIST,
 ERA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING INC., MONTREAL

BEST ADVICE: "WILLINGNESS TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND THE STANDARD EXPECTATIONS."



RYAN BLAU / PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

Twenty-five years ago, Sarah Sajedi met Gary Vegh for the first time on the 10th floor of Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building. They married shortly after.

Since then, their partnership has expanded beyond the home front. Beginning in 1995, the couple has shared an office at ERA Environmental Consulting, a Montreal-based company they cofounded. "Between work and our family, we're together 24/7 — and still married," laughs Vegh. He handles the business's consulting end while Sajedi oversees the programming for software that tracks chemical emissions produced by their client companies such as Toyota, Nissan, Volkswagen, Masonite Corporation and La-Z-Boy.

From her experience of hiring students, Sajedi notes that many are too eager to become managers immediately. "They aren't willing to take the time and work through the steps," she says. Attitude counts: "It's important that graduates show that extra enthusiasm and commitment."

Sarah Sajedi and Gary Vegh's self-branding tips:

- Be open-minded and do what you are asked to the best of your capability; you never know where it might lead.
- Let your enthusiasm and passion determine your career choice. If you're truly passionate about your work, you'll stand out.
- Always try to do more than what is expected. Extra effort gets noticed.

Sharon Hunter has been honing her skills as a commercial writer ever since tutoring college peers. That's why turning communications skills into a business was a logical choice after seven years in the software industry, she says. As a marketing communications consultant, Hunter conveys: "I'm an independent but have a network of collaborators from which I cherry-pick for specific projects."

With more than 20 years in the field to back her, Hunter recommends that those looking to start their own business should initially acquire knowledge in the workplace: "Get agency or corporate experience first and hopefully get mentored on the job to build your skills set."

Hunter, who is also president of IABC (International Association of Business Communicators)/Montréal and volunteers for the Dinner for Eight program (see the sidebar on the following page), adds that one of the best ways to gain valuable experience and connections is to volunteer in industry or for an association related to your field — which is not just working for free. "A great recommendation for your work boosts network visibility, offering great return on time investment," she says.

Sharon Hunter's self-branding tips:

- Develop leadership and learn to work as part of a team.
- Collaborate with individuals who complement your skills.
- Accept criticism gratefully; it helps you grow.



JOSÉE LECOMTE

NAME: SHARON HUNTER, BA (COMM. STUDIES) 90
FIELD: COMMUNICATIONS
POSITION: PRINCIPAL AND SENIOR WRITER, SHARON HUNTER COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL
BEST ADVICE: "VOLUNTEERING DOES VOLUMES FOR VISIBILITY – BE STRATEGIC."

TONIGHT'S MAIN COURSE: EXPERT CAREER ADVICE

BY SCOTT McCULLOCH

Dinner for Eight has all the ingredients for both launching and enhancing careers.

Of all the things a student can do at university, savouring a leisurely meal with professionals offering free career advice could be the most sensible. That's the idea behind the award-winning Dinner for Eight, which was initiated by Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations in collaboration with the Concordia University Alumni Association in 2009.

The program pairs working professionals, typically Concordia alumni, with students seeking job-market tips. Hosts are matched to students according to career interests.

The dinners are so popular that when participants met at Otto Restaurant in Montreal's financial district, on March 21, there were three hosts per table.

Sarah Pepper, a John Molson School of Business marketing major, gained three personal introductions in her field before her first course was served. "It will help me a lot because the alumni who were present are open to staying in contact with us," says Pepper, who plans to work in the United Kingdom after she graduates.

Dinner for Eight complements the popular Concordia Mentor Program, a similar set-up minus the epicurean experience. The program connects recent grads and students with alumni who have volunteered to give career coaching.

Meanwhile, advice from experts such as Patrick Hardy, sales director at CNW Group in Montreal, is as diverse as Otto's wine cellar. Although confident and outspoken, Hardy favours carrots over sticks to motivate his staff. "We work with human beings and we're all unique, so a cookie-cutter approach just doesn't work," he tells his guests between bites.

Like all hosts who sign up to the dinners, Hardy is generous with his knowledge and is stimulated by the youthful perspectives his protégés bring to the table. Yet hosting, he and his peers say, is not bereft of challenges.

Possibly the most common source of anxiety hosts face are students' queries over their qualifications and inexperience.

"I was surprised that students really feel they need to know everything before they get a job," says Sharon Hunter, BA (comm. studies) '90, a marketing communications consultant. "You have to be prepared to think on your feet and learn and adapt as you go. That was one of the messages I was trying to get across."

It arrived. "They definitely gave me a sense of what the workplace is like," Pepper says of her hosts. That in itself puts the 23-year-old slightly ahead of the curve.

To volunteer for or learn more about the Concordia Mentor Program and Dinner for Eight, visit concordia.ca/alumni-giving/alumni/connect-learn/mentor. ■



JMSB WELCOMES NEW DEAN

Distinguished scholar and teacher **Steve Harvey** (above) will begin July 1 as the new dean of Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) for a five-year term.

Harvey has been the dean of the Williams School of Business at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Que., since 2008 and associate vice-principal, Research, since 2010. Under his leadership, the Williams School of Business and the university's research profile have grown tremendously.

"JMSB is already one of the best in Canada at what it does, from case competitions and co-op programs to sustainability and entrepreneurship," Harvey says. "The school has displayed solid signals of strength in all of its departments. I am looking forward to working with my new colleagues to bring it into the top tier of North American business schools."

Harvey received his PhD in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of Guelph in 1996. He's won a number of teaching awards and built an outstanding record of scholarship and research that spans youth employment, work attitudes, workplace aggression, leadership, performance management and trust in management. His latest research focus is work-related stress, psychological health and wellbeing, and organizational interventions aimed at improved workplace health. His interdisciplinary research has been published in diverse international journals and he consulted on human resources management for a variety of organizations.

Michael Childs, Bishop's vice-principal, Academic, says: "In all of his many functions, Steve has demonstrated a strong strategic sense, a problem-solving ability and a generosity of spirit which has made him a great role model and a wonderful colleague."

Concordia Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, David Graham adds: "Steve Harvey is a dynamic administrator who will be an excellent dean and a great addition to the university's senior academic leadership."

—Yuri Mytko



LEFT TO RIGHT: MARIE CLAIRE MORIN, CONCORDIA VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS; PAULETTE LEGAULT, PRESIDENT, CEO AND SECRETARY OF THE ORDRE DES COMPTABLES GÉNÉRAUX ACCRÉDITÉS DU QUÉBEC; STEPHAN ROBITAILLE, CHAIR OF THE ORDRE DES COMPTABLES GÉNÉRAUX ACCRÉDITÉS DU QUÉBEC; AND ALAN HOCHSTEIN, INTERIM DEAN, JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

CGA-QUEBEC MAKES MAJOR GIFT TO CREATE RESEARCH CENTRE IN ACCOUNTANCY

Quebec education history was made at Concordia in February. The Ordre des comptables généraux accrédités (CGA-Québec) donated \$250,000 to establish the CGA Research Centre, the first of its kind in the province, at JMSB. The centre will be led by Department of Accountancy associate professor Emilio Boulianne who, along with an advisory board and scientific committee, will shape the think-tank's strategic direction. JMSB was selected after a province-wide competition.

