

FALL 2014

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# Concordia

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TURNS 40

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exciting decades

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## LOOK WHO'S 40!

As Concordia celebrates its 40th anniversary, we feature the high points of the past four decades.



## FICTION: THE ROOF

An excerpt from the 2014 Irving Layton Award for Fiction winner

By Rudrapriya Rathore



## FINDING A GOOD FIT

Students and employers benefit from Concordia's Co-op – the Institute for Co-operative Education.

By Joanne Latimer



## CANADA'S DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT

University experts examine the long-term implications – from financial to health and more – of an aging Canadian population.

By Beverly Akerman



## WEATHER FORECAST: NEW SOLUTIONS ON THE WAY

Concordia researchers from varying academic fields bring a fresh perspective to environmental issues.

By Julie Gedeon



## 46 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

An interview with Jordan LeBel, new director of the John Molson Executive MBA

By Yuri Mytko

## 48 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ARTS AND SCIENCE

Take a cultural walk with theological studies students, and meet Quebec's inaugural First Peoples Studies graduates.

By Matthew Anderson and Tom Peacock

fall 2014 volume 38 number 2 [concordia.ca/magazine](http://concordia.ca/magazine)

**Cover:** Concordia at 40

**Credit:** Concordia University

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- 3** EDITOR'S VOICE
- 4** CONCORDIA NEWS
- 50** ALUMNI NEWS
- 56** CLASS ACTS
- 62** WORDS & MUSIC
- 64** ENOUGH SAID

# setting **an example**



DOROTHY MARTIN MIKALACHKI AND JOHNNY AL PAREDES SEMINARIO  
AT THE 2014 CONCORDIA DONOR AND STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION.

## WHY I GIVE

“The return of veterans after WW II spelled disaster for my blue-collar family living in Montreal.

My mother was pregnant with her fifth child when we were evicted to make space for the landlord’s son, a returning veteran. We were homeless for several months, and when we found a place to live, it was double our previous rent. Life was very difficult for us.

I used a forged baptism certificate to make myself appear two years older and became a sales clerk. I gave my parents nearly all my earnings. I insisted on finishing high school and dreamed of going to university. Yet when all of my friends went on to post-secondary studies, I worked full time to support my family.

In a eureka moment as I walked home one day, I realized that with a part-time job at night, I could save enough for one year of school. I just lacked enough money for tuition. I still had to help support my family.

I went to see Henry Hall, then dean of Sir George Williams University, and laid out my problem. He immediately offered me an entrance scholarship. And my dream came true!

I had the most wonderful time at Sir George. My courses gave me a fresh appreciation for the past, present and future — and a taste for learning that has continued to this day.

Although I couldn’t afford to remain a full-time student, I went on to teachers’ college, which was free in those days, and continued my bachelor’s at night.

I was 25 when I graduated, just in time to marry Al Mikalachki, whom I met at Sir George. We had three children and have all been successful in our goals. Al and I were always savers. Since he died six years ago, I have used some of our money to help others.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to honour my alma mater and provide Concordia students with the same opportunity I received.

Thanks, Sir George! Thanks, Concordia!”

— **Dorothy Martin Mikalachki, BA 59**

Find out how you can join Dorothy Martin Mikalachki in contributing to Concordia:

Info: [concordia.ca/alumni-giving](http://concordia.ca/alumni-giving) | 514-848-2424, ext. 4856 | 1-888-777-3330, ext. 4856 | [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca)



## Acknowledging the team

often get asked if I get the summer off, since there are few classes at the university. If only.

Summers are actually quite busy in university communications as we gear up for the academic year and prep the magazine for the next issue.

This summer was especially hectic. There's a Yiddish proverb: Man plans and God laughs — I learned how true that is when I was unexpectedly forced out of the office for a spell, right in the middle of the magazine's production schedule, as we headed towards our deadline.

Fortunately, I also learned how skilled and dedicated my co-workers and supervisors are. Even though my picture and signature are on this page, many folks work behind the scenes on the magazine. These include the magazine's lead creative, Christopher Alleyne, BA 09, who was capably helped this time by Mercedes La Rosa, BA 06. Graphic designer Stephen Pan creates many of the Concordia-related ads.

I was lucky to have two extremely dedicated student interns, Kayla Morin and Marilla Steuter-Martin, who were asked to do more, with less supervision. They delivered beautifully.

Communications officer Louise Morgan, GrDip 99, and senior advisor of communications Scott McCulloch, BA 90, lent their writing talent and keen editing eyes. Scott's name (and stamp) are all over this issue, and he deservedly gets co-editing credit.

The team would not have been able to step in and step up their games without the support of Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins, BA 97, director of

communications of Advancement and Alumni Relations, and Sami Antaki, BA 82, executive director of University Communications Services.

Teamwork is an essential element of all our lives, and it's no different at the university. This issue is filled, as usual, with many examples of the work and findings of Concordia faculty. (See "Canada's demographic shift" on page 22, "Weather forecast: New solutions on the way" on page 32.) While research projects are often led by individual professors, their work is conducted with the assistance of graduate students, as well as colleagues at Concordia and elsewhere.

This issue highlights another self-evident example of teamwork: the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the joining of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University to form Concordia University, in late summer 2014. (See "Look who's 40!" on page 12.) It wasn't an obvious marriage: the Jesuit, suburban, traditional liberal arts Loyola and the accessible, urban and modern Sir George Williams. Yet administrators, faculty, staff, donors and, ultimately, students pulled together to make it work.

From its initial student body of about 27,000 and a handful of build-ings scattered around Montreal to

today's 46,000-plus students, contemporary centralized facilities and more than 188,000 alumni worldwide, the Concordia experiment clearly has worked.

A big thanks to the *Concordia University Magazine* crew, and congratulations to the entire Concordia team, which includes our readers. Here's to the next 40! ■



Julie SEAR.

## 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 three 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. Please address editorial correspondence to:

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## PROVOST BENOIT-ANTOINE BACON: STUDENTS FIRST

**B**enoit-Antoine Bacon, BA (psych.) 95, recently completed his first year as Concordia's provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs. He spoke to *Concordia University Magazine*.

**What is your and your office's role?**

**Benoit-Antoine Bacon:** "My office oversees all academic matters at Concordia — all faculties, departments and programs, teaching and learning, including the implementation of the academic plan, plus relations with academic personnel as well as the libraries. As of this year, recruitment, admissions, the registrar's office and all aspects of student life, including recreation and athletics, are also part of our activities. I work with the president and in collaboration with the other vice-presidents on reputation building, research development, budgets and external relations."

**Can you describe some of your achievements so far?**

**BAB:** "I can't believe it's been a year already. I'm very proud of the 10 or so great people we've been able to hire in key leadership roles. We have new programs coming — doctorates in English and in Geography, Planning and the Environment, as well as a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a major in Interdisciplinary Studies of Sexuality. We're sparking innovation in teaching and learning through a Curriculum Innovation Project that supports 25 new ideas for courses and programs, and by funding retreats to encourage departments to be strategic in their research agenda, curriculum and student experiences. We've improved recruitment and admissions and we're having a record year in terms of qualified applicants. More than ever, Concordia's a first choice for outstanding students."

**What do you hope to achieve next?**

**BAB:** "Concordia's an urban, innovative and 21st-century university that's firmly connected to the real world. I want to provide optimal conditions so our community can thrive. We need to make sure everyone realizes how Concordia has grown and evolved. Some of our key objectives for this year will be recruitment and retention, digital learning, faculty development, and emphasizing excellence in teaching."



JOE DRESNER

ONE YEAR INTO HIS TERM AS PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, BENOIT-ANTOINE BACON IS KEEN TO BUILD ON HIS OFFICE'S LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS.

I loved my Concordia years as an undergraduate. The spirit, diversity and the sense of community have remained the same.

**Your office comprises Student and Enrolment Services, Faculty Relations and Teaching and Learning. How's business?**

**BAB:** "All three sectors are led by brilliant, dedicated people: Lisa Ostiguy, Jorgen Hansen and Cathy Bolton respectively. It's a pleasure to work with them. We've made progress in all sectors — teaching and learning initiatives, relations with academic unions, recruitment and admissions and our student experience. They are also building strong teams and we will continue to improve."

**Describe the “students first” policy your office promotes.**

**BAB:** “‘Students first’ is self-evident. We’re here for our students and we are committed to delivering the experiences that they need and that they deserve, both in and out of the classroom, from admission to graduation. We work with students to ensure we understand their needs and preoccupations. We’re totally committed to strengthening their Concordia experience.”

**What’s changed since you earned your BA honours degree in psychology in 1995?**

**BAB:** “I loved my Concordia years as an undergraduate. I came in as a shy French-speaking boy and left as an engaged citizen of the world. The spirit, diversity and the sense of community have remained the same, but the sheer size, infrastructure and research culture have shown incredible change and development. Concordia is now truly a modern, research-engaged, next-generation university.”

**What’s the most satisfying part of your job?**

**BAB:** “It’s not an easy decision to put teaching and research on hold to take on a leadership role. What makes it worthwhile is that I get to see — and help to improve — every sector of the university and everything in between. I do interesting things with brilliant people every day. I’m grateful for that.

My schedule is daunting but I enjoy what I do and I’m proud to work for Concordia. It can be a challenge to reconcile our dreams and ambitions with fiscal realities. Because Concordia is urban, large, diverse, innovative and has a great reputation, we can withstand financial challenges better than most.

Concordia is an incredible place. The diversity of programs, people and ideas here is astounding. It’s a mind-opening place. I can’t think of a better institution to launch a young person on a personal and professional journey towards a self-determined life.”

—Scott McCulloch

KEEP IN TOUCH

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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.

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– Andrew Elvish, MFA 97



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## RESEARCH SHOWS EXERCISE HELPS DEPRESSED SMOKERS QUIT

Clinically depressed people reach for their cigarettes twice as often as those without mood disorders, according to new research from Concordia and France's Université Montpellier.

Those struggling to quit may have more mental health problems than they're aware of. Added exercise might help, the findings recently published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* suggest.

One in five North American adults smokes regularly, yet among those with depression some 40 per cent are habitual smokers. The statistical disparity prompted the researchers to examine why.

The findings show that smokers with mental illness have a tougher time quitting. Cold-turkey attempts to quit smoking are often short lived due to intense cravings.

A person without clinical depression is better equipped to ride things out. For the depressed, more exercise has been shown to reduce cravings — even if it is



CLINICALLY DEPRESSED INDIVIDUALS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SMOKE THAN OTHERS.

not enough to alleviate the symptoms of the depression itself.

Quitting was easier in the midst of even the most basic workouts, the findings showed. "The review should be seen as a call to arms," says study co-author Grégory Moullec, a postdoctoral researcher with Concordia's Department

of Exercise Science.

"Our hope is that this study will continue to sensitize researchers and clinicians on the promising role of exercise in the treatment of both depression and smoking cessation," adds first author Paquito Bernard of Université Montpellier.

—Cléa Desjardins

## CONCORDIA TO HOUSE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Concordia will be home to one of five global hubs for a United Nations (UN) venture called Future Earth, a 10-year initiative devoted to environmental research.

The project will also operate in Paris, Tokyo, Stockholm and Boulder, Colo. While Future Earth involves all of Montreal's universities, Concordia will house the local hub composed of sustainability researchers from across Quebec.

The program is supported by several international research councils and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Montreal's bid stood out from more than 20 competitors and highlighted a nexus of interdisciplinary

researchers throughout the city's universities.

Collaboration between Montréal International — which touts the city's economic advantages — the provincial government and Montreal universities, will be vital to the network's success.

"We are very excited about hosting this unique venture linking thousands of researchers across three continents,"

says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "Future Earth clearly recognizes Montreal's research capacity and the valuable contribution we will make in developing solutions to global environmental challenges."

Future Earth is the result of a commitment made in 2012, at the UN conference Rio+20, to develop a new international network to advance sustainability.

It will be overseen by the International Council of Science, a non-governmental association whose goal is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.

Future Earth will also engage with the World Climate Research Programme to attract new research.

—Fiona Downey





Alex Duff and his favorite philanthropist Dave (Cannonball) Azrieli ham it up for a News fotog at Saturday's convocation.

DAVID AZRIELI, LLD 75, ABOVE, IN A RECENT PHOTO, AND FAR RIGHT, IN A 1975 NEWS PHOTO, WHEN HE RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM CONCORDIA. WITH AZRIELI IS ALEX DUFF, WHO AT THE TIME WAS CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

## CONCORDIA MOURNS PASSING OF DAVID AZRIELI

David Azrieli, LLD 75, visionary builder, developer and businessman, community leader and philanthropist, died on July 9, 2014. He was 92 years old. The Montrealer had just stepped down as chair of real estate developer Azrieli Group days before his passing.

Members of the Concordia community will remember Azrieli as a man committed to advancing education and to deepening society's understanding of Israel's role in the world.

Bram Freedman, vice-president, Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General, describes Azrieli as a key figure in Concordia's growth and in the 2011 birth of the university's Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies.

"David Azrieli was a visionary man in business and in philanthropy. His generosity towards Concordia was transformative," says Freedman. "Just last spring, we celebrated his achievements by granting him an Honorary Life Membership into the Concordia University Alumni Association. Our community marks his passing with great sadness."

Lillian Vineberg, BFA 83, a past chair of Concordia's Board of Governors and long-time friend of Azrieli, calls his passing a tragic loss. "He loved the mission of Concordia. He was a terrific husband and father and he adored his wife Stephanie."

Azrieli was born in Poland in 1922. His parents, brother and sister were killed during the Holocaust. He fled Poland in 1939 and fought in Israel's War of Independence in 1948 before settling in Montreal in 1954, where he made his fortune in real estate.

Renowned as an architectural innovator, Azrieli graduated from Carleton University with a master's degree in architecture in 1997, when he was 75 years old.

He studied at Technion – Israel Institute of Technology from 1943 to 1946. Later, in Canada, he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Université de Montréal.

The second of four children, Azrieli was an ardent philanthropist. In 1989, he established the Azrieli Foundation – which supports education, medical research, Jewish appreciation and Holocaust commemoration – to realize his charitable goals.

The Azrieli Foundation donated \$5 million to Concordia in 2011 to establish the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, a research hub that looks beyond the lens of Israeli politics. Norma Joseph, the institute's associate director, says: "David was a builder. His vision as a philanthropist helped create institutions. We are indebted to him for his commitment to Israel studies and to Concordia."

Azrieli also established the first endowed fellowships for Concordia graduate students. In 1984, he helped create the Azrieli Holocaust Collection, some 8,500 titles on anti-Semitism, at Concordia University Libraries. In 1975, Concordia bestowed an honorary doctorate upon Azrieli, calling him an "exemplary contributor" to the university.

Last year, Azrieli donated \$560 million and Azrieli Group stock to his Azrieli Foundation. His family has given some \$100 million in philanthropic funds over the past 23 years.

Azrieli's financial success, much of it derived from his real estate acumen, fostered his love of Canada and devotion to Israel, where he thrived. "I have two homelands," Azrieli once said, "two places I love and where I have been blessed to do what I love best. My opportunity to express myself professionally started in Canada and eventually let me fulfill my dream of making a contribution to my other homeland, Israel. The two have always been entwined."

His deepest belief, as he once said, was that "genuine freedom is being able to do what you love to do. If you have to spend your life doing things you don't love to do, you are no better than a slave. This then, is my message: do what you love to do."

An avid reader of newspapers and lover of classical music, Azrieli was named to the Order of Canada in 1984. He was invested as a Chevalier of the Ordre National du Québec in 1999.

Azrieli is survived by his wife of 57 years, Stephanie, GrDip 76, BA 71, and by his children, Rafael, Sharon, an opera singer and cantor, Naomi, CEO of the Azrieli Foundation, and Danna, vice-president and acting chairman of the Azrieli Group.

—Scott McCulloch

## CONCORDIA WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Marcel Dupuis's new role as associate vice-president of development at Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations is a homecoming of sorts. He returned August 25 to a university where he was director of development from 2001 to 2006.

"I had a great time at Concordia and I can't wait to return," says Dupuis, who has 23 years of fundraising experience, including 12 in higher education.

"In his new role, Marcel will be providing strategic leadership and operational expertise for the university's fundraising priorities," says Bram Freedman, vice-president, Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General.

Since 2011, Dupuis has worked as director of development at the Faculty of Science and Engineering — and then at the Lassonde School of Engineering — at York University in Toronto.

He also served as executive director of development at the Université de Montréal from 2006 to 2010. A graduate of the Université de Sherbrooke, Dupuis began his career as a physical education teacher.

"In fundraising, we meet people from all walks of life," he says. "What each has in common, whether they're making a \$25 donation or a \$5 million gift, is their commitment to advancing a project that is meaningful to them."

"Each project is different, each donor is different," Dupuis continues. "In all cases, private support enables exceptional projects that are meaningful to donors and the cause they support."

—Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins



MARCEL DUPUIS WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AT ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS.

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Two Concordia alumni are putting a social touch on engineering, influencing how graduates will shape the planet in their chosen profession.

Through a generous donation, Susan Raymer, BA '71, and Ben Wygodny, BA '69, will help engineering students develop skills to gauge the social, ethical and environmental ramifications of their engineering projects. "We view it as an investment in people," says Raymer, president of Montreal-based Rayrow Realities. Raymer's husband, Ben Wygodny, who heads wealth management firm Angus Partnership, adds: "It is an investment in students with the hope they'll bring something positive to society."



BEN WYGODNY AND SUSAN RAYMER

The donation will support the Global Engineering Initiative at the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science's Centre for Engineering in Society (CES). Global engineering approaches projects through the lens of ethics, sustainability, community needs and other socially sensitive areas. Cultural sensitivity is often needed for product designs for foreign markets and to collaborate with diverse colleagues.

"What we're better able to do now is to position Concordia as a catalyst for change," says CES chair Deborah Dysart-Gale. "We're providing essential elements to a new cohort of student leaders."

"We are grateful to Susan Raymer and Ben Wygodny for their foresight, generosity and continued engagement with their alma mater," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "The Centre for Engineering delivers on Concordia's promise to prepare students for the real world."

Wygodny recognizes a need to improve students' grasp of the social implications of engineering activities. "We want engineers to think outside of their specific discipline and see what they're proposing or how their designs will affect society," he says.

Through the Global Engineering Initiative, students will add sustainable engineering practices to their arsenal of technical skills. Concordia's District 3, an innovation centre that helps start-ups, will be a key partner.

As for the Centre for Engineering in Society, its wider plans are to become a global engineering hub based on three pillars. The first — immersive learning — would see students meet global engineering employers, attend boot camps

on leadership and communications and pursue courses abroad. "Students bring back so much knowledge when they see how engineering issues play out elsewhere," says Dysart-Gale.

The second pillar focuses on collaborative work and the creation of an ecosystem of global technology awareness. The third area — knowledge communication — will build on the first two with a view to the CES becoming a key destination for those who seek know-how on global engineering best practices, training or research opportunities.

The Global Engineering Initiative will enable students to connect with people from other disciplines and cultures and, in some cases, collaborate with Engineers Without Borders. Other projects will be web-based, with collaborators in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

—Scott McCulloch



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## INTRODUCING CONCORDIA'S FIRST CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM: FUNDONE

Alumni and friends now have a new way to give to Concordia — crowdfunding. FundOne is Concordia's first crowdfunding platform. It will unite members of the community who have an idea and a plan — but not the means — and donors who want to make a difference on a specific project.

It's a peer-to-peer fundraising model that gives donors a clearer idea of how their gifts make a difference. "The idea is to help Concordians spread the word among their networks, to make a direct connection with donors without a middle man," says FundOne project leader Sophie Johnson, a development officer in Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Before making their gift, donors can read about the project and the team behind it, so they know exactly where their money is going.



Andrea Cartile, a student in Concordia's Department of Mechanical Engineering, sees a great opportunity in the new platform. Cartile is vice-president, Marketing and Sponsorship, for Concordia SAE, a chapter of SAE International (formerly the Society of Automotive Engineers).

Every year, Concordia SAE's 100 students design and build prototype vehicles to compete at international events across the United States. "Even though we do the majority of the machining ourselves, our prototype vehicles are very costly to manufacture, so the impact of financial support is enormous for SAE," she says.

Like any donation to Concordia, gifts made through FundOne are eligible for charitable tax receipts.

FundOne is now accepting project applications. Learn more at [concordia.ca/fundone](http://concordia.ca/fundone).

—Louise Morgan

## PATRONS SUPPORT FINE ARTS EDUCATION

Claudine and Stephen Bronfman have renewed their support of emerging artists. Thanks to a donation of \$600,000 over five years, their foundation will support top graduating students from Concordia and Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) as they transition from students to professional artists.