The CGA Research Centre is poised to become a national reference point in research in accountancy and will focus on CGA competencies such as organizational effectiveness, ethics and trust, leadership, accounting policy, management accounting, environmental organization and information technologies. It will also produce educational materials and articles for scientific journals and will strengthen the ties between JMSB and CGA-Québec.

For a five-year period beginning in 2012, \$50,000 will be available annually for research, student awards and conferences featuring keynote speakers in the field of accountancy. The CGA Research Centre will also benefit from visiting professors and accountancy professionals who will lead research projects and run courses. JMSB currently has seven professors who hold the Certified General Accountant designation.

Marie Claire Morin, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and Alumni Relations, says the centre will make JMSB "thought-leaders in this area of applied research. Accountancy students in Quebec and beyond Canada's borders are the immediate beneficiaries of this tremendous initiative whose scope reflects Concordia's global vision to deliver exceptional education to promising scholars."

—Scott McCulloch



CONCORDIA LAUNCHED THE LUC BEAUREGARD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH AT JMSB ON APRIL 19.

FROM LEFT: JMSB'S GOLD-MEDAL-WINNING TEAM ALANA DES COEURS, ISABELLA MATTEO AND CATHERINE RICHARD, WITH COACH AARON DRESNER, AT RYERSON UNIVERSITY'S 7TH ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR CASE COMPETITION IN JANUARY.

LUC BEAUREGARD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHED AT JMSB

A new research hub in strategic communications, the first of its kind at a Canadian business school, is being launched at JMSB.

The mandate of the Luc Beauregard Centre of Excellence in Communications Research is to strengthen exchanges between scholars in marketing and strategic communications and industry to better understand the role of communications in business. The eponymous centre will pay homage to Luc Beauregard, a pioneer in the field of strategic communications and tireless volunteer.

The creation of the centre was made possible by NATIONAL Public Relations, which is spearheading a campaign to raise \$500,000 towards its establishment.

The centre will award research funds to professors following a competitive process and two Luc Beauregard doctoral fellowships annually to researchers who wish to deepen their understanding of strategic communications.

In addition, the Luc Beauregard Speaker Series will foster exchanges between academics, researchers and practitioners in strategic communications. The speaker series, to be held every two years, will provide access to eminent experts who will share their knowledge with faculty members, students and the general public.

The centre's director, Jordan LeBel of JMSB's Department of Marketing, will oversee research and other core activities.

"The Luc Beauregard Centre of Excellence in Communications Research will deepen our understanding of strategic corporate communications and offer students unique opportunities to develop skills in critical thinking, marketing and business messaging," says Alan Hochstein, JMSB's interim dean.

—Scott McCulloch

BANNER YEAR FOR JMSB AT CASE COMPETITIONS

It was another incredible year — indeed, the best year ever — for Concordia students competing in business case competitions. The John Molson Case Competition Committee led by head coach and advisor Mark Haber, BComm 71, recruited and trained undergraduate students for 57 academic teams this year. Between September and May, JMSB reached the podium a record 37 times.

Case competitions focus on a variety of business disciplines. Teams are provided with business case studies where specific problems have been identified. They are asked to analyze the issues and prepare a presentation putting forth their recommendations to a panel of judges, which generally include high level industry professionals. "Case competitions play a tremendously important role in business education," says Alan Hochstein, JMSB's interim dean. "They help develop collaborative analysis skills — essential components for business leaders."

Part of JMSB's mission is to educate students to become responsible global citizens and create a learning environment that responds to the needs of the global economy. "The international nature of these competitions serves that mission," says Hochstein. This year, JMSB students proudly represented Concordia locally, nationally and internationally, travelling as far as Hong Kong and Maastricht, the Netherlands. ■

—Yuri Mytko

HOME COMING

2 0 1 2

Thursday, September 27, to Thursday, October 11



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Resolute Forest Products Lecture



Joelle Adler, LLD 10, president and CEO, Diesel Canada Inc.; founder, ONEXONE Foundation

“Entrepreneurial Philanthropy:
Making a Difference One by One”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Shuffle 23 and President's Picnic

“The Beatles and the Montreal Connection”
Craig Morrison, PhD 00, Concordia music instructor

Homecoming Football Game

Concordia Stingers vs. les Carabins de l'Université de Montréal

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Celebratory Service

Campus Tours

Engineering and Computer Science
Alumni Reunion Cocktail

President's Reunion Gala and 75th
Anniversary of the Association of Alumni
of Sir George Williams University
Cocktails, dinner and live music
by Vintage Wine

Concordia Football Champions Dinner
Celebrating the championship teams of
1962, 1972 and 1982

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Family Fair Day

Montreal Tour

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Career Speed Networking

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

“The last lecture?
Apocalypse then and now”

Lorenzo DiTommaso, associate professor and
chair, Concordia Department of Religion

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Football Game

Concordia Stingers vs. Sherbrooke
Vert et Or

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Career Speed Networking

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Up Close and Personal



Julien BriseBois, EMBA 07, assistant
general manager, Tampa Bay Lightning

CALL FOR CLASS REUNION CHAMPIONS

President's Reunion Gala 2012

We're looking for Class Champions for the President's Reunion Gala, for reunion classes: pre-1962, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002. Contact Erin Mullins, Associate Alumni Officer, Homecoming & Reunions, at erin.mullins@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 3881.



FIND A FRIEND

If you're looking for a former classmate, Concordia can send your coordinates to him or her, who can reply directly to you: concordia.ca/alumni/find-a-friend

For updates and more information:

Melanie.Gudgeon@concordia.ca
514-848-2424, ext. 5647

homecoming.concordia.ca

DISCOUNTS FOR ALUMNI

Accommodations

Contact these hotels for the Concordia University corporate rate:

Le Meridien Versailles & Château Versailles
1-888-933-8111; 514-933-3611
chateauversaillesmontreal.com

Hotel Maritime Plaza
1-800-363-6255; 514-932-1411
hotelmartitime.com

Marriott Residence Inn Montreal-Westmount
1-800-678-6323; 514-935-9224
residencemontreal.com

Loews Hotel Vogue
1-800-235-6397; 514 285-5555
loewshotels.com/en/Montreal-Hotel

Novotel Montreal
514-871-2138
novotelmontreal.com

Le Centre Sheraton
1-800-535-5007; 514-878-2000
sheratoncentremontreal.com

The Westin, code CO129A
1-866-837-4262; 514-380-3333
westinmontreal.com

Le Nouvel Hotel and Spa
1-800-363-6063; 514-931-8841
lenouvelhotel.com

Transportation

Porter Airlines, code CONCOR
[Flyporter.com](http://flyporter.com)

Via Rail Canada, code 810217
viarail.ca/en/fares/business-travel/corporate-fares/concordia-university
1-888-via-rail (1-888-842-7245);
514-871-6511

Budget Rent-a-Car, code A433700
1-800-268-8900

Services

Le Gym
Present your Concordia alumni ID card to enjoy complimentary visits during Homecoming

Thank you to our partners and sponsors

Home and Auto
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BMO  Banque de Montréal

 Manulife Financial



 GABRIEL PRESTIGE PRESIDENT



Reebok



Concordia University
Alumni Association

Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations helped present nearly 50 events in Montreal, across Canada and the world over the past four months. For news on the full slate and for a list of all upcoming events, visit concordia.ca/alumni-giving.



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

1 Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet

ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS BANQUET

Seven outstanding Concordia community members and two university icons were celebrated at the 21st Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet at Le Westin Montreal on May 17: (from left, back row) **Jamie Orchard, Jang-Hwan Kwon, James Conklin** and **Marvin H. Coleby**; (from left, front row) **John F. Lemieux, Ned Goodman, Mary Kay Lowy** and **Frederick H. Lowy**, and **Dennis Y. Chan**. **1**

The awards acknowledge valuable contributions to the university and the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) by alumni, students, faculty members, staff and supporters.

Outstanding Student Award: Marvin H. Coleby, completing a BA in political science (honours) and philosophy. The former president of the Concordia Caribbean Student Union is accomplished far beyond his 20 years. He said that the most important thing he learned at university is "we have a duty to enrich other people's lives and contribute to society."

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award:

Jang-Hwan Kwon, GrDip 96, MCSc 03, manager of administrative systems for Concordia's Instructional and Information Technology Services and chair of the Concordia Shuffle's advisory committee. He recounted how in 2008 he opened a fortune cookie that said, "You

will receive some great honour." "Tonight, I finally got my answer," Kwon said.

Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching: James Conklin, MA 04, PhD 09, assistant professor of applied human sciences. Conklin quoted a Latin proverb: "By learning you teach and by teaching you learn"; therefore, he added, "teaching is its own reward because learning is my greatest joy."

Alumna of the Year: Jamie Orchard, BA 91, Global Montreal's Evening News anchor. Orchard recounted how she never stopped appreciating her days in the university's Department of Journalism: "I need to love something in order to learn it, and I loved my time at Concordia."

The Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award: Dennis Y. Chan, BComm 77, CEO of Standard Corporate Advisory Limited in Hong Kong. He is also co-founder of the CUAA's Hong Kong chapter and senior vice-president and treasurer of the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation. Chan spoke of why he has supported the foundation and of its key role in sending many students from China and Hong Kong to Concordia: "Education can really help improve lives."

Honorary Life Membership Award: Ned Goodman, LLD 97, investment advisor and founder and benefactor of the Goodman Institute of Investment



2 Special tribute

RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY



3 Garnet Key Society Annual Alumni Banquet

JOE DRESNER



4 Reader's Digest Annual Lecture Series

Management at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. Goodman recounted how he and Professor of Finance Alan Hochstein pushed the Chartered Financial Accounting (CFA) Institute to allow Concordia to offer the world's first joint MBA CFA program, which finally began in 2000. "Today, 157 other universities offer that course, and Concordia is the leader," he said.

Humberto Santos Award of Merit:

John F. Lemieux, BA 66, senior counsel at the national law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain in Montreal. He co-chaired the successful \$4-million Loyola Refectory Restoration Campaign that resulted in the opening of the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre in December 2011. Lemieux described the reason he has lent so much time to Concordia: "No battle is ever won by spectators."

Special tribute: Mary Kay Lowy

and **Frederick H. Lowy**, Concordia's President and Vice-Chancellor, 1995-2005 and 2011-12. Frederick Lowy led Concordia to new heights in enrolment, academic programs, research, building projects and endowments. Mary Kay Lowy told the audience that she was overwhelmed by the honour and how much the university has meant to them. "We will always be members of the Concordia family," she said.

Frederick Lowy added: "We love this place and we feel the love in return." 2

GARNET KEY SOCIETY ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

Members of Concordia's Garnet Key Society ushered in the 55th Key as they dined and danced at the organization's annual banquet. More than 100 guests, including members of the first Key and up and the newest Keys 3, gathered for a delectable meal at the Nouvel Hôtel and Spa, on May 5, for what has become a half-century tradition of kinship.

"Working along some of Concordia's best students was an absolute honour and privilege of mine," said Teresa Seminara, outgoing Garnet Key president and a double major in political science and community, public affairs and policy studies.

Induction into the society — founded in 1956 at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions — involves a rigorous interview process and high academic standing. Once in, inductees organize community service projects and act as ambassadors for the university.

READER'S DIGEST ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES IN JOURNALISM, WITH STEVIE CAMERON

It was horrid: In 2002, Port Coquitlam, B.C., farmer Robert William Pickton was arrested and soon charged with the murder of six

women, although authorities believe he actually abducted and killed 49 sex-trade workers from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside from the 1990s to early 2000s. Eventually Pickton was found guilty on six second-degree-murder counts and sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years.

One journalist covered the story from start to finish: Toronto-based investigative reporter and author **Stevie Cameron** 4. Cameron recounted the process of gathering details over the course of nearly a decade to a standing-room-only crowd of about 125 on March 9 in the Henry F. Hall Building. Despite the awful subject matter, "It was the best experience as a writer I ever had," she said. "And it was a great change from covering politicians — serial killers don't sue."

Her effort resulted in two books: *The Pickton File* (Knopf Canada, 2007) and *On the Farm: Robert William Pickton and the Tragic Story of Vancouver's Missing Women* (Knopf Canada, 2010).

Cameron spoke as part of the Reader's Digest Annual Lecture Series in Journalism, which was sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation of Canada and Concordia's departments of journalism and English. ■