Introduced in 2010, the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Arts were created to enhance Quebec's premier fine arts faculties. The Bronfmans' support provides one student from Concordia and one recipient from UQAM to further their research and advance their profession.

"We are very proud of our fellows and have had the pleasure of visiting the previous winners in many different venues, including their studios, gallery exhibitions, shows as part of international exchanges, live performances and showings at art fairs," says Stephen Bronfman, executive chairman of Claridge Inc. and co-chair of the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation.

Concordia Faculty of Fine Arts student Brendan Flanagan and UQAM Faculty of Arts student Marie Dauverné are the recipients of the 2014-15 Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Arts, valued at \$55,000 each.

Listen to the announcement at [concordia.ca/alumni-friends/news/podcasts](http://concordia.ca/alumni-friends/news/podcasts).

—Scott McCulloch



CLAUDINE AND STEPHEN BRONFMAN

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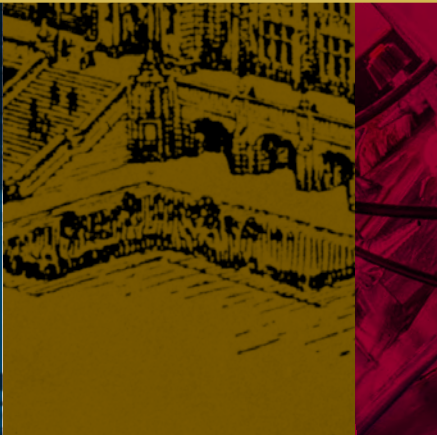
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THE UNIVERSITY  
HAS BUILT UPON  
ITS FOUNDERS'  
STRENGTHS TO  
EVOLVE INTO  
A THRIVING  
EDUCATIONAL  
AND RESEARCH  
INSTITUTION

# CONCORDIA AT 40: POISED FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE



BY JULIE GEDEON

Students heading into fall classes or buying a Stingers hoodie along with new course packs at the Concordia Bookstore are following in the footsteps of four decades of students — now alumni — as the university celebrates its 40th anniversary this fall.

“Concordia has matured into a world-class learning and research institution while never losing sight of its roots,” says President Alan Shepard. “The result is a university in which we can all take pride, with goals grounded in dynamism and social responsibility.”

Hardly anyone gives the shuttle bus ride between the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses a second thought today, but the idea of those founding institutions merging initially caused some unease. “When you join together two lively institutions, each with its own philosophies and ways of doing things, each firmly dedicated to freedom of thought and speech, you must expect a measure of friction,” said the late John O’Brien, former rector and vice-chancellor, one week prior to the merger.

Fortunately, faculty, staff and students quickly realized that while Loyola and Sir George Williams differed in character, they shared the goal of delivering an accessible, quality higher education. In 1975, O’Brien observed: “There are still people, particularly from other parts of Canada, who say, ‘So you did finally get together.’ Yes, we have got together, there is a new university, and its reputation is being affirmed here and now.”

Named after the Englishman who founded the Young Men’s Christian Association, Sir George Williams traces its origins to classes offered by the YMCA in 1873. The institution grew into Sir George Williams College by 1926 and began granting university degrees in 1936-37. By 1959, it was the first Canadian university to offer a full range of evening programs.

The Jesuit Loyola College, founded in 1896, started offering some evening courses for part-time students in 1958, a year prior to opening its doors to women and welcoming people from more varied backgrounds.

The two institutions came together to form Concordia, whose name was derived from Montreal’s Latin motto *Concordia salus* — meaning well-being through harmony. “It’s that increasing openness and flexibility that Concordia has embraced from both of its founders that has resulted in enrolment climbing from 27,000 in 1974 to more than 46,000 today,” Shepard says.

Today, Concordia offers some 500 undergraduate and graduate programs, diplomas and certificates, through its Faculty of Fine Arts, Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, John Molson School of Business and School of Graduate Studies.

## INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

Concordia continues to draw many students in part because of the reputation it has earned for welcoming those of diverse origins, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. The university now attracts more than 8,700 students from outside Quebec annually. "Upwards of 6,300 students arrive from more than 150 other countries — an international student body that was minimal at Concordia and elsewhere in North America 40 years ago," Shepard notes. "Another 2,400 students join our community from the rest of Canada."

The university has worked towards helping out-of-towners feel more at home by establishing new student accommodations as part of the extensive renovations and restorations this summer at the Grey Nuns Residence, an iconic former convent on René-Lévesque Blvd. The transformation of the splendid convent and chapel establishes a quiet reading room for up to 240 students — a haven within the city.

Concordia has welcomed many of the world's top academics who have fostered a climate of research and innovation that spurs graduates to publish 500 theses a year on average and garner many prestigious awards for their pioneering work.

The university has encouraged innovative research by putting a significant portion of its \$600 million investment in infrastructure over the

past decade into interdisciplinary facilities such as the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, and the Hexagram-Concordia Centre for Research-Creation in Media Arts and Technologies. "Concordia has aligned itself with Montreal's economic fabric by embarking on initiatives that bolster the city's health fields and technology/gaming sectors with innovative research and a highly qualified labour pool," Shepard says.

The university's value to the Quebec economy is estimated at \$1.3 billion annually. It also benefits from contributions from its 188,000 alumni, 95,000 of whom reside in the university's home province. Graduates from other provinces and countries have become key champions as well.

As Concordia's scientists have connected to Canada's leading research networks, external initiatives such as the United Nations' new Future Earth program for global sustainability, the Solar Buildings Research Network, and the National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance of Canada have chosen to launch their respective bases at the university. This presence propelled its research funding to more than \$44 million last year.

Concordia has expanded dramatically over the past dozen years. On the Sir George Williams Campus, the university has built the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex and the John Molson School of

Business Building, as well as purchased the Grey Nuns Building, while the Loyola Campus has added the state-of-the-art Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, Communication Studies and Journalism Building, Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, and PERFORM Centre.

Plans are in the works for significant transformations to the R. Howard Webster Library and Georges P. Vanier Library, which now open 24/7 to meet demand. Concordia has achieved substantial progress in offering digitalized information and online availability to students by lending tablets and laptops, providing a wireless network and establishing free and open access to scientific findings.

Concordia's influence extends locally and globally. Its reach extends into the local community by inviting neighbours at both campuses to participate in projects such as the better health through improved lifestyle programs at the PERFORM Centre and the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program.

As Concordia fetes its 40th anniversary throughout the coming year, it will look back — and forward. "We are poised for a bright future as a next-generation university," Shepard says.

*—with additional research by  
Kayla Morin*

# Concordia



## FIVE GREAT CONCORDIANS

### MEET A HANDFUL OF ALUMNI WHO SHINE IN THEIR FIELDS

Concordia has more than 188,000 alumni today, so it's quite a task to single out just a few. Nonetheless, in January, the university asked members of its community — students, faculty, staff and alumni — to nominate outstanding individuals for inclusion among the university's Great Concordians.

The five alumni featured on these pages are a sample of the countless notable alumni leaders whose achievements reflect positively on their fields: prominent authors, athletes, thinkers, public servants and entrepreneurs. These inspiring individuals serve as models for Concordia's next generation of students.

Each Great Concordian was selected by a special committee overseen by the Office of the Provost that included staff, faculty, university leaders, students and alumni representatives.

Great Concordians will be unveiled each week, over 40 weeks, beginning in the fall. Visit [concordia.ca/greatconcordians](http://concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

### ANNIE PROULX: HISTORY, FICTION AND AWARD-WINNING STORIES



Author Annie Proulx, MA '73, LLD '99, was enrolled in the doctoral program in history when Sir George Williams University and Loyola College merged to become Concordia.

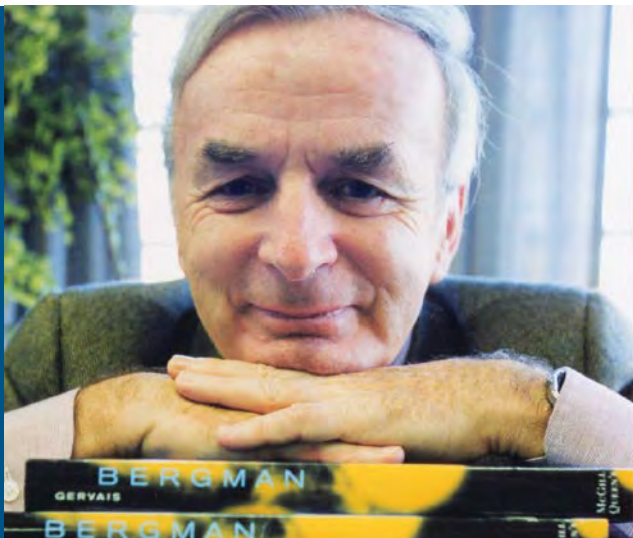
Proulx had just completed a master's thesis on the topics of avarice and usury by exploring the writings of Florentine humanist Poggio Bracciolini. Her interest in Renaissance economic history was matched by a similar fascination for the work of scholars attached to the Annales School.

Proulx was on the path to academia when she decided, shortly after successfully completing her oral examinations, to move back to New England with her sons.

Proulx worked as a freelance journalist but she experimented with fiction in ways that reflected her continued interest in history. "I was attracted to the French Annales School, which pioneered minute examination of the lives of ordinary people through account books, wills, marriage and death records, farming and crafts techniques and the development of technologies," she told the *Missouri Review*.

*Postcards* (1992), Proulx's debut novel, received a PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. Proulx was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Guggenheim fellowship in the early 1990s, which allowed her to complete *The Shipping News* (1993), a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel adapted for the screen in 2001. She has since published several novels and short stories, including the widely acclaimed "Brokeback Mountain" in 1997, which was subsequently adapted into an Oscar-winning movie in 2005.

## MARC GERVAIS: JESUIT FILM SCHOLAR AND PEACE ADVOCATE



Father Marc Gervais, BA 50, first visited France in the mid-1960s to complete his Jesuit tertianship. He travelled to the Riviera and attended his first Cannes Film Festival. Growing up in Sherbrooke, Que., he had developed a passion for moving images, thanks to his grandmother, who often took him to the cinema.

Father Gervais became a Cannes fixture over the years as he became well known as a film scholar. He joined Loyola College's Communication Arts program in 1967, teaching film studies to enthused students, many of whom became accomplished writers and directors.

Father Gervais published seminal works on Pier Paolo Pasolini and Ingmar Bergman, sat on the juries of several international film festivals, served as commissioner for the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission and acted as consultant on a number of films, including *Black Robe* (1991) and *The Mission* (1986).

Father Gervais told the *Winnipeg Free Press* that he nearly secured a role alongside Robert De Niro in the latter film: "For about three months, [the producers] wondered whether they were going to use me or an established actor. Alas, they chose Jeremy Irons, who was awfully good in it."

Father Gervais discussed art, yet he spoke about the culture of peace through the Loyola Jesuit Institute for Studies in International Peace, which he helped establish in 1988. Father Gervais died March 25, 2012.

## ALEXANDRE BILODEAU: CONCORDIA'S TWO-TIME OLYMPIC CHAMPION



Alexandre Bilodeau is currently the shining star of Concordia's winter Olympians. The John Molson School of Business student recently returned from the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, with a second gold medal in moguls skiing. The world champion successfully defended the title he won at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, thereby becoming the first freestyle skier to stand twice on the highest level of the Olympic podium.

This was one of many firsts for Bilodeau who became, at age 14, the youngest athlete to perform a triple jump in competition. He started off as the Fédération Internationale de Ski's Rookie of the Year in 2006 and quickly started collecting victories at international ski events, including 19 World Cup gold medals and three World Championships in dual moguls.

Bilodeau is a spokesperson for — and a dedicated supporter of — many charitable organizations. Bilodeau says he has two heroes: his brother Frédéric, who is affected by cerebral palsy, and Jean-Luc Brassard, the former Olympic freestyle skiing champion.

He is now ready for a new challenge, namely completing his BComm in accounting. He has been studying on a part-time basis for several years.

At a Concordia homecoming in March, Bilodeau said: "Without John Molson [School of Business] or Concordia people I would never have been able to do school and skiing, and probably I would've stopped skiing if I couldn't have done both."

**CORINNE CHARETTE: CANADA'S  
TOP TECHNOLOGY BUREAUCRAT**



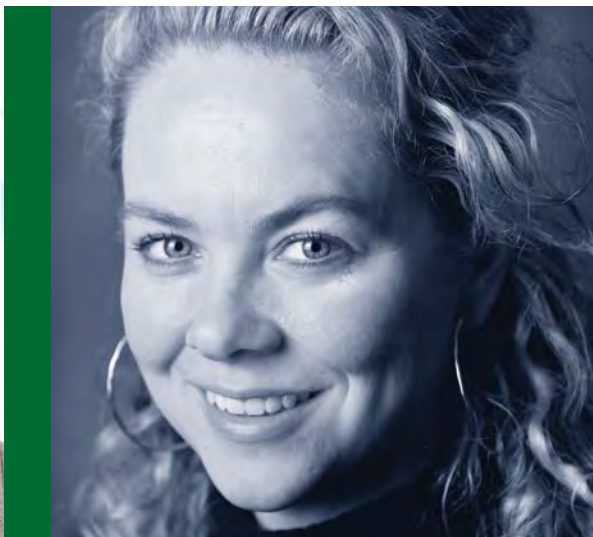
When Corinne Charette, BSc 75, LLD 11, took up the reins as the Government of Canada's chief information officer in 2009, she may not have envisioned herself as the nation's key commentator on state-sponsored cyber-attacks emanating from distant shores. Yet last July, journalists sought her out on that issue when the National Research Council of Canada was hacked.

Earlier this year, when governments suffered from Heartbleed, a computer coding flaw, Charette directed federal departments to disable vulnerable websites. "This is the best course of action to protect the privacy of Canadians," she said. A cool head in a crisis, Charette has a long history of high-level problem solving.

Several key private and public sector roles led Charette to her position as Canada's top technology bureaucrat. Charette, one of the highest-ranking women in the federal civil service, was among a handful of women who studied engineering at Loyola College. An active campaigner for charity and board member of the former Loyola Alumni Association, Concordia awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2011.

In her current role, Charette is responsible for policy and oversight of six areas, including how the government's sensitive information is accessed, managed and secured. In a 2009 interview with *CIO Magazine*, Charette said successful tech projects boiled down to sound project management, effective information sharing and rigorous reporting practices: "You can't be effective if you're trying to do it all."

**BARBARA DAVIDSON: PULITZER  
PRIZE-WINNING PHOTOJOURNALIST**



Barbara Davidson, BFA 90, says she knew by age 15 she wanted to be a photographer. She completed undergraduate work in the Faculty of Fine Arts' photography program while snapping images for Concordia student newspaper *The Link*. Davidson began her career at *The Record*, in Waterloo, Ont., after receiving her degree. In 1995, she jumped on the opportunity to travel with the Red Cross to the Balkans, but circumstances resulted in her group being held hostage by a Serbian paramilitary group.

Davidson's experience in a war-torn and impoverished region proved life-changing. She soon established her reputation in the field of photojournalism and eventually joined the *Los Angeles Times*. Davidson has since travelled around the world to document humanitarian crises caused by armed conflicts or natural disasters.

Max Wallace, BA 90, aptly described his former *Link* colleague when he wrote in *Concordia University Magazine* in 2006 that Davidson's "calm demeanour in the face of danger has earned her a reputation as one of the world's most respected photojournalists, and the laurels to go with it." Davidson won her first Pulitzer Prize in 2006 for her coverage of Hurricane Katrina and another in 2011 with a series of photographs depicting innocent victims of Los Angeles gang violence.

"The same thing holds true today as some 20 years ago when I worked at the student newspaper: It's all about good storytelling," she recently confided to the Canadian University Press.

—Eric Fillion, Marilla Steuter-Martin and Scott McCulloch  
Visit [concordia.ca/greatconcordians](http://concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

# WHAT WE DID FIRST

WE COMBED THROUGH 40 YEARS OF ARCHIVES: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, NEWS RELEASES AND OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS. OUR GOAL? TO DISCOVER WHAT WE DID FIRST ON CAMPUS, IN MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA AND THE WORLD. AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY, LET'S LOOK BACK ON SOME OF THE MANY CONCORDIA FIRSTS.

**1974** Faculty of Fine Arts professors Donald Andrus and Sandra Paikowsky launch the *Journal of Canadian Art History*, Canada's first journal devoted to Canadian art history.

**1975** Roy Wise, a professor in the Department of Psychology, and post-doctoral research associate R.A. Yokel, publish Concordia's first peer-reviewed study on amphetamines in the esteemed journal *Science*.

**1976** The Faculty of Commerce and Administration offers its first joint PhD in Business Administration with McGill University, Université du Québec à Montréal and HEC Montréal.

**1977** In its first steps towards better ways to build safe and energy-efficient buildings, the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science establishes the Centre for Building Studies.

**1978** Feminist study gets its first home in Canada as the pioneering Simone de Beauvoir Institute is born, and Concordia's Liberal Arts College, the first of its kind in Canada, is established.

**1979** Senate approves a new BFA Major in Modern Dance, the first Canadian university dance program for training choreographers. **1**

**1980** Concordia wins its first Vincent Bendix Award from the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers for a proposal to replace industrial motor starters with microprocessor-controlled starters.

**1981** Department of Religion professor Charles Davis is the first Concordia faculty member to receive the prestigious Killam Research Fellowship from the Canada Council for the Arts to expand his research on the practical meaning of Christianity in modern society.

**1982** The American Association of Cost Engineers awards Concordia engineering student Michel Brulotte, the first Canadian so honoured, its namesake scholarship.

**1983** Department of Management professor Theodore Hebert is made a Fellow of the esteemed Academy of Management. He is the third Canadian – and first Concordian – to receive the title.

**1984** With 8,500 titles, including rare books and pop culture items, the university libraries become Canada's first home of the Azrieli Holocaust Collection, one of Canada's most comprehensive collections for research on the Holocaust.

**1985** Concordia's first Executive MBA degree is launched. By 2013, *The Economist* ranked it second among Canadian contenders.

**1986** Concordia takes its first steps towards the eradication of genocide by founding the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

**1987** Father John O'Brien is named Concordia's first Distinguished Professor Emeritus. In 1965 at Loyola College, O'Brien founded the Department of Communication Arts, now the Department of Communication Studies, Canada's first department dedicated to the study of communications.

**1988** In a Canadian first to rehabilitate prisoners, Ontario inmates pursue distance-learning courses from Concordia's Department of Library Studies.

**1989** The Faculty of Arts and Science is selected to house North America's first research centre in computational algebra – the Centre interuniversitaire en calcul mathématique algébrique.

**1990** Concordia's men's Stingers basketball team beats the Guelph Gryphons 80-62 to win its first Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union championship. **2**

**1991** Nino Ricci, MA 87, becomes Concordia's first graduate to win a Governor General's Award for Fiction for his novel *Lives of the Saints*.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

**1992** The J.W. McConnell Building, the first major new building project at Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus, opens. It includes the R. Howard Webster Library, Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Birks Student Service Centre and J.A. DeSève Cinema.

**1993** A \$7,500 research grant from professor Lawrence Bessner leads to the establishment of the Centre for Small Business and Entrepreneurial Studies' Minority Institute in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration (now the John Molson School of Business).

**1994** In a Canadian first, film studies professor Thomas Waugh develops Concordia's AIDS course, HIV/AIDS: Culture, Social and Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic.

**1995** Department of Finance professor Lawrence Kryzanowski becomes the first winner of the Prix ACFAS Caisse de dépôt et de placements du Québec for his contribution to research and institutional portfolio management.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

**1996** Professor Sofiène Tahar founds the Hardware Verification Group, the first research unit of its kind in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, to develop tools to check computers for bugs.

**1997** Department of Studio Arts professor Irene Whittome becomes the first woman in a decade to win the Prix Paul-Émile-Borduas, Quebec's most prestigious arts award.

**1998** The Stingers host – and win – their first Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championship in women's hockey.

**1999** In its first major focus on genomes, Concordia creates the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics to contribute green solutions to the bio-food and paper/wood industries.

**2000** Department of Art History professor Catherine MacKenzie establishes Canada's first courses on art restitution through groundbreaking research and teachings on art provenance and works plundered by Nazis during the Second World War.

**2001** The John Molson School of Business becomes the first university program in Canada – and one of the first in the world – to become a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Program Partner.

**2002** Department of Design and Computation Arts professor Joanna Berzowska fashions the future through the first “wearable computers” – clothes that blend technology and design.

**2003** Loyola Campus sees its first key transformation of the millennium as Concordia inaugurates the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, an \$85 million interdisciplinary teaching facility.