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

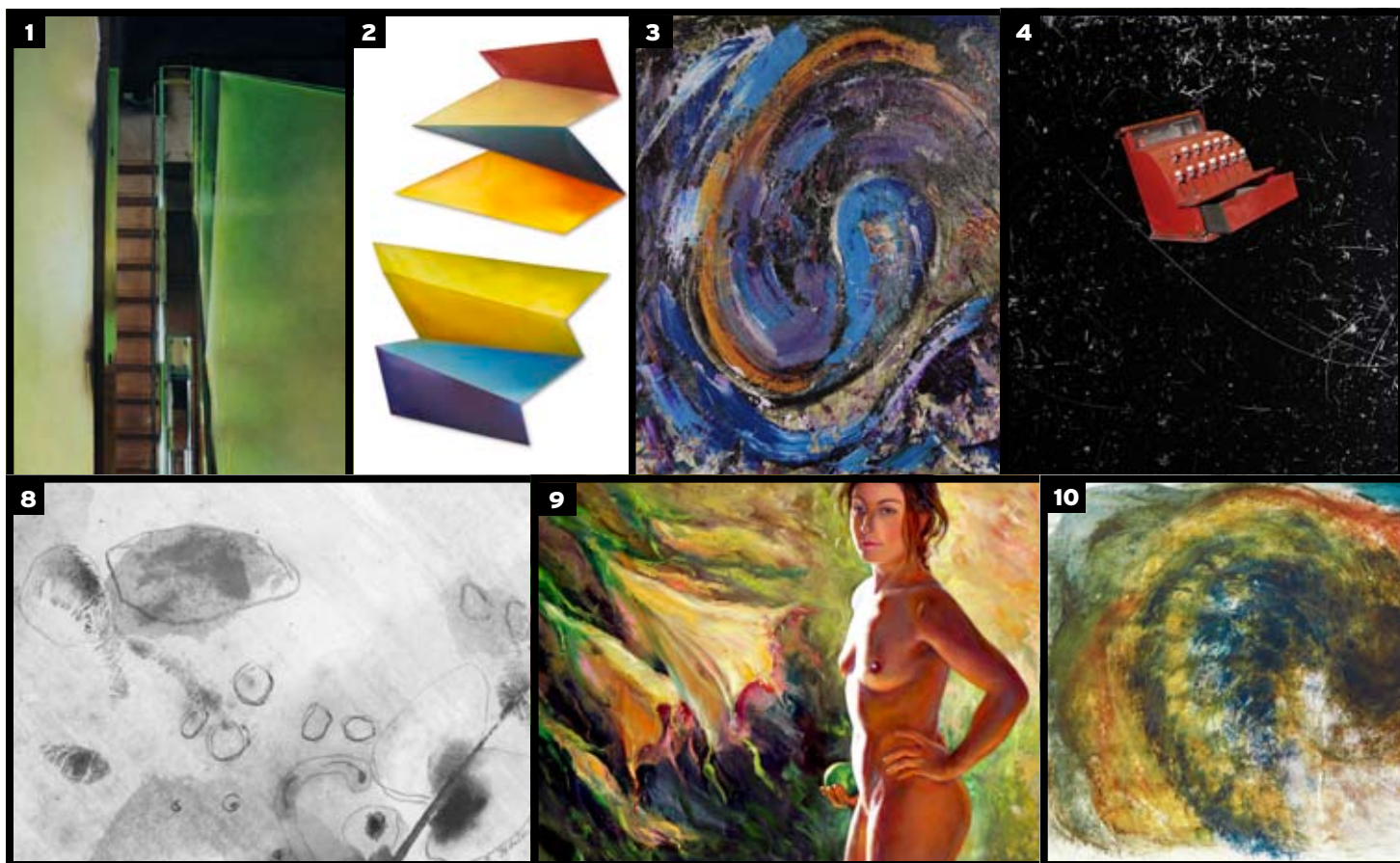
35TH REUNION

77 Nairn Friemann, BA, MBA 85, was honoured in February with the 2012 Professional Stager of the Year Award from the Real Estate

Staging Association at the its annual convention in Las Vegas, Nev. Nairn is president of Ingenuity & Pizzazz, Inc., one of New York City's top home staging companies. A former Concordia lecturer (1984-1990) and member of the alumni association's Tri-State Chapter, she also trains new home stagers in Canada and the U.S. for their Certified Staging Professionals designations.

79 Joanny Liu, BEng, is doctor of Chinese medicine and lives in Calgary. "I teach professionals, executives and athletes how to let go of stress so that they stay young, energetic, brain healthy and happy. Get tips for stress relief and anti-aging from my video course or on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube." drjliu@telus.net, stress-relief-anti-aging.com

83 Gregory Newman, BA (poli. sci.), earned a BCL and LLB from McGill University, an MBA from Queen's University, a Graduate Diploma in International Nuclear Law from Université Montpellier in France and an LLM from the University of London. Gregory is now senior counsel for the Department of Justice and team lead for the Department of Justice Legal Services Unit at the



1 Jackie Rae Wloski, BA 71, participated in the NDG Group of 16 show at the New Democratic Party office of the NDG-Lachine-Dorval, Que., riding from April 12 to June 12 (and possibly longer). Jackie is also working on a painting series based on the staircase in the new wing of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. 1) *MMFA Staircase #2*

2 Yvette Cohen, BFA 76, participated in a group exhibit called "Formed Perceptions" at the Corridor Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y., from April 13 to May 20. 2) *Per Aspera Ad Astra (Diptych)*

3 Yvon Lamy, BFA (art ed.) 82, GrDip (art therapy)

83, MFA 86, participated in exhibition called "IMPROMPTU" to raise funds for the Centre d'apprentissage parallèle de Montréal from May 3 to 31. 3) *Le jeu de la création*

4 John Mingolla, BFA 82, was among a group of artists participating in the Equinox Gallery's 10th anniversary multidisciplinary exhibition at Centre St-Ambroise in Montreal from March 23 to 25. johnmingolla.com 4) *No Sale 2008*

5 Pierre Bibeau, BFA 88, held an exhibit called "Tomber des Nus 6^{ème} édition" at the Association des artistes peintres affiliés de la rive-sud in Saint-Bruno, Que.,

from April 21 to 22. He will also exhibit at the Symposium arts et jardins de Boucherville, Que., in a show called "Les Arts en Fête!" for the 10th anniversary of Parc Vincent D'Indy on July 7-8. 5) *Femme bleutée sur rouges triptyque*

6 Jean Martin, BFA (studio art) 02, participated in a group exhibition called "Pisciculture" at USINE 106U in Montreal from April 05 to 30. 6) *Iritable*

7 Barbara Wisnoski, BFA 93, held a solo exhibit called "Un parc dans un parc: tableau vivant / Tableau dormant" at Galerie Art Neuf in Montreal from February 28 to April 7. 7) *Tableau vivant*

International Security Branch at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade with the Government of Canada in Ottawa. He also heads the Commercial and Corporate Law Practice group with the Legal Services Unit.

84 John Schwingamer, BComm 84, lives in Montreal. "I joined ScotiaMcLeod as a portfolio manager in 2011.

I also wrote an investment book called *Purple Chips*, which was published by John Wiley & Sons in May (Wiley.ca). For more details, connect with me on LinkedIn or Facebook."

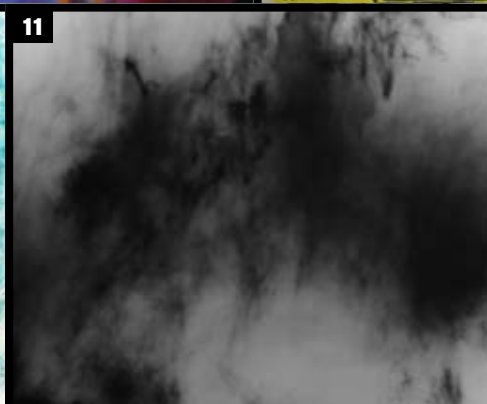
25TH REUNION

87 Nancy J. Church, PhD (admin.), is Distinguished Service

Professor and chair of the Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh. "I founded and currently serve as president and executive director of Sigma Nu Tau Entrepreneurship Honor Society, which has its national headquarters at SUNY Plattsburgh. Its mission is to promote, recognize, honour and reward academic excellence in entrepreneurship and to encourage and recognize the practice of principled entrepreneurship. Ten new chapters across the

U.S. have received their charters in the past year."