**2004** Concordia first acquires the historic Grey Nuns Mother House on Guy St. The landmark building is later transformed into the Grey Nuns Student Residence and Reading Room.

**2005** Solar power research gets its first major boost when engineering professor Andreas Athienitis founds and leads the federally funded NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council) Solar Buildings Research network, a pan-Canadian group dedicated to advances in energy-efficient buildings.

**2006** In a world first, PhD students Fiorenzo Vetrone and Chris Boyer receive NSERC fellowships to study microscopic particles with infrared light and lasers.

**2007** Quarterback Liam Mahoney is the first-ever Stinger to win the Peter Gorman Trophy for outstanding rookie in Canadian university football.

**2008** Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering professor Georgios Vastistas, along with assistant professor Kamran Siddiqui and graduate student Hamid Ait Abderrahmane, are the first to prove J.J. Thomson's 125-year-old theorem on the stability of vortex rings. **3**

**2009** In a first push towards deep understanding of the subtleties of consumer behaviour, the John Molson School of Business launches the Laboratory for Sensory Research.

**2010** In a Canadian first and Open Access initiative aimed at widening the dissemination of scholarly works, Concordia launches Spectrum, a web-based repository where faculty and others can deposit copies of their peer-reviewed research with a view to increasing readership and citations.

**2011** In a study published in *Psychophysiology*, a Concordia research team led by Department of Exercise Science professor Simon Bacon makes the first links between heart disease and depression.

**2012** A Concordia research team, led by Department of Biology professor Vladimir Titorenko, finds the first compound that kills cancer cells and extends lifespans. **4**

**2013** The revamped Ed Meagher Arena reopens in its first incarnation as an NHL-standard hockey rink.

**2014** In its first push towards transforming the study of film and media history, Concordia's Department of Communication Studies establishes the Media History Research Centre.

See more Firsts at [concordia.ca/concordiafirsts](http://concordia.ca/concordiafirsts).

# FOUR DECADES OF CAMPUS FASHION

## FLASHBACK ON 40 YEARS OF CONCORDIA FLARE

MARILLA STEUTER-MARTIN

Fashion is a benchmark that can clearly distinguish eras, from 1970s sideburns and feathered '80s hair to '90s grunge shirts and '00s skinny ties. Over the last four decades, it's remarkable to see how styles and trends changed — and re-emerged — on the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses. As we celebrate Concordia's 40th anniversary, we take a look back on four decades of campus fashion.



### 1970s

Sideburns anyone? This 1970s-era photo shows two Concordia students playing table hockey. At left, notice the Canada-Soviet summit series 1972 Team Canada hockey jersey and, at right, groovy plaid pants.



Big earrings and bigger glasses: This science student, circa 1976, sports thick rimmed glasses, dangling dream catcher-inspired earrings and classic pigtails.

Sit back and relax: Flared jeans and furry moccasins, as worn by this studious Concordian, were all the rage in the mid-'70s.

### 1980s

The bold and the preppy: At right, a student sports a classic Gucci purse, buttoned up white shirt and Olivia Newton-John inspired hair. Her companion dons a Tom Selleck-style moustache, polo shirt and striped blazer.



Cartoons and royalty: Another '80s fashion trend, at left, shows how track suit jackets surfaced as daily wear and Mickey Mouse popped up on T-shirts. At right, a student mirrors the same hair style as Princess Diana.

### 1990s

Blond ambition: Gents during this time period put blonde highlights in their hair and wore shell and bead necklaces over layered T-shirts and short-sleeved button-ups.



Oversized fits all: Women of the '90s wore big Madonna-inspired hair and loose-fitting sweaters and knits.

### 2000s

Y2K accessories: Choker necklaces and pixie cuts were big trends for women at the start of the millennium. Long locks for men re-emerged, on and off, for decades. This 2001 photo, right, shows students at an editing console — equipment now outdated by next-generation laptops.



Millennial chic: Comfortable, casual style was prevalent among students during the late 2000s. Bold highlights, short-sleeved blazers and chunky jewellery were a hit with the women; guys wore laid-back button-up collared shirts and dark jeans.

### 2014

Slim is in: In 2014, skinny jeans reign supreme. Guys favour undercuts with shaved parts.



PHOTOS BY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

# CONCORDIA'S RHODES SCHOLARS

## HONOURING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEVEN ALUMNI WHO WON THE PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE

MARILLA STEUTER-MARTIN

When Cecil Rhodes first set aside funds to create a scholarship bearing his name over 100 years ago, he couldn't have imagined it would one day be considered the most prestigious academic student award in the world.

Rhodes sought to promote international understanding and peace by bringing together the best and brightest academic young minds to pursue their education at the University of Oxford in England. Today, Rhodes scholars are known to be not only academically engaged but also involved with extracurricular activities, volunteerism and athletics.

Valued at about \$50,000 a year, Rhodes Scholarships provide students all expenses for two or three years of study at Oxford.

The seven exceptional students who have been selected from Concordia over the years exemplify these qualities and more. Coming from a range of departments from history to mathematics to biology, Concordia's lucky 10 have gone on to experience an even broader range of success.

In 1979, **Robert Bradley**, BSc (math) 79, became Concordia's first Rhodes Scholar. Bradley studied mathematics and philosophy and went on to become a professor of mathematics and computer science at Adelphi University on Long Island, N.Y.

**Gilly Filsner**, BA (soc.) 84, **1** became Concordia's first female Rhodes Scholar. Filsner remained in the United Kingdom after finishing at Oxford and worked for many years as a journalist for Bloomberg Business News. Selected one year later, **Boris Maksimov**, BA (poli. sci.) 85, worked for many years at the BBC World Service in its African and Russian offices.

**Siobhan Harty**, BA (poli. sci.) 89, took Latin American Studies while at Oxford before pursuing a PhD in political science at McGill University. In 2012, Harty was appointed director general of social policy at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Another history major, **Carol McQueen**, BA (hist.) 95, went on to become a political affairs officer for the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. McQueen wrote a book on conflict and peace studies in 2006 entitled *Humanitarian Intervention and Safety Zones*. She is now political counsellor at the Canadian High Commission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Most recently, **Liliane Chamas**, BSc (biol.) 09, and **Michael Noonan**, BSc (ecol.) 12, **2** were the university's first science students to receive the Rhodes Scholarship. Chamas was an honours student in cellular molecular biology. In 2013, she earned a PhD from Oxford in clinical/medical laboratory science/research and allied professions, and is now a consultant for mHealth for NCDs at the World Health Organization in Oxford.

Noonan balanced varsity wrestling and ecological research focusing on conservation. The native of Chateauguay, Que., published a research article in 2011 as a first author in the journal *Fish and Fisheries*. He went on to pursue a DPhil in zoology at Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit. ■



**1 Gilly Filsner**

**2 Michael Noonan**

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



WE ARE  
GROWING  
GREYER



THINKSTOCK



## CANADA'S DEMOGRAPHIC

# SHIFT

CONCORDIA PROFESSORS WORK TO ENSURE HEALTHIER – AND HAPPIER – LONGEVITY

BEVERLY AKERMAN

Canada is growing much greyer. In 2011, as baby boomers began crossing that 65-year-old threshold, the Census reported almost 15 per cent of us were seniors. By 2031, one quarter of Canadians will fit that bill. Centenarians are the country's fastest growing age group.

This demographic shift has major social, medical and financial repercussions. For instance, within a generation, the number of Canadians with dementia will more than double, to 1.1 million people, and the cost of their care will rise from today's \$1.5 billion to a projected \$153 billion.

How can society deal with these huge challenges? Concordia experts are looking at these issues from multiple angles.



PATRIK MARIER, A PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, IS ALSO SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND EXPERTISE IN SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY IN MONTREAL.

### INVESTING IN PLANNING

**Patrik Marier** is concerned about your financial future. Will retirees have enough money to live in the mid- and long-term?

As a professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science, Marier's research focuses on the policy implications of our changing demographics. These days, he's analyzing the implications to pension, health care and labour policy, and working on a book about Canada's preparations for aging populations.

"A large cohort of seniors have incomes barely above the poverty line," he says. "And a substantial number of baby boomers carry impressive amounts of debt into retirement."

Gender defines another worrying pension issue, Marier adds: women tend to have more career interruptions than men and therefore are more than twice as likely to rely on the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Yet it's a complex issue. Governments in Canada and elsewhere are certainly aware of the potential future crunch on pensions. Marier, the holder of a Canada Research Chair in Comparative Public Policy, feels we're not necessarily headed toward a disaster. "We must take care not to frame the issue as a crisis, a tsunami," he says. "Public authorities should act on the challenges, but need to understand that adjustments are already taking place. For example, the data show people are already retiring later."

**Charles Draimin**, professor and chair of the Department of Accountancy at Concordia's John Molson School of Business, concurs. "In the early '80s, the Quebec government changed the laws on mandatory retirement, and Ontario followed suit about eight years ago," he says. "As a result, people are no longer forced to retire except for specific, highly physical occupations like police officer or fire fighter."

The situation varies across jurisdictions, Marier points out. "In general, populations in the eastern provinces are older than western ones, and federal health care transfers don't take into account there are more older people per capita in Nova Scotia than in Alberta, for example." This makes the current health care funding formula "unfair," he says, and describes "huge ongoing debates" about the effect of aging on health

care costs. "A higher number of older people will most likely increase health care expenditure, but upcoming seniors are also healthier than those in previous generations."

Louis Bherer is scientific director of Concordia's PERFORM Centre (see the sidebar on page 29) and also serves as researcher and lab director at the Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal. He agrees that 60 is the new 40 — which delays retirement age. When he started in the field as a graduate student about 15 years back, Bherer recalls that 65 was considered the start of being considered old in neurosciences research. "Now 75 is the geriatric cut-off."

Nonetheless, the concern for the population's retirement income remains real, as a significant portion of pensioners have relatively small incomes and one quarter of the retired population

CHARLES DRAIMIN, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY AT CONCORDIA'S JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, NOTES THAT A SEGMENT OF THE CANADIAN POPULATION IS NO LONGER FORCED TO RETIRE.



lacks any pension savings outside the public plan. As well, public pensions in Canada were designed to replace only a fraction of the median wage of a working person. Draimin points out that when German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck offered pensions to German workers over 65 in 1888, few people lived long enough to qualify. Yet with life expectancy now nearly 86 years old, “the length of the modern retirement has effectively doubled. While still young enough to save for it, people should probably be finding out what they’d have to invest to approach 90 per cent of their

**Kim Sawchuk**, a professor in the Department of Communication Studies, is working to counter digital ageism. Sawchuk holds a Concordia University Research Chair in Mobile Media Studies, a Canadian first, and directs the Mobile Media Lab, which is dedicated to interdisciplinary research in “mobilities,” the movement of people, objects, capital and information, locally and across the world.

From earlier work with seniors and cell phones, Sawchuk understands that seniors are extremely heterogeneous: “There are differences, for example,

Sawchuk describes a recent flash mob at Montreal’s Place Alexis Nihon organized with Ressources ethnoculturelles contre l’abus envers les aînées and the Contactivity Centre in support of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15. “It was fantastic to see the reaction of these 50 seniors dressed in purple who participated, and then put up their intervention on YouTube. They were a force taking over the public space and putting their perspective on aging, using new media, into the virtual world.”

She has other ongoing projects with many seniors’ organizations. “At Concordia, we’re being encouraged to make what we know, and the studies we’ve done, relevant to the real world. And that’s a good thing.”

### TAMING REGRET

In a society that extols persistence as a goal-seeking behaviour, for an older person, knowing when to abandon a goal can be an equally valid path to well-being. For a young person seeking a lover or a job, persistence in the face of adversity makes sense.

Yet **Carsten Wrosch**, a professor in Concordia’s Department of Psychology, says that for some of the intractable problems of older age, “Giving up, quitting or abandoning goals, or finding some other goal to focus on can be the most adaptive response.” Especially if the person’s circumstances can’t be altered.

Wrosch is director of the Personality, Aging and Health Lab, affiliated with the university’s interdisciplinary Centre for Research on Human Development, which unites top researchers and trainees from six Quebec universities in the study of development over the human lifespan. A major research focus is the long-term study of aging. The Montreal Aging and Health Study has followed about 200 older adults for a decade. Last year, the study received a third Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant of close to \$1 million.

Wrosch says research shows that regrets — such as being unable to walk or no longer able to do the groceries — can lead to excessive rumination and



COMMUNICATION STUDIES PROFESSOR KIM SAWCHUK HELPS FIGHT THE ATTITUDE BY YOUNGER GENERATIONS THAT OLDER PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES.

pre-retirement income,” he advises.

Marier believes we need to prepare better. “People spend far more time buying a new car or fridge than on the financial decisions related to retirement,” he says. “People need to ask questions and they need to know what to ask. Don’t be shy.” He recommends *The Naked Investor: Why Almost Everybody but You Gets Rich on Your RRSP* (2007) by John Lawrence Reynolds as a resource.

### QUALITY OF LIFE MATTERS

We live in the digital age. We also live in a time of digital ageism, an attitude that assumes younger people have a natural fluency with digital media their elders lack, and a major reason seniors are often left out of research on new digital technologies.

between someone who is 60 and not yet retired, someone recently retired and those retired 20 years or more.”

She explains that culture, language and social and kinship networks are at least as significant as age on technology use and practice, and that limits on access can be related to incomes, or simply to the realization “we have too much stuff” to manage in our lives.

“We need to understand how people decide what they want and need. We need to value those as well, those who are sceptical: every new technology is not absolutely necessary,” Sawchuk says. The Mobile Media Lab provides digital learning to seniors groups based on their requirements. “We ask seniors what they want to learn and do, and then we help them access that knowledge.”

even depression, and increase one's vulnerability to disease. Wrosch has demonstrated these psychological states — and their alteration — are reflected in measurable health-relevant biological processes such as levels of cortisol (reflecting stress) and C-reactive protein (related to inflammation states). "What I'm really interested in is preventing this downward spiral through self-regulation, a life-management approach," he says.

One such approach taken in his lab, published in the journal *Psychology and Aging*, experimented with directed writing: coaching seniors to write about their life regrets by "making social com-

older adults enjoy a happier and healthier life."

#### TRAINING YOUR BRAIN

One road to such a happier and healthier life is keeping our bodies — as well as our minds — in shape.

That's one area being examined by **Karen Li**, a professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology. Li is interested in executive functioning, an umbrella term for those cognitive skills

they might exhibit while simultaneously listening to words or doing mental arithmetic."

As cognitive tasks increase in difficulty, older adults show a greater drop in performance than younger adults. "That suggests that in older age, what used to be an automatic physical task — balancing — requires more attention and cognitive resources. Avoiding a loss of balance has practical implications for healthy, independent living," she says.

So how to strengthen these cognitive functions? "A growing number of studies show that aerobic fitness training, even with a mod-

As our population ages, we are looking towards overwhelming numbers of people with dementia, yet are not prepared for this. We have an obligation to provide them the best possible quality of life.

est physical improvement, can lead to improved executive functioning," she says. "Social engagement is also an important source of mental stimulation."

Li's work has also established that brain training with computer games can be a useful add-on to more conventional forms of physical therapy/fitness training. Together with Louis Bherer and other Concordia researchers at the PERFORM Centre, Li's latest projects involve older adults with (and without) mild hearing impairment. In population studies of age-related conditions, hearing loss is associated with increased falling. Li hopes that brain-gym in combination with aerobic fitness training will better elucidate this link and, ultimately, be used to decrease falling.

She's also keen on an ongoing project, funded through CIHR, involving the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. Healthy young and older adults and older adults with hearing loss walk on a treadmill in a virtual reality simulation of crossing a six-lane street. As the subjects are challenged with listening tasks, their walking is measured using motion-capture technology. The goal is to simulate a real-life multitasking situation in a safe environment to understand how hearing loss and mobility decline are linked.



THE RESEARCH BY PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR CARSTEN WROSCH HAS SHOWN THAT WHEN SENIORS ARE TRAINED TO WRITE ABOUT THEIR LIFE IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON REGRETS, THEY FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEMSELVES.

parisons, silver lining and positive reframing" — basically, making realistic comparisons with others in the same situation, as opposed to lamenting the loss of an ideal state. Results show marked decreases in the intensity of regrets and improved outcomes, including better sleep.

"Our research is a pathway to helping older people deal with regrets over the intractable problems of aging," he says. "The ultimate goal is to discover mechanisms that can contribute to helping

harnessing mental control, organization and self-regulation. She explains executive functions are closely tied with areas of the brain that shrink more rapidly as we age.

Li and her team at the Laboratory for Adult Development and Cognitive Aging test older and younger adults as they use executive functions to multitask by combining cognitive and motor activities. "We measure how much a person sways while balancing on one foot and compare that with the increased fluctuations



ONE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY KAREN LI, A PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, FOUND THAT PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES ALONG WITH FITNESS TRAINING HELPED IMPROVE SENIORS' CONDITION.

### MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

In 1993, veteran Hollywood actors Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon starred in the comedy *Grumpy Old Men*. Why were they so grumpy? Possibly, along with many seniors, they were agitated and unable to relax. Unfortunately, for those suffering from dementia, such agitation is fairly common.

**Laurel Young**, an assistant professor of music therapy in Concordia's Department of Creative Arts Therapies, may have one solution. Young is an accredited music therapist with clinical experience in geriatrics and dementia, palliative care and other areas of physical and mental health.

Prior to her music therapy training, as a university student Young had the opportunity to play music in the locked dementia units of a long-term care facility. "I could also awaken those who were very withdrawn," she says. "I knew I needed to understand more and that's why I decided to pursue training as a music therapist."

Young's initial interest in research came out of an internship where she worked with dementia patients at Toronto's Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. While there, she investigated the use of music to stimulate object recognition. It was clear that music stimulated memory and interpersonal connection. "The science is just starting to catch up

with the anecdotal experiences that music therapists have been talking about for years," she says.

She expanded her bio-psycho-social health perspectives into the area of singing and health, yet her passion for working with seniors remained. "With almost all dementias, the music functions of the brain remain intact. Most individuals retain a sensitivity to music, and have the ability to participate in a wide variety of music experiences," she

says. "Research has also shown that both these attributes may be enhanced, even as other capacities deteriorate."

Creative arts therapies won't cure dementia, Young says, but by decreasing agitation, stimulating cognition and facilitating meaningful interactions with others, they can significantly improve quality of life for many patients.

She describes a case where the husband was institutionalized and hadn't spoken for many years. The wife usually visited daily, sharing in much of his care. Young would see this couple in a small music therapy group. Singing gentle songs on guitar and touching the man's hands, she was often able to rouse him from his languor.

When Young discovered that the couple's song was *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, the results were revelatory. She would sing "Let me call you sweetheart," and the husband would finish the line with "I'm in love with you," and then look at his wife. Here was a woman, Young explains, who for years didn't know if her husband was aware of her presence or anything she did to help him. When the husband acknowledged his wife in that setting, it was moving and meaningful for them both.

"Music is a distinct domain of functioning in the brain that seems to serve



MUSIC THERAPY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR LAUREL YOUNG RECENTLY RECEIVED AWARDS FROM WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY AND TEMPLE UNIVERSITY IN PHILADELPHIA FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD.

a variety of purposes, but we are still discovering its full potential,” Young maintains. “My theory is that if the music functions of the brain are so important, shouldn’t we be trying to maintain these functions to the fullest possible extent?” She believes using creative arts therapies in this way is “not just fun and enjoyable, but clinically indicated.”