91 Boris Rodriguez, BFA (cinema) 91, is a Montreal-based filmmaker whose feature debut, *Eddie the Sleepwalking Cannibal*, screened at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City in April. The film tells the story about an artist named Lars Olaafsen who befriends a mute, cannibalistic giant named Eddie after fleeing the spotlight to teach art in the Canadian north. Lars becomes Eddie's unlikely muse. The dark, gory comedy garnered rave reviews



8 Raymonde Jodoin, BFA 83, participated a group show called "Athletes +" at Club sportif MAA in Montreal from April 1 to 30. The show raised funds for Olympics and Paralympics athletes. raymondeljodoin.com
8) *Petite niellure III*

9 Homeira Mortazavi, BFA (studio art) 94, MA (art ed.) 03, held an exhibit called "Retrospective" at the Montreal Art Centre from May 9 to 16. homeira.ca
9) *The knower*

10 Marilyn Berzan-Montblanch, BFA (art ed.) 96, recently participated in two group exhibitions.

Marilyn was joined by Diane Collet, BFA 76, MA 03, Claudine Ascher, BFA 83, MA (art ed.), 06, Bernice Lutfie Sorge, BFA 85, MA 98, Christine Leduc, BFA 90, and Audrey Killoran, BFA 91, for "Rebirth: Reflections for Japan post 3/11" at the Prince Takamado Gallery at the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo, Japan, from January 18 to March 26. And she participated in the 19th annual Images de femmes exhibition from March 3 to 18 at the Mile End Library in Montreal. 10) *Spiral of Life/Renaissance côté mer*

11 Manon de Pauw, BFA (studio art) 97, participated in three recent group exhibits with the

Galerie Division in Montreal: "Photographie" at Galerie Division from March 31 to June 5; the Contemporary Art Fair of Works on Paper in Montreal from April 13 to 15; and the Contacts Photography Festival at Arsenal gallery in Toronto from April 21 to June 9. 11) *N3W*

12 Linda-Marlena Bucholtz Ross, BFA (photog.) 08, held a solo exhibit of her photography called "La beauté sauvage des chantiers de Montréal" at the Maison de l'architecture Showcase in the pedestrian walkway of the Palais des congrès de Montréal from March 15 until June 15. 12) Construction bin

and Boris was interviewed in the *New York Times* ArtsBeat section on April 19.

93 Simon Bensimon, MA (pub. pol. & pub. admin.), was recently named executive director of the Eastern Region of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Montreal. Simon will help promote the university and build support for projects that facilitate academic and research partnerships between Canada and Israel. He had been principal director of development for Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science.

96 Antonio Faiola, BComm (mktg.), GrDip (DSA) 00, was recently appointed to the board of directors of WestJet. Antonio joined the Montreal-based airline in 2002 as a flight attendant. He was elected chairman of WestJet's Pro-Active Communications Team in 2011.

15TH REUNION

97 Michael Lifshitz, BComm (acct.), GrDip 99, is a motivational speaker and comedian in Montreal. He spoke at the TEDx Westmount "Let's Spread Success," a full-day conference held May 12 at Centre Mont-Royal in Montreal. Born with a physical disability, Michael uses humour to share how he has been able to conquer his disability and have a successful career and fulfilling life. michaellifshitz.com

01 Rahul Comberous, BA (poli. sci.), writes, "After working for three years for an international donor organisation in Geneva, Switzerland, I moved to Zürich and worked in insurance, then tax and now recruitment." rahul.comberous@saipem.com

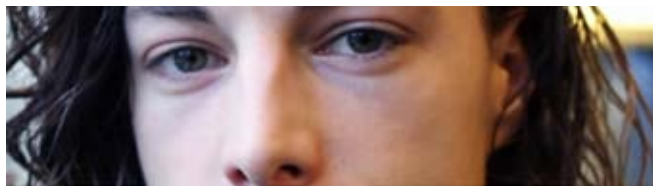
Julian Liurette, BFA (film prod.), is a video coordinator for the *Globe and Mail* in Toronto. "I am the go-to-person for everything video at the *Globe*. The video team, composed of two videographers and me, trains journalists to use video equipment and think about visual stories. It's quite a mentality shift. Since arriving at the *Globe* in October 2010 from Rogers Digital Media, I've played an instrumental role in growing video production by harnessing the talent of Canada's best newsroom."

10TH REUNION

02 Mohamad El Sabawi, BComm (MIS), has been working overseas since 2004 and is general manager of Wahat Hili Mall in Al Ain, part of the Abu Dhabi Emirate, United Arab Emirates. Mohamad is an active member of the Middle East Council of Shopping Centres (headquartered in Dubai, U.A.E.) and the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC, headquartered in New York City). He was recently selected by the ICSC Foundation for a prestigious Professional Education Scholarship and Grant.

5TH REUNION

07 Laura Roberts, BA (creat. writ. & English lit.), lives in Austin, Tex. She recently published her first book, a satirical novel entitled *Rebels of the 512* (Buttontapper Press, available in print and e-book formats via Amazon.com and Smashwords.com). "The book is described as 'the best book you'll ever read about pirates, ninjas and evil politicians in Austin, Texas,' and was originally written for Canada's 3-Day Novel Contest in 2011." laura@buttontapper.com



Paul Hartal, MA (hist.) 77, is a Montreal-based, award-winning poet and visual artist. His poem "Subway" has been adapted into a short film of the same name by Iris Dekker in the Netherlands. Dekker selected the work for the Adopt a Poem project of the Department of English at the Free University of Amsterdam. Paul is internationally recognized for his theory of Lyco Art (Lyrical Conceptualism). He represented Canada at the cultural events of the 1988 summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea. *Subway* can be viewed online: vimeo.com/35645701



Sharon Hyman, BA (comm. studies) 88, MA (ed. tech.) 93, recently completed her first feature documentary, *Neverbloomers: The Search for GrownUp hood*, which was broadcast nationally February 27 on the Documentary channel. The film is a personal and philosophical exploration of adulthood, and asks whether anyone ever really feels like a "grownup" on the inside. The film features two former Concordia professors, the late Gary Boyd (educational technology) and Chengiah Ragaven (sociology and anthropology) as well as **Modest Levira, MA** (ed. tech.) 92, PhD (ed. tech.) 01. The animator and art director was **Roxanne Ducharme, BFA** 85. neverbloomers.com

KARLA KAMINSKI



CTV play date: Alumnae of Concordia's Department of Journalism and CTV Montreal News (montreal.ctv.ca) staffers recently welcomed new additions to their families and got together for a baby play date. From left to right: CTV researcher **Karla Kaminski**, BA 01, with son Alexander; writer-producer and reporter **Nadine Ishak**, BA 98, with daughter Mila; "On Your Side" reporter **Tania Krywiak**, BA 97, with son Sebastian; and reporter **Annie Demelt** with son Logan.



F. Amelia Grich, BComm (mgmt.) 05, MBA (bus. admin.) 10, is client relationship advisor in the Executive Centre at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. "I always promised myself I would give time, energy and love to those in need. I just came back from a three-month, life-changing experience in Ecuador, where I worked as a volunteer with a local NGO called United to Benefit Ecuadorian Children International (ubeci.org). Through educational and recreational activities, I helped street and market children in South of Quito by reducing their work hours and ensuring their academic success and acceptance at school. Seeing happiness in those children's faces was truly the happiest time of my life!"

Diana Nemiroff, BFA 74, MFA (art hist.) 85, received a \$25,000 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, announced in February. Diana, who was curator of the National Gallery of Canada for more than 20 years, has made an enduring impression on the Canadian art landscape by bringing Aboriginal and women artists to the fore. She has been director of the Carleton University Art Gallery since 2005 and an adjunct professor at Carleton University's School for Studies in Art and Culture and the University of Ottawa's Department of Visual Arts.



CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS



CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Jana Sterbak, BFA 77, received a \$25,000 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, announced in February. Jana is a Montreal-based visual artist most famous for her controversial meat dress, *Flesh Dress for an Albino Anorectic*, first exhibited in 1987. She continues to define contemporary

art. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, over her 30-year career she has produced artworks, sculptures, videos, installations and performances. Jana's work appears in major museum collections across Europe, North America and Australia.

James-Jason (JJ) Lee, BFA (studio arts) 94, who was shortlisted for the 2012 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction, won a BC Book Prize, the Hubert Evans Non-fiction Prize, for his first book, *The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit* (McClelland & Stewart). The Charles Taylor Prize jury noted:



"Beautifully crafted, Lee's memoir is a heartbreaking page-turner about a family, an abusive father, and men's fashion. Who could have thought these themes could work together?"

And **Sara O'Leary**, BA 91, MA (Eng.) 94, won a BC Book Prize, the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize, for *When I Was Small*, illustrated by Julie Morstad (Simply Read Books). Sara teaches writing in Concordia's Department of English.



Father Marc Gervais, BA 50, S.J., Mar. 25, Pickering, Ont. He was 82. 1967, Fr. Gervais joined Loyola's fledgling communication arts (now communication studies) program and remained until his retirement, 2003. He was a regular at the annual Cannes Film Festival and his books included *Ingmar Bergman: Magician and Prophet* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1999). Ordained a Jesuit 1963, Fr. Gervais helped establish Concordia's Lonergan University College (1975) and Loyola Jesuit Institute for Studies, International Peace (1988). He earned a PhD, film aesthetics at the Sorbonne, Paris, 1979. To contribute to the Marc Gervais Prize, Communication Studies, his memory, contact Maggie Borowiec at 514-848-2424, ext. 2093, or maggie.borowiec@concordia.ca.

Reginald Lewis, attendee 36, Mar. 27, Montreal. He was 98.

Donald Newton, BA 40, Jan. 13, Ottawa. He was 91.

Christopher Gribbin, BA 43, Mar. 10, Montreal. He was 90.

Norman H. Bonsor, BA 50, Dec. 27, 2011, Montreal. He was 87.

Muriel Niemi, BA 50, Oct. 22, 2011, Vancouver. Muriel was 89.

Gyles René d'Artois, BA 52, Mar. 27, Montreal. He was 84.

Douglas E.R. Edmonds, BComm 54, Mar. 2, London, Ont. He was 79.

Albert Vincent Hudon, BComm 54, BA 55, Jan. 11, Sherbrooke, Que. He was 79.

Mykola Plawiuk, BComm 54, Mar. 10, Burlington, Ont. He was 86.

Mabel Ethel Probert, BA 54, Mar. 24, Montreal. She was 102.

Dr. Peter H. Gruner, BA 55, MA 02, Jan. 11, Montreal. He was 78.

Jack M. Kudo, BA 57, Mar. 20, Montreal.

Jack Weinman, BComm 58, BA 70, Feb. 18, Ottawa.

Patricia A. Wicks-Lotz, BA 58, Feb. 13, Halifax. She was 81.

Keith R. Bryant, BComm 60, Feb. 8, Montreal. He was 78.

David F. MacDonald, BComm 60, Mar. 5, Montreal. He was 73.

William P.F. Bailey, BA 61, Jan. 16, Montreal. He was 73.

Robert M. Gordon, BA 62, Feb. 29, Montreal.

César Rouben, BA 62, BComm 62, Mar. 9, Toronto.

Emile Richard Gariepy, BComm 63, Jan. 25, Boucherville, Que. He was 76.

Jean M. Genest, BA 63, Jan. 3, London, Ont. She was 79.

Sidney Joseph Schachter, BA 63, Mar. 1, Phoenix, Ariz.

Esther Spivack-Marks, BA 63, Mar. 6, Toronto. She was 90.

Jean-Louis Bonhomme, BA 64, Mar. 1, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 88.

Gary Blake Estabrook, BA 64, Mar. 26, Toronto.

Zavie Miller, BSc 64, Jan. 9, Montreal. He was 73.

Barry Stirling Tyler, BComm 64, Mar. 18, Oakville, Ont.

Charles (Chick) L. Busner, BComm 65, Jan. 9, Montreal.

Lionel Fitz-Warren Alonzo, BComm 66, Jan. 6, Chicago. He was 74.

Benjamin Kaufman, BA 66, Jan. 27, Montreal. He was 84.

Errol Patrick Mullahoo, BA 66, Feb. 11, Chateauguay, Que. He was 82.

Stanley Bercovitch, BComm 67, Jan. 29, 2012, Hollywood, Fla.

Robert Clarke, BComm 67, Jan. 13, Montreal. He was 66.

Leonard A. Findlay, BSc 67, BCSc 77, Jan. 7, Montreal. He was 75.

Michael Lee Gourley, BSc 68, Mar. 2, Toronto. He was 65.

Mary Louisa McAnulty, BA 68, Feb. 24, Kingston, Ont. She was 95.

Henry Walo, BSc 68, Feb. 17, Montreal. He was 65.

Grace Hayami, BA 70, Jan. 20, Montreal. She was 76.

Carlo Bolmer, BSc 72, Jan. 7, Montreal. He was 62.

Barbara A. Howard, BFA 73, EMBA 95, Jan. 15, Dunvegan, Ont. She was 58.

Joseph Prokosh, BA 73, Mar. 25, Montreal. He was 61.

Bruce Edward Williamson, BComm 73, Mar. 30, Fulford, Que.

Beverley Ashton, BA 74, Feb. 26, Montreal. She was 59.

Gary P. Plastino, BA 74, MA 83, Mar., Peru. He was 59.