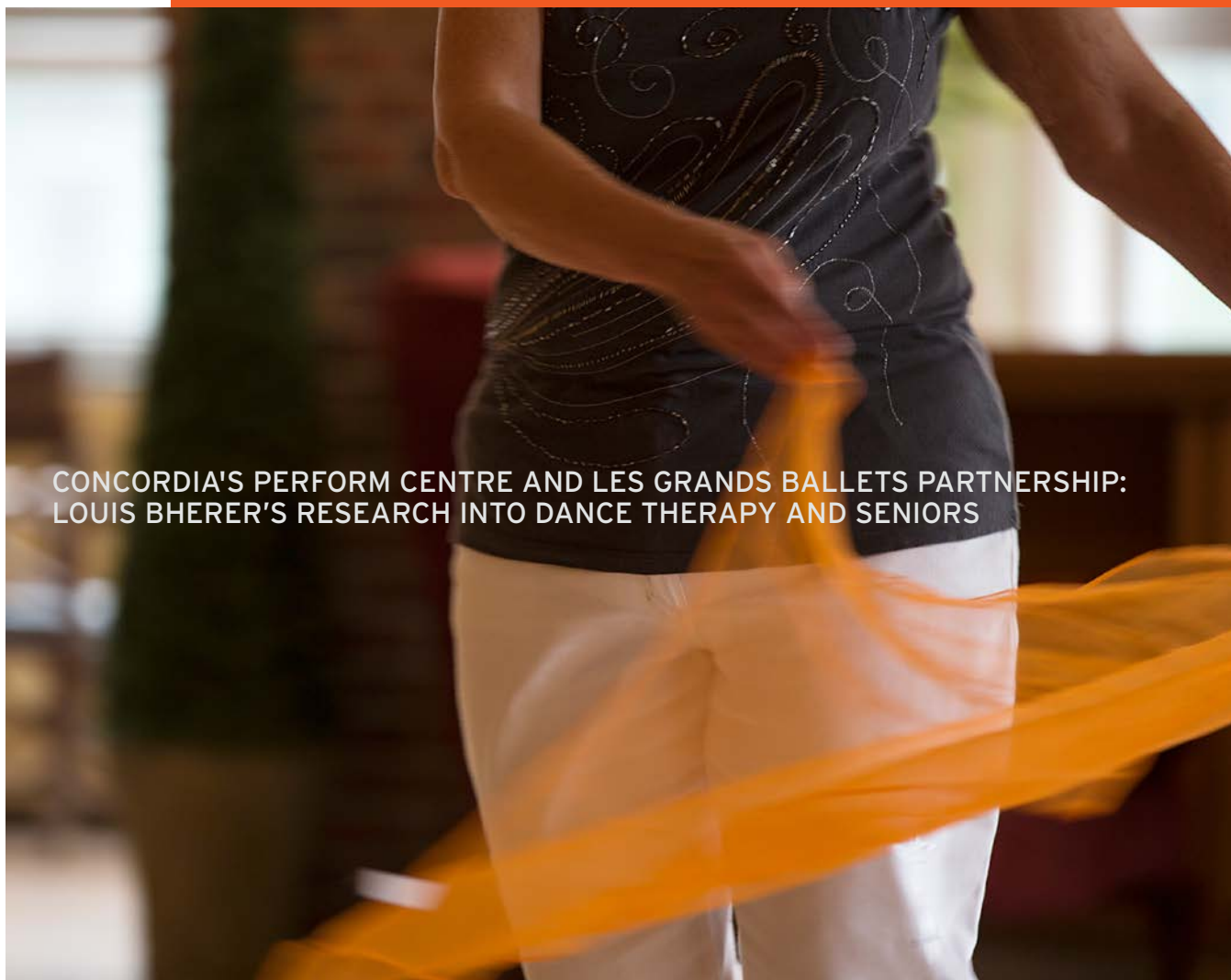
As our population ages, we are looking towards overwhelming numbers of people with dementia, yet are not physically, financially, or psychologically prepared for this, Young warns. We have an obligation to provide them the best possible quality of life.

In future, she hopes, “We may be able to understand how music works when other forms of communication have failed, to discover a way to capitalize on this in creative, functional, and meaningful ways. These people will be us — if we live long enough. How will you want to be treated?” ■

—*Beverly Akerman is a Montreal writer.*



LOUIS BHERER, SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S PERFORM CENTRE, WILL WORK WITH LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS TO COMPARE AEROBIC EXERCISE WITH DANCE AS TREATMENT FOR THE ELDERLY.



CONCORDIA'S PERFORM CENTRE AND LES GRANDS BALLETS PARTNERSHIP:  
LOUIS BHERER'S RESEARCH INTO DANCE THERAPY AND SENIORS



**Louis Bherer**, scientific director of Concordia's PERFORM Centre, questions the traditional medical research approach to the study of aging, and he's promoting a radical notion: if you want to understand and promote healthy aging, you need to study normal people and figure out what works for them. Once you study aging in the medical setting, you deal with sick older adults. Being old does not mean being sick.

"Avoiding a medically biased perspective," he says, is key to his work, which has been turning heads locally and internationally. Now Bherer is about to launch an exciting and innovative dance therapy project in partnership with Montreal's renowned Les Grands Ballets Canadiens.

"In a hospital, if you're an MD, the older adults you tend to see are those who are sick, especially in geriatric institutes. So if you want to study and promote normal aging, you need to move outside the hospital, and work with healthy people," says Bherer, who's also chair in Preventive Health Science Research at the PERFORM Centre, a place devoted to promoting healthier living through changes in behaviour and lifestyle supported by research, education and prevention-based programs.

Although it's true that about eight to 10 per cent of seniors aged 60 to 65 experiences dementia – rising to almost 50 per cent for those 85 and over – the glass-half-full view means that around 90 per cent do not, Bherer points out. So his focus is to discover what healthy seniors do that helps protect them from developing dementia.

Through studies of healthy seniors, he says: "We've managed to pinpoint four ways to decrease the risk of cognitive decline. Foremost among them is exercise. Nutritional aspect is a promising approach as well. The others are social activity – the happier you are with your social network, the more protective it will be. And finally, cognitive stimulation: reading books, magazines, playing games. And you don't need to buy fancy computer games to experience these effects."

People who exercise two to three times per week show less cognitive decline and are up to 35 per cent less likely to develop dementia. Bherer's research has shown that after previously sedentary seniors take part in even a three-to-four-month fitness regime they walk better, feel better and experience a better quality of life." Attention spans and memory also measurably improve, and Bherer was pleased to discover these

randomized trial results hold even for frail older adults, a population for whom exercise is less commonly recommended.

In the search for engaging and stimulating exercise forms for future studies, the idea to use dance was a natural fit. When Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and its innovative National Centre for Dance Therapy, led by director Christian Sénéchal, approached Bherer, he saw a brand new way to make older adults move. Now, with a \$300,000 grant from the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux in hand, Bherer is poised to begin clinical trials comparing aerobic exercise with dance as a treatment intervention.

Other projects from Les Grands Ballets Canadiens are to be conducted in partnership with the Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal, the Centre hospitalier universitaire Saint-Justine, and the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal.

The dance therapy centre is unique in being conceived and implemented by a cultural company, and also for offering three interconnected services: dance and movement therapy, clinical research and Canada's first graduate-level dance therapy training program.

# Irving Layton Award For Creative Writing: Fiction

Each year, Concordia's Department of English hands out prizes for excellence in the studies of English literature and creative writing. Those include the Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, which are worth \$500 each and given to undergraduate students for works of poetry and fiction. To qualify for the fiction award, students

must submit a single story of no more than 5,000 words.

This year's recipient for fiction, Rudrapriya Rathore, calls herself "a worrywart and a student." She studies creative writing at Concordia, writes fiction, poetry and essays and reads all with great enthusiasm. Rathore was born in New Delhi and grew up in Calcutta and

Toronto. She is the recipient of the 2014 Compton-Lamb Memorial Scholarship, and her writing has appeared in various publications, including *Yiara Magazine* and *Headlight Anthology*.

Here is an excerpt from her Layton-Award-winning short story "The Roof," which provides a glimpse into experiences of girlhood in India. ■



RUDRAPRIYA  
RATHORE



The summer that follows Nandini's eleventh birthday isn't different from those that preceded it in any obvious way. She's not yet tall, though her father predicts that one day, she will be — jokingly, he tells neighbours and relatives who stop by their home that her lengthening feet are outgrowing her, and will one day surely detach themselves and walk away. There's nothing for Nandini to do but smile on these occasions, her thin lips stretching between wide cheekbones, her weight shifting from one big foot to the other.

When it's Avi Kumar's parents who stop by, she doesn't bother to pretend like she hasn't heard her father's joke a hundred times. Instead, she stares at the way the lined pouches and folds on Mr. Kumar's froglike face quiver as he laughs into his teacup. Avi is a year older and lives above her, on the top floor of the building. Just the thought of him calls to mind some petty trauma inflicted on Nandini's dignity. A swift tug on her hair to accompany the insult isn't uncommon.

After a lunch of spiced potatoes and rotis, eaten while perching on a steel trunk in front of the television, Nandini takes her book and climbs up the concrete stairwell as usual. The afternoon is glaringly hot. The heat of the cement warms her feet as soon as she steps onto the open roof. A short wall runs around its perimeter. Six storeys below, traffic moves in a sluggish river densely banked by crowds of people. Though she is out of reach of the clouds of dust and the animal stench rising from the road, the noise is inescapable. Everything that moves on the streets of Calcutta makes noise. Everything honks or shouts or bleats or whistles.

From her vantage point, the roofs of other buildings stretch in every direction. Damp clothes on criss-crossing laundry lines grow stiff under the sun. Maids and nannies spread their green chilies and fish for drying and sit chopping vegetables. Under their eyes and despite the heat, children ride bicycles around each other in circles and draw on the concrete with chalk. Sitting on her bike, a storybook held open against the handlebars, Nandini leans against the only shaded wall on the roof. She has the story memorized, but it makes no difference. The pleasure lies in moving her lips and tongue to form the imagined sounds of a language she has heard only adults speak. It lies also in sitting very straight and still on the red bicycle as the children speed around her. Birbal was the emperor's most valued advisor. Akbar trusted only him when it came to important matters. Everything in English shone with the promise of something pristine and quiet and grown-up. She turns the pages slowly, only after touching the words on the paper to absorb their square, sophisticated meanings.

Nannoo! A boy's voice reaches her through the din, laughter hidden in its pitch. A familiar sliver of dread dances through Nandini's chest. She looks left and right, but he's

nowhere to be seen. The nannies don't look up from their vegetables. Avi's brothers, chubby three-year-old twins, sit and squabble over toy cars a few metres away. My little Nannoo!

Nandini closes her book and tucks it under her arm. Her foot toes a pedal, ready to fly. For a moment all is still. Then Avi bursts from behind a laundry line, wet sheets swing-

ing, and snatches the book from under her arm. He is all wiry limbs and slitted eyes and flashing white teeth as he runs, but Nandini has a vehicle — and

she thrusts her legs down on the pedals after him. Avi zips between the lines of hanging clothes and clusters of maids and nannies and small children, shouting at the top of his lungs, and Nandini follows, furious, paying no heed to the damp clothes her handlebars ensnare and tear down, ignoring a yelp as a child scrambles out of her way — until, overturning a pot, she's gaining speed and flailing her hand to free it of sticky chunks of okra and doesn't realize that the short wall at the edge of the building is fast approaching. She slams her pedals backwards to brake as Avi's face just ahead of her looks back, still mid-laugh, and the bike's back wheel skids out of control. Toppling onto Avi and effectively halting them both just short of the edge, she watches as the book slips from his hands and flies over the three-foot-high wall, pages flapping, to fall to the street below.

Before they can untangle themselves, Avi shouts, "You're crazy! You're trying to kill me!" At the sight of the maids running towards them, his indignation swells. "She tried to push me over the edge! She tried to kill me!"

"No I didn't!" Nandini shouts back. "He stole my book! And now it's gone! He's a thief!"

"Look at her, she's a lunatic! Trying to kill me!" Avi continues as the maids carefully stand the two up and brush them off, checking for scrapes. The smaller kids cluster around and shove each other to get a look, fingers in their mouths.

"She's a lunatic," one crows with delight.

Angrily, Nandini shoves a maid away and glowers at Avi. "He tried to get his hand under my dress," she says in a quaking voice. Silence. The noise from the street below rises to fill Nandini's ears. Open-mouthed, Avi stares.

"What? No —"

"Okay, okay, bachche, you're both fine," Sita-bai, Avi's nanny, says hurriedly. "Come, Nannoo, let's go clean your knee up."

Heart pounding, Nandini dares a look at Avi's face. He is baffled more than defeated, staring at the maids as if they might turn back to him and say, "She's pulling your leg, you badmash, she's just joking." But of course they don't do anything of the sort, and Nandini walks away from Avi into the cool of the building, unable to say where her words originated or why a fiery, electric buzz has come to life beneath her skin.

## Excerpt from "The Roof"


BY RUDRAPRIYA RATHORE

# WEATHER FORECAST:

NEW SOLUTIONS ON THE WAY

**CONCORDIA EXPERTS TAKE A FRESH APPROACH TO  
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESOURCE ISSUES**

BY JULIE GEDEON



Unexpected hurricanes. Freak snowstorms.  
Devastating tsunamis. Polar vortexes. The Earth's  
climate is undeniably becoming increasingly volatile.  
A number of professors and students from  
Concordia's four academic faculties are examining  
the effects of climate change and looking for ways to  
sustain human activities without depleting the Earth's  
resources. Their research and teaching are serving  
as scientific warnings, opening up exciting new  
opportunities revolving around sustainability  
and deepening human understanding and awareness.  
We present a few of their efforts.



DAMON MATTHEWS IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT. HE SAYS IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STOP THE RISE OF THE EARTH'S TEMPERATURE – AND THE DECLINE OF OUTDOOR ICE HOCKEY – BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE “PROMPT AND SIGNIFICANT ACTION.”

## SKATING ON THIN ICE

When **Damon Matthews** co-published a 2012 paper warning that the days of Canada's outdoor skating rinks could be numbered, the associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment received more media attention than he ever had before. Hockey in Canada is, after all, sacred.

“Based on the conditions needed to create outdoor rinks and what we've observed from the meteorological data over the previous 30 years, we extrapolated that we have about three more decades of viable outdoor skating,” Matthews says. “That really touched a cultural nerve among Canadians that I hope will help lead to significant action in terms of reducing carbon emissions.”

Matthews uses mathematical calculations to model climate response to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other emissions. “The ratio is a 1.5-degree-Celsius-higher global temperature for every trillion tonnes of carbon emitted into our atmosphere,” he explains. “And while it took us 200 years to emit a half-trillion tonnes, it will take us only 50 years to emit another half-trillion at current levels.”

With carbon emissions still increasing, that additional 500 billion tonnes might occur even sooner, he adds.

The only way to stop the planet from warming further is to stop emissions immediately. “Of course, zero emissions are unlikely to happen overnight because people won't decommission current production and transportation systems or change their habits that quickly,” Matthews says.

Matthews and his Concordia colleagues have therefore looked at the amount of emissions already embedded into the current fossil fuel infrastructure to determine the amount of “wiggle room” to stabilize the increase in the Earth's overall temperature to only 2 degrees Celsius. “If we want global warming to stay below 2 degrees Celsius, we need to cut all emissions by at least half,” he says.

Given this reality, some researchers are proposing to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere to keep global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. “That's when people start talking about geo-engineering projects, such as artificial trees to suck CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere,” Matthews says.

He's conducting simulations to determine how the climate might respond to some of the proposed technological solutions. “For instance, one idea is to spray reflective particles into the atmosphere to deflect sunlight,” Matthews says. “However, that would introduce a whole other suite of potential side

effects on the climate system, such as impacts on the ozone layer and changes in rainfall patterns.”

His modelling indicates that reaching zero emissions as soon as possible through renewable energy sources and significant changes in our lifestyle and habitat remains the best solution. To show what needs to be done, one of his recent projects involved calculating the historical emissions produced by nations and how each country's emissions are contributing to the global temperature increase. “Of course, the United States produces the most emissions, and Canada ranked 10th, which is not very good given its relatively small population,” he says. “We're hoping this kind of information will spur governments to action.”

“There's a misconception that even if we stopped emitting carbon, the Earth's temperature would continue to rise, and that's not the case,” he emphasizes. “We could stabilize the planet's temperature if we take prompt and significant action.” It's why Matthews conducts studies that alert people to the fact that if carbon emissions aren't dramatically curbed without delay, other young boys and girls might not have the chance to learn hockey on an outdoor rink like Wayne Gretzky did.



RICARDO DAL FARRA, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, HAS WORKED ON SEVERAL BALANCE-UNBALANCE CONFERENCES. BALANCE-UNBALANCE MERGES ART AND ISSUES OF SUSTAINABILITY.

## RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH ART

Research in the fine arts has a less obvious connection to sustainability than that of other disciplines — but **Ricardo Dal Farra**, an associate professor in the Department of Music, is helping change that perception.

Dal Farra has been a leading organizer of three international BALANCE-UNBALANCE conferences that have brought artists together with scientists, engineers, sociologists, policymakers and others to help resolve the world's pressing environmental issues.

BALANCE-UNBALANCE 2011 ([balance-ubalance2011.hexagram.ca](http://balance-ubalance2011.hexagram.ca)) involved the collaboration of colleagues from Concordia's departments of Geography, Planning and Environment, Political Science, Design and Computation Arts, Communication Studies and Music, as well as the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise.

The highly successful 2013 BALANCE-UNBALANCE conference was held at the UNESCO-designated Noosa Biosphere in Queensland, Australia. It prompted the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre to approach Dal Farra about creating some original music to play during their presentations and workshops, as well as games that the organization uses to help

government officials and other key people to understand the complexities of disaster risk management.

Dal Farra suggested a contest to find original music and sound-art works for the climate centre's overall humanitarian responses to people dealing with floods, drought and other disasters related to climate change. "Pablo Suarez, the centre's associate director for Research and Innovation, was so pleased that he asked if we could also launch a contest for music miniatures specifically for the efforts to obtain mosquito nets to prevent dengue fever," Dal Farra says.

The contests have been a springboard for the "art! ∞ climate" project, which aims to use art as a catalyst for social awareness and change. "To compose a piece about climate change or dengue fever, you really have to understand what the problem is, so the contest rules prompted entrants to read white papers and other documents about climate change and its consequences," Dal Farra says. "The contests encouraged sound artists to reflect significantly on the situation and what kind of message they wanted to get across."

A jury of highly regarded composers and media artists chose 39 submissions as being of very good quality from among

the large number received. The climate centre selected nine compositions for its purposes. Dal Farra and the other contest organizers are programming many of the remaining high-quality pieces into conferences and festivals related to climate change around the world.

"We're also in the process of putting all the pieces on a website ([ceiarteuntref.edu.ar/art\\_climate\\_selected\\_works](http://ceiarteuntref.edu.ar/art_climate_selected_works)) with a Creative Commons licence that gives organizations and individuals the permission to download and use them in connection with any initiatives specifically related to dealing with climate change," he says.

The response and outcome of the initial contests were so successful that the "art! ∞ climate" project and BALANCE-UNBALANCE conference series were featured in the April 2013 issue of *Leonardo – Journal of the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology*. "We really have shown how art can play a fundamental role in social change," Dal Farra says. "It's a message that I keep emphasizing to my students by integrating issues related to climate change in my teaching and making them a part of the curriculum activities for my composition of electroacoustic music classes."



DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ZEYNEP ARSEL'S RESEARCH INCLUDES LOOKING AT "UPCYCLING," THE PROCESS OF TAKING SOMEONE ELSE'S TRASH AND TURNING IT INTO SOMETHING OF VALUE.

## CREATING NEW VALUE FROM OLD GOODS

A lamp from the 1980s may be nothing but junk to a lot of us. Yet some people would love to get their hands on one. It's this kind of unprecedented value for items that **Zeynep Arsel**, an associate professor in the Department of Marketing at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), is researching as a consumption scholar. She's looking at how people's evolving ideas of what holds value might help to save the planet's resources.

"I am increasingly seeing people desire items in ways that were unimaginable in the past," Arsel says. "And I'm examining how that desire could help to avoid resource depletion in the long run."

Arsel's research is focused on how people are creating value by trading items that wouldn't otherwise be marketable. "This includes exchanging unsellable

items, such as used makeup," she notes.

Her current project involves examining various forms of exchange within Canada and the United States that exist outside the formal marketplace, such as bartering. "I'm investigating how people are creating and maintaining systems that I would say make up for the limitations of the formal marketplace," she explains.

She is also looking at upcycling—the process of using what would otherwise become trash to create new items, such as leather bags from worn jackets. "People are really starting to recognize the dormant value of the items in their closets and cupboards and putting that into action," she says. "I'm researching this in terms of the concept of value which I think needs to be re-theorized in light of these relatively new activities."

The growing popularity of the Freecycle Network ([freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org)), which claims nearly eight million participants around

the world, provides another example. The site helps individuals to pass along and receive items for free. "People are using the site to give things away because they realize the value in creating more space for themselves, or they want to increase their moral capital by helping others in the process of facilitating the reuse of items rather than just discarding them," Arsel says. "I think there may be a real consciousness-awakening here."

Arsel is noticing that as some are becoming more aware of the dormant value in used and upcycled items, they are creating formal marketplaces for them. Entrepreneurs are establishing upcycling businesses. Organizations are opening thrift shops to raise money for medical research or charitable efforts.

For now, Arsel is focusing on value that isn't determined by a monetary amount. "I'm more interested in floating value," she says. "What is it that makes



## SUSTAINABILITY LESSONS

Realizing the sustainability challenges that lay ahead, in 2008 Concordia Chancellor David O'Brien, BA 62, made a generous donation to help the university promote more environmentally conscious business practices. Paul Shrivastava was hired as the first director of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise when it opened a year later.