Donald (Donny) Pooler, BA 75, Mar. 20, Hudson, Que. He was 68.

Norma Susan Rooney, BA 75, Jan. 3, Ottawa. She was 82.

Isabel Burstein, BA 78, Jan. 26, Toronto. She was 78.

Douglas Ritz, BA 78, Mar. 21, Montreal. He was 60.

Richard Batty, MEng 79, Jan. 7, Montreal. He was 59.

John Lord, MA 79, Jan. 13, Montreal. He was 80.

Pauline (Smith) Smith, BA 79, Mar. 28, Montreal. She was 80.

Steve Raulerson, BA 80, BED 83, Mar. 11, Montreal. He was 58.

Ethel Stark, LLD 80, Feb. 16, Montreal. She was 101.

James A. Barclay, MA 82, Dec. 3, 2011, Toronto. He was 88.

Robert Benjamin, MSc 84, Dec. 2011, Montreal. He was 68.

Madeleine Parent, LLD 84, Mar. 12, Montreal. She was 93.

Steven Felsher, BSc 85, Jan. 7, Montreal. He was 51.

Raja Faruq Hassan, Cert (TESL) 85, Nov. 10, 2011, Montreal. He was 71.

Eileen (Silver) Shalit, BA 85, Jan. 10, Montreal. She was 69.

Martha (Levine) Goldwater, BA 86, Feb. 28, Montreal. She was 69.

Sandra Farber, BComm 88, Feb. 23, Montreal. She was 72.

Richard Kalloo, BSc 88, Mar. 20, Montreal. He was 47.

Margaret (Jelinek) Schweykowsky, BA 88, Mar. 19, Montreal. She was 70.

Tierney McGoldrick, BA 91, Jan., Montreal. She was 43.

Janet Elliott Smith, BComm 92, Mar., Oakville, Ont. She was 50.

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@concordia.ca Subject: **Class Acts**

By mail: Class Acts, Advancement and 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.

NOTICE

is hereby given that the **Concordia University Alumni Association** will hold its

29th Annual General Meeting Wednesday, August 29, 2012, at 6 p.m.

Alumni and the general public are welcome to attend the meeting, held for the purpose of receiving reports and the election of the 2012-2013 board of directors and executive.

John Molson School of Business Building, Room 2.130
1450 Guy St., Montreal

RSVP by August 22, 2012

Online: alumni.concordia.ca/register

Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397

Toll free: 1-888-777-3330

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

Homecoming 2012 September 27 to October 11

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Get in on the fun at our yearly celebration for alumni, faculty members, staff and friends. Volunteers are needed to welcome guests, hand out promotional materials and provide info. Training will be provided. Get involved now!

For more information, please contact Erin Mullins at erin.mullins@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 3881.



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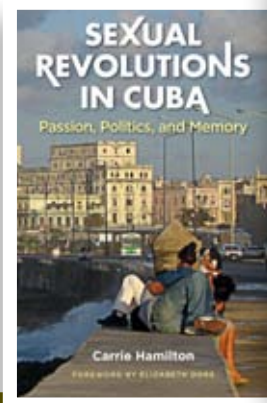
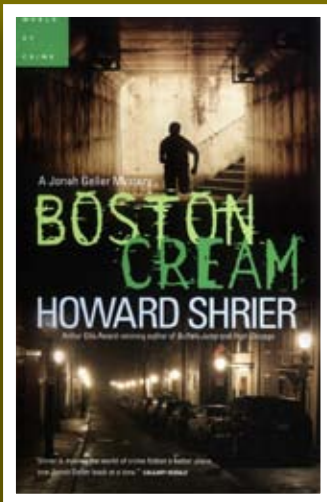
Architecture, investigation and sexuality

Intrepid private investigator Jonah Geller is back. While the fictional creation of **Howard Shrier**, BA 79, is based in Toronto, his previous cases brought him to the U.S. in *Buffalo Jump* (2008) and *High Chicago* (2009). Now, in *Boston Cream* (Vintage Canada, \$19.95), Geller and

accused of killing an Alzheimer's patient at the long-term care residence where she volunteered. As the story alternates between Sunny's time at the residence and the present-day trial, the reader is left to decide her culpability. McNicoll lives in Burlington, Ont.

In *Sexual Revolutions in Cuba* (University of North Carolina Press, \$40), **Carrie Hamilton**, MA (hist.) 94, delivers an incisive history of sexuality in Cuba, from the triumph of the 1959 revolution to the 21st century. Using oral history, media accounts and published sources, Hamilton

Awards. Over a 24-hour period, *Autobiography of Childhood* takes the perspective of each of five siblings haunted by the death of a brother in their youth and now facing the demise of another. Queyras's previous acclaimed collections of poetry include *Lemon Hound* (2006) and *Expressway* (2009).



his partner, Jenn Raudsepp (journalism grads will recognize the Concordia reference), find themselves in Beantown to track down a missing surgeon while dealing with the Irish mob. Novelist Shrier, whose first two mysteries won Arthur Ellis Awards, lives in Toronto and is adapting his books for television.

Veteran award-winning author **Sylvia McNicoll**, BA 78, returns with a new twist on young-adult fiction in *crush. candy. corpse.* (James Lorimer & Company Ltd., \$12.95). Teenager Sonja (Sunny) Ehret is

Road to Thunder Hill (Inanna Publications & Education Inc., \$22.95), by **Connie Barnes Rose**, BA 92, MA 98, chronicles the trials of Trish, whose ailing marriage and teenage daughter force her to face her past in order to rebuild a future. The novel explores the questions of life, love and acceptance that come with middle age. A native of Amherst, N.S., Barnes Rose now lives in Montreal and teaches creative writing at Concordia. She won the Quebec Writing Competition's Short Fiction Award in 2004 for *What About Us?*

examines how the wider social, political, and economic implications of the communist revolution affected Cubans' sexual lives. She reveals the complex dynamic between sexual desire and repression in revolutionary Cuba. Hamilton is a reader in history at the University of Roehampton in London, U.K.