Shrivastava, a professor in the Department of Management, feels business leaders have come a long way in only a few years in terms of understanding the need for sustainability. "Most corporate executives recognize climate change as an urgent situation and know there are newer technologies that are a lot more sustainable," he says. "The problem is that many companies have already made huge investments in technologies that are supposed to last for a decade or longer, and they're unwilling to abandon this legacy investment."

The centre has been playing a pivotal role in not only instructing John Molson School of Business (JMSB) students about sustainability, but educating current business owners and operators about the economic advantages of making a transition to newer technologies sooner rather than later. As part of the Sustainable Internship Program, JMSB students are hired by companies for a school term to identify feasible sustainability improvements that often come with a pleasantly quick return on investment.

"Other internships involve students helping a company to develop a more sustainable product, or designing, developing and implementing more sustainable production systems," Shrivastava adds.

Companies involved with internships have also opened the eyes of JMSB students when it comes to sustainability. Sofia Coelho, who's pursuing a BComm in marketing, found her whole attitude towards food and its production radically changing during her three-month marketing/analytics internship at Montreal's Crudessence restaurant, which serves organic vegan food.

"What blew me away was how the restaurant prioritizes sustainability over profits and still manages to make money," she says. "Since working there, I've become involved with Sustainable Concordia and the Concordia Food Coalition, and I'm really hoping to find a job that puts my marketing skills to work for a sustainable enterprise."

Concordia is aiming for a similar change in attitude for existing professionals. Shrivastava is among the professors who have developed the Sustainable Investment Professional Certification Program. It focuses on sustainable investment strategies for professionals already working in the financial field. "The 90-hour certification program is designed for frontline portfolio managers," he says. The program covers what sustainability is, why it's important, all of the ethics, governance and social responsibility intertwined with it, as well as the new investment opportunities arising from sustainability, such as micro-financing and renewable energy projects.

"The course teaches investors to assess the social and ecological impacts of investing in a project, and encourages them to find out what governments may be offering in terms of financial assistance," Shrivastava adds. "Every course module comes with an assignment that refers to a real company situation so these financial professionals can learn what questions to ask and how to better connect potential investors to projects that adhere to sustainability principles."

—Julie Gedeon

people decide that a used object is worth something? What is it that makes some of us seek out items that others consider junk or garbage? What determines a fair exchange? How is it that a book could end up being a fair trade for a chair?"

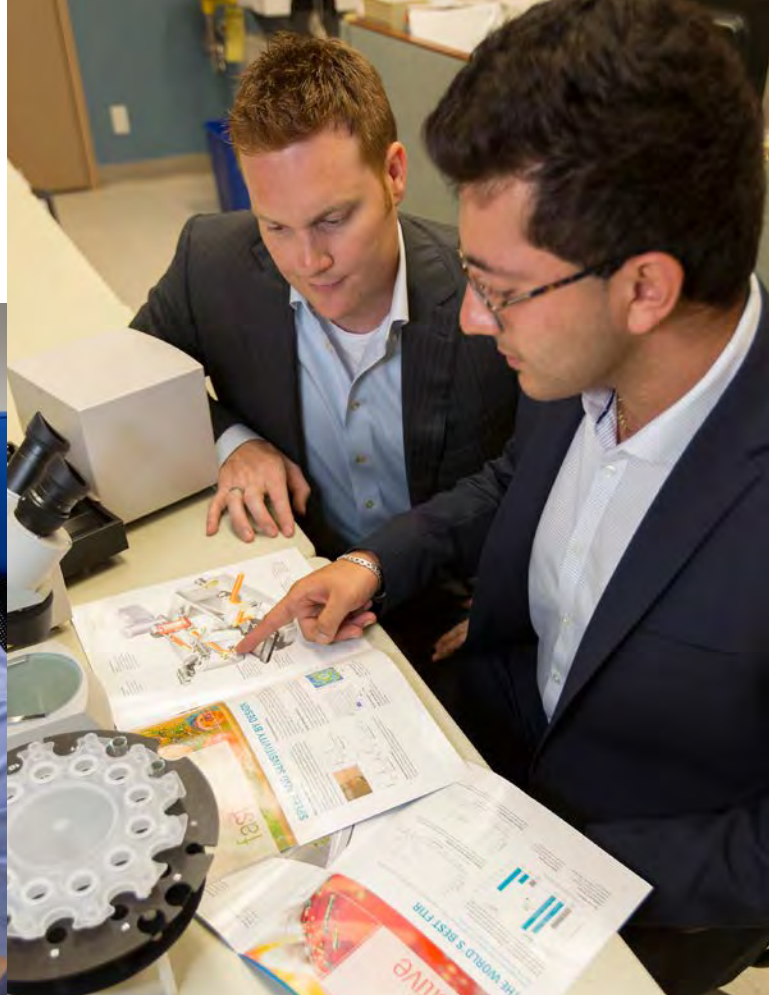
Arsel has received a wide array of answers so far, which is making it a real challenge to establish some kind of shared criteria. "It's very subjective," she emphasizes. "What's interesting is that people are not just exchanging physical items in many cases, but objects that come with stories that form part of their value structure."

As more networks for bartering or swapping become established, Arsel suspects that society's mainstream notions of value might also keep shifting. She speculates: "Fixed currencies might become less important in determining exchanges." ■



Concordia's Institute for Co-operative Education –  
Co-op – takes students into the workforce





BY JOANNE LATIMER

“Do you have any experience in the field?” That’s the question that fills most young people with dread during job interviews. Sure, they’ve had summer jobs, but it isn’t the same thing as real experience in a chosen profession. Getting a foot in the door can be nearly impossible with a resumé that contains nothing more than retail and restaurants. Employers want to know that junior applicants are mature enough to transition into their first full-time position.

Enter Concordia’s Institute for Co-Operative Education (Co-op). Since 1980, Co-op has been working in partnership with students, faculty, staff, employers and alumni to provide a high-quality co-operative education. It’s a learning model that rotates four-month work terms with periods of formal academic study. During their work terms, students earn a wage (always a good thing for them), while their employers solve staffing shortages and receive a tax credit from the government.

There is a rigorous application process to become a Co-op student, including academic performance requirements. If successfully admitted into the Co-op program, students take mandatory workshops — covering topics including how to write a resumé and cover letter, interview skills, email etiquette, identifying styles of management and French-language training — before they have access to the job board.

"We set the table for students to enter the workforce," explains Gerry Hughes, BComm (bus. admin.) 74, director of the Institute for Co-operative Education, which has increased the number of students by over 20 per cent in the last three years. "It's exciting because we're expanding horizontally and vertically, continually adding more non-traditional Co-op programs in areas like anthropology, political science and journalism."

Hughes, who took over the directorship in 2011 after running the career centre at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) for four years, stresses the importance of alumni outreach. "We want to foster a tribe mindset of 'hire one of your own.'"

It must be working. In the 2013-14 academic year, Co-op created more than 1,000 work placements for 1,450 students at non-profits, government agencies and private-sector employers, including Google, RIM, Bombardier, Beiersdorf, CAE, Ericsson, Genetec, GE, Bank of Nova Scotia, Terry Fox Foundation and Le Château. There's still a need to develop jobs in certain fields such as finance, accounting and civil and mechanical engineering. "Some disciplines are easier to place than others," explains Hughes, whose team introduced Co-op's new website ([concordia.ca/co-op](http://concordia.ca/co-op)) and social media presence in 2013. "But the benefits to the students, employers, faculty members and the Concordia community as a whole speak for themselves."

After each of their three work terms, students are required to meet in small groups to reflect on what they've absorbed. Some of the positive learning experiences exceeded even Hughes's expectations. "We placed a student at Pratt & Whitney, where he helped supervise 110 unionized employees," he recalls.

I thrive in this kind of supportive environment.  
They're going to have to pry me out of here  
with a crowbar.

"When I asked him what makes a good supervisor, he spoke about the importance of respecting the staff, getting your hands dirty, doing what you say and showing that you care. It was invaluable knowledge, learned on the job."

The Co-op experience, then, is more than just the job opportunities. It's about processing each experience and mining it for patterns of best practices and student growth.

"We are working to establish a Co-op wow factor," says Hughes. "The idea is to give students the training and the preparation that boost confidence." On the other side of the coin, companies who take on a Co-op student can reduce

recruitment expenses, tackle special projects, meet peak workloads, evaluate potential full-time hires, engage in joint research projects with the faculty and get first pick at the top talent — all while enjoying tax breaks.

Wow, indeed. With almost \$10,000 in Co-op scholarships awarded through the program to worthy students last year, word is growing about this vibrant way for students to bridge university life and the working world.



CONCORDIA CO-OP DIRECTOR GERRY HUGHES, SEATED, AND (FROM LEFT) CO-OP COORDINATORS ALEX BOTTAUSCI, FRED FRANCIS, RICHARD MELKONIAN AND JANE FAIRHURST, WHO WORK TO HELP PLACE STUDENTS WITH EMPLOYERS.

"The misconception is that we're simply a placement agency," clarifies Hughes. "A key part of our branding is the official 'Co-op experience,' with our professional staff, value-added resources, services and seminars that go above and beyond the practical work experience students gain in their fields. It's the definition of win-win."

When it comes to discovering their niche in the field — be it accounting, biochemistry, mechanical engineering or any of the 39 available programs — students in Co-op are one step ahead. Maybe they excel at strategy or client development. Maybe they thrive in a research lab or rise to the challenge of project management. Co-op students begin their critical process of self-discovery earlier and obtain a "head start" on establishing their career journey.

Hughes, who helms a team of 16 staff at Co-op, explains, "Our goal is to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and experience they need to lead successful professional lives."

For more information, visit [concordia.ca/co-op](http://concordia.ca/co-op).

## CASE STUDIES IN ACTION

Meet recent Institute for Co-operative Education students and grads at their companies

### HENRY S. CHEANG AND CAROLINE LE BRUN, ETELESOLV

“I was at a career dead end,” recalls Henry S. Cheang, who earned a PhD in communication sciences and disorders from McGill University in 2008. “It was time for a complete change of tactic.”

Cheang did his due diligence and decided to complete an MBA through the Institute for Co-operative Education at Concordia’s JMSB, where he admired the school’s Community Services

“My original mandate was to write 32 blogs and a few e-books,” says Cheang. “But now I write between 5,000 and 10,000 words a week, while doing competitor research. I’ve also learned how to read a public patent and my knowledge of social media has gone through the roof.”

Most importantly, Cheang appreciates what he learned about workplace culture. “At Etelesolv, we show each other

“Initially, I thought I was getting someone to write web content, but what I got was someone who created a fresh voice for the company,” says Etelesolv marketing director Caroline Le Brun, BComm (mktg.) 02. “He can do so much more than we expected, especially in research and analysis.” Le Brun describes Cheang, who leads her team’s daily huddles and weekly meetings while she’s away on business, as her “right hand.”

Cheang was Etelesolv’s first Co-op student. “We were so pleased with the experience that I created an



CAROLINE LE BRUN, LEFT, AND HER “RIGHT HAND,” HENRY S. CHEANG, AT ETELESOLV IN LACHINE, QUE.

Initiative and the Small Business Consulting Bureau.

“It wasn’t an easy decision to go back to school, but I made a resolution that whatever program I did, there would have to be a way to break into the field with concrete experience. Co-op has that,” says Cheang. He applied for three work placements, starting in the marketing department at Etelesolv, a software company based in Lachine, Que.

respect and tolerance. There’s room for honest difference in a workforce with people from 29 different countries,” he says. “I thrive in this kind of supportive, non-toxic environment. They’re going to have to pry me out of here with a crowbar.”

No crowbar will be necessary. Etelesolv offered Cheang a full-time position, once he completes his studies this year.

on-boarding document for future student placements,” states Le Brun, herself a Concordia Co-op graduate. “The document tells them how our marketing team is structured, what cloud-based software to review and what social media accounts to create for themselves.

“We’ve learned to give students room to show us what they can do,” says Le Brun. She adds with a laugh, “Henry kept showing us that ‘he’s the man.’”

## YUAN HAO WANG AND AMANDA CURREN, ROLL HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES INC.

When Yuan Hao “Winnie” Wang left Shanghai, China, to study accounting at Concordia in 2011, she wondered how she’d ever break into the work world in Montreal. Then friends told her about the Institute for Co-Operative Education.

“I fit the profile,” she says. “I’m a newcomer to the country and don’t know many people. I’m ‘book smart,’ but have no contacts. Plus, I wanted another way to connect to the city.” Wang spent her first work term at

mind and think as if the company is their own.”

While getting hands-on experience doing client taxes, audits, year-end statements, T1 and T4 preparation, Wang also became familiar with the office software, including CaseWare and Taxprep.

“It’s important to be a self-starter in a small company,” says Wang, who didn’t find it difficult to adapt to the professional workforce because her student jobs were quite serious, involving

before selecting Wang for the Co-op placement. As a Co-op alumna herself, Curren is supportive of the initiative and sees the mutually beneficial value of the program.

“Employers get a fresh perspective when students come through the door,” says Curren, who was offered a full-time position at Roll Harris when she graduated. “Students ask questions that force you to act in a different way or think about things from a different perspective.”

From her own Co-op experience, Curren remembers that a common challenge is adapting lessons from the classroom into real-life scenarios. “There’s a disparity there,” she points



YUAN HAO WANG, LEFT, AND AMANDA CURREN AT ROLL HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES INC. IN MONTREAL. SOON AFTER BEGINNING AT THE ACCOUNTING FIRM, WANG FOUND “I REALLY LIKE TAX!”

a wholesaler and her second placement at an international corporation. Her third placement was at the accounting firm Roll Harris and Associates Inc. in Montreal.

“I was hired in January for tax season and that placement confirmed that I really like tax!” recalls Wang. “It wasn’t a huge shock, because I enjoyed tax in school, but I particularly liked it in a small-sized company, where everyone’s encouraged to have an entrepreneurial

confidential information about students. “My skills were transferable that way, since accounting involves clients’ confidential information.”

Wang has chosen to take one academic course during each work term. “I like to know what’s happening on campus,” she explains, cheerily. “You can’t forget about your student network either.”

Amanda Curren, BComm (acct.) 11, intermediate auditor at Roll Harris and Associates, reviewed 20 applicants

out. “But Winnie wasn’t in that boat. She’s a quick learner with a great attitude. She took initiative, too, and fit in well with our learning-on-the-job style of training,” Curren says.

Now that Curren is an employer, she is seeing another value. “It takes time and money to train new hires, so a Co-op situation is a great way to get started with someone,” she says. “If it isn’t a good fit, you aren’t married to each other.”

## JONATHAN D'ARIENZO AND BRANDON CHAU, SYNCRUDE CANADA LTD.

Sometimes, work placements reveal to students what they don't want to do with their work days. That's a good thing. Take 22-year-old civil engineering student Jonathan D'Arienzo, for example.

"Now I know that I'd rather be in the

company in Fort McMurray, Alta., where he worked in the soil lab. His duties included testing rocks for their engineering properties for construction purposes.

"My boss had over 30 years of experience, so it was great because he could

about the importance of managing client expectations and providing alternative solutions when you hit a roadblock. "Technical skills can be taught," he says. "But I saw that interpersonal skills are why you move up in a company."

Back at Syncrude Canada in Fort McMurray, Co-op students continue to impress their employers. "Students help us bridge the gap in terms of generations," says Brandon Chau, BEng (mech.) 12, an assistant project manager



GRACE WILCZUR-SMITH

JONATHAN D'ARIENZO JUST WRAPPED UP HIS FINAL WORK TERM AT THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF THOROLD, ONT., IN THE NIAGARA VALLEY.

construction process," says D'Arienzo, after completing a Co-op placement at a consultancy firm, where he handled construction disputes and claims. "Even though I had a great mentor and I enjoyed doing schedule analysis for claims, it can take five years for a claim to close, or maybe two years to open a claim. I need something more immediate and tangible."

That realization prompted D'Arienzo to seek a totally different work experience for his second placement. He went to Syncrude Canada, a large oil

explain concepts you'd never learned in school," says D'Arienzo. "The oil sands provided a wonderful learning opportunity, but ultimately, they're too remote and cold for me."

D'Arienzo's final placement was in the engineering department of the City of Thorold, Ont. "The job deals directly with infrastructure — the roads, sidewalks, water, lights — and I'm involved in every project. Infrastructure is fantastic and I like the feel of a mid-sized organization."

Along the way, D'Arienzo also learned

in Project Development and Execution at Syncrude. "With the aging workforce, we have to make sure there's a transference of knowledge and experience to the younger staff, so students are trained, then paired with a mentor."

Chau, like many Concordia Co-op alumni, contacted his alma mater when he saw opportunities to match students with placements. He says, "It benefits Syncrude too, because when a student has a positive work term, they go home and promote the company to other students and their family and friends."

## HRAG KOZADJIAN AND JONAH KIRKWOOD, AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES

Like D'Arienzo, student Hrag "Greg" Kozadjian, BSc (biochem.) 14, used the Co-op experience to find his particular niche within his field. He signed on for five work terms — not the standard three terms — to maximize his exposure and identify his most marketable qualities.

"With a degree in biochemistry, there are so many options that it's important to learn the landscape," says Kozadjian,

R&D isn't for me," he says. "At the crime lab, I really enjoyed when we'd get sales reps giving technology presentations about their new products. I thought, 'This is how science advances' — with better equipment."

Kozadjian hit his stride while working at Agilent Technologies in sales and marketing for the Chemical Analysis group. "It turns out, I really love the business end of things," says Kozadjian.

offered Kozadjian a permanent position the day after he graduated. Agilent takes Co-op students (including from other schools) year round, providing an on-boarding program to help them make the transition.

"We see that co-op students bring a direct benefit to our bottom line of \$150,000 to \$200,000 in sales a year," reports Jonah Kirkwood, national sales director at Agilent. "In fact, a student just facilitated a \$285,000 deal for one of our new products. I'm certainly glad we devoted 17 days to on-board training."



JONAH KIRKWOOD, LEFT, AND HRAG KOZADJIAN AT AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES IN MONTREAL, WHERE KOZADJIAN WAS ABLE TO MERGE HIS INTERPERSONAL AND SCIENCE SKILLS.

listing possible professions in immunology, toxicology, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and petrochemicals. He enjoyed his work placement in a Montreal crime lab, with the Ministère de la Sécurité publique's Laboratoire des sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale, where he was part of a toxicology team building an express method of analyzing blood and urine samples. Kozadjian appreciated the opportunity to learn good laboratory standards and good manufacturing practices.

"While I liked the team aspect and working with people, I learned that pure

"I like being a frontline sales scout, contacting clients and learning about the instruments." He also valued the chance to work on soft skills in a science environment.

"It's important to know how to ask for a favour from a different department. What's the etiquette and how do you word the email?" says Kozadjian, who also credits the Co-op program for making him realize he didn't want to continue on to graduate school. "I'm already armed for the workforce with a resumé and a job."

Yes, a real job. Agilent Technologies

Kirkwood praises his own Co-op undergraduate experience for helping him excel in his career. "I learned patience, among other things, and the right way to train people," says Kirkwood, who believes it's worth the effort to mentor students because of what they give back to the company. "Students bring a lot of enthusiasm and fresh eyes. They're not jaded, or set in their thinking. This gives us a pool of candidates to replenish our workforce and build our capacity." ■

—Joanne Latimer, MFA 94, is a Montreal-based freelance writer.

# CO-OP FACTS

YEAR OF  
INCEPTION  
**1980**

STUDENTS  
**1,450** STUDENTS IN ALL  
FOUR FACULTIES IN  
2013-14

PROGRAMS  
**35**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
**4**  
GRADUATE

ANNUAL JOB POSTINGS  
**UP TO  
3,000**

STAFF  
**16**  
ACADEMIC  
DIRECTORS  
**22**  
(FACULTY  
MEMBERS)

RATE OF CO-OP  
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT  
**87% TO 92%**

STUDENTS IN THE FACULTY  
OF ENGINEERING AND  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
**42%**  
STUDENTS IN THE JOHN  
MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
**50%**

VALUE OF CO-OP SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED, 2012-13  
**\$9,700**

ANNUAL PLACEMENTS  
**MORE  
THAN 1,000**

CO-OP STUDENTS' APPROXIMATE TOTAL ANNUAL EARNINGS (BASED ON AVERAGE PAY OF \$14/HR.)

\$8,000,000

## The next-generation EMBA for the complete executive

JORDAN LABEL IS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE JOHN MOLSON EXECUTIVE MBA (EMBA) PROGRAM.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

BY YURI MYTKO

Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) has launched a new Executive MBA (EMBA) program.