Autobiography of Childhood (Coach House Books, \$19.95), by poet, literary critic and Concordia assistant professor of English **Sina Queyras**, MA (Eng.) 95, was named a finalist for the 2012 Amazon.ca First Novel

Before they were considered distinct professional fields, architecture and craft were once referred to as "the allied arts." In *The Allied Arts: Architecture and Craft in Postwar Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$34.95), **Sandra Alföldy**, MFA 97, PhD (fine arts) 01, investigates the history of the complex relationship between the two disciplines through their intersection in Canadian public buildings. Alföldy is professor of craft history at Nova Scotia College of Art & Design in Halifax and associate curator of Fine Craft at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

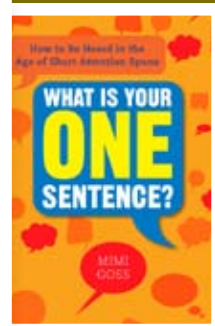
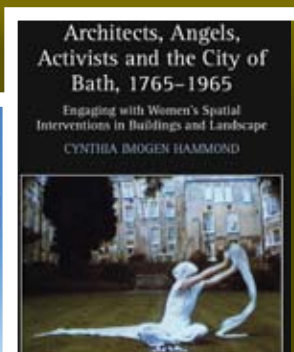
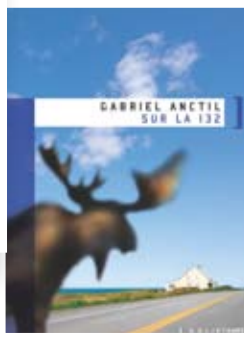
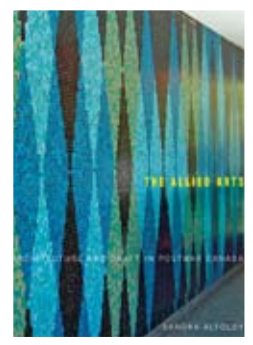
At Home With Divorce (YOUNGANDBIGBOOKS.ca, \$24), by **Madeline Sauv ,** MFA (studio art) 02, tells the story of a little girl and her brother who must adjust to their mother and father’s split. The book provides families — including young children, their parents and caregivers — a resource for dealing with this tough transition. Sauv  is a visual artist

T l -Qu bec in Montreal. He founded *Concordia Fran ais*, the university’s first French student newspaper, in 2002.

In **Architects, Angels, Activists and the City of Bath, 1765-1965** (Ashgate Pub Co., \$120), **Cynthia Imogen Hammond**, PhD (humanities) 03, demonstrates how wealthy

Sara Ferdman Tauben, MA (Judaic studies) 04, takes readers through Montreal Jewish-community history from the 1880s to 1945 in **Traces of the Past: Montreal’s Early Synagogues** (V hicule Press, \$18.95). The places of worship also served as gathering spots for friends and family from the same home country or town.

information overload and limited concentration. Goss points out that a good, concise sentence can stop people in their tracks. She explains how to narrow down ideas and deliver a clear message, what makes a thought-provoking sentence and how to incorporate positivity. She is president of Mimi Goss Communications in Boston. mimigoss.com



who teaches print media at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver. She completed her MFA thesis residency in Venice, Italy.

Sur la 132 (H liotrope, 26.95 \$) is the debut novel by **Gabriel Anctil**, BA (comm. studies) 03. The protagonist, Theo, leads a frenetic life in fashion advertising. He decides he needs a change, so he moves to a small house on Route 132 near Trois-Pistoles, Que., 500 km from Montreal. Theo learns to appreciate the province’s vastness and its older generations’ values. Anctil is a television programmer at

patrons, sex workers, symbols of idealized femininity and Edwardian feminist activists had a powerful yet unrecognized impact on one of England’s most architecturally significant cities. The book accompanied a spring exhibit, called “Suffragettes in Bath: Activism in an Edwardian Arboretum,” at McGill University’s Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies. Hammond is an associate professor of art history at Concordia and recently co-founded an art/design firm, pouf! art + architecture, in Montreal. cynthiahammond.com

Tauben researched a trove of archival material to bring an insightful description of Jewish social, religious and economic aspects of the time. *Traces of the Past* includes two walking tours and old and more recent photos. Tauben is a retired fashion and interior designer and lives in Montreal.

In **What Is Your One Sentence? How to Be Heard in the Age of Short Attention Spans** (Prentice Hall Press, \$17.50), communications consultant **Mimi Goss**, BA, teaches how to get your message across in a world of

Clarification
Two books featured in *Concordia University Magazine’s* Words & Music in spring 2011 listed incorrect prices. Here is the proper information:

Staging Harriet’s House: Writing and Producing Research-Informed Theatre (Peter Lang), by **Tara Goldstein**, BA 80, **\$35**

The Tao of Turning Fifty: What Every Woman in Her Forties Needs to Know (Little Red Bird Press), by **Jennifer Boire**, BA 89, MA 95, **\$14.99** ■

Proving anything is possible

BY BURKE DALES, BA 03

One of our most important choices concerns finding a college or university that most aptly fits our goals. As a high school football player coming out of eastern Ontario in 1997, I committed to Concordia for its rich culture and diversity, strong academic components and top-notch football program.

It took me a few years to decide my academic direction: sociology and political science. It also took some time to establish myself with the football team and earn a starting position. I joined the Stingers as a slotback but switched to outside linebacker in my third year. But just as I began to excel in the classroom and on the field, the worst-case scenario became reality: On a play I don't care to remember, I suffered a potentially career-ending shoulder injury. My doctor told me I'd never play contact sports again. I felt completely deflated, demotivated and without direction. Sports were my life, what defined me as a per-

I abruptly woke from a dream: I was back on the field kicking the ball.

son, so it took a lot of time and rehab to re-evaluate my future.

The next summer, 2000, Gerry McGrath became Concordia's head coach. He asked me to make the transition to full-time punter. It made sense because I was desperate to remain an integral part of the team; I wasn't prepared to give up what I treasured most, the camaraderie and bonding with teammates.

I laboured relentlessly that summer to develop my kicking skills. Gerry, a former punter himself, shared his expertise and worked closely with me. If



FORMER STINGERS PUNTER BURKE DALES SPENT SEVEN SEASONS WITH THE CALGARY STAMPEDERS BEFORE SIGNING THIS YEAR WITH CFL RIVAL EDMONTON ESKIMOS.

he hadn't taken me under his wing I would not be where I am today, and for that I'm very grateful.

Over the next two seasons I became a Quebec and Canadian all star and shone in class. On Gerry's recommendation, I tried out for the National Football League's Pittsburgh Steelers. It was an amazing experience but ultimately I was released and back on a plane to Canada.

In 2003, I completed my degree at

I spent seven productive seasons with the Stamps, which included being a team captain my last three years and twice being named a Canadian Football League all star. I had set a goal and finally achieved it.

The individual awards were gratifying but team success means most to me. We sealed the deal in 2008's Grey Cup game at Montreal's Olympic Stadium against the Alouettes — the team that cut me five years earlier. Hoisting the Grey Cup over my head was an extremely emotional moment, what I consider to be the greatest accomplishment in my sporting career.

This year I signed a three-year contract as a free agent with Calgary's biggest rival, the Edmonton Eskimos. I'm very excited to start the next chapter of both my life and career. I've trained this off-season more than ever before, and to be joining such a successful and storied franchise is invigorating.

As clichéd as this may sound, I truly believe, "If you want something bad enough, anything is possible." But you must have the will and be prepared to make the sometimes painful sacrifices along the way. ■

Concordia and signed with the Montreal Alouettes, but was again cut. I felt defeated, time to hang up the cleats. I bought a one-way ticket to Calgary and entered the corporate world, leaving my beloved sport in the dust.

A few years later — 2005 — I abruptly woke from a vivid dream: I was back on the field kicking the ball. I still had the competitive itch. I had to find out if it was meant to be. So I tried out for Calgary, driven to not only make the team but become the best in the league. That year, I became a Stampeders!



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