The innovative program goes well beyond traditional academic subjects, offering students professional leadership coaching, a health and fitness component created with executives in mind and solid links to the business community.

Jordan LeBel was recently named the program's director. LeBel has been a professor in the Department of Marketing since 2000; he also leads JMSB's Luc Beauregard Centre of Excellence in Communications Research. In 2013, he was named a 3M National Teaching Fellow, Canada's highest honour for university instructors.

We sat down with LeBel to discuss the EMBA program, its mission and what being a "complete executive" really means.

### WHO IS THE JOHN MOLSON EMBA FOR?

**Jordan LeBel:** "The Executive MBA program is designed for people who already have considerable business experience — busy executives, entrepreneurs or professionals who are

not free to study full-time and who've come to the conclusion that they need help to move to the next stage in their professional development. The convenience of having a once-a-week commitment fits with their busy schedules.

The program's content is focused on developing students' ability to think more broadly and strategically; it challenges them to step out of their comfort zone. After seven or eight years in the business world, it's easy to get set in your ways, so you need to be challenged to think differently and to approach problems from a different angle.

That's what the EMBA brings you. It's giving you new tools and new ways of thinking that can help you meet new challenges and move on to the next stage in your career."

### HOW IS THE JOHN MOLSON EMBA DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS?

**JL:** "Our program is unique in a number of ways. First, terms are organized along themes so that each course complements the next, and the themes tie together the notions presented in individual courses. Then, each semester is capped by an integrative course that allows for the assimilation and application of newly acquired knowledge in a real-life context.

For example, in the term themed around thinking globally, all courses are viewed through a global lens, culminating in a week-long international trip filled with exchanges and meetings with other business students and leaders.

Even the first term, on mastering the fundamental concepts of business, ends with a real-life case study on issues the partnering company is currently facing. This year's case involves Transcontinental Media, and the company's whole executive team, including the CEO, will attend students' presentations in December.

Three important components support the delivery of the curriculum and add tangible value for participants: the Executive Connects Series, the Healthy Executive module and Leadership Effectiveness and Development (LEAD) Executive Coaching.

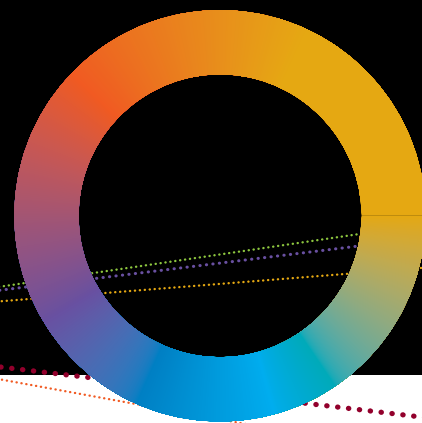
The Executive Connects Series focuses on networking and learning from accomplished individuals: we invite business leaders into the classroom to share their experiences, good and bad. Each cohort is assigned a champion — a well-respected business leader who will remain in contact with the group throughout the two-year program. The first champion will be Andrew Molson [vice-chairman of the board of Molson Coors Brewing Company].

The Healthy Executive module teaches how to sustain high performance at work while maintaining a healthy lifestyle. It also focuses on the importance of healthy workplaces and acquiring tools, techniques and habits that you can pass on and share.

We have a chance here to educate future business leaders and not only



# JOHN MOLSON EMBA<sup>®</sup>



sensitize them to the importance of work environments and habits that support healthy lifestyles, but also to give them tools and techniques they can then implement and share at work, thereby creating a powerful ripple effect.

This module is delivered by a team of specialists from Concordia's PERFORM Centre that includes experienced certified exercise physiologists, registered dietitians and Concordia's Health Services health promotion experts."

## WHAT IS EXECUTIVE COACHING?

**JL:** "This component of the program actually has many parts, and it's spearheaded by James Gavin, a professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences. He's an expert in leadership and a certified Integral Coach.

In year one, starting at orientation, participants go through rigorous self-assessments designed to develop self-awareness, identify areas for improvement and help them set goals. The results of these tests are debriefed with and used by trained coaches to help participants develop their leadership abilities and skills. Personal coaches, alongside professionals from the

PERFORM Centre, will help participants develop and implement a plan to achieve their personal goals.

Coaching sessions intensify in year two, when coaches are there to help student teams with the challenges of completing their program and term projects — but also to help them plan for post-graduation life."

## WHAT EXACTLY IS THE "COMPLETE EXECUTIVE"?

**JL:** "It's really a holistic approach to developing future business leaders, based on the idea that these individuals are far from one-dimensional. What we call the "complete executive" is really an aspiration, and it rests on the premise that success in business doesn't occur in a vacuum and is not independent of success in other spheres of life.

We also want to develop leaders who will be mindful of their impact on others and the environment. We help students assess their health, interpersonal dynamics and social support systems, then explore how these areas interact and affect their overall effectiveness and happiness and that of others.

You may be very mentally fit and intellectually savvy and get high grades, but you still need to apply all of this, and

you still need to be physically fit to move to the next challenge in your career path, so it's really tying different dimensions together and giving students the tools that they need to succeed.

JMSB is unique among business schools insofar as its curriculum and practices build on the community-focused values of our founding institutions and of John Molson, Andrew Molson's great-grandfather, a successful businessman, a family man and a champion of community involvement.

It's therefore no accident that our EMBA program is focused on the notions of doing well and doing good, of actionable and useful education and of the triple bottom line — not merely financial profits, but human and environmental components as well. We aim to develop future leaders who will not only succeed in business but also fulfill their many roles with competence, compassion and a strong ethical compass.

It's really about integrating all these parts so that by the time you graduate with the John Molson Executive MBA degree, you're really confident that you've got the well-roundedness that it takes to be among the next generation of business leaders." ■

## Open doors, open knowledge: Big ideas for better business

November 13, 2014

Visit JMSB to learn how Concordia collaborates with small and medium-sized enterprises in Montreal. The day's events will highlight how these partnerships help drive the local economy while helping improve students' learning experiences.

### Events include:

- A presentation of business plans developed by students for local businesses
- A roundtable discussion on succession planning

- JMSB's Annual Graduate Research Exposition (poster exhibition showcasing the research of PhD and MSc students)

Visit [concordia.ca/opendoors](http://concordia.ca/opendoors)

## FROM OLD MONTREAL TO KAHNAWAKE

A GROUP OF CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL STUDIES STUDENTS BRIDGE CULTURAL – AND PHYSICAL – DIVIDES ON A 34-KM PILGRIMAGE TO COMBAT IGNORANCE

BY MATTHEW ANDERSON

*In June, Matthew Anderson and Sara Terreault led a group of students on a walking pilgrimage from Old Montreal to the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory. Anderson, an assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Theological Studies and the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability, compiled this account.*

Plotting a 34-kilometre walking route between Old Montreal and the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory was difficult. But the hardest part turned out to be the last few kilometres.

Sara Terreault, a lecturer in the Department of Theological Studies, and I were temporarily stymied at city hall in Sainte-Catherine, a city near Kahnawake on Montreal's South Shore. "Oh, no, you can't walk to Kahnawake from here unless the police stop traffic and you use the highway," a clerk said. "I've lived here for 30 years, and I can tell you that it's just not possible."

Only a couple of minutes later, we discovered a service road footpath connecting the communities along the river. The problem is clearly not impassable terrain, but something else. Maps of the town end at the border and show a blank space to the west, where Kahnawake lies. When there is a blockade or a political crisis, this benign ignorance on the part of many non-indigenous Montrealers can turn into outright suspicion or hostility, as clearly happened during the so-called Oka Crisis of 1990.



STUDENTS TAKE A BREAK ALONG THEIR THREE-DAY WALK BETWEEN OLD MONTREAL AND THE KAHNAWAKE MOHAWK TERRITORY.

MATTHEW ANDERSON

## The voyage we undertook was not so much to a destination as *between* two cultural self-understandings.

What's the solution to such a conundrum? Part of it may begin with simply putting one foot in front of the other. The dynamics of a trek offer a unique way to bridge cultural differences. This is an experience that travelling by motor vehicle just doesn't offer.

### TAKING STEPS TO COMBAT IGNORANCE

To test how walking pilgrimages change the cultural suppositions of those who undertake them, Terreault required her students to critically engage with pilgrimage theories during their trek between the historic destinations.

The walk began on Saturday morning, with a tour of Old Montreal's iconic 17th-century Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel. From there, we walked the 23 or so kilometres to Sainte-Catherine, where we stayed in the basement of Église Sainte-Catherine d'Alexandrie. Early the next morning, we began the roughly 10-kilometre trek to Kahnawake.

While there, we visited the shrine of Kateri Tekakwitha, who became the first indigenous North American saint with her canonization in 2012. Later, we toured the Kahnawake Cultural Centre with Tom Deer, its cultural liaison officer, before we ended our time in the territory with a visit to the Kahnawake

Longhouse, a place for traditional religious expression.

Our pilgrimage concluded on Monday with our walk back to Montreal. Terreault said afterwards that she was moved by the weekend's events. "It's humbling as well as instructive to see how warmly we were welcomed throughout our journey," she said. "*Communitas* is a technical term used in pilgrimage studies that refers to the spontaneous emergence of fellow-feeling among people journeying together, regardless of social or other differences. There was certainly a sense of that about our entire trip."

Ultimately, the voyage we undertook was not so much to a destination as *between* two cultural self-understandings and the physical spaces that exemplify them.

On our journey, we crossed dense, urban, suburban and industrial zones, as well as parks and recreational areas, rediscovering parts of what was historically an important Montreal trail. But as much as we were retracing the past, our eyes were definitely on this route's future. Our political leaders, including those of the First Nations communities, are asking us to learn from each other.

Walking is a singularly powerful way to begin to do exactly that. ■

## “INCREASED PRIDE AND INCREASED KNOWLEDGE”

QUEBEC'S INAUGURAL FIRST PEOPLES STUDIES GRADUATES THEA CAMMIE AND EMMA KREUGER REFLECT ON WHAT THE PROGRAM MEANT TO THEM

BY TOM PEACOCK

Emma Kreuger believes that a transfer of knowledge between First Nations and non-First Nations people is essential to all Canadians. “You can’t truly understand why things are the way they are, why certain issues come up, or the history of how Canada came to be without understanding this perspective,” she says.

Kreuger — who hails from Baker Lake, Nunavut — joined Thea Cammie, from St. John’s, Newfoundland, in June as they graduated from Concordia. Together, they form the university’s inaugural graduating class in First Peoples Studies.

The major became the first of its kind in the province when it received approval from the Government of Quebec last summer. Concordia launched a minor in First Peoples Studies in January 2013.

The new program comprised 35 students in the minor and 12 in the major. Its courses are taught from a First Peoples’ perspective, with the aim of providing a solid foundation in indigenous history, culture and society in Quebec and the rest of Canada. “It offers a different way of looking at the country,” says Karl Hele, the program’s director at the School of Community and Public Affairs. He notes that this fall’s Introduction to First Peoples Studies course is already full.

“I’ve got students begging to get into it. It looks like the new program is going to be quite popular.”

### EMMA KREUGER: THE VALUE OF KNOWLEDGE

Although originally enrolled in the departments of Film Studies and Art History, Kreuger switched to First Peoples Studies because she felt it would better prepare her for a career in her home territory of Nunavut. “The society and economy is very much based on Inuit values and systems. I found the program suited my needs much more because I could focus on Nunavut for a lot of my work.”

Kreuger has lived up north since she was a baby, and she says it was difficult to travel so far for university. The fact that her research focused on the people she grew up with certainly helped. “To be graded and do well in school, while feeling increased pride in where I’m from, and knowing that I could come back home with this increased knowledge of my own territory — that’s what made it worth it for me,” she says.

Last spring, Kreuger was accepted into the Environment Technology program at Nunavut Arctic College, which offers its

It offers a different way of looking at the country.

students training in traditional land and sea skills, as well as modern classroom-based science and technology training.

### THEA CAMMIE: AN INDELIBLE SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Kreuger’s classmate, Cammie, says she enrolled in the First Peoples Studies program to learn more about her ancestry. “In Newfoundland, I didn’t have a lot of information,” she says. “I could speak to members of the community, and I learned a lot through them, but there’s so much more.”

Her grandfather, George Cammie, was adopted, and discovered late in life that his birth parents were Mi’kmaq. He helped others trace their families and played a role in establishing the Qalipu Mi’kmaq First Nation Band in Newfoundland, which was officially recognized in 2011. “Community was really important to him,” Cammie says.

Since starting her studies at Concordia, Cammie has returned to St. John’s every summer to work at the local Native Friendship Centre. This work contributed to her decision to pursue a second major in Early Childhood Education. After graduation, she plans to gain experience as an educator at the centre’s new childcare facility. ■



NUNAVUT NATIVE EMMA KREUGER WAS ONE OF TWO GRADUATES OF THE FIRST PEOPLES STUDIES PROGRAM.

For news on the full slate of recent and future Concordia Advancement and Alumni Relations events in Montreal, across Canada and the world over, visit [concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni)



1 Alumni Recognition Awards



2 Alumni Recognition Awards

## ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS RECOGNIZE STELLAR GROUP

For the 23rd year, the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) honoured an impressive group of alumni, faculty and friends for their loyalty and generosity to the community. About 100 people celebrated the seven honourees at the Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet, held at Montreal's Sofitel Hotel on May 20.

The award for Alumna of the Year was given to Kahente Horn-Miller, BA 99, MA 03, PhD 09. On top of acting as coordinator for the Kahnawake Legislative Coordinating Commission, Horn-Miller is also a sessional lecturer at both Concordia and McGill universities.

The Honorary Life Membership Award was given to David J. Azrieli, LLD 75 (who has since passed away; see the story on page 8), an innovative builder, designer and philanthropist. In 2011, the Azrieli Foundation donated \$5 million for Concordia to establish the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies. He also endowed fellowships for Concordia graduate students in the 1970s and the Azrieli Holocaust Collection at Concordia Libraries in 1984.

J. Pierre Brunet, BComm 70, was the recipient of the Humberto Santos Award of Merit, given to an alumnus or alumna who has made a lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership and service to the university. A faculty member at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) for 25 years, Brunet was a founding member of the board of directors of the John Molson International MBA Case Competition.

The recipient of the Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award was John Aylen, MA 76, a lecturer in the JMSB's Department of Marketing and a marketing communications professional. Aylen was president of the CUAA from 2002 to 2005 and is a former member of the university's Board of Governors.

The MBA Alumna of the Year was awarded to Nancy Hammond, BComm 89, MBA 93, vice-president of the Affinity Market Group at TD Insurance Meloche Monnex. Hammond has been involved with Concordia as a scholarship donor and served on the boards of the JMSB Alumni Association and the CUAA.

Marguerite Mendell, BA 72, professor in the School of Community and Public Affairs, was given the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Mendell won a 2013 Prix du Québec, the highest distinction awarded by the Government of

Quebec. She joined Concordia 30 years ago and has made significant contributions to the School of Community and Public Affairs and the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy.

The award for Outstanding Faculty/Staff went to Saul Carliner, an associate professor and Provost Fellow for eLearning, as well as PhD program director in Concordia's Department of Education. His research and teaching focus is on the design of materials for learning and communication in the workplace.

Concordia President Alan Shepard welcomed honourees and guests, while Bram Freedman, vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General, served as master of ceremonies. The event was organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Pictured at the event (from left):

**Alan Shepard, Philippe Pourreaux, Nancy Hammond, Marguerite Mendell, Sharon Azrieli-Perez**, who accepted on behalf of her father, **Saul Carliner, J. Pierre Brunet, Kahente Horn-Miller, John Aylen and Bram Freedman.**

**1** Also pictured are (from left) **Kahentinetha Horn, Kahente Horn-Miller and Marguerite Mendell.** **2**

—Howard Bokser

# Leisha LeCouvie: New head of alumni relations

Leisha LeCouvie says the biggest challenge facing university alumni relations teams today is finding ways to better connect with the younger generation. As Concordia's new senior director of Alumni Relations since June 30, she's eager to face that challenge head on.

"For recent graduates, there are so many things competing for their attention. We need to find out what's most interesting to these graduates and get them to reconnect," says LeCouvie, whose team liaises with the Concordia University Alumni Association, organizes Homecoming and seeks new ways to engage alumni, cultivate volunteers and bring graduates back into the Concordia community.

**LeCouvie** began her new role after many years in alumni relations at McGill University, where she was most recently director of Parent and Affinity Programs. "At McGill, I learned a great deal about tradition and the value of deep alumni connections," she says.

A native of Montreal, LeCouvie studied at Trent University. Yet she's no stranger to Concordia — it's where LeCouvie landed her first alumni relations position, in 1989, when she was

LESLIE SCHACTER

**3** Leisha LeCouvie



CONCORDIA RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND ARCHIVES

LEISHA LECOUVIE RETURNED TO CONCORDIA ON JUNE 30, 2014. THIS 1990 PHOTO SHOWS LECOUVIE SHORTLY AFTER BEGINNING HER FIRST ALUMNI RELATIONS ROLE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

given the task of helping to organize Concordia's very first Homecoming in 1990. She later worked as a marketing officer at the university for 11 years.

"Concordia really gave me my start in my profession and I am so delighted to

come back with great experience, new ideas and knowing that the Concordia University Alumni Association has only grown stronger while I've been away," she says. "A university like Concordia is doing such great things; I think it's really interesting for grads to hear about all that's happening."

Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General, says LeCouvie will propel Alumni Relations. "I've known Leisha for many years, and I've always been impressed by her drive, vision and intelligence," he says. "I'm very excited that she's bringing those qualities back to Concordia and its alumni."

LeCouvie is eager to get started. "I think that the Alumni Relations team has done some really good work," she says. "My goal over the next five years is to make it the best alumni relations unit in Canada. I know we can do it." ■

—Marilla Steuter-Martin

"THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS ONLY GROWN STRONGER WHILE I'VE BEEN AWAY," SAYS SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS LEISHA LECOUVIE, WHO BEGAN JUNE 30.



## Bestsellers for \$2 and up?

Shop for bargains and support students at the 18th Annual Concordia Used Book Fair

**October 6 and 7, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
Atrium of the J.W. McConnell Building  
1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

All proceeds go to the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy's Student Emergency and Food Fund as well as the Concordia Used Book Fair Scholarship.

## CONCORDIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS UNITE

*The Concordia University Alumni Association, Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University and Loyola Alumni Association have united. On May 28, at special general meetings, the associations unanimously approved amalgamating into one organization. The following is a message from Philippe Poureaux, BComm 00, president of the Concordia University Alumni Association.*

Thinking back to the creation of Concordia University through the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University in 1974 will spark memories for many alumni. Those of us who have remained strongly connected with Concordia since that time have always enjoyed reminiscing about our university years.

The positive influences of both founding institutions are embedded in the values of Concordia and its graduates. And Concordia has always recognized the importance of building strong bonds with all its alumni. That's why the university took an important step in 2005 by awarding commemorative Concordia certificates to graduates of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University. More than 1,000 alumni chose this great opportunity to reconnect with their university.

While our three alumni associations worked together on projects, in 2011 we joined forces as one voice — for the first time — to publicly support the university. We learned to work together, advance the interests of Concordia's diverse alumni and understand each other's priorities, mandates and organizations.

Since then, we pursued significant initiatives together, such as giving a second life to the Loyola Refectory, now known as the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre, and celebrating the 75th anniversary of Sir George Williams's first graduating class and alumni association in 2012.

At that point, our three associations' board members began to reflect on our future. We created a pan-association committee composed of Donal Ryan, BComm 67; Steve Avram, BEng 71, MEng 85; Frank Ciampini, BA 72; John Lemieux, BA 66; Jeff Bicher, BA 02; Gerry Burke, BA 69; and myself.

We thought long and hard about how to strengthen the legacy of the founding institutions and their values within Concordia. We considered how to fulfill our greater mandate of creating a strong sense of belonging within Concordia's community for all alumni.

We realized that we needed to amalgamate. Yet it was less obvious how each founding alumni organization could commemorate their institution's

distinct identity. Our solution was to create a joint heritage and memorabilia preservation committee, which eventually led us to sign a letter of understanding with the university concerning the preservation of each institution's heritage and memorabilia.

As of May 28, with more than 188,000 alumni and 34 chapters in Montreal and worldwide, we are united. By supporting the university's mission and helping students and the university community in any way we can, we are embarking on a new journey for Concordia.

Yet we need your help! We need you to act as ambassadors for your alma mater and to build our reputation and promote the value of a Concordia degree.

We want the Concordia University Alumni Association to become your networking tool of choice. We also hope you'll discover that spending time with us will increase your learning and volunteering opportunities.

Most importantly, we want you to help us make Concordia a welcoming place for students and alumni to reach their potential.

I wish concordia salus — well-being through harmony — to all Concordia alumni and the newly amalgamated Concordia University Alumni Association.

— **Philippe Poureaux, BComm 00**  
*President, Concordia University Alumni Association* 

*For more information about the Concordia University Alumni Association, please contact Nancy Wada at [nancy.wada@concordia.ca](mailto:nancy.wada@concordia.ca).*

## CONCORDIA'S LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE TURNS 35

"Concordia's Liberal Arts College has become the finest of its kind in Canada," said college co-founder Frederick Krantz to a jubilant crowd of alumni, faculty, staff and friends at Montreal's La Plaza Holiday Inn on May 3.

The event celebrated the Liberal Arts College's milestone 35 years and



**4 Philippe Poureaux**

JOE DRESNER

honoured its key figures. Volunteers from the college's alumni association, led by association president Julie Amblard, BAdmin 85, MBA 88, organized the gala in collaboration with Liberal Arts College faculty members and Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Founded in 1978 by professors Krantz and the late Harvey Shulman, the curriculum bolstered the presence of the classics at the university. "It's a multidisciplinary program," said college principal Eric Buzzetti. "We study great works of the past, the greatest accomplishments of the human mind. That means great works of literature, great works of art, of philosophy, of history and of science."

Course material covers many influential writers, from Plato to Dante to Woolf, as well as philosophers such as Nietzsche and Rousseau. "We're really unique in Canada in having a full program dedicated to the study of these works," said Buzzetti.

That same sentiment has attracted the college's donors for more than three decades. Stanley Tucker, a Second World War veteran, has been a supporter of the Liberal Arts College since its inception. As a champion of quality higher education, he explained that the curriculum and mandate evoked fond memories of his own education many years before. "The schooling I had as a youngster was the foundation of a happy, successful life," Tucker told the crowd. "I wish all of you the same joy and success."

While steadfastly devoted to Western classics, the college continues to exhibit a modern streak. "It's really grown a lot since I was here," said alumna Catherine Astrakianakis, BA 87. "Younger generations continue to invigorate the college."

This invigoration extends to the college's infrastructure. For the first time in 35 years, the Liberal Arts College on Mackay Street is undergoing a top-to-bottom renovation. Buzzetti explained that one of the larger projects underway was the renovation of the




5 Liberal Arts College

college's basement seminar room, which would not have been possible without the generous support of Celia Shulman, BA 81, MA 90, MA 04, alumna and wife of the college's late co-founder.

To honour the Shulmans' support over the years, it was announced at the gala that the seminar room would be renamed in their honour. Another announcement saw the creation of the Lina D'Iorio student scholarship, upon D'Iorio's retirement after 25 years of dedicated service to the college and its students.


Bryan Brazeau, BA 08, is currently a PhD candidate in Italian studies at New York University. He calls the college one of the "crown jewels" of Concordia. "The university's commitment to the Liberal Arts College and its innovative educational model of small discussion-based seminars demonstrates the comprehensive nature of the university, its engagement with 'big questions' and its goal of making positive contributions to society," he said.

"Our graduates have been accepted to every major art, professional and law school across Canada and the U.S.," said Krantz. "What we're most proud of at the college are our students."

Pictured at the event are **Giorgio Tasca**, BA 82, **Julia Amblard**, BAdmin 85, MBA 88, **Tim Ryan**, BA 82, **Alain Carrière**, BA 82, GrDip 94, and **Loren Edizel**, BA 84. 

—James Gibbons and Marilla Steuter-Martin

### CHRISTOPHER DIRADDO REFLECTS ON HIS DEBUT NOVEL, *THE GEOGRAPHY OF PLUTO*

After many evenings and weekends spent hunkered over a desk, Concordia grad **Christopher DiRaddo**, BA 98,  has emerged with his first novel. *The Geography of Pluto* (Cormorant Books, 2014) took nearly 14 years to complete. It is now on retail bookshelves — and online.

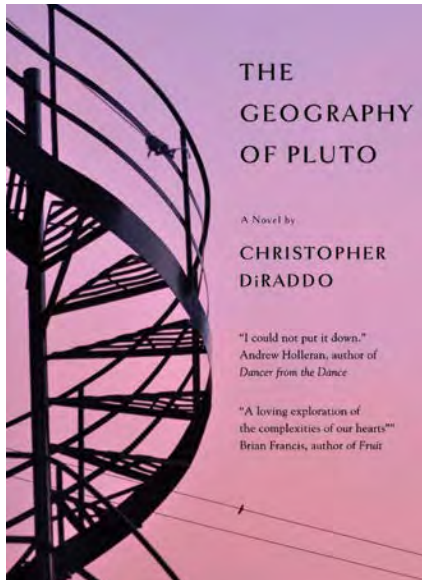
"The book deals with a moment of surprise," says DiRaddo, who works as a writer and content editor at the CBC in Montreal. "I went through a breakup. Something I used to think was true wasn't anymore."

This change in reality is reflected through the fictional book's protagonist, a young geography teacher named Will. The work, which employs a non-linear storyline, moves between periods surrounding the character's breakup.

The protagonist — who is gay — also



6 Christopher DiRaddo



COMINGRANT BOOKS

grapples with revealing his sexuality to his mother. In the novel, the mother battles colon cancer.

"I wanted to write about that fine line where you're close with a parent, yet can't tell them something very important," says DiRaddo, who came out as gay when he was 20.

The novel features colourful characters and is set in and around Montreal's Plateau and Gay Village neighbourhoods. What about Pluto? "Pluto represents the underdog, the outsider," says DiRaddo.

DiRaddo gained invaluable knowledge and experience while at Concordia,

where he studied in the Department of Journalism. "I took several queer studies courses," says DiRaddo. "I was arts editor of *The Concordian* for a year. My Concordia experience was wonderful."

—James Gibbons

### FRANÇOIS SEREMBA REFLECTS ON SIX DECADES OF HORSE BREEDING, TRAINING AND RACING

Breeding, training and racing stately thoroughbreds is a family business for François Seremba, BComm 55, who lives in Tampa, Fla.

**Seremba** and his wife of six decades, **Yolande**, 7 have made horses their livelihood for as many years. Together, they boast 2,500 races and close to 1,300 victories. "We've raced throughout North America and parts of Europe. We've been all over," says François Seremba.

The two met as children in the 1930s and bonded over their mutual love of horses and hockey. "My father was a jockey and a trainer and my mother worked at Blue Bonnets," he says, in reference to the racetrack later renamed the Hippodrome de Montréal and now closed.

"It was hockey in the winter, horses in the summer," says François Seremba, who played hockey for 14 years — a part of that at Sir George Williams University,

one of Concordia's two founding institutions. "I'm really so grateful to the university for the athletics they offered. We had access to beautiful facilities."

The horse-training endeavour took on a new level of seriousness after François Seremba's 1955 graduation. "After Sir George, I attended law school. That started to get in the way of racing horses," he says. "The call of the racetrack was too strong. So I left."

Among their accolades, the Serembas' horse Marquise Cut was named the best in New England in 1987 — an honour he calls a career highlight. As breeders and trainers, the Serembas have had celebrity clients such as Bruce Norris, who owned hockey's Detroit Red Wings from 1952 to 1982. ■

—James Gibbons



7 François and Yolande Seremba

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANÇOIS SEREMBA





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**63 Richard Poud**, BA, LLD 10, is a Montreal lawyer and sports administrator. He has been appointed chairman of Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS), a key frontline position within the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He was the founding president of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

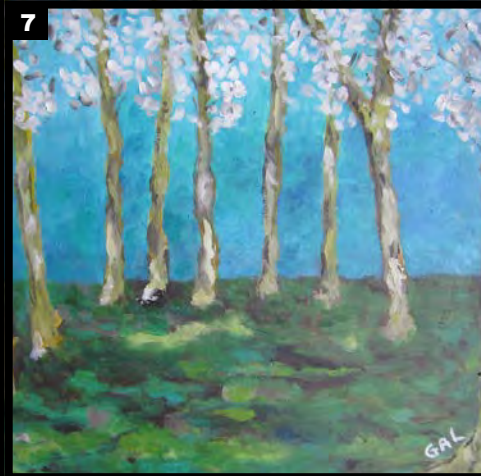
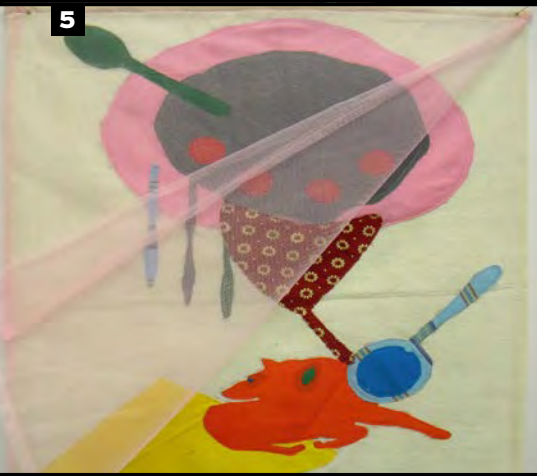
**67 Peter Cook**, BSc (chem.), is a senior technical services specialist at Ipx Inc.,

a thermoplastic piping systems company in Verdun, Que. He has been honoured by the ASTM International Plastic Piping Committee with an Award of Merit. Peter is also a member of the Canadian Standards Association, NSF International and the Hydrostatic Stress Board of the Plastics Pipe Institute.

**68 Egidio Santori**, BA (modern languages), writes, "I worked for more

than 30 years with challenged children and adults. My home is in the Eastern Townships, Quebec. Currently I'm a writer, storyteller and published author (Baico Publishing Inc.), under the name Grampa Bob. I write and post a story rhyme daily on Facebook, and blog (Bee's Blurb). My last book, *The Flowers Tell It All*, has a Loyola connection. I also teach creative writing and volunteer and organize spiritual and social activities."

**71 Keith Garebian**, MA, has been awarded a Canada Council Grant for Creative Writing to complete a biography of William Hutt. Keith won a 2012 Ontario Arts Council Work-in-Progress Grant for the same project. He hopes to publish the biography by fall 2015, by which time his book *Accidental Genius* (Guernica Editions) should also be in print.



**1 > Jackie Rae Wloski**, BA 71, has started a new series of paintings called "And Now For Something Different." Her painting *Staircase #1 at the ROM* was one of the artworks selected from more than 500 entries by the Colart Collection in Montreal, during their annual acquisition contest. 1) *Staircase #1 at the ROM*

**2 > Yvon Lamy**, BFA (art ed.) 82, GrDip (art therapy) 83, MFA 86, led a team of 10 artists at a gathering called "Totem-muses" at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on June 19. The project was a partnership between the museum and Le Centre d'Apprentissage Parallèle. Yvon and the teaching staff of the museum worked on a single project that reflected the ability of art to contribute to well-being. 2) *Totem-muses*

**3 > Raymonde Jodoin**, BFA 83, participated in three group shows this summer: "À tire d'aile" at Musée de l'Hôtel des postes in Victoriaville, Que., from June to September; "Edible Matters, A 4-Course Exhibition," at tAd Gallery in Denton, Tex., from April to July; and "12<sup>e</sup> Biennale internationale d'art miniature" in Ville-Marie, Que. 3) *Deux oiseaux noirs*

**4 > Erik Slutsky**, BFA 86, will hold an exhibition of his oil paintings, done mostly between 2010 and 2014, at Galerie D in Montreal from September 17 to October 29. erikslutsky.ca 4) *Crina At Barcola*

**5 > Taiga Chiba**, MFA 87, is a Vancouver artist. She held a solo art exhibition of her works made of fabric, called "God Bulls and Indian Street Dogs," at Lalit Kala

Akademi Gallery in Bhubaneswar, India, from November 1, 2013 to February 15, 2014. 5) *Indian Dish and a Dog #1*

**6 > Pierre Dalpé**, BFA (film studies) 93, held a solo photography exhibition at Gaffa Gallery in Sydney, Australia, from May 15 to 26. Pierre's show included a selection of works from his ongoing body of work entitled "Personae." 6) *Val and Alex, 2013*

**7 > Gabriela Ana Lim**, BFA 08, will take part in a three-artist exhibition entitled "L'influence de grands maîtres" at L'Entrepôt in Lachine, Que., from September 5 to October 5. The show will feature Gabriela's latest paintings, which were inspired by the masters. gabylim.com 7) *Forêt de feuilles blanches*

**72 Gerry Young, BA** (comm. studies), is the long-time president of Current Management in Toronto. He recently became president, for the second time, of Current Records. The independent Canadian record label was the home of Juno award-winning 1980s bands Martha and the Muffins ("Echo Beach") and The Parachute Club ("Rise Up"). Current Records is getting back into the game with the

signing of 22-year-old Toronto singer/songwriter Emilia and her forthcoming CD, *E. currentmgmt.com*

**74 Sharon Condie, BFA** (graphics & film hist.), has spent six years researching and writing the biography of heiress Ida von Claussen in Europe. Prior to that, she spent a decade making animated films for the National Film Board of Canada.

**David Stein, BA** (poli. sci.), is president of Dale & Associates, an Ottawa-based employee benefits consultancy that he launched 22 years ago. David has been elected vice-president of the Ottawa Network, a non-profit organization that encourages entrepreneurship and business innovation in the nation's capital.

**76 Janice Maguire, BComm** (bus. admin.), lives in Toronto. She describes

herself as a self-employed "chief listening officer" in marketing communications, a role she's held for more than 25 years. Janice recently received a certification in Social Media Marketing from George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto. She is growing her client base in social media marketing.

**82 Andrew Severs, BA** (psych.), has expanded his promotional products business, Publicité Ad Factory Inc., with a new showroom and gift shop. OuiMonCheri, Severs's Montreal-based retail operation, promises consumers unique gift items and personalized products.

**83 Mark Ruwedel, MFA,** received the \$50,000 Scotiabank Photography Award for 2014, in addition to a 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship. Mark's photography has been displayed at the National Gallery of Canada, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Tate Modern in London. He has also published two books, *Westward the Course of Empire* (Yale University Press, 2008) and *One Thousand Two Hundred Twelve Palms (1212 Palms)* (Yale University Art Gallery, 2010).

**84 François-Cyril Jolicoeur, BSc** (biochem. & phil.), has carried out vital research on rheumatology at Université de Montréal since the 1980s. He was recently honoured by the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal for 25 years of service.

**85 Guillaume Savard, MEng.** is an architect specializing in construction administration at CannonDesign. He has returned to Montreal after eight years in Vancouver to work on the city's \$2.5-billion Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal building project.

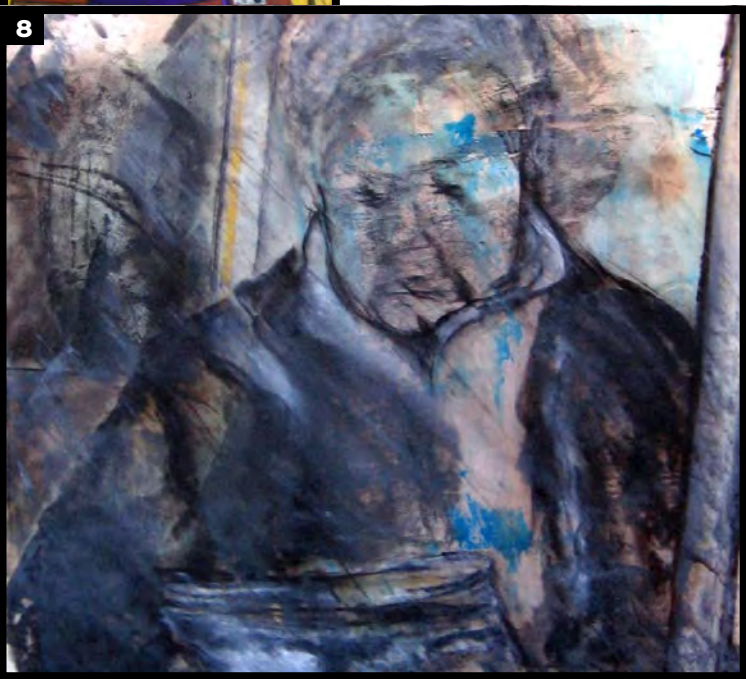
**89 Jean-René Ello, BA** (film studies & journ.), is a senior promotion manager for Bell Media in Ottawa. He oversees promotions, marketing and community relations for CTV, CTV Two and four radio stations in Ottawa, including TSN 1200. He also works with Star 96 FM in Pembroke, Ont., and with two French-language stations in Gatineau, Que.

**90 Marc Costantini, BSc** (actuarial math.), has been appointed chief financial officer for Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, one of the U.S.'s largest mutual life insurers, based in New York City. Marc previously served as executive vice-president of Corporate Development and Strategy at Manulife Financial Corp.

**91 Helen Konstantopoulos, BA** (comm. studies & journ.), was recently elected chairman of the Canadian Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates for 2014-15. Helen is managing director of development for the *International New York Times* in Dubai.

**93 Ryan Rice, BFA,** has been working with public perceptions of indigenous art and design for nearly two decades. The Kahnawake Mohawk is the newly appointed chair of Indigenous Visual Culture and Curatorial Studies at the Ontario College of Art and Design University. "The position ties in neatly with my existing experience as a curator."

**96 Daniel Goodwin, MA** (Eng.), works in communications in the energy industry in Calgary. He is putting his MA to good use with the publication of his first novel, *Sons and Fathers* (Linda Leith Publishing). The tale is about



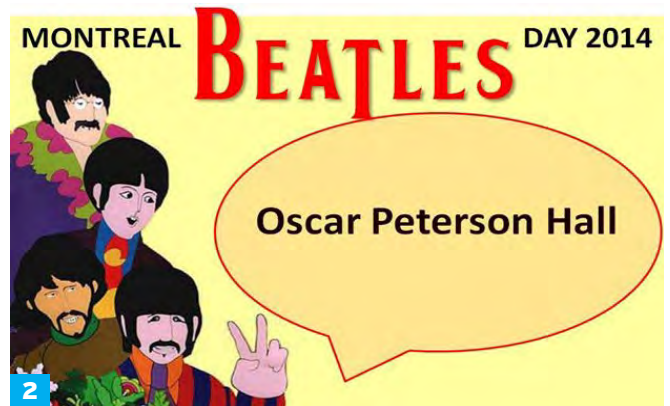
**8 > Rochelle Mayer, BComm 83,** BFA (studio arts) 10, won the Mary Martha Phillips Award (first prize) for her artwork *Catching Up*. The prize was presented at

the Women's Art Society of Montreal Annual Art Show and Sale, held May 1 to 15 at the Galerie Fabienne Rhein. *8) Catching Up*



1

More  
Memories  
of Snowdon  
in the 50's



2

Oscar Peterson Hall



3



4

**William (Bill) Conrod**, BSc 62, <sup>1</sup> recently published *More Memories of Snowdon in the 50's*, a sequel to his first book, *Memories of Snowdon in the 50's* (2006), which sold over 1,500 copies. Bill and his twin brother Scott attended Sir George Williams University. “We grew up facing MacDonald Park in Snowdon and like so many others have fond memories of the area. The new book has over 100 new contributions from people who lived in Snowdon. Books are available at Bibliophile Bookstore in Snowdon or from me: [jillbillc@sympatico.ca](mailto:jillbillc@sympatico.ca).”

**John Oriettas**, BFA 81, <sup>2</sup> played the Paul McCartney role in the Montreal Beatles tribute band Replay ([replaythebeatles.com](http://replaythebeatles.com)). Replay headlined the Montreal Beatles Day concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Beatles’s only Montreal show on September 8, 1964.

that special relationship, as well as politics, poetry, journalism and spin. Daniel and his wife Kara have three children.

**97 Yvonne Sam**, GrDip (adult ed.), received a Governor General of Canada’s Caring Canadian Award in 2014 for her continued volunteer work at the Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal. Yvonne has also volunteered in the school system, working with new Canadian families and children.

**00 Janine Cockburn-Haller**, BA (anthro.), has started her own fashion design label and now co-owns two stores in Toronto. Janine’s retail operation, Coalminer’s Daughter, carries several Montreal labels and focuses on Canadian designers.

**03 Yuri Cormier**, BComm (int’l. bus.), was appointed executive director of Apathy is Boring, a democracy education organization in Montreal, in

The event takes place at 7 p.m. on September 7 at Concordia’s Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. [montrealbeatlesday.com](http://montrealbeatlesday.com)

**James Watts**, BA (Eng. lit.) 90, BEd 01, <sup>3</sup> received the Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence in 2013. James was recognized for his work over the last 19 years as the founder and principal of Education Plus High School in Saint-Laurent, Que. Watts also published a book, *Happy Parent* (Friesen Press), in 2013.

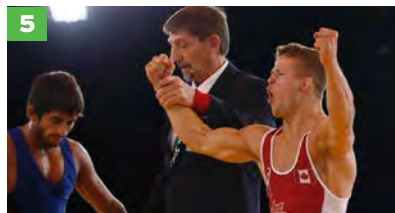
**Roula Zaarour**, MBA (bus. admin.) 98, <sup>4</sup> received the People’s Choice Award at the eighth annual Femmes arabes du Québec ceremony in May. Roula is vice-president, People and Culture, for CBC/Radio-Canada in Montreal.

2013. After completing his PhD in war studies at King’s College London in the United Kingdom, Yuri served as the national director of the Sierra Youth Coalition from 2007 to 2009.

**Osman Hasan**, MEng, PhD (elec. & comp. eng.) 08, is an assistant electrical engineering professor at NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in Islamabad, Pakistan. Osman was recently awarded the 2014 Teradata Excellence in IT

Research and Development Award by the NUST School. He is also the founder and director of the System Analysis and Verification Lab.

**06 Steven Taylor**, BA (poli. sci.), recently joined West Corporation as legal counsel in Singapore. West Corporation is a NASDAQ-listed telecommunications provider. Steven previously practised law at the London office of Stikeman Elliott and at a liaison office of Stikeman Elliott in Singapore. ■



**Adam Fuerstenberg, 1** BA (Eng. & hist.) 62, was recently awarded the Louis Rosenberg Award for Distinguished Service in Canadian Jewish Studies by the Association of Canadian Jewish Studies. After retiring from Ryerson University, Adam served as the executive director of Toronto's Holocaust Centre.

**Tony Loffreda, 2** BComm 85, an executive at the Royal Bank of Canada, was recently honoured with a Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. Created in 1995, the award recognizes unpaid community involvement. **Governor General David Johnston** presented the honour to 46 recipients at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on April 7.

**Marianna Simeone, 3** BA 86, will be honoured at the 21st YWCA Women of Distinction Awards in Montreal on September 30. The Canadian-Italian broadcast journalist will be recognized for her contribution to communications. Marianna is president

and founder of MS MEDIA, a Montreal-based communications strategy and public relations firm. She also works in production and voice-over narration.

**Nicholas Papaxanthos, 4** MA (Eng.) 14, was recently named the winner of Kalamalka Press's third annual chapbook award, the John Lent Poetry Prose Award, named after the Vernon, B.C. poet and author. Nicholas's *Wearing Your Pants* was selected from more than 50 manuscripts. He has published one chapbook and his writing has appeared in a number of anthologies and journals.

**David Tremblay, 5** BA 14, captured a gold medal on July 30 in the men's 61-kilogram wrestling freestyle division at the 20th Commonwealth Games. David bested Bijneesh Bajrang of India, Vorel Etko of Scotland and Arnaud Essindi Sengui of Cameroon to claim the podium's top spot. All three matches took place at the Scottish Exhibition Centre in host city Glasgow.

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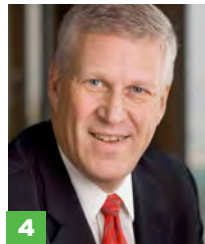
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**Concordia honorary doctorates**

From June 9 to 11, more than 5,000 students from Concordia's four faculties and School of Graduate Studies collected their diplomas at convocation ceremonies at Montreal's Place des Arts. The university bestowed eight honorary doctorates at the ceremonies.

**Stuart McLean, 1** BA 71, was honoured for his unique contribution to Canadian cultural life and his commitment to the education of young journalists. An award-winning journalist himself – as well as an author and humourist – McLean is the host of *The Vinyl Café*, a long-running variety show on CBC Radio. He is also professor emeritus at Ryerson University, where he served as director of the broadcast division of the School of Journalism.

**Chantal Hébert 2** is renowned for her reasoned, insightful analysis of the Canadian political scene in both English and French. She is a national affairs writer and political columnist with the *Toronto Star*, a guest columnist with *L'actualité* and a member of At Issue, a political panel on

CBC's *The National*, and appears on Radio-Canada's *Les coulisses du pouvoir*.

**Bryan Kolb 3** is a professor at the University of Lethbridge known for his pioneering research in the field of neuroscience. His work explores how neurons in the cerebral cortex respond to developmental factors including hormones, stress, drugs and injury – and how the resulting changes affect our behaviour.

**Louis R. Chênevert 4** was recognized for his leadership in the field of aeronautics and his commitment to philanthropy. Louis is chairman and chief executive officer of United Technologies Corporation and chairman of HEC Montréal's International Advisory Board.

**Gregg Saretsky 5** was honoured for his dynamic and innovative leadership in the airline industry, most recently with WestJet, where he serves as president and chief executive officer. In 2012, Gregg led the launch of regional carrier WestJet Encore, an idea which he put to a company-wide vote. He was previously executive vice-president of Flight Operations and Marketing

and senior vice-president of Marketing and Planning at Alaska Airlines.

**Michal and Renata Hornstein 6** have dedicated their lives to cultural and philanthropic causes. Michal is a real estate executive, while Renata, a poet, is the author of two books, including 2008's *A Tumultuous*

*Journey: Horror, Hope and Happiness*. Together, they have been generous supporters of a range of cultural, health and educational institutions, among them the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Jewish General Hospital.

**Chantal Pontbriand 7** has, through her work, contributed to our understanding of some of the most pressing issues in the art world – globalization, artistic heterogeneity and contemporaneity. Pontbriand is a contemporary art critic and curator. She is the founding editor of *PARACHUTE* magazine, co-founder of the Festival international de nouvelle danse and the founder of PONTBRIAND W.O.R.K.S. (We\_Others and Myself\_Research\_Knowledge\_Systems).

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**Ange-Aimée Woods**, BFA 00, GrDip 03, July 2, 2014, Montreal. She was 42. Ange-Aimée graduated from high school in Tacoma, Wash., before moving to Montreal in 1991 to study journalism at Concordia. She lived in Montreal for 22 years, 10 as a producer, editor, reporter and researcher at CBC Montreal. She moved to Denver in 2013 to work for the state's public broadcaster. Ange-Aimée returned to Montreal in 2014.

**John Gerald (Gerry) Mulcair**, BA 41, May 4, 2014, Winnipeg. He was 93.

**P. Benedict Vanier**, BA 45, May 13, 2014, Saint-Jean-de-Matha, Que. He was 88.

**William S. Aaron**, BComm 48, BA 51, Jan. 30, 2014, Montreal. He was 87.

**Raymond Joseph Conrath**, BSc 49, June 2014, Waterloo, Que.

**Norma F. Gould**, BA 50, Jan. 2, 2014, Montreal. She was 85.

**Victor Edwin Mitchell**, BComm 50, June 7, 2014, Milton, Ont. He was 92.

**Anthony Sosnkowski**, BSc 51, June 26, 2014, Charlottetown. He was 83.

**Charles Irwin Heft**, BComm 52, April 13, 2014, Montreal. He was 85.

**Herbert T. English**, attendee 53, March 26, 2014, La Tuque, Que. He was 82.

**James Gordon MacMillan**, BComm 56, March 1, 2014, Mississauga, Ont. He was 85.

**Jay Irving Rubinstein**, BComm 56, MA 88, April 21, 2014, Montreal. He was 81.

**Jean J. LaTraverse**, BComm 60, April 10, 2014, Montreal. He was 74.

**Solly Apel**, BA 62, June 9, 2014, Montreal.

**Fred Lackstone**, BSc 62, March 26, 2014, Montreal.

**Carl Egil Ellingsen**, BA 64, May 16, 2014, Saskatoon. He was 82.

**James G. Whitton**, BA 64, Feb. 14, 2014, Mississauga, Ont.

**Gerald Glantz**, BSc 66, May 13, 2014, Ottawa.

**Peter C. L. Michaux**, BComm 66, March 18, 2014, Laval, Que. He was 68.

**Maurice Galley**, BA 68, March 23, 2014.

**Elizabeth Lebas**, BA 68, London, U.K. She was 67.

**Bronius (Bruno) Niedvaras**, BSc 68, June 1, 2014, Montreal.

**Monica Andreas**, BSc 69, May 1, 2014, Goshen, Mass. She was 65.

**Tatsuko (Takahashi) Furuya**, BA 69, May 25, 2014, Montreal.

**Chipman (Chippie) MacDonald**, BSc 69, May 26, 2014, Montreal.

**Michael Weiss**, BSc 69, October 6, 2013, Montreal. He was 68.

**Andrew Elliott**, BA 70, March 15, 2014, Toronto.

**Gregory Lang**, BA 70, March 29, 2014, Pierrefonds, Que.

**Donna Viens**, BA 70, June 11, 2014, Estero, Fla.

**Gwendolin T. Glencross**, BA 71, May 19, 2014, Markham, Ont. She was 98.

**Eglons Z. Platups**, BSc 71, June 26, 2014, Montreal. He was 90.

**Ronald W. Price**, BComm 71, June 29, 2014, Wentworth, Que.

**Doreen Horen-Greenford**, BA 72, June 23, 2014, Montreal.

**Johann Hans Lang**, MEng 72, May 31, 2014, Delta, B.C. He was 86.

**Gerald F. Lange**, BSc 72, May 21, 2014, Colonie, N.Y. He was 65.

**Judith Susan (Kahn) Donald**, BA 73, April 12, 2014, South Surrey, B.C.

**Martin James McGrath**, BA 74, Cert. (adult ed.) 74, Feb. 15, 2014, Paris, Ont. He was 63.

**Robert (Bob) Westoby**, BComm 74, April 9, 2014, Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Eli Barzilay**, BA 75, April 22, 2014, Montreal. He was 63.

**Franz-Paul Decker**, LLD 75, May 19, 2014, Montreal. He was 90.

**Michael Hailstone**, BSc 75, Feb. 19, 2014, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. He was 66.

**Karen Halpern**, BA 75, May 13, 2014, Montreal.

**Giovanni Di Lullo**, BA 76, March 3, 2014.

**Norman David Swan**, BEng 76, April 2, 2014, Outremont, Que. He was 66.

**Vladimir Gakman**, BA 78, May 6, 2014, Toronto.

**Joan Macpherson Vivian**, GrDip 78, June 15, 2014, Montreal. She was 86.

**Gwenyth Doucet**, GrDip 79, June 8, 2014, Chateauguay, Que. She was 95.

**Bernice (Iscovitch) Goldsmith**, BA 79, March 26, 2014, Montreal. She was 79.

**Glenn Anthony Hogan**, BSc 79, May 29, 2014, Deux-Montagnes, Que.

**Morey Rossman**, BEd 79, May 25, 2014, Morin-Heights, Que.

**Michael Dvorsky**, BComm 80, May 20, 2014, Montreal. He was 55.

**Dianna Deborah Dwire**, BFA 80, April 26, 2014, Montreal.

**James Patrick Gallagher**, BA 80, MA 84, April 1, 2014, West Grey, Ont.

**Janet Wai Yee (Wong) Lo**, BA 82, May 5, 2014, Toronto. She was 79.

**David H. Jones**, BSc 83, June 2014, Montreal. He was 56.

**Carol Kelly**, BA 83, April 7, 2014, Pointe-Claire, Que. ■

## Soviet secrets, diamond roads and straight punches

**Leadership Basics for Frontline Managers** (CRC Press, \$29.95) offers quick tips for administrators facing the tough reality of today's work world. Based in management theory but pulling mainly from his more than 20 years of experience, **Bill Templeman**, BA (psych.) 67, argues today's professionals have to develop "not only

a savage owl attack, Buster wanders lost and starving until he sees the Magic Star, a relic from ancient Babylon that guides him home. Chadwick is an archaeologist and historian.

Co-authored by **Roxanne Davies**, BA (hist. & Eng.) 76, **Olga: The O.K. Way to a Healthy, Happy Life** (FriesenPress, \$29.99) tells

**Sylvia McNicoll**, BA (Eng.) 78, tells the story of a bereaved father and son who immigrate to Hamilton, Ont. at the turn of the 20th century to start a new life. Shocked by the death of his mother and baby sister to disease, 12-year-old William Alton takes avid interest in a fly-catching contest. McNicoll, a Burlington, Ont., resident, has taught creative writing,

Sabler now lives in Tampa, Fla., but is still involved with the Canadian jazz scene; he was nominated for Guitarist of the Year at the Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards in 2008.

**8:17 PM, Rue Darling** (Guernica Editions, \$20) is the debut book translation by **John Gilmore**, BFA 81. The novel, written by Quebec filmmaker Bernard Émond,



skills and knowledge, but mindset and attitude." Templeman is a self-employed program designer, writer and facilitator. He started Ascent Associations, a coaching practice in Peterborough, Ont., in 1993.

**Robert Chadwick**, MA (rel.) 73, excavates a fantastic 10,000-year history between cats and humans in **Buster and the Magic Star** (Les Éditions Champ Fleury, \$20.73), a story about a domestic cat lost in the woods of Quebec's Eastern Townships. The victim of

the story of the late Olga Kotelko, nonagenarian and star Canadian track and field athlete. A teacher for 43 years, Kotelko took up competitive sports after retirement, winning 750 gold medals and holding more than 30 world records. *The O.K. Way* motivates readers to embark on their own journey to health and well-being. Davies is a Vancouver-area journalist.

**Revenge on the Fly** (Pajama Press, \$12.95), the latest novel for young adults by

edited *Today's Parent* and travelled the world on book tours.

**Les Sabler**, BFA 78, had no formal guitar training before coming to study music at Concordia. Now he has released his seventh studio album, **Jobim Tribute** (New Vista Records, \$21.04), which features 12 tracks exploring the work of Brazilian jazz composer Antonio Carlos Jobim. The album mixes seven vocal tracks and five instrumentals, and its release coincides with the 20th anniversary of Jobim's death.

is the story of an alcoholic former *Le Journal de Montréal* reporter struggling to redeem his life after a chance escape from death. The compassionate, humorous novel takes some caustic digs at Plateau Montréal residents and includes a cameo by Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Gilmore was a visiting researcher last fall in Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling.

**Martin Barry**, BA (comm. studies) 85, has just published **Le Secret De Mhorag**



- **Tome 3: Les profondeurs du lac oublié** (Libre Expression, \$29.95), the final volume of the *Le Secret De Mhorag* fantasy trilogy. The French young-adult series, which includes *Le passage interdit* (2011) and *La prison de verre* (2012), tells the saga of lake monsters and is set in present-day and medieval Ireland and Scotland. Barry is a screenwriter and TV director and started his career

The book won the 2013 José Saramago Prize, an award for outstanding Portuguese-language literature. Stephen teaches Spanish American literature at the University of Guelph and is general editor of Biblioasis International Translation.

In *Straight Punch* (Orca Book Publishers, \$12.95), the 15th novel for young adults by **Monique Polak**,

**Ryan Catherine Breithaupt**, BA (French studies) 04, sings heartfelt folk-rock on her band's self-titled debut album, *The Diamond Roads* ([thediamondroads.bandcamp.com](http://thediamondroads.bandcamp.com), \$10). Breithaupt, who hails from London, Ont., earned the playful nickname "thunder lungs" for her powerful vocals. The duo's other half is Winnipeg native Ian MacIntosh. Their CD offers a repertoire of origi-

misadventures — and the colourful characters he meets working everywhere from an organic farm to the famed Edinburgh Fringe Festival. [thetraveller.ca](http://thetraveller.ca)

The ease and abstraction of communicating online is today's defining trope. In *New Tab* (Véhicule Press, \$19.95), a debut novel, **Guillaume Morissette**, BA (creative writing) 13,



as an animation filmmaker at the National Film Board of Canada.

Canadian fiction writer and academic **Stephen Henighan**, MA 86, has translated Angolan author Ondjaki's latest novel into English. Told from the voice of a child conniving against Russian soldiers to protect his grandmother's home-  
stead, *Granma Nineteen and the Soviet's Secret* (Biblioasis, \$18.95) is set in a socialist, Angolan neighbourhood in the 1980s.

MA (Eng.) 84, Montreal teen Tessa McPhail gets sent to an alternative school where students spend afternoons learning to box. Tessa has an aversion to violence — and her fellow students. When a neighbour starts a petition to have the school closed, Tessa discovers something worth fighting for — in and out of the ring. As part of her research for the novel, Polak, a freelance journalist and teacher at Montreal's Marianopolis College, has been taking private boxing lessons since 2011.

nal creations and inventive covers of their personal favourites, including a Lee Hazelwood number penned for Nancy Sinatra.

With his 30th birthday looming, **Daniel Baylis**, BA 08, decided to quit his job to travel — and volunteer in a different country every month for a year. His memoir, *The Traveller* (Sparks, \$19), takes us from Peru to India to the Australian outback and beyond. With humour and spirit, Baylis tells of his adventures — and

captures the depersonalized connectivity of his generation in Thomas, a 26-year-old video game designer and part-time creative writing student (read: hipster), who calls his hair a "hostage situation." CBC Radio's Jonathan Goldstein calls the book, "Weird, poetic, funny, and original." The story is set in Montreal, Morissette's home. ■

—Kayla Morin

# The things you do for love

JEANIE KEOGH, BFA 02

When I graduated from Concordia in 2002, I thought a successful life was simple: work hard, impress the right people, don't back down on your goals. That life has been considerably less linear than my 22-year-old brain could imagine is an understatement. For one, falling in love turned my well-constructed master plan into a choose-your-own adventure book.

I met my jet-lagged boyfriend-to-be, Attilio Falletta, three and a half years ago in a Vancouver restaurant the day he arrived from Belgium. My intention was to act as his tour guide. Instead, I became the souvenir he brought back with him to Europe a year later, having quit my dream job as a musician in a gypsy circus band.

After we'd lived together a year in Brussels, Attilio announced that he was ready to take the next big step in his life: a two-year solo bike trip around the world.

Off he went, leaving me to fend for myself in an unfamiliar city. I waited five months to see if he would have a change of heart and come back. While he was away, I worked as an English teacher and a voice-over actress for a French cartoon, and wrote articles and stories for various publications.

When he didn't return, I flew to Tajikistan to bike with him through the Pamir Mountains, hoping he would come to his senses and cut his trip short. If he didn't, I had a break-up speech prepared: "You can't expect me to wait for you. This isn't WWII and I'm not a war bride."



JEANIE KEOGH LITERALLY WENT HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO BE WITH HER BOYFRIEND, ATTILIO FALLETTA. THEY'RE PICTURED IN THE PAMIR MOUNTAINS (AT 4,200 METRES) IN TAJIKISTAN.

COURTESY OF JEANIE KEOGH

I dropped the "it's over" relationship ender on day four of the trip, at the side of the road after my gears had busted on a 3,000-metre uphill climb in 35-degree Celsius heat.

Attilio smiled and told me I was invited to bike with him for the remaining 1.5 years of his journey. I had been willing to leave my country for his, but becoming a nomad with multiple degrees was not in the master plan. During the next three weeks of biking, I complained about the constant ascent, the heat/cold, the lack of proper nutrition and hygiene, having to bike through sand and snowstorms, and his poor trip planning. Despite this, he continued to believe in us.

**"You can't expect me to wait for you. This isn't WWII and I'm not a war bride."**

Our three-year anniversary was spent at the border of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, curled up in our respective sleeping bags in a windowless bunker where off-duty border guards had slept on mattresses stained black with mould. Later that night, as I suffered from altitude sickness at 5,000 metres in -25 C temperatures, my boyfriend kissed my barf-scented lips and gave me the last

sip of water knowing we were both dehydrated, hypothermic and dozens of kilometres from a water source.

At that moment, it hit me like a 100-kilometre-an-hour headwind: My master plan no longer existed without Attilio. The next day, as we left the mountain range that nearly killed us and our relationship, I felt a sense of hard-earned satisfaction for having travelled over 1,000 kilometres with the most important man I could have ever impressed.

Navigating life has not been a paint-by-numbers watercolour. In fact, I would gladly trade mine in for one like those of other people I know — if only for how straightforward they seem.

Attilio is still on the road and I am back in Belgium, planning where we will meet next. The new master plan is to join him at various intervals over the next 16 months as he travels through Asia, South America and then Canada. Meanwhile, I am writing my first book dedicated to Attilio, who inspired me to remember my postgraduate motto: work hard, impress the right people, don't give up on your dreams. ■

*Jeanie Keogh, BFA (theatre perf.) 02, is a freelance writer and performer living in Brussels. She holds postgraduate certificates in creative writing (Humber College) and journalism (Langara College).*

